

Significant Bits

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Official magazine of the Brisbug PC User Group Inc

Volume 8 No 5
April 1993

This Month

Sunday 18th April

10am to 5pm

\$3.00

Symantec presents

1:30pm

NORTON UTILITIES

NEW Ver 7

Lunchtime Special

12 noon

**Real Music and
Multimedia on a PC**

Dan Emerson continues

**Environmental monitoring
using a PC**

Inside

**Review of DOS 6
Lindsay's Letter
Review of Line Sharers
OS/2 column
Tech Tips
New Library Listings**

CLASSES - 10 to 12
New Users
Intermediate
Advanced
C++

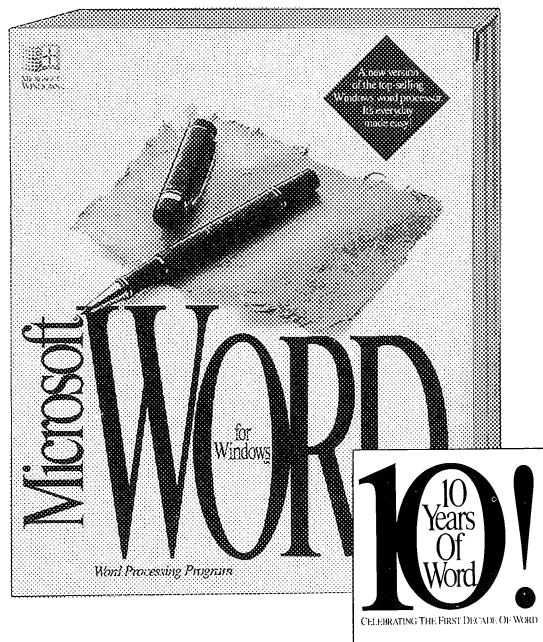
JUNIOR GROUP - 12 to 3

ORIENTATION - 12:15
for new members

SIGs 3:15 pm

NEW USER CHAT 3:15

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*Conditions apply. While stocks last.

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WORDS

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DEADLINES

Normal deadlines are the third Friday of the month preceding publication. Space reservation deadline: 3rd Friday of month preceding publication. Replacement artwork deadline the last Friday of that month. Artwork must accompany space booking. If booked by phone or FAX, booking becomes effective only when artwork is received. The magazine is usually printed the second week of the month of publication, so that changes to copy must be in the preceding week.

TERMS

Payment must accompany bookings unless an account has been established. Discounts are offered for multiple insertions when advance payment is made. Members may advertise at half rate, but member payment must accompany ads (Classified ads not exceeding three lines are run free of charge. More than three lines attract attract a minimum charge of \$5.)

FORMAT

The magazine is A4 size, offset printed and saddle stitched. More than 2300 copies are printed of each issue and distributed throughout Australia and overseas. Artwork should be full size, paper bromide, film (right-reading emulsion down) or laser print. Postscript print or EPS files can be accepted by arrangement via modem. Brisbug does not typeset ads other than classifieds. Text only ads 1/6 or 1/12 page can be FAXED. The layout for these must be at the editor's discretion and are accepted without proofs. All sizes are given as height x width in mm. Artwork must not exceed stated sizes.

FULL PAGE SIZE DETAILS

Normal article text (3 col)	260x178
Page trim	295x208
Max assured print area	280x190
Optional bleed extent	300x215

RATES

Color covers	\$600	Doublepage spreads .	\$500
Colour page	\$450	Colour 1/2 page	\$250
Colour 1 column	\$110	Colour 1/12 page	\$50
Centrefold spread	\$525	Full page	\$275
2/3 page	\$175	1/2 page	\$160
1 column	\$110	1/4 page	\$70
1/6 page	\$50	1/12 page	\$25
Special positions:			
Full page RH side, 1st 20 pages	\$285		
Inside covers, B&W	\$350		

INSERTS

Inserts are subject to prior arrangement. The charge is 1.5 time the full page rate. The inserts may be color and double-sided and may be in foldout or booklet form, but may not exceed A4 size. The required quantity of printed inserts are to be delivered to Significant Bits. Quantity, delivery and other details will be advised on request. Advertisers may contact John Burgess, Trimedia, 99 Gregory Terrace, SPRING HILL 4002, Tel 8319266 Fax 835 1045, or Chip Karmatz tel-FAX (07) 847-2244 or Ron Lewis (07)273-8946, FAX (07)273-8954.

EDITORIAL

When Is Enough?

Four Mb of RAM memory seemed like a lot when I started using Windows 3.0 and graphical user interface (GUIs) programs a couple of years back. Now with Windows 3.1, OS/2 and 486 machines, 8Mb is hardly adequate. And one starts thirsting for 16Mb of RAM. The good word is that RAM has never been cheaper (and the bad word is that RAM quality has never been poorer). You also know that with NT and OS/2.2 and the Pentium around the corner at enticing prices more RAM (substitute Greed) is "Good".

There are a few marketing and technical points to be made from this:

First, because most 386 and 486 PC clones have focused on a Single Inline Memory Module (SIMM) chip as the standard, and only a few manufacturers like Compaq, have proprietary memory chips, a lot of US, Taiwanese and Japanese memory makers are all vying for the same growing market. With this competition, prices dropped down until the start of this year. A side effect was that manufacturers were letting their quality checks go to meet price competition. Instead of 95 per cent of RAM modules working when installed, as many as one out of five modules has been found to be faulty. A new three-chip variety has also emerged, cheaper than the older 9-chip type but often less reliable.

At the same time, because of the large demand for 486 machines with lots of RAM, there's new surge in demand for SIMM modules and every month so far in 1993 prices have risen. They are also rising because of the US-Western Pacific trade war. Now the US has special tariffs on components from Korea, Japan and Taiwan.

Conclusion: Ram, 1x9x60ns @ \$60 per module and 1x9x70ns @ \$50 per Mb is still the cheapest way to make any of your GUIs run faster; add 8Mb of RAM and improve Windows operations by as much as 50 per cent.

GLUTTER

Glutter--Graphical Clutter, a term describing too many icons on your desktop.

Speaking of GUIs, are icons cluttering your graphic displays? Are Windows screen savers driving you up an office wall? That recent ABC series, The Dream Machine, reminded me that the Graphical User Interface was created at the Xerox Research Centre in the 1970s and subsequently mimicked by Apple. The purpose of the GUI was supposed to be that one had an easy and organised way for users to see and access applications. One could use a mouse and point and click on a menu item.

*What happened to the standard?
Similar icons from one program to another carry different meanings*

Under the original display system, there was a standard used by everyone.

With Windows 3.1, I can't see all of my program manager screen icons if I'm not in the SVGA mode. And I have already limited the number of groups I display, deleted program icons I don't use regularly, and have not put icons on the desktop unless they are graphically distinctive. It is even worse in using Excel 4.0 and Word 2.0. Although I don't have to use all the goodies, with button bars, pull-down menus, ribbons, hypertext, icons and multiple windows, my desktop is a mess! Thank you Microsoft and IBM for leaving me about half of the screen to work on. With smart icons in third generation Windows programs, new tool buttons, the software design engineers have gone mad.

What happened to the standard? Similar icons from one program to another carry

out dissimilar functions. An erase icon in one program may mean undo and delete in another. or the reverse, where totally different icons do similar functions. If I am running a spreadsheet, a word processor, an editor and an accessory such as Norton from my desktop, I figure I have to know what 50 buttons do, recognise 75 icons, and use the mouse and its buttons in a different way for each of those programs. I've given up on macros. It takes me more time to go through the different procedures for each program to create one than just carrying out the task. I was naive enough to think that with GUIs and DDEs or multitasking, I wouldn't have to go to the trouble of creating algorithmic gyrations, i.e., DOS batch files, to move between programs or change from one function to another. I think Microsoft and IBM and their application developers have lost their way. Their marketing arms are out there selling iconised buttons as features. Both these giants should be out there selling a set of window standards to developers and bring back some sort of systematic simplicity to the desktop.

A GOOD BUY?

A new magazine, Windows Sources, from Ziff Davis the largest publisher of computer magazines and books, is offering 12 Windows utilities with each new subscription. Yes, I know a lot of mags offer free disks. What was intriguing to me, however, was the price of the one year subscription, \$US14.97, plus \$US15 for mailing. Couldn't resist it and sent them my VISA charge card number and expiry date. My VISA bill this month neatly converted the charges to \$A at the going rate, the result being 50 per cent less than the news agency per copy price of competitive Aussie or foreign mags. Inside 30 days I received my disks and am happily using the utilities. Utilities include DUPE, a duplicate file finder, ALFRED, an Iconised menu for launching Windows, FREEMEM, which shows you free system and memory, KWIKDRAW, an object oriented drawing program, and SUPERSPY, for viewing class information and tracking window messages, 25 uncommon True-Type fonts, a file finder, DDE, print utility and more.

More on Spell Checkers

Putting Ewes Under a Spell Last month we ran a little filler on spelling checkers.

There were a lot of comments on it and a call for more examples. The following comes from PC Computing:

I have a spelling checker,
It came with my PC
It marks plainly four my revue
Mistakes I cannot sea.
I've run this rime through it,
I'm sure your pleased to no,
It's letter perfect in it's weigh
My checker told me sew.

With the editorial reply:

"As ewe sew succinctly point out, PC's dew a lot of things vary well, but understanding the subtleties of the English language is not won of them. If you no how it can be done lettuce no."

New column -- Hot Tip Awards

Starting this month, we're including a tips, tricks and hints column. As an incentive, all contributors to it will receive a Brisbug gift. It may be library disks, some new software, Brisbug badges or advertiser or presenter donated commercial packages. The tips and hints must be limited to a maximum of one column, can be useful batch files, deal with Config.Sys, operating systems, macros, or ways to improve getting around in packages. For instance, what's a good way to include drop caps in WordPerfect text? Just don't bother sending in stuff that's appeared in other publications.

From the Engine Room

Show Time

The DOS 6 presentation by Microsoft's "Dosman" Jonathan Brecht at the March meeting attracted almost 500 people. Every seat and aisle space at the Bardon theatre was filled.

Due to fire and safety regulations, we will not be able to facilitate so many in the future. We will have to limit entry to members and their families on a first-come first-serve basis.

This may be academic....If you don't already know, the Bardon Professional Development Centre has been put out for tenders by the State Government. If it is sold or leased out, we may lose our meeting facility. When discussed at the March meeting, one member suggested that we petition the state government not to sell it on the basis that it has a high usage by non-profit organisations. We will have a form for members to sign at the next meeting and in Sig Bits to mail back if you want to support the lobby to keep Bardon.

The new sport

The cartoon below illustrates one member's (mine) view of a new sport apparently developing on the BBS - that of Sysop Baiting i.e. leaving rude messages to the Sysop, then either complaining he ignores them, or that he retaliates by threatening reduction in priveledges. As I suggested at our last meeting, this sport is probably most aptly compared to Bull-ant nest poking. Sooner, rather than later, a big (hairy) bull-ant will run out and bite off your access.

Seriously, the BBS has clearly stated rules of conduct, which are the same as those of most of the BBSs in Australia. These are designed to protect members from abuse, libel, pornography, breach of Copyrite etc. For the record, Brisbug BBSs have 1800 active users, of which 1660 are members of Brisbug. In our entire history, only one member has been temporarily Twitted -- the Sysop's only real method of enforcing the rules. The only alternative is not to have a BBS at all -- no Sysop worth his salt would run a BBS where the users could do

what they wanted and thumb their nose at him. The committee, representing the vast majority of members interests, recognise the excellent job Paul Marwick is doing in providing the three most reliable, and arguably the best, boards in Brisbane. We back him wholeheartedly in his efforts to maintain discipline. The forthcoming addition of a fourth line may ease (at least temporarily) some of the pressures of access and file and message space, but it will not remove the need to show good manners when using the BBS.

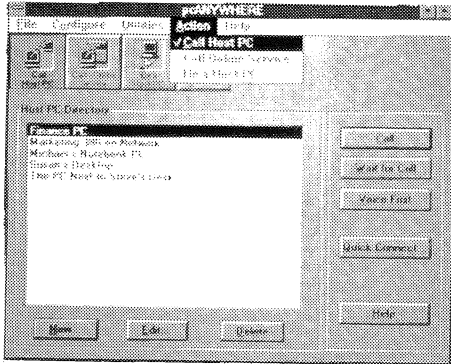
For those who need reminding, Brisbug is run entirely by volunteers, out of a sense of public service, or some other perverse non-profit motive. If we discourage them by nit-picking, abuse or just plain bad manners or orneriness, then we will all be the poorer by the withdrawl of a service we have come to value.

The NEW SPORT



SYSOP-BAITING

TECH TRENDS, NEW BOOKS



pcANYWHERE

When Symantec is demonstrating its Norton Utilities 7 software package at the April Brisbug meeting, it will also access its latest version of pcANYWHERE to show its communication capabilities.

The idea behind Norton's pcANYWHERE is that one pc can access another from any remote location. Its features are DOS and Windows oriented, in VGA or SVGA modes. Symantec says its strength is in multi-tasking, such as being able to transfer files in the background while writing a report on your display.

All the functions and features are on one Windows interface. Once configured to recognise your own hardware, the program is ready to use.

Norton says some of the likely uses include troubleshooting, training sessions, or writing materials from home, office or while travelling. One could write code on one's own machine while compiling at the other end.

Specifications:

Gateway supports IPX and NetBios networks.

Requires 2MB RAM, with 3MB recommended, and 5MB free disk space.

Data communication rates of up to 115,200 bps (for fast remote control of DOS and Windows). Eight file transfer protocols. 15 terminal emulations—LAN and serial capabilities

Suggested retail price: \$299

The CD-ROM market

Led by the US and Japan, the worldwide CD-ROM market is finally taking off. It has already gained strong footholds in the niche markets like the health, legal and business promotional fields. Now, it is becoming a mass market item. InfoCorp Computer intelligence says that more than one million units were sold in 1992, up 45% over the prior year. Sales are expected to exceed 2 million units this year. At the same time, prices have dropped 25 per cent and are expected to drop 25 per cent more over the next two years. Right now, there are more than 1,000 CD-ROM publishers.

Colour printers

Colour printers (thermal transfer and ink jet) aren't making it despite a price cut, many now around \$1000. Pen plotter sales are also falling—Pens were responsible for a lot color sales. The major obstacles facing these printers is the cost of supplies, more than \$1 per page and print speeds that run to several minutes per page. Compare that to black toner laser printers for a few pennies per page.

BBSs in small business

Electronic bulletin board services, BBSs, are making their way into small business computer users, who use them primarily for word processing or accounting. The Telecom and CompuServe and various government (i.e. SUNMAP) and university BBSs are selling their business information services to online business people. Now a new business twist from the USA in which business people can exchange marketing and operating ideas.

From CompuServe's Home Forum, entrepreneurs are offering new business services, some subscribers are listing the kinds of data or services they want, and others are asking for technical data relevant to their professions. Using these international subscription bulletin board forum

services represents an inexpensive way for small businessmen to get specific information for their problems from a worldwide network.

Intelligent monitors

Intelligent monitors are on the books this year, according to the Video Electronic Standard Association, VESA. Graphic cards and displays will be configured automatically by software, so that such things as resolution, refresh rates and other operational limits are set by the video controller. Microsoft is integrating the new specification into NT. Apple, Sony, NEC and IBM are already including the new technology. With very little chip modification, production by the above vendors should start this year.

Wireless FAX

The next FAX mode will be wireless. There's a US mobile phone two-way messaging network in the US using an AT&T chip set for wireless Data/FAX modems. The modems are V.32bis, V17 14,400-bps data and FAX. Available to cellular phone users by mid-year.

Voice recognition by PC

Voice recognition in PCs is a capability most users would like, if it has a huge vocabulary and a pretty high word recognition accuracy. One wants a device that permits speaking in a normal conversational (dictation-type) pattern. But no one provided any cards or software devices with all of these characteristics until now. Still, price-performance improvements this year could provide an affordable and efficient speech recognition device for your computer.

IBM with Dragon Systems is selling a 7K audio board with a 7,000 active word vocabulary that allows you to run DOS applications by voice. The board and software run about \$3000. However, a software package for simple voice-command control of Windows is under \$200. Minimum requirement is a 386sx and a Sound Blaster 16 audio card. The Dragon

product instantly learns your particular voice, and it has a high level of self-correcting logic. This boils down to your pausing...between...each...word. For commands this is fine, but would be a drag for dictation. Tardis Technology will have its VoiceTrek package out before too long—it will offer continuous speech recognition capabilities for Windows and hand-free input for laptop PC users.

Souped-up LaserJet II

Microsoft has come up with a cartridge for the HP LaserJet Series II that makes it faster than the new LaserJet 4. The Windows Printing System (WPS) is a high speed, bidirectional, WYSIWYG, animated and talking alternative to the HP's Printer Control Language or Adobe's PostScript. By eliminating the conversion of graphical device interface code, Microsoft claims its printing is 2-5 times faster than PostScript. This means you can use your monitor to see the pages as they move through the printer, or with a voice card, get an audio message of what is next or "Job Complete!" Price: \$315

New Aussie Editor

A new high-powered Aussie editor, Ed for Windows, uses a toolbar and has a cardfile icon display of functions, methods and procedures. A QREF icon pops up for a quick reference to all configured keys; or you can configure to follow Qedit, Word Perfect, Norton, etc. It has better listings than DOSKEY, a better undo, a redo and on-line hypertext help. It uses a C-type language and has its own interpreter and compiler. It is finding fast acceptance in the US market.

Personal font

We had typewriters and word processors so that we wouldn't have to depend on handwriting. Now there's a step the other way. Signature Software has come up with PersonalFont. It reproduces your own handwriting and turns it into PostScript or TrueType font and can be inserted into any document, such as a P.S. at the end of a letter. I can understand that a graphic artist or architect might want to use it to put his own stamp on graphics. You supply your version of the alphabet in upper and lower case, digits, plus any particular sym-

bols you want to add, such as &, then add a few words (including your signature) as you write them and send it to Signature Software. For about \$130, you get your customised font.

dBASE

Borland has made available a dBASE compiler for DOS. The new version, dBASE IV 2.0, is said to be ten times faster than the most recent version and hundreds of times faster in filtering for multiuser environments, through new high performance filters. Other features include Borland's C++ MAKE facility, standard C-like preprocessor and compact .EXE option.

Larger DM printer buffer

Panasonic has come up with a dot matrix printer buffer six times the original buffer size, the JBI 32K RAM chip. This will let users return to a document, while the printer finishes its job. Supposed to be under \$30.

Hand Scanning OCR

If you want a hand scanner that also has a full OCR capability, you might look at Logitech's CatchWord Pro Windows. It uses button and movable toolbars. Recognised text can be exported directly to word processing programs in DOS or Windows. The best thing is that it auto stitches between scans on full pages, critical with graphics. Materials can be scanned several times for high recognition. After two to four scans, CatchWord Pro unskews each scan and integrates the image on half the screen. When satisfied, you convert the text on the other half of the screen. Errors can be easily corrected. Printing out takes about two minutes on an inkjet printer. Price is in the \$300 range.

BOOKS

Programming Windows 3.1

Third Edition, by Charles Petzold, Microsoft Press, with floppy disk.

Whether you write just a few lines in your INI files or write Windows code every day, this is the definitive Windows programming book. With more than 1,000 pages, topics covers how Windows manipulates text and graphics, dynamic data exchange

(DDE), dynamic link libraries (DDL), memory management, dialogs and bitmaps, as well as event driven programming concepts. Included are 70 standalone programs. The 3.5-inch disk contains the source code and the executable versions of all programs presented in the text. Makefiles require either Microsoft's or Borland's C languages. Omitted is any discussion of object linking and embedding (OLE) and multimedia.

Memory Management and Multitasking Beyond 640K

by Lenny Bailes and John Mueller, Windcrest/McGraw-Hill; TAB Books.

A book-disk combination of 434 pages. The book explains all the utility programs dealing with memory management it provides. If you have tried to use 386Max or QEMM or use EMM386.SYS in your CONFIG.SYS file, this book is great for providing insights into how these programs work and how to use them effectively.

The authors start by explaining the mysteries of 640K limits and expanded and extended memories. It goes into detail on how diagnostic programs work with CPU chips. Other topics are illustrations of RAM disks and disk caching.

The disk includes shareware disk caching programs. Task switching and multitasking are explained in detail. It also explains the workings of DESQview and Windows, and OS/2. It demystifies the adding of memory and the problems of adding memory to older machines such as 286's. The best sections are on streamlining memory use with DR & MS DOS, and programs like Word, Word Perfect, WordStar, PC Write, XyWrite, Lotus 1-2-3 and Ventura. And it works through 486 machines.

Learning the UNIX Operating System

by Grace Todino and John Strang,

Is only 75 pages. It focuses on System V. Because so many workplaces now use UNIX, like the universities and CSIRO, you may already have it in your organisation, but aren't using it because it is so user unfriendly.

This book covers logging on and off, troubleshooting, and a number of other tips designed to make using Unix easy if not simple. Glossary included.

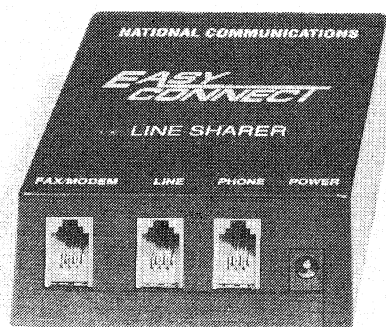
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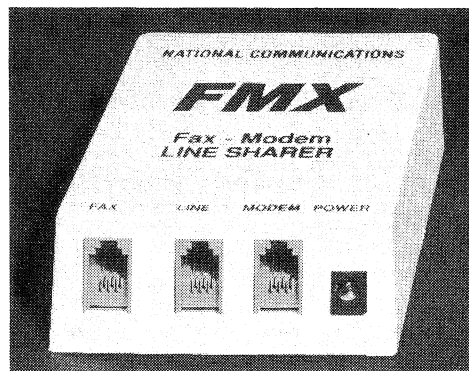
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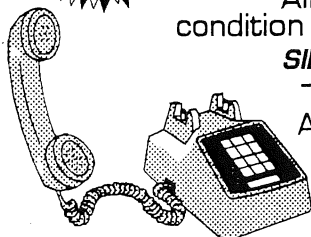


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(*REALLY do your homework first*)
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- * **Know your rights** (*and get them in writing*)
- * **Remember price alone is not a good guide**
(*generally you get what you pay for*)

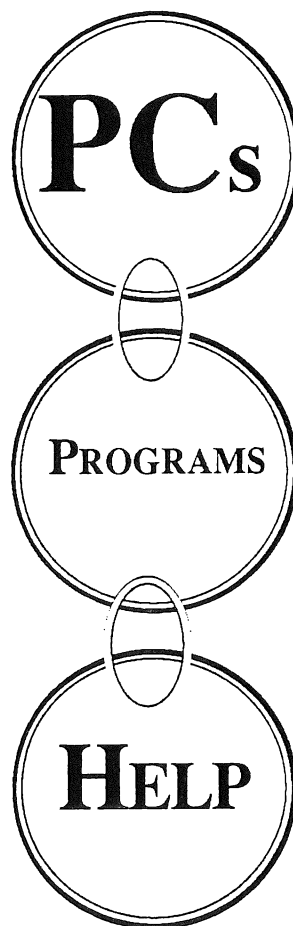
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DOS 6 - First Looks

Rex Ramsey

When El Presidente asked me if I would like a copy of DOS 6 to Beta test naturally I said yes. However, there was a catch to it, to be expected from the Associate Editors of Significant Bits, this article was required.

The Beta version comes as a 7 x 1.44 disk set, 4 for DOS and 3 to send back to MICROSOFT detailing loading, uninstalling and problems. The first two disks are automatically loaded with data by the program while the last requires the assistance of the Beta Tester.

What's new

The manual first tells you what is new in DOS 6:

1. DoubleSpace, an integrated disk compression program.
2. New /c switch for DIR Shows compression ration on compressed disks.
3. MemMaker, a memory optimisation program that moves programs to the upper memory area automatically.
4. An enhanced EMM386.
5. An enhanced Mem command.
6. Enhanced DeviceHigh and LoadHigh commands that allow the memory region to be specified.
7. A new backup program.
8. MicroSoft anti-virus program.
9. An enhanced undelete program.
10. MS-DOS defragmenter.
11. Ability to define more than one configuration in CONFIG.SYS.
12. Ability to by pass the CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files from start up.
13. Easier user input to batch files using new choice batch-file command.

14. MS-DOS help. Complete on line help file.
15. An enhanced SmartDrive Program.
16. Microsoft Diagnostics (MSD).
17. Interlink, a computer to computer file transfer program.
18. Ability to conserve power on laptop computers.
19. A new MOVE command.
20. A new DELTREE command that deletes a subdirectory, its files, and all directories and files subordinate to it.

The next advice was to go to "Getting Started"

Get rid of disk-caching (other than SmartDrv), delete-protection or Anti-Virus programs. Just REM them out in your CONFIG.SYS file, save the file, and off you go. I had booted from a floppy and of course there was none of the *verboten* programs loaded? When DOS 6 restarts the computer after loading it uses C drive, which did have the nasties included in the CONFIG.SYS file. Result, after a seamless installation I had to uninstall DOS 6 and go back to DOS 5. Well the Beta test required this anyway. No time lost, but beware.

Installing ...

The installation is started from A: drive using 'Setup'. Then follow the instructions on the screen. Time for installation about 15 minutes.

Setup tells you how much free disk space you need: ranges from 4.2 megs to 6.5 Megs depending on how much you load. My current DOS 6 directory stands at 6.03 Megs. This includes every thing. Leave out the windows programs and other programs that the manual says you can delete and it can drop as low as 3.5 Megs. Remember the lowest level still includes double space and undelete.

6 on a laptop

I also loaded DOS 6 on a 286 laptop and found that it would live with NetRoom as the High memory and EMM drivers, and with SuperStor 2.

However NetRoom would not cohabit with DoubleSpace. So the computer D: drive was restored to a SuperStor drive. That was the only problem I have had with the 286.

As an experiment I turned the laptop off using the power switch half way through the installation. When it was turned back on the screen asked for the uninstall disk, then the program disk in use at the time the power was turned off and then went on to upgrade to DOS 6. *Neat ??*

And on a 486

My 486 has the 200 meg hard drive set up a C: (30 megs) and D: (170 megs). This configuration is consistent with SuperStor to keep DOS and the Windows permanent swap file on an uncompressed disk.

Also had the temp file here to increase speed.

DBLSPACing a hard drive

Typing 'dblspace' at the DOS (shudder!!!) prompt brought up the double space screen and an automatic installation on D: drive was selected. 1 hour and 20 minutes later the drive was doublespaced and defragmented, all 140 megs of data.

Now my 170 meg drive was stretched to 250 megs with a 2 meg I: drive installed for uncompressed files. If my windows swap file (8 megs) had been on this drive then I: drive would have been 10 megs as the program automatically (it says) transfers this file to the uncompressed drive. Actual compression ration on the D: drive, which consisted of predominantly programs, was 1.5 to 1.

When using the D: drive there appears to be little or no noticeable delays in loading or copying files.

NOW - TO TRY THE GOODIES.

1. Double space.

Installed easily. Defrags easily and quickly. Uses 50K of memory which can be loaded into upper memory using

DeviceHigh=C:\dos\dblspace.exe

in the CONFIG.SYS file. (When I do this 12K of Smartdrive loads in low memory.) You can change the compression ratio from the guestimate (2 to 1) to the real factor (1.5 to 1) and see the disk space drop from 320 to 250. This allows the user to understand what is actually available by way of space so that overfilling the drive takes an effort. But you can't uninstall the drive without losing all your data.

2. /C switch for DIR command. Works as advertised - shows individual file compression ratios and final overall ratio for the directory.

3. MemMaker. Ran MemMaker and it announced that the use of memory it found was optimised and it couldn't do any better. I then removed all devicehigh and loadhigh commands from CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files and ran MemMaker. Result 609 Kb free. The same as I had achieved with DOS 5. This program worked well and leaves load commands, areas and file load sizes in the CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files for you to see.

4. EMM386. Adds one command - auto to the switches which only enables Expanded memory when a program calls for it. This it does, but the LOADHIGH and DEVICEHIGH commands are disabled.

5. Mem/C adds more information and does not scroll completely off the screen, but using l more is still necessary to be able to see all the information. /d is the same while /p is reduced compared to DOS 5.

6. LOADHIGH and DEVICEHIGH allow memory regions to be specified, but apart from reading the CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files made by MemMaker I haven't tried this feature.

Modules using memory below 1 MB:

Name	Total	=	Conventional	+	Upper Memory	
MSDOS	18045	(18K)	18045	(18K)	0	(0K)
HIMEM	1104	(1K)	1104	(1K)	0	(0K)
EMM386	3120	(3K)	3120	(3K)	0	(0K)
COMMAND	3824	(4K)	3824	(4K)	0	(0K)
WIN	1632	(2K)	1632	(2K)	0	(0K)
WIN386	80176	(78K)	976	(1K)	79200	(77K)
COMMAND	3248	(3K)	0	(0K)	17088	(17K)
DBLSPACE	51664	(50K)	0	(0K)	51664	(50K)
SMARTDRV	28768	(28K)	0	(0K)	28768	(28K)
SHARE	14848	(15K)	0	(0K)	14848	(15K)
Free	623424	(609K)	623424	(609K)	0	(0K)

Memory Summary:

Type of Memory	Total	=	Used	+	Free	
Conventional	655360	(640K)	31936	(31K)	623424	(609K)
Upper	191568	(187K)	191568	(187K)	0	(0K)
Adapter RAM/ROM	201648	(197K)	201648	(197K)	0	(0K)
Extended (XMS)	8388608	(8192K)	7340032	(7168K)	1048576	(1024K)
Expanded (EMS)	0	(0K)	0	(0K)	0	(0K)
Total memory	9437184	(9216K)	7765184	(7583K)	1672000	(1633K)
Total under 1 MB	846928	(827K)	223504	(218K)	623424	(609K)
Largest executable program size		623408	(609K)			
Largest free upper memory block		0	(0K)			
MS-DOS is resident in the high memory area.						

MEM/C now produces a much more understandable display

7. The **BACKUP** program is excellent in either windows or DOS. Allows multiple backup lists, is easy to configure, uses data compression and it works.
8. **Virus program** seems complete, works a little faster under DOS than windows. Not checked as unlike Dan I'm not about to deliberately put any virus on my machine. Perhaps Dan would like to write an article on this feature?
9. The **UNDELETE** program is very good and takes most of the guess work out of undeleting. The sentry file which keeps track of undeleted files is self purging to keep itself to an agreed size.
10. The **defragmenter** works quickly, is easy to configure and of course it Defrags the compressed files as quickly as well.
11. The new CONFIG.SYS file in conjunction with the AUTOEXEC.BAT files allows you to set up to ten different configurations, with further sub configurations, which automatically comes up as a menu. A default configuration can be set which will automatically load after a defined time unless another configuration is selected. Programs like BOOTSYS and ReECON may have a limited life.
12. The only visual difference between booting DOS 5 and DOS 6 are the words

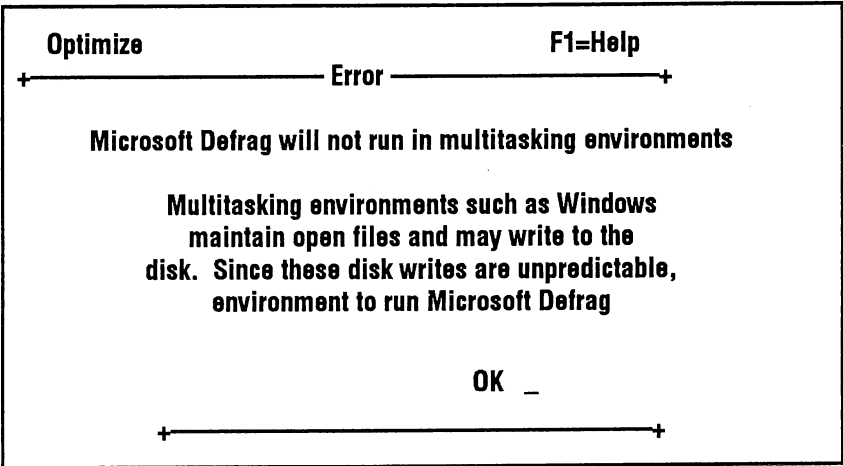
'Stating MS- DOS...' which come onto the screen after the System Configuration screen. If you press *F5* at this stage the computer will by pass both CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files. A good way to reboot and get past the problems in the config.sys file. If you press *F8* instead then each line of the CONFIG.SYS files comes up with eg.

Device=c:\dos\himem.sys
[Y,N]?

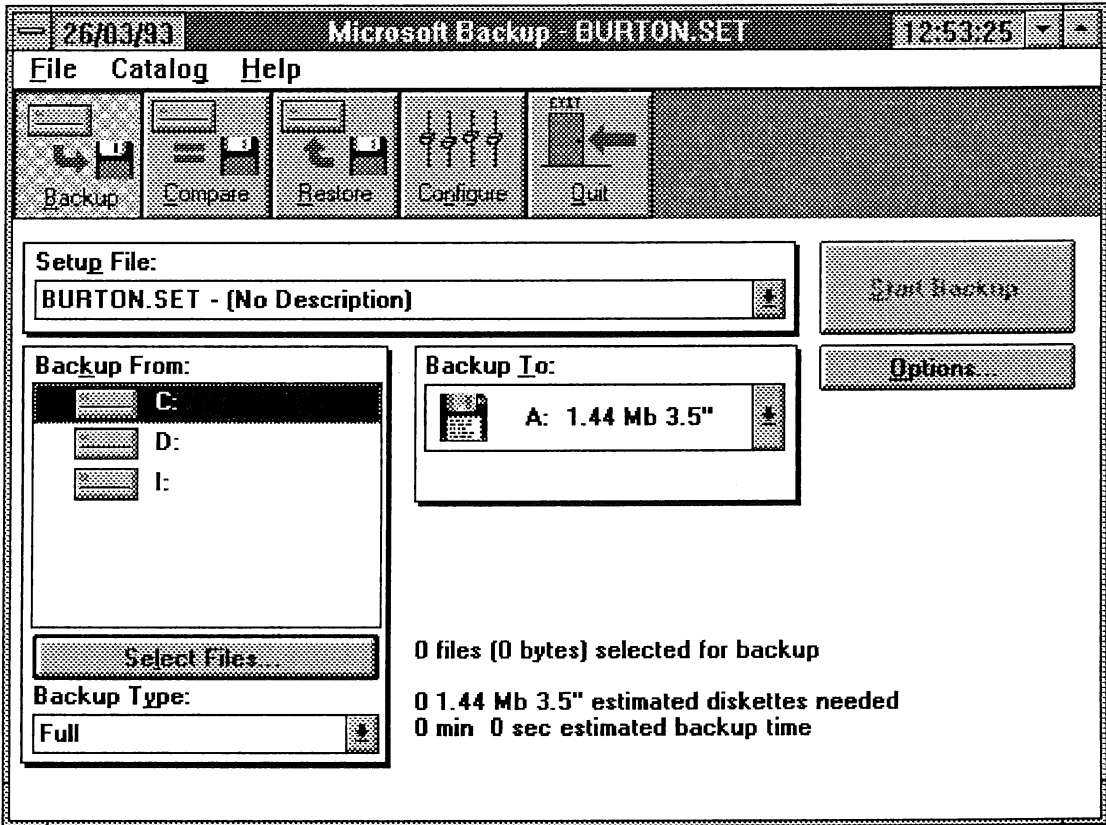
and waits for the 'Y' or 'N' key. Then the line is actioned according to your selection. This feature allows you to debug your config.sys file. At the end of the CONFIG.SYS file this prompt appears:

Process AUTOEXEC.BAT [Y,N]?

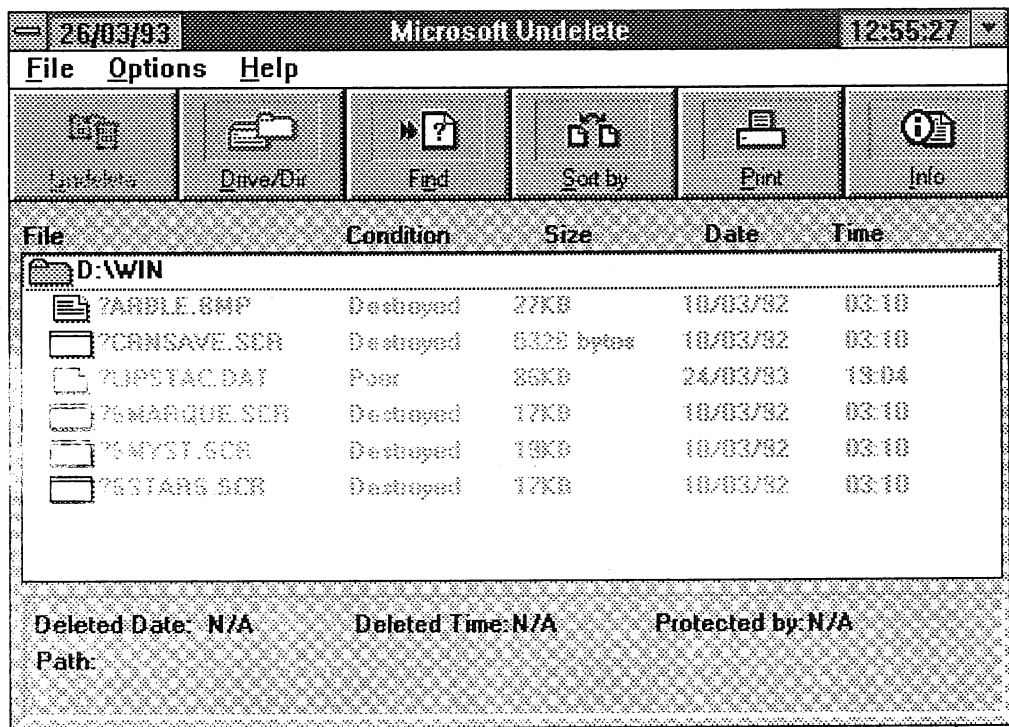
'Y' processes the file while no bypasses it. You cannot choose each line for any specific action. This choice would be nice to have to round out the debug feature fully.



The warning screen for Defragging



BACKUP now presents a graphical interface... a great improvement over the old cryptic command line of previous versions



The UNDELETE feature removes the necessity to remember cryptic file names when undeleting. A graphic interface is also a welcome addition.

14. The MS-DOS help file is more detailed than DOS 5 and is easy to use. The Beta manual referred to the online help file often. MICROSOFT has promised that the manual for DOS 6 will be extensive.

15. I couldn't see any noticeable changes to SmartDrv except that it automatically uses the host drive for a compressed drive and shows the choice on the screen on start up.

16. The MSD program was in DOS 5, but who knew about it. This time you are told. Quite handy in finding what configuration your computer has and will for example tell you if a serial port is present but not available for some reason.

17. Interlink. Works well and I

attached the 286 Laptop to the 486 and used the drives and ports on the 286 as if they were on the 486.

18. I do not have a battery driven laptop so could not test the power saving.

19. The MOVE command works and appears to be quite flexible.

20. Have not tried the DELTREE command. I think it should come into the same category as 'FORMAT' - use with CAUTION!!!!!!.

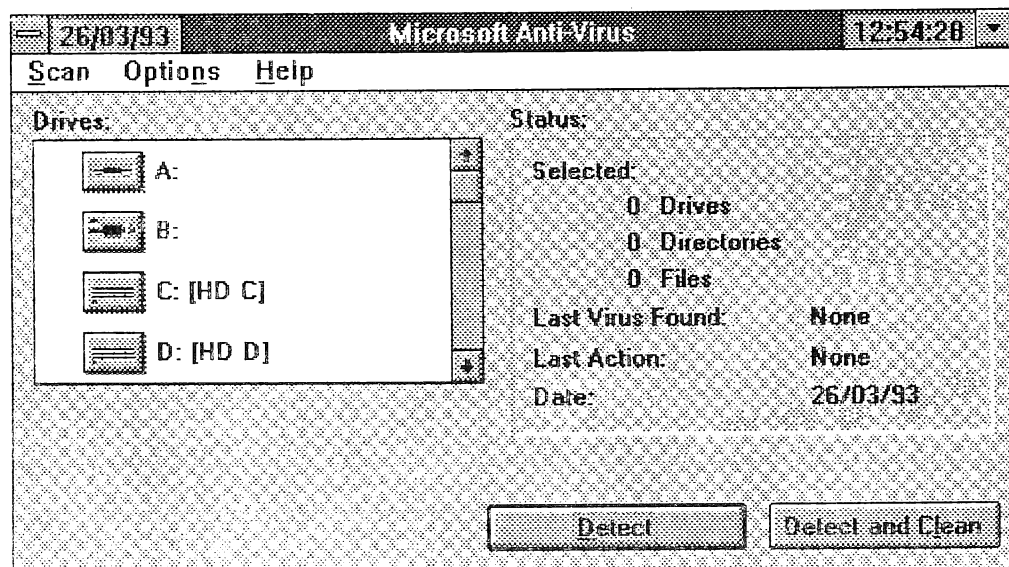
Conclusion

That is a quick run down on DOS 6 Beta. MicroSoft are not adding some of the features in the first version due to legal action. Version 2 may have more goodies.

Overall, I like the DOS and will upgrade when the opportunity arises mainly for DBLSPACE, UNDELETE, INTERLINK and MSBACKUP. The other features will be nice to have, but in my opinion are not enough to cause you to upgrade unless you always want the latest version, which perhaps is not a bad idea.

The main thing I like about the program is that it is designed to work as a unit in either DOS or Windows and incompatibilities seem to be minimal. Once the official version is installed in your machine I am sure you will find other things that can be done with DOS 6 that I have not covered in the short time I have had with it. Anyway my excuse is the deadline set by the Associate Editor for this article.

DOS 6 includes its own anti-virus updates to the scanning program data available by registration.



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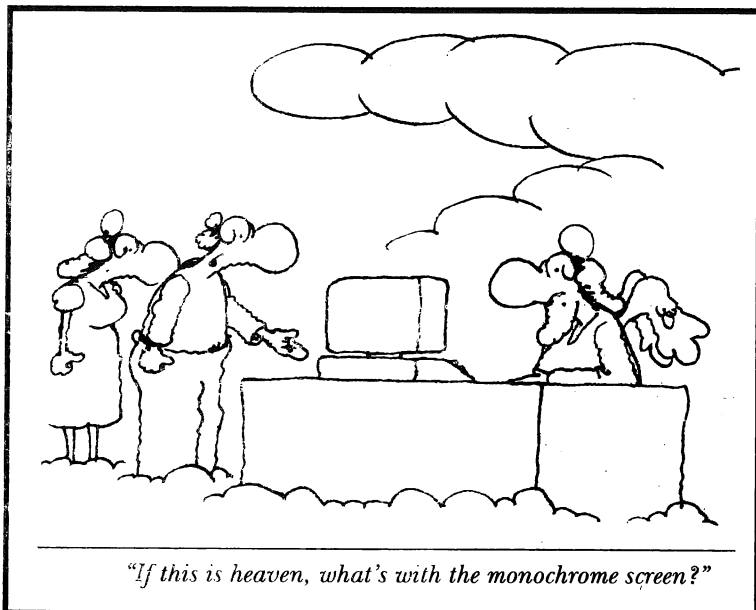
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"If this is heaven, what's with the monochrome screen?"

BRISBUG GENERAL MEETING MINUTES 21/3/93

Another opening...another show....Brisbug was packed to the roof (rooves?) for this exciting March meeting.....it was more the floorshow to follow (the revelation of Microsoft's DOS6) than the impending members meeting.

Ron Lewis opened the meeting at 1-02 pm. He did the usual "welcome all new members and those not so new" and then quickly slipped into the presentation of reports, asking all and sundry to be brief.

Suddenly there was a brief comment from someone about the cover on the March magazine! Spontaneous applause indicated there was much enthusiasm for the new standard set by the magazine committee.....there was only one complaint: someone said the shiny paper meant he couldn't read it in bed! (say what??) Ron Lewis suggested he obtain his mag on disk and take the computer to bed instead.....anyway, back to those reports.

Bernard Speight was first up, with his SIG news. (The Secretary laid his pen down here, since the news is always "old hat" by the time it makes it to print in the monthly mag's minutes.)

The Treasurer was hot on his heels (his own heels, that is):

"From last month:	\$ 18,227
Income	\$ 6,316
Expenditure	\$ 9,684
Ended up with	\$ 14,859"

After Max was shoed from the podium, Ron gave the bad news (for some) of the change in deadline for submission of items to the magazine: MIDNIGHT, ONE WEEK AFTER THE DAY OF A GENERAL MEETING! That is, submissions for the next mag in any one month must be in the editors hands one week after the General Meeting of the month before (confusing, huh??)

Ron Smith asked if anyone had had experience with WELTEC external drives...the silence was deafening, so the show continued on....

Ron Kelly (Education & Training Coordinator) gave his usual thorough report. For a trial run only afternoon classes are being

run (NUTS and Dan Emerson's group) running from 3-15 pm until approx 4-45pm. Various other initiatives were divulged (quick....where's that dictionary!) and then Ron Lewis took the reins again.

Ron stated that Paul Marwick had threatened an extended, lengthy Sysop report, so Ron would do the honours instead....Of the 1800 users of the club's BBS (of whom 1660 are members) there appears to be a growing preoccupation with the game of "bait the Sysop and see if he'll bite!" Ron said that "Like poking ants with a stick" (never done it myself...Secretary) "you will find that BBS masters are speedy ants! Users of BBS's are categorised according to various privileges afforded them....top of the list is SYSOP, bottom is TWIT! Paul will quickly reduce persons causing trouble on the board to twit.

Out of report time, and one member asked about a letter to the editor in the Courier Mail claiming that Bardon is up for sale. Ron stated that the Committee was indeed

aware that this is the case....anyone got a spare 11.5 million or so?? If it is sold and not continued to be hired out, alternative arrangements would need to be made for a meeting place (Max Kunzelmann suggested Ron Lewis's house!....has he got a swimming pool?)(yes-Ed). This matter was of some concern, and the question of a petition was raised.... more news of that in the coming magazine folks!

Ron quickly closed the meeting, since it was now 1.30 pm. Jonathan Brecht, Customer Support Analyst of Microsoft in Sydney then gave an outstanding demonstration of the new version of DOS (Version 6) about to be released on the market.

After the presentation 6 copies of the product were donated to various lucky winners from amongst the gathered throng, using the club's new "Lucky Member" program (must be financial and BE THERE to get your number drawn folks!).

The winners were:

Dan Bridges (229)
Peter Wilkinson (1153)
Howard Collins (1058)
Stuart Deaves (2905)
Chip Karmatz (978)
Noel Wharton (3115)

Notice of Motion

The following motion will be put to the General Meeting on Sunday, 18th April, 1993:

"That this meeting confirms the action of the Annual General Meeting in passing (as amended) the two notices of motion covering changes to the Constitution regarding membership"

The original text of these motions is published on page 75 of December 1992 "Significant Bits". The amendments are listed on page 43 of the February 1993 "Significant Bits".

This motion is necessary as the Dept of Consumer Affairs (formerly Justice Dept) have pointed out that such changes must be notified to them, on the now-available form, within ONE MONTH of being passed.

Chris Raisin - Secretary

Phone line sharing devices

Geoff Harrod

Telephone line sharing between a Fax and a phone is commonly wanted now to save the costs of a second line. The commonly available devices often do not provide complete satisfaction, and a new technology of line sharing rather than switching has been developed.

This review examines one of this new breed of sharing devices, possibly the only example available so far. A variation on this task is sharing between Fax and Modem which is even more demanding, and a sharing device designed specifically for this task is also reviewed.

Fax calls normally identify themselves with the fax call beeps or "CNG" tones, which are short beeps sent every 3 seconds or so until the called party responds or it times out and hangs up. Modems initiating a call do not normally make any sound at all until a host modem in answer mode sends its "training" tones. Then the calling modem responds with tones and between them they settle on a transmission rate. Therefore one might expect a simple fax switch device that senses incoming fax beeps would work with a Fax and modem.

Fax/phone switch devices

There's not a lot of choice in such gadgets. In fact the only one that seemed widely advertised and commonly available was the BITphax switch from Banksia Information Technology. Since I have used their BITblitzer modems and been very satisfied with them I thought that would be a good choice and worth the risk of buying without trying first.

The BITphax is a "line switching" type of device. It answers every incoming call, attempts to decide if it is a Fax call and if so connects to the Fax, otherwise it rings the phone. In its normal mode it sends a spoken message if it doesn't hear a fax



tone. It says "This is a B.I.T. phaxswitch answering your call. If you want to send a fax say FAX after the tone, otherwise wait until the phone is answered." That message is a common source of complaint by callers who only ever want to speak. For my Fax/Modem purpose it would not be acceptable as a calling modem would timeout before it got through. I can be turned off, so that it just switches to fax if there's a fax tone and to the phone if not. The idea of the message is to accommodate calls from the older style "manual" fax machines where you dial on a normal phone, listen for the receiving machine's tone and press your machine's START button. Without the message, manual fax calls get sent to the phone. The big problem is, everyone who just wants to talk like any normal human caller has to suffer through that annoying message every time. It's especially annoying on STD or if the caller is in Europe, as you are getting charged for it.

I thought we could accept the few manual fax callers having to speak and complain about not being connected. We could then switch it over and tell them to press the button... assuming it was when someone was there.

However it turned out that the BITphax switch failed to recognise even 40% of incoming automatic fax calls! I sent it back thinking it needed its tone recognition filter tuning or suchlike, but it was returned claiming nothing was wrong. In the end I sold it to someone who wanted to use it in its intended mode of operation with the message, where it should function quite adequately.

National Communications Line Sharing devices

Then I was directed to National Communications and their Easy-Connect phone-fax sharer and FMX fax-modem sharer. I had heard of the Easy-Connect before but had not been able to find out enough to convince me it could do the job. This time I made contact with their distributor in Brisbane, Kelly Key of Key Systems at Sumner Park, and was loaned one of each to evaluate and review, and given extensive assistance.

These are both very small devices and pride themselves on having no knobs or switches, no messages and on being almost undetectable by callers. They work on a basically different principle to the BITphax switch and the all-in-one fax-

phone-answering machines, and they call it a "line sharing" technology rather than "line switching".

Reading about the details of the two devices and their actions is a bit confusing. How do you choose what is best in any situation, and where will each work and not work? The following is my understanding of it all, and I will try to make it as clear cut as I can.

The EASY-CONNECT is labelled "Phone-Fax (or Modem) line sharer". The FMX is labelled "Fax-Modem line sharer", and that really sums it up. The use of the FMX should be obvious from its name but the Easy-Connect is a bit less clear where modems are concerned. Let's explain how each operates.

The Easy-Connect fax-phone line sharer

The Easy-Connect in its originally intended role as a Phone-Fax sharer does this: When a call comes in, the Easy-Connect allows it to ring the phone. If someone picks up the phone they can immediately talk just as though there wasn't any device in use.

However, if the call has an automatic fax's CNG beeps the Easy-Connect will recognise it after about 3 seconds and ring the fax which will then pick up the call. The person who answered the phone then hangs up.

The tone sensing only happens when the call is answered. If the call is from a real human they can converse without hindrance immediately. It is important to realise that the Easy-Connect does not itself answer the phone. It monitors the line after it has been picked up by a person, which is the main distinction between a line switcher and a line sharer.

If no-one answers it, it rings for a preset time and then rings the fax which answers the call. That means a human caller who rings when you are out gets an earfull of fax tone after ringing for a little while. That could make them think they had dialled the wrong number if they don't know you have a shared line. The system can't be perfect it seems -- you have to accept some compromise when trying to get two lines for the price of one! This is largely solved by having an answering machine as described later.

The preset time for ringing the phone is 8 rings but can be changed to between 2 and 10 by dipswitches. Eight is advised as longer may cause some calling automatic faxes to timeout and less is likely to switch before people can reach the phone.

If the caller is a manual fax user they will of course press their button when they hear the fax tone if you are out. If you answer, all you need do is tell them to press their button and you hang up your phone after pressing 2 and 3 on your tone

It is important to note that where extension phones are used, the call can be answered on any extension and redirected by dial from any extension, whereas the switch devices can only work with a single phone.

dial, or dialling 3 if on a pulse dial system. The 23 dial tones or 3 dial pulses causes the Easy-Connect to ring the fax so that it answers.

The automatic recognition of fax CNG tones is only operative for the first few seconds of the call. That is to avoid interfering with the use of dial tones for remote operation of answering machines, tele-banking or robot interactive answering systems.

For the same reason, the Easy-Connect will only respond to its control tones such as 23 if the user hangs up immediately after dialling them. Another option is to dial 24 which transfers to the fax, but makes it ring you back on the phone when the fax has finished so you can continue the conversation.

It is important to note that where extension phones are used, the call can be answered on any extension and redirected by dial from any extension, whereas the switch devices can only work with a single phone.

The third possible situation is when you have an answering machine as well. Again the call rings the phone. The answering machine should be set to answer if not picked up in less time than the Easy-Connect ring time, usually 2 or 4 rings. Now the answering machine starts its outgoing message.

During the first few seconds the Easy-Connect listens for CNG beeps at the same time and if it hears them it will cut off the message and switch over to the fax within about 3 seconds. The answering machine thinks the caller hung up on it so it resets ready to welcome the next caller.

The burst of answering machine message doesn't upset automatic fax machines but might confuse a manual fax caller, so they suggest you record your "outgoing message" with a 3 or 4 second silence at the start, and also include a phrase like "... to send a fax press 23 and then Start." Those instructions cover all cases quite well and reliably.

The only possible disadvantage of using Easy-Connect instead of the BITphax or a fax-phone combined machine is that you have to pick up the phone for all calls when you are present. However that is really an advantage in that you know a fax has been received, particularly if you can't see the fax from your desk. The advantage over the BITphax is more reliable redirection, and not inflicting a message on all voice callers with attendant delays and call charges.

Now, what about using the Easy-Connect with a modem instead of a fax? The same actions occur of course. A calling modem does not emit any sound until another modem picks up the line and sends tones to it. So the calling modem behaves like a manual fax, except that there's no person with it to press its non-existent button.

The call will get through to your modem if you don't pick up the phone and you don't have an answering machine, after 8 rings. If you pick up the phone and notice the dead silence you might deduce it's a modem. If you then press 23 and hang up immediately it will be transferred. That may not be a very practical arrangement in many situations though.

The main idea of the modem option on the Easy-Connect is for you to call into your own home base and access your computer. In that situation, you can send the 23 code from the remote end when your answering machine responds. You can do that either by dialling with a touchtone phone or by sending a modem command AT23 from the PC, or by putting 23 in a sign on script.

Combined fax-phone units

The other option is the combined fax-phone machines, some with in-built answering machine. These all use the same principle as the BITphax switch except that they do have the message option.

They all answer the phone themselves immediately and then wait a while to see if there are CNG tones. If not they generate a ring tone and ring the phone, but the caller is being charged from the initial auto-answer. Provision for manual fax calls is dependent on a human answering and manually re-directing to the fax or the caller knowing to press the start button as soon as ring tone stops.

They suffer the problem that all calls get answered and charged. If it is a human caller and no-one answers, the caller gets charged for the duration of the CNG sensing period and ringing of the phone. At least they don't get charged for any message time as well.

With an Easy-Connect system, a person who rings when there is no-one to answer gets connected to the fax after 8 rings. They don't get charged for the 8 rings, but only for the very brief time from when they get connected to the fax; and they will not hold on long when they hear the fax tone.

The FMX fax-modem line sharer

Now to the FMX device. This operates the converse way. It connects all calls to the modem first. The host modem responds by sending its training tones. If the caller is not in fact of similar kind and does not immediately respond with the correct tones, your host modem will hang up. A fax machine will not respond to the modem tone. The FMX device keeps the line open and rings the fax or whatever is connected to the other socket if the modem hangs up.

You are requested to set your modem to answer on the first ring (S0=1) and to timeout on a caller in 10 secs (S7=10) or in 15 secs for a 9600 baud modem. In fact there seem to be problems with high speed modems.

They say for the Netcom 9600 baud modems the S47 register needs to be set to 3. On my BitBlitzer MX-5s that also worked

to a degree. If the modem is set to train for too long the FMX will have released the line by the time the modem hangs up and the call will be lost. The FMX holds the line for 20 seconds.

This technique lets the modem decide whether it can cope with the call, which is much more reliable than depending on the device to recognise fax tones.

In the case of manually dialled fax calls, the caller will hear the modem training

time to resolve this, so I will report back later.

Another problem was that if someone tried to use the fax (located in a different room) while a modem call was in progress it burst in on the call and wrecked the communication.

The FMX can also be used with a modem and phone. This is where the overlap occurs in the application of the two devices.

Using the FMX to share phone and modem, all calls will connect first to the modem. Voice callers will hear the training tones of the modem, but will get redirected to the phone if they hold on through the training tone sequence. The tones might cause them to hang up quickly though, or be a source of complaint, so it might not be a very workable solution.

The FMX is recommended by its makers only for its advertised role of fax-modem sharer.

As a fax/phone sharer it is excellent and I would recommend it over other systems including combined fax/phone machines. The capability of working with extension phones may itself be the deciding factor.

tones and will usually respond by pressing start as though it was the expected fax tone. Even if they don't, they will get connected to the fax and hear the fax tone after only a short wait anyway.

I had problems getting the FMX to work with my BitBlitzer MX-5s V32bis modem, and numerous calls to and from National Communications' Gold Coast office were needed. Anyone who has set up a modem for any purpose will already know about the problems of the diverse characteristics of different modems. There's certainly no reluctance to provide help on the part of National Communications and Key Systems.

After some experimentation I thought all was well, but it turned out that I could not find a combination of modem register settings such that fax calls got through to the fax, and modem calls got answered properly by the modem.

I will be carrying out further trials on this in conjunction with Key Systems and National Communications but for the moment we couldn't find a workable solution.

They say all the FMX units they have sold are apparently working well, so we will investigate those situations. It could be they are all slower modems or that my BitBlitzer V32bis modem is not so cooperative as some others. It will take some

Summarising....

The Easy-Connect serves well as a fax-phone sharer, and has the advantage over all other devices that it copes reliably with manual fax calls, does not give annoying messages, tones or delays, does not impose unexpected call charges, and allows calls to be answered and redirected from any extension.

As a fax/phone sharer it is excellent and I would recommend it over other systems including combined fax/phone machines. The capability of working with extension phones may itself be the deciding factor.

The FMX is reported to act well as a fax-modem sharer, but I was not able to get it to work in my situation with a V32bis modem and I will investigate it further. Both devices sell for \$399.00 including sales tax. They are made in USA, have Austel approval and helpful expert local support.



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More on WordPerfect keyboard problems

Dan Bridges & Geoff Harrod

Dan writes...

I read Geoff Harrod's October SigBits article on AMI BIOS and WordPerfect's "sticky Left Shift key" problems with interest, in particular because one of our client's machines was affected, but only after I installed our database program.

Since the client was in Caboolture and I was working in other areas, another one of our techs had tried to fix the problem. I briefed him beforehand on what I thought was a suitable fault-finding methodology. Since the machine had worked correctly before I installed our program, it must have been something I did in the client's CONFIG.SYS or AUTOEXEC.BAT that had caused the problem. (I usually optimise memory usage on MS-DOS 5 systems to give our program the maximum free low memory and to provide as much disk caching as practicable).

So I suggested that he rename the CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT and then reboot the machine in "vanilla" mode to see if WordPerfect still played up. If it did then it was likely that the problem had been there before my visit and the client had not noticed it previously. On the other hand, if the problem was not apparent with a clean setup, then he could use a process of REMing out of lines in these two files to determine what was causing the problem.

Anyway, the tech could not solve the problem, so the boss decided to have me drop in on my next trip north. I was armed with the fixup files from Artisoft, the phone number to WP's hotline in Sydney and had my head primed thanks to a hasty re-read of Geoff's article.

When I got there I asked the client to demonstrate the WP 5.1 problem. He tried to get WP to misbehave but it wasn't being cooperative (apparently the fault was intermittent, and extremely annoying). This was a major set-back; how could I diagnose and fix a problem if I was not immediately sure that my changes were effective?

So the first thing I had to do was make the fault appear at will. I fiddled around for a few minutes, trying to "overload" INT 9. Although normal typing or held-down (auto-repeating) character keys did not cause the problem to appear, I managed to do this by pressing F7 to Save File and then, when requested for a file name, pressing the Up Arrow key for a few seconds. This generated a number of

"Invalid Pathname" messages that repeated every few seconds until the excess keystrokes were cleared from the keyboard buffer.

When I aborted the Save File operation and went back to continue typing "e" characters they then appeared as "E". I found that I had to press the Left Shift key to toggle back to "e". Also, for example, pressing F7 while the keyboard was in "stuck Left Key" mode was now seen as a Shift F7 (Print File) keystroke.

Once I had the fault appearing whenever I wanted, the next step was to boot from an unadorned DOS boot FD and see if the problem reoccurred. It didn't, so I knew I had a good chance of fixing it.

What was highly significant was how quickly WP was recovering from the repeated Up Arrow keystrokes (as described above). It appeared that only one "Invalid Pathname" message was displayed before WP was ready for my next command. This was quite different behaviour from when I booted directly from the HD, with numerous "Invalid Pathname" messages that had repeated every few seconds until WP was ready to proceed.

Looking at the HD's CONFIG.SYS I decided to concentrate on the HIMEM.SYS and the EMM386.EXE lines since I had added these on my last visit. These two lines were:

```
DEVICE=DOS\HIMEM.SYS MACHINE=HPVECTRA  
DEVICE=DOS\EMM386.EXE NOEMS I=E000-EFFF
```

You can see here that the machine (a HP Vectra 396/16) has a proprietary method of accessing the HMA, so the MACHINE parameter is needed with HIMEM.SYS. Perhaps this was the cause?

It was also possible that making the complete E000 segment available for UMBs (normally usable in most machines except when certain network cards are present or when dealing with IBM's PS/2 System BIOS) might have been overwriting something. This was unlikely as normally this would lock up the system and only WP seemed to be affected and in a relatively trivial (although annoying) way.

First I removed "I=E000-EFFF".

No joy. Then, reasoning that the extra overhead inherent in Virtual-86 Mode operation might have been the culprit, I REMed out the EMM386.EXE line.

Bingo!

Because there was now no UMB provider (one of EMM386.EXE's jobs), ANSI.SYS and SMARTDRV.SYS were loaded solely in low memory and this dropped free low memory from around 612K-615K (typical figures for systems only using what DOS 5 provides) to 588K. This was still sufficient in this particular case but things would have been a bit tight if the client was also running STACKER or SUPERSTOR.

Even if you do need to use EMM386.EXE, or if removing EMM386.EXE does not cure the problem, the method I used to trigger the fault may help when you need to see if a fix works.

Footnote from Geoff...

I can confirm EMM386 being a problem with WordPerfect. I had not been using EMM386 as the base memory space was adequate for me without high loading drivers etc. Then I installed DoubleDisk, partly to test it out and partly because my 105 Meg disk at home was getting over full. That robbed the base memory too much to permit my software Postscript interpreter, GoScript, to run.

So I installed EMM386 NOEMS. My wife then started complaining much more than usual about how WordPerfect misbehaved on the home PC. (It used to run fine on the old 286 and she had never been too happy about my replacing it with the 386SX. Problem was I needed to be able to run AutoCad-12 and Windows.) I tried both the EMM386 supplied with Windows 3.1 and the earlier one from DOS-5. I wonder whether DOS-6's EMM386 overcomes this? The best remedy would be for WordPerfect to access the keyboard with correct programming technique.

It didn't dawn on me for some time that it had got worse after installing EMM386. So I commented it out and WP was then again only as bad as before (tolerable), but of course it wouldn't print decently as we depend on GoScript to get fonts from DOS.

I have now solved the problem by scrapping both WordPerfect and GoScript, and editing and printing WordPerfect files in Microsoft Word for Windows 2.0 with TrueType fonts. I reckon that's the best fix for WordPerfect by far!



Readers like "how to do it" items, so we're adding this as a regular column for Brisbug PC users. It's also a chance for readers to send in their favorite how to's. If used, your reward will be a gift from Brisbug. See also Editorial. You can also request an answer from this column for shortcuts or solutions to problems on any widely used applications which you find clumsy or baffling.

Centring WordPerfect Lines

If you have problems centring several lines of WP text, here's a couple of macros that assure centring. This first creates a macro that assumes that you remember to use it before you start typing your text:

```
(DISPLAY OFF)
{Format} ljc {Enter} {Enter}
{Format} ljf {Enter} {Enter} {Left}
```

This second one handles the problem at any time, in case you have forgotten to call up your macro before centring:

```
CENTRE.WPM
(DISPLAY OFF)
{Home} {Home} {Left} {Format} ljc
{Exit}
{Home} {Home} {RIGHT} {Format} ljf
{Exit} {Left}
{If} {System} ~=36864~ {Left} {End IF}
```

(The number is a return for the [DSrt] code under Appendix T Macros in the WP 5.1 manual.

Cut and Paste a Hard Block

Another WordPerfect problem that often occurs is cutting and pasting a hard block. If a block is cut, you can't use Enter for a CR, because you will paste the cut. Instead, use Control-V, Enter. This inserts a hard return, making room for the text to be inserted. Then press Enter to paste the block.

To insert a date into a document, press *Shift-F5* (Date/Outline), *I* (Date Text).

This inserts the date at the cursor. If you want to change the Date Format from 1 May 1993 to May 1 1993, use *Shift-F5* with 3 (the Date Format) to customise.

If you have imported files in WordPerfect, the codes usually have a hard return [HRT] at the end of each line and two at the end of every paragraph. This makes reformatting difficult, particularly for margins. To get rid of these quickly, use WP's Search & Replace feature to delete these code marks. Delete the single ones to preserve the original formatting, but don't delete the double ones.

If you want to do this with quickly, replace each double return with a tilde (~). Then press *Home, Home*, and the up arrow to move to the top of the document. Use Search & Replace (*Alt-F2*), say *N* to confirmation. Hit *enter* twice to specify the text to be replaced and press *F2*. Type a tilde at the *Replace With*, then press *F2*. Now delete all the remaining hard returns. Press *Home* twice, up arrow to return to the top of the document. Hit *Alt-F2 N* and Enter. Press *F2* twice and WP deletes all [HRT] codes.

Then to restore the paragraphs, replace each tilde with a double hard return. Press *Home* twice, up arrow, *Alt-F2*, hit *enter* twice and lastly hit *F2*. The document has been reformatted with a blank space between each paragraph and soft returns. (Mark Colen)

Word 2.0 Line Spacing

If you want exact line spacing in WinWord and try to insert an object, chart, a drawing or a formula, the spacing goes awry. ("Exactly" is usually used for manual spacing.) Winword will not adjust to fit the insertion. If that happens, change to "auto" or "single", which will then adjust automatically. Then on the following line you can return to the "Exactly" spacing. Note that *Exactly* can be set in cm, inches or points, too. Lines is only the default.

Compacting Your DOS PATH

You have worked out your DOS PATH in your AUTOEXEC.BAT statement so that you have exactly 125 characters as your line length. Then you get your brand new application and want to add it to your path, but you can't because of the 127 character limit. If you add (..) to the beginning of your PATH statement, such as:

```
PATH= ..; C:\DOS; D:\Windows;
```

The DOS search path then points to the parent directory of the current directory, regardless of what the current directory is. You can then start programs from directories not explicitly written in. From C:\SUBDIR\SUBDIR2 you could start C:\SUBDIR\PROGRAM.EXE, for instance.

Another way is to use the SUBST command. Instead of the usual PATH statement, write:

```
SUBST D: C:\DOS
SUBST E: D:\WP51
SUBST F: C:\UTIL
PATH -D:\E:\F:\
```

The logical drives D,E,F are now equivalent to C:\DOS,D:\WP51,C:\UTIL and you have reduced your path from 20 characters to 11.

Environment space gets quickly eaten up by long paths, SET strings and PROMPT commands (My own prompt which gives time, date, drive and indicator, each in a different color, uses too much to rely on the default of 256 bytes in DOS 5). If you have received an "Out of environment space" message, simply increase its size in your CONFIG.SYS file by using a shell statement:

```
SHELL= C:\COMMAND.COM C:\
/E:512 /p
```

The /E switch increases the environment space, but for example if you increase it to 1024, you may find that you are using too much conventional memory. The /P switch tells DOS to run your AUTOEXEC.BAT file on booting.

Windows Setup

The last several Windows applications I have looked at tell me to use the Setup command from the DOS prompt. Don't bother! Use the setup icon from within Windows 3.1. I quickly installed two drivers this way and didn't have to exit to DOS to do it.

A Windows Reminder File

Someone who uses Windows every day can easily set up a painless reminder file. Use Notepad and save your reminders as WINDOWS\MINDER.TXT. Then put the file in your Windows Startup Group. From Program Manager's File Menu, select *new*. Then choose the program item and hit *OK*. Select the file and click *OK*. Use the *Browse* button to locate the file. Click *OK* again to complete the cycle. Then each time you boot Windows, the file will load with Notepad and remind you of what you have to do. As an FYI, I have three files in my Startup Group—Dr Watson, Clockman and Minder.

DR DOS 6

With MS-DOS batch files, an ECHO command by itself brings up a message that ECHO is either on or off. But under DRDOS, if you follow an ECHO command with two spaces, the batch file you are writing displays a blank line.
(Ron Richardson)

AMI PRO

Printing on preprinted forms is simple with AMIPRO 3.0. Either open a file with a form already on it or create a table to duplicate a form. Select *Tools, table* and specify the number of rows and columns wanted. Then adjust row and column widths so that the table matches the form you want to print. Type in the text in the appropriate cell; adjust the table's size and choose the font and position on the page until it matches the original form. When the form is finished, choose *Table, Modify Table Layout*—don't click on

Honor Protection. Click *OK*. Select cells that have preprinted form labels. Choose *Edit, Mark Text*; select *Protected Text* and click on *OK*. Fill out data for form, choose *File, Print*. Click *Options* and pick "*On Preprinted Form*". Click *OK* to return to the Print Dialog box and *OK* to print. The protected text and the table's line and fills won't be printed, but the rest of the text will be printed in the proper place on the form.
(Moiria Moynihan)

Trimming Windows

If your disk is filled with GUI programs or you are using Windows with a laptop and don't have a lot of disk space, here are the Windows files you can safely delete to save more than 2.5MB of hard disk space. (These files are not linked to other Windows functions.) Customise Windows to run what you need. Put them on a couple of floppies if you want to reinstall them.

FILENAME	DESCRIPTION	BYTES
*.BMP	Wallpaper bitmap	241,236
*.TXT	Readme FILES	201,310
CALC.EXE	Calculator executable	40,480
CALENDAR.EXE	Calendar executable	64,352
CARDFILE.EXE	Cardfile executable	53,952
CARDFILE.HLP	Help file for Cardfile	31,569
CLIPBRD.EXE	Clipboard viewer executable	20,512
CLIPBOARD.HLP	Clipboard help file	15,940
CLOCK.EXE	Clock executable	11,136
CONTROL.HLP	Control Panel help	70,459
DIGITAL.FON	Only used by clock	1,732
EMM386.SYS	Expanded memory driver	60,994
MSDOS.EXE	DOS executive executable	46,640
NOTEPAD.*	Notepad and help files	58,105
PBRUSH.*	Paintbrush files (3)	229,046
PIFEDIT.HLP	PIF editor help file	43,039
PRINTMAN.HLP	Print mgr hlp file	23,857
PROGMAN.HLP	Program mgr help file	94,692
RAMDRIVE.SYS	RAM disk driver	5,719
RECORDER.*	Recorder sound files (3)	79,945
REVERSI.*	Reversi game files (2)	28,672
SETUP.*	Setup files (2)	274,349
SOL.EXE	Solitaire executable file	180,880
TERMINAL.*	Terminal files (2)	191,652
WINFILE.*	File manager files (2)	170,475
WRITE.*	Write word proc files (2)	262,053
TOTAL		2,558,496

Figure 1. A complete list of safely deletable Windows files

The OS/2 Workplace Shell

Alan Gibson

You may have been reading some of the articles by Paul Marwick about OS/2 2.0. Topics he has covered, have included Installation, Performance Tips, Alternative Configurations, OS/2 Command Line, Why OS/2, BBS on OS/2, OS/2 Shareware, OS/2 Shortcomings and an OS/2 Norton lookalike. If you missed any of these grab some back issues from someone as these are a must read for anyone who wants to learn more on the the exciting new operating system OS/2 2.0. One topic he seems to be studiously avoiding however is OS/2 2.0's new Workplace Shell. I am sure it was not his intention to ignore the WPS (as we OS/2ers call the Workplace Shell for short), but Paul himself has stated he is not exactly a fan of GUIs in general. So to help introduce the Workplace Shell to all who are new to OS/2 and others who are just curious onlookers, Rick Anderson of the OS/2 SIG very kindly volunteered me to write an article on the WPS.

Alan Gibson, works for the National Australia Bank in Enduser Computing Support and has been a member of Brisbug for nearly 3 years. He has been using OS/2 1.3 for the past 2 years and OS/2 2.0 since soon after it's release in March 1992.

This article will be an introductory overview of the Workplace Shell, I will go into aspects of WPS in more detail in future articles.

The Workplace Shell is as the name implies, a shell that resides on top of the OS/2 Operating system in much the same way as Dosshell or MS Windows reside on top of DOS. It is a Graphic User Interface (GUI) that has been written by IBM to replace the old Presentation Manager GUI that has been used by OS/2 since version 1.1. MS Windows users would have been right at home using Presentation Manager as it was based on the ubiquitous MS Windows GUI. About the only difference was Program Manager was called Desktop Manager. IBM have taken a bold step introducing their new Object Oriented Graphic User Interface to go with their 32-bit Multitasking Operating System and while it is different to what you may be familiar with I am sure after a day or two using it you will prefer it for it's ease of use and simplicity. The Workplace Shell does roughly the same job as MS Windows

Program Manager, File Manager, Print Manager and Control Panel combined but introduces Object-oriented drag and drop to your work place tool, the PC.

By Object Orientation I mean everything on your PC screen is an object that has it's own properties and characteristics, and is handled in the same consistent intuitive way regardless of the object type.

WPS Objects

Referring to Figure 1 (below), the screen full of background colour that appears as WPS starts up is called the Desktop Folder and it's on this "Desktop" that you do your work. Other objects also appear as icons upon the "Desktop" as the WPS completes loading. These objects will be one of the following types, Folder Objects, Program Objects, Data File Objects and Device Objects.

A Folder object is an Object that contains other objects, such as other Folders, Programs, Data Files and even Device Objects.

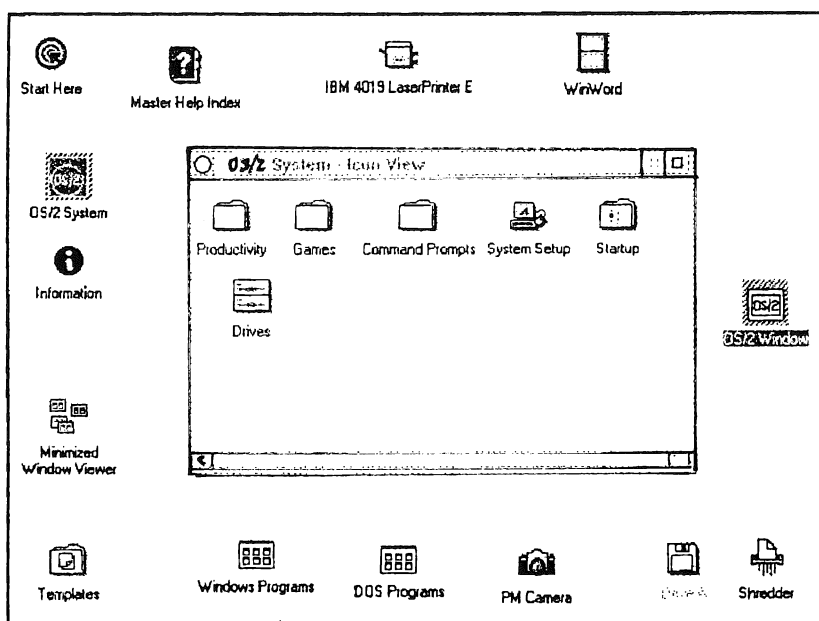


Figure 1. Showing the workplace shell

Folders are roughly equivalent to Sub-Directories.

Program Objects are as the name implies, your application programs.

Data File Objects are your documents, spreadsheets and database files, etc.

Device Objects are items that represent physical devices such as Disk drives, Printers and Fax/Modems. Each object has its own menu called a pop-up menu which is accessed by placing the mouse pointer over the object and pressing the right mouse button (RMB). This pop-up menu displays only the appropriate options available for that particular type of object. Some options that are available to most objects are Open, Help, Create another, Copy, Move, Create shadow and Delete. Some menu options have a small right arrow which indicates further choices nested further in. As with other GUIs you select using the left mouse button (LMB). While I will also discuss other methods for

and Shutdown. It is of utmost importance that you select Shutdown before turning off your PC as it flushes the cache by writing any cache data out to disk as well as closing any open files. It also stores the state of the "Desktop" and all objects that were open will reopen when you restart the computer.

Opening Objects

Opening Objects is done by moving the mouse pointer over the object and doubleclicking on the LMB just like in MS Windows. Each object will either open/start displayed in a window (Except programs that have been set to run full screen), much like the MS Windows windows that most of you are familiar with. These windows can be manipulated following the same methods as under MS Windows for moving, resizing, minimising/iconising and closing of windows.

In MS Windows, an icon on the Desktop meant a running application had been minimised, you had to keep application icons within a Program Group. WPS handles things a little differently, you can place icons wherever you want. When an object is open/started, its icon will have a shaded background. There are several ways to switch between active tasks with the WPS. If any part of a background task's window is visible

on the Desktop, just point to it with the mouse pointer and click the LMB and it becomes the foreground task. Alt-Esc cycles between active tasks. To switch between active tasks where no part of the task's window is visible, OS/2 has a Window List much like the Task List in MS Windows. To activate it use Ctrl-Esc or move the mouse pointer to an empty space on the Desktop and click both mouse buttons simultaneously. Ctrl-Esc are the most important keys to remember as this combination will work even if a full screen

DOS or Windows program hangs, seemingly locking the keyboard. Just go Ctrl-Esc and the Window List appears, move the mouse pointer to the errant application in the list and then click the RMB to get its Pop-up menu. Select Close, and the application will close. Doubleclick on the application's icon and it will restart.

The writer of a recent article on OS/2 2.0 in a wide circulation PC magazine, embarrassed himself by his ignorance of this feature. He criticised OS/2 for not having a method to kill wayward tasks which is a fairly serious omission from a multitasking operating system if it were true. I think he was used to the method of using the Ctrl-Alt-Del key combination to kill tasks introduced by Microsoft in Windows 3.1 and didn't bother to explore further. Makes you shake your head in wonder, these guys are actually getting paid to write this stuff.

Under OS/2 2.0 Ctrl-Alt-Del still means reboot the Computer. OS/2 2.0 is so stable and protective in making sure one application does not crash the whole system, that I can honestly say it has been months since I have had to reboot my PC at work.

Drives

File Manager has been replaced by Drives, the WPS's object-oriented file manager. Drives is a Folder of Device Objects kept in the OS/2 System Folder.

There is a Drive Device Object for each disk drive. You open the Drive Object (access the disk drive) by doubleclicking the LMB on its icon. A Folder opens displaying its contents which may be nested Folder Objects, Data-file Objects and Program Objects.

The first Folder equates to the Root Directory of a disk. Nested Folders equate to Sub-directories, Data-file Objects are documents and Program Objects are applications (.EXE and .COM files).

Each object is presented as an icon within the Folder. Folder icons usually look like manilla folders, Data-file Objects icons look like pieces of paper and Program Object icons use a recognisable graphic such as a trademark or indicate whether it's a DOS or a OS/2 application. Just like File Manager, to start an application, just doubleclick on the icon.

<u>O</u> pen	➔	
<u>H</u> elp	➔	
<u>C</u> reate <u>s</u> hadow...		
<u>L</u> ockup now		
<u>S</u> hut <u>d</u> own...		
<u>F</u> ind...		
<u>S</u> elect	➔	<u>S</u> elect <u>a</u> ll Ctrl+I
<u>S</u> ort	➔	<u>D</u> eselect <u>a</u> ll Ctrl+J
<u>A</u> rrange		

Figure 2. Showing a typical menu tree

manipulating objects using the WPS there is the reassuring knowledge that a consistent, easily accessible pop-up menu at your disposal to accomplish any task. Even the "Desktop" (you remember, that coloured background on your PC screen), which is a special type of Folder Object has a pop-up menu. Just place the mouse pointer over a clear part of the "Desktop" and click the RMB and voila a pop-up menu.

The Desktop pop-up menu has two extra options than other Folders, Lockup now

Drag and Drop

Although every object has a popup menu, there are ways that are much more fun to accomplish tasks. Drag and Drop is a very natural way to get work done, in real life if you wish to get rid of a file, you pick it up a drop it in the shredder or bin.

With WPS, you want to delete a document file from an open Folder, just point to it, hold down the RMB, drag the object to the Shredder Object and drop it (shame it doesn't have sound effects).

You want to copy a Folder and it's contents to drive A:. Just point to the closed Folder object, hold down the *Cntl* key and RMB and drag it to the Drive A: Object on the Desktop and drop it.

You want to move a program from one folder to another. Open the Folder the Program Object resides in, have the destination Folder visible on the Desktop, open or closed. Point to the Program Object, hold down the RMB and drag the Object to the destination Folder and drop it.

You want to print a *Read.Me* file that's on a diskette in Drive A:. Doubleclick on the Drive A: Object, point to the Read.Me file, hold down the RMB and drag the file to the Printer Device Object and it will print.

Templates

You may have noticed there is a Templates Folder on your Desktop. This Folder contains as the name suggests Object templates for every type of Object that is used in WPS. It is used to create new instances of Objects. For instance, to set up a new Program Object on the Desktop for a the DOS program WordPerfect 5.1 which is stored in C:\WP51:

Open the Templates Folder, point to the Program Template and hold down the RMB. Drag the Program Template to the Desktop or any other Folder you care to place it in.

A settings Notebook will appear.

Type C:\WP51\WP.EXE in the Path and Filename field.

Click on the Session Tab of the Notebook and the Session page will open.

Select DOS Full Screen.

Click on the General Tab and when the General page opens replace the word Program in the Title field with WordPerfect 5.1, then doubleclick the Title-bar icon in the top left corner of the Notebook window

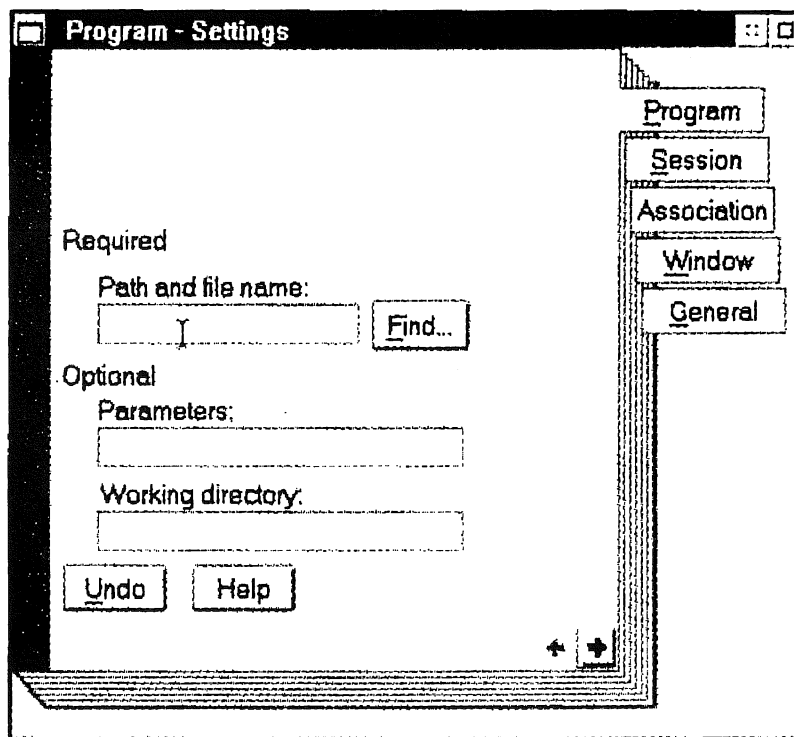


Figure 3. Showing the Settings Notebook.

to close the new Program Object Settings Notebook.

An icon for WordPerfect is now on the Desktop or Folder, easy hey!

Rearranging your Desktop

Now the basic premise of the Workplace Shell is that it is supposed to more closely imitate how people actually do their work at their work place. Traditionally, on your real desk you might have your current projects kept together in folders as well as tools that help to accomplish your work such as a calculator, typewriter, reference books etc. So it is with the WPS "Desktop", which may have Folders containing documents, worksheets and database files from your latest project and tools to accomplish this work, such as a calculator applet, a Word Processing application, a printer object, a shredder object and online help. The best thing about the WPS is it is so configurable. Don't think you are stuck with how it comes configured, it is designed to be configured to suit each individual. I have never yet seen 2 people's WPS Desktop organised the same way. As installed the WPS I feel isn't optimised for speedy access to many objects

that are used frequently, often they are nested within 2 levels of folders. The beauty is you can quickly rearrange the object so that it is really just a 'Point and Click' away.

Before I go into rearranging the WPS, let's talk about Shadows.

Shadows

A shadow is an object that represents another object. Its icon is identical to the original, but its title is grey rather than black. When you create a shadow it does not create another copy of the original but just points to the original.

An example where Shadows are useful is if you are working on many documents as part of your current project and these documents are actually stored in many different directories on your hard disk. You could copy them all into a directory called Project to keep them together, but then you have two instances of each file on your hard disk. A better way is to create a folder called say Project and then create shadows in the Project folder. Now you have all your project documents easily accessible within a folder and their is no

problem with version control. This is especially useful in a Network situation when several users working on the same project, there is no need to know where the originals are actually stored. Changes to the Shadow actually are changing the original file. The only changes that don't effect the original are deleting and moving a Shadow.

Back to the Desktop

Now back to rearranging your Desktop. Just like my real desktop, I like things within easy reach, so if I want to use the Calculator applet that comes with OS/2 2.0, I don't want to have to open the OS/2 System Folder, then open the Productivity Folder, then doubleclick on the Calculator program object. I want the calculator right there, a "Point and Click" away.

The answer is create a shadow of the Calculator program object and place it on the Desktop. How you accomplish this is

rather simple and that is, open the Folder that contains the object, move the mouse pointer over the object, open it's Popup menu by clicking the RMB. Select Create Shadow from the Popup menu and a Create Shadow Notebook appears. Click on the Desktop Folder icon. An icon will be created on the Desktop identical to the original. Now when you wish to use a calculator, it's readily available.

Using Shadows well

The same goes for other tools I use frequently. I have created a Shadow of a Drive object for each disk drive I have, and placed this on the Desktop. As I am an old Command Line nut from way back, I have also created a shadow of the Command Prompts for each Operating Environment that OS/2 supports, DOS, OS/2 and Win-OS/2. Some things can be done just so much quicker from the command line, so I always like these readily available. Previously to get to a command line prompt

involved opening the OS/2 System Folder, Opening Command Prompts Folder, and then doubleclicking on the required Command Prompt icon.

These are just a few quick examples of rearranging your Workplace Shell Desktop. Remember, you can always delete a shadow if you change your mind without affecting the original, so don't be afraid to experiment. If you aren't sure if an object is a shadow or an original, click the RMB on it to see it's Pop-up menu.

A shadow always has a menu option called Original with a right arrow to the side which is used to locate the original object. That's about all I have time to cover in this article, it was after all supposed to be an overview. I hope to cover aspects of the WPS in more depth in future articles. I am open to suggestions on future articles. To contact me, see the OS/2 listing in Brisbug Help Lines.

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Changing the Default Wildcard in the *EDIT.COM* Open Dialog Box

John McCranor

*This article takes you step by step through the process of patching (changing some of the bytes in) the QBASIC.EXE program to alter the default "*TXT" wildcard in the File Name field of the EDIT program Open dialogue box. (That's the box that appears on your screen when you choose the "Open..." command in the File menu. The File Name field is the area where you type in the file name.)*

Why change the editor?

Once you have EDIT running, the fastest and easiest way to load a file is double click on its name in the Files window (the box under the File Name field).

Unfortunately, the way that EDIT makes you bring up a list of filenames to select is not very convenient which tends to defeat the purpose. With the wildcard as it is only those files with the extension "TXT" are displayed when you bring up the *Open* box. To load any other you either have to type its name in the File Name field or type in a new wildcard, click twice with your mouse on the Dir/Drives box to bring up a list of matching filenames and click twice on the filename to load it.

To make things worse, you have to do this every time you want to open a new file. Each time you open the box the extension is always "*.TXT", even if you have changed it before.

The wildcard in the File Name Field, like a wildcard in a DOS *DIR* command, determines which files from the current directory will be displayed in the Files window as soon as you call up the *Open* box and therefore which you can quickly load using your mouse. If you change the default to the all files wildcard ("*. *"), each time you use the *Open* command the name of every file in the current directory

is displayed in the Files window and can be loaded using your mouse. (If there are more than twenty-four files, the names of the first twenty-four will be displayed. Any other can be brought into the view by using the horizontal scroll bar at the bottom of the window, which only takes a couple of more mouse clicks.) You can also navigate to any file in any directory on any drive with only a few more clicks.

Before You Begin...

DEBUG is used to patch the file.

Each step is explained and illustrated, but it would be advisable to know what you are doing before you start. The article is not intended as a tutorial so if you don't know anything about DEBUG you could start by reading pages 399 to 431 of your "MS-DOS User's Guide and Reference" or any articles or books on using DEBUG that you have at hand.

The following DEBUG commands are used: DEBUG (399), R (Register) (421), S (Search) (423), D (Dump) (405), E (Enter) (406), W (Write) (427) and Q (Quit) (420). The numbers in brackets are the pages on which the commands are discussed in the manual.

The patch is simple. The default wildcard is not generated by a routine but stored as ASCII text (that is the hex bytes directly represent the letters of the wildcard) so it doesn't involve altering any executable bytes in the program. Nevertheless, patching a program or using DEBUG should not be taken lightly. *Be careful.* DEBUG is a powerful program capable, given enough recklessness on the part of a user, of destroying or making inaccessible all the data on a hard disk. It uses one letter commands and has no safety interface so it's easy to make a mistake.

Admittedly, in most cases a mistake won't cost you any of your files but it might change bytes in the program you didn't intend to. This usually stops the program from working, but it might make it work

in new and destructive ways some of which may lose you one or more files later on. *If you're not sure of or don't understand what you're doing, don't do it.* If you do decide to do it, for the same reasons, you should have a current back-up of the files on your hard-disk, preferably all of them but at least of those which you can't afford to lose.

On the other hand, if you're experienced at patching programs each of the commands is on a separate line, so you can quickly modify the file without reading the explanatory text between. (If you do, remember that the file occupies more than one segment so you should specify both the segment and the offset in the address.)

A Warning about Addresses

The addresses in the screen dumps and commands have been replaced by a generic "xxxx:xxxx" to avoid confusion because the addresses DEBUG returns on your computer may differ from those it returned on mine. DEBUG loads a file in first available (unused) segment of memory. This varies from computer to computer depending on what memory is being used by other programs and how you have your memory configured.

In commands, you should replace "xxxx:xxxx" with the address you obtain. Using xxxx:xxxx as an address in a real DEBUG command will produce an error message.

STEP 1: Make a working copy of the file

The default wildcard for the EDIT File Open dialogue box is not contained in the EDIT.COM file but in the file QBASIC.EXE. DEBUG will not allow you change an EXE file so the first step is to create a copy of the QBASIC.EXE file with a different extension. You can use the DOS COPY command to do this:

```
COPY QBASIC.EXE QB.MOD
```

STEP 2: Load the file into
DEBUG

Load the QB.MOD file into DEBUG, using the command:

```
DEBUG QB.MOD
```

If everything was successful, a “-” should have appeared under the last command you issued. This is the DEBUG prompt. If at any time you want to leave DEBUG you can by typing “Q” or “q” at this prompt and pressing ENTER. Unless you’ve intentionally written to the file you’re working on beforehand, quitting DEBUG will let you out of the program without changing your file.

STEP 3: Find the length

Getting the length of the file is a safety measure. Later on, DEBUG will tell you how many bytes it wrote to the file and you can compare this number with the number you get in this step. The length of the file (that is, how many bytes DEBUG read in) can be found using the DEBUG R command. Type:

```
R
```

and you’ll see:

```
AX=0000    BX=0003    CX=E34F
DX=0000    SP=FFEE    BP=0000
SI=0000    DI=0000    DS=0C38
ES=0C38    SS=0C38    CS=0C38
IP=0100    NV UP EI PL NZ NA PO
NC 0C38:0100 4D DEC BP
```

If you want to know what all these mean you can refer to the manual or read Dan Bridges article “Learning QBASIC” (Part 9) in “Significant Bits”, Vol 8, No 3, February, 1993, pp25-31)

For our purposes we only need to know that the length of the file is contained in the BX and CX registers. The values of these are shown on the top line as BX=0003 and CX=E34F. You get the length by combining “0003” and “E34F” into “0003E34F”. Removing the zeros padding the left you end up with 3E34F as the number of bytes in the file. This is the number to write down for the safety check. You should end up with the same number as I did because we both have the same QBASIC.EXE file and QB.MOD is a copy.

If you don’t, you may have copied the contents of the wrong file to QB.MOD. There are three files with the name QBASIC on your disk, QBASIC.INI, QBASIC.HLP, and QBASIC.EXE. It’s the one with the “EXE” you need to copy to QB.MOD. If this has happened, exit DEBUG by using Q and pressing enter, and copy the right file to QB.MOD.

STEP 4: Find the text

The next step is to find the text you want to change. The default wildcard is close to the end of the file, but exactly where it is in memory will vary from computer to computer (see the paragraph on addresses.) The following command assumes that the

file starts somewhere in segment 0000. You can determine this by looking at the value in the CS register (CS=xxxx) on the second line of the register display. If the leftmost digit is “0”, the file starts in segment 0000.

In the unlikely event that DEBUG doesn’t load a file in segment zero on your computer, all is not lost. Simply change the “4” in the command to whatever result you get by adding four to the leftmost number of the start address. (For example, if it’s “1” make the first digit in the command “5”.)

To find the address of the wildcard use the DEBUG “S” command. (You must type in the text exactly as it appears in the File Name field of the Open dialogue box, that is, in capitals and without any spaces and you have to enclose in inverted commas.)

```
S 4000:0 L0000 “*.TXT”
```

After you press enter an address should appear on the line below. This is the location in memory of the text you’re looking for. To make sure, use the “D” command followed by the address to see if it’s really what you want:

```
D xxxx:xxxx
```

You should see something like Figure 1 (below)

As you can see from the ASCII display on the right side of the screen, the first line contains “*” and the first four characters of the line below are “.TXT” which make up the wildcard, “*.TXT”, that appears in the File Name field.

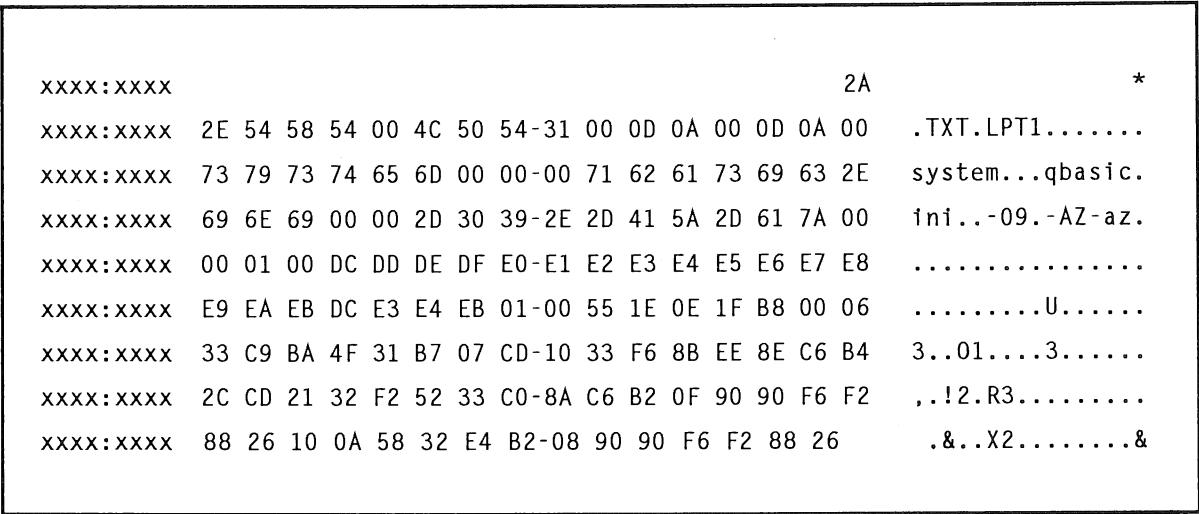


Figure 1. Showing the screen display obtained in Step 4 - finding the text

STEP 5: Change the text

Do not be tempted to change anything but these five characters. They are the only ones the program uses for the default wildcard. The *E* (for enter) command you will use to alter the bytes works in overwrite mode. You cannot use it to insert extra bytes in the program to accommodate a longer filename. If you write more than five characters, you will change the bytes already there which contain other information that the program needs. In this case, as you can see, you would be changing "LPT1", the default printer port.

To change the wildcard from "*.TXT" to "*.*" you use ".*.*" 00 00. The double zeros are used to pad out the three characters of the new wildcard to the length of the old. It's easier to use two 00's to represent the NUL characters than to try include the actual characters inside the inverted commas. The padding is purely cosmetic. All characters to the right of an asterisk in a wildcard are ignored so ".*.XT" would work just as well to display all files as ".*.*" does but it wouldn't look as neat. 00s are used to replace the extra characters rather than, say, the more obvious space (20h) because they are invisible when displayed. When the *Open* box is called, the wildcard appears in inverse video and using a visible character like a space leaves two inverse blanks after the wildcard which makes things look strange. 00s confine the inverse video to the wildcard characters. It looks like a bought one, in other words.

As stated, you use the DEBUG *E* command

to change the text. You don't need to change the left part of the wildcard which is already the asterisk you want but since the search has given you the address for the whole wildcard it is simpler to work with that than to change the address to the start of the three "TXT" characters. The xxxx:xxxx should be replaced by the address you got from the search command:

```
E xxxx:xxxx ".*.*" 00 00
```

After you've made your change issue the *D* command (*D* and the address) again to make sure you've done what you thought you did.

It should look like Figure 2 (below):

If you notice that you've made a mistake, re-issue the *E* command and correct it. You can change the bytes as many times as you like but make sure that you use the same address and that you are changing the correct bytes. If everything gets completely confused, the easiest and safest way is to *Q*(uit) DEBUG and start again.

STEP 6: Write the change to the file

The *E* command only changes the image of the file in memory. The file itself on your disk is still what it was when you started, an exact copy of the QBASIC.EXE file. If you want to make the changes to the file permanent you have to tell DEBUG to overwrite the current file on disk with the changed image of the file in memory.

You do this by typing:

W

you should see:

Writing 3E34F bytes

This is where the number you got from the BX and CX registers comes in. Compare it to the number DEBUG displayed. (In this case, both should be 3E34F.) If they are the same it means that you haven't changed the length of the file. If they aren't, something has gone wrong. You will have to delete the altered file and start again. An EXE file won't work if you change its length. Be warned, however, that just because the numbers are the same doesn't mean everything is okay; you can make some mistakes without altering the length of the file.

It's time to leave DEBUG and get back to the DOS command prompt:

Q

will get you there.

STEP 7: Get EDIT to use the new text

Before you can test the modified file, you have to make EDIT.COM load it instead of the original, which means renaming it QBASIC.EXE. You can't do this until you rename the original. Don't delete it for the moment. The modification may not work properly and you might want to use it to make a clean copy to redo the process.

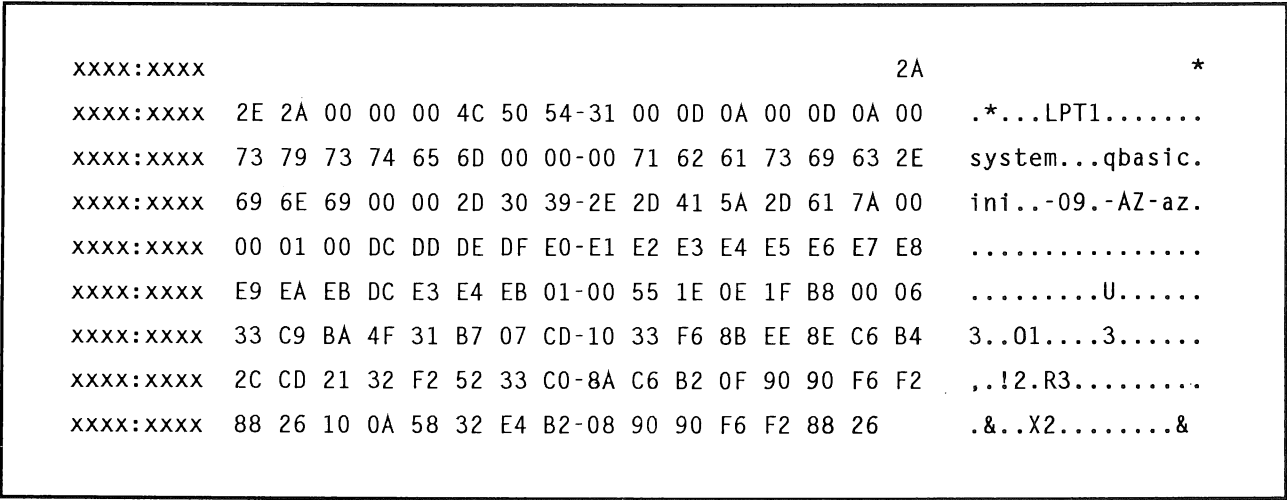


Figure 2. Showing the screen display obtained in step5 - Changing the text

The commands:

```
RENAME QBASIC.EXE QBASIC.SAV
```

and then

```
RENAME QB.MOD QBASIC.EXE
```

will store the original file as *.SAV and make EDIT load the modified file.

A Warning about files you shouldn't edit

EDIT was designed to create and modify plain ASCII files. Not every file which appears in the Files window will be this type. It was probably for this reason that Microsoft choose not to use the all files wildcard but "*.TXT". TXT is the extension which they use to designate their own plain text files. Fortunately, you can't damage the wrong type of file by loading or even editing it, but only by saving it. However it is important to realise that all you have to do to damage some files is use EDIT to save them. Among these are files with special formatting characters (com-

monly TAB (ASCII 9) which are converted to spaces if saved) and executable (program) files (only a part of which will load and if saved will replace the whole.) If you do load or edit a file you shouldn't, don't use the *Save* command and answer NO if EDIT asks if you want to save it.

STEP 8: Test the modification

Now you can start EDIT and run the *Open* box through its paces. Try a bit of directory hopping. When you're satisfied the *Open* box is working then you can try the rest of the editing features. Although the patch isn't a major one, for safety's sake the first file (or first few) you test on should be copies, junk files or ones for which you have a current back-up in case some inadvertent finger slip has created a hidden bug.

And after you've finished...

Whichever version you decide to use you'll want to do something about the other. It

takes up nearly a quarter of a megabyte of disk space, which you can probably find a better use for. Deletion is the best option because you can always recreate the original by replacing "*.*)" with "*.TXT" using the same patching technique, or expand a new copy from your DOS disks. If you decide to use the modified QBASIC.EXE instead of the original, you might like to indicate it in some way. You can't change it's name to show that it has been modified, but you could make a note on your disk or in your manual to remind yourself (and let anyone else know) that it isn't standard.

Using EDIT

Whether you use the modified editor or the original, here are a three simple "hints" which may help you to use it better.

Firstly, when you use the *Open* box always select your drive and directory first. When you click on the Files window, or start to scroll filenames, the default wildcard is replaced by the highlighted filename. If you change directories the File Name field blanks and no files are displayed. If this happens, the easiest thing to do is to cancel the box and re-open it, then make sure you select your directory before you start to select filenames.

Secondly, if you've only ever used EDIT to load a single file from the command line you may not aware that the search and change commands and the text in the cut buffer stay the same until you change them or quit. They are not affected if you switch files. This means you can search, change or paste the same text in any number of files.

Lastly, the *Save As* command is an easy way of creating a back-up file. (It produces exactly the same result as if you typed "COPY [filespec1] [filespec2]" on the command line. You end up with an exact copy of the original file with a new name.) As soon as you load a file, save it under a different name. The new file will become the current file and the old file will stay as it is. You can either edit the new file or open the old file and use the new one as the back-up.

(By the way, the "*.BAS" extension in the QBASIC Environment *Open* box can be found and modified using the same patch. It is stored in the same segment of the QBASIC.EXE program. Follow the steps but use the "*.BAS" in the search command.)

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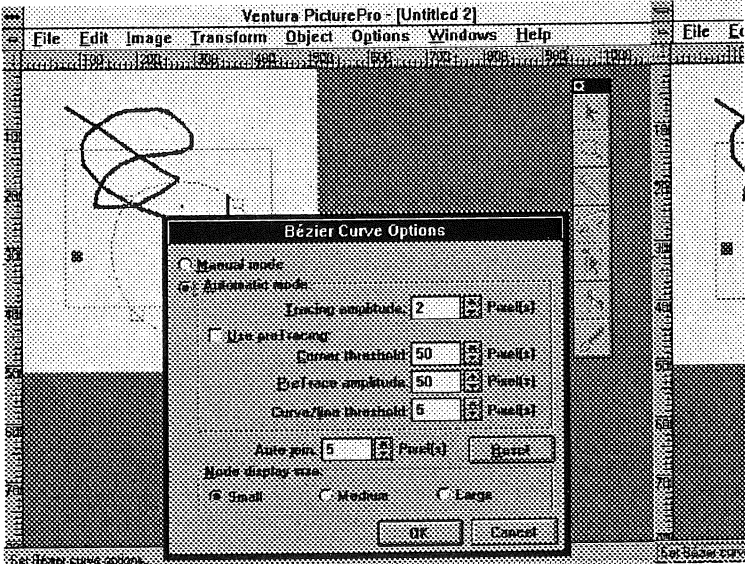
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First Looks

Ventura Software Inc (VSI) is well known for its Ventura Publisher desktop publishing (DTP) product. I have used it for five years but for most of that time I used CorelDRAW! as a drawing tool and, more recently, as a painting tool. So I was intrigued when VSI released PicturePro as one of several DTP offerings.

Version 1.1 for Windows combines image editing, scanning, painting, drawing, colour correction, photo retouching, and separation capabilities in one package. It is billed as a professional-level graphics tool for the creation and editing of continuous tone, 24-bit colour and greyscale images and illustrations. You can perform both paint and draw operations on two



Ventura Picture Pro 1.1 for Windows

separate layers, and can combine them to form the final image. That is the drawback of this product.

Requirements

You need an 80386 PC as a minimum, and a fast i486 for performance with any powerful graphics software such as this one. It will run with an EGA monitor, but a high-end VGA device and complementary graphics card is recommended. The scanner must be TWAIN compatible. The scanner must be TWAIN compatible. It can import VIP, EPS, AI, TIFF, PCX, BMP, GIF, Targa, CT and RAW graphics files; it can export the same formats (except AI) plus DCS. It can operate with Windows-compatible networks.

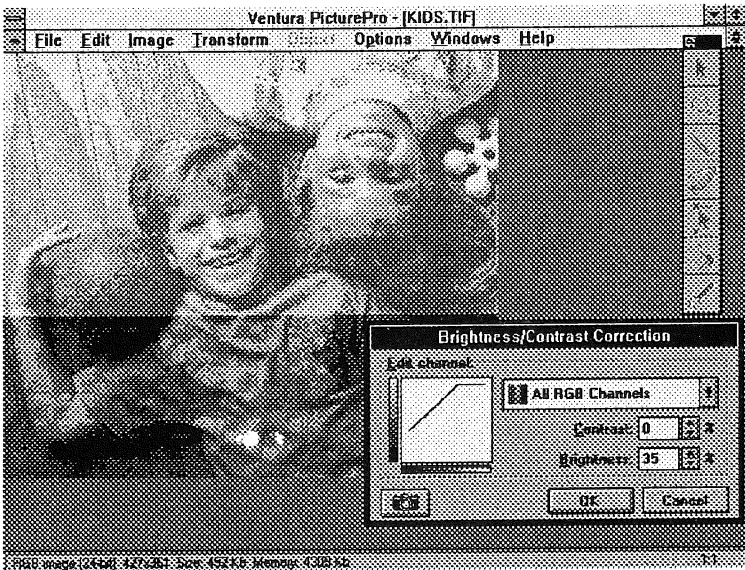


Image manipulation software is very powerful, allowing brightness, contrast and individual colour channel adjustment

Tools

PicturePro has a comprehensive set of tools that are found in many such programs.

Many artistic effects are possible, and the support for pressure-sensitive styli means that precise control is possible. If you want to emulate the work of artists such as Monet, Van Gogh, and Seurat, use the supplied styles. Its documentation clearly indicates that this is not a tool for a beginner. Even a professional artist not familiar with computers would have a large learning curve, if only to understand the jargon and to understand its capabilities. Photograph manipulation appears to be one area where this product excels.

Documentation

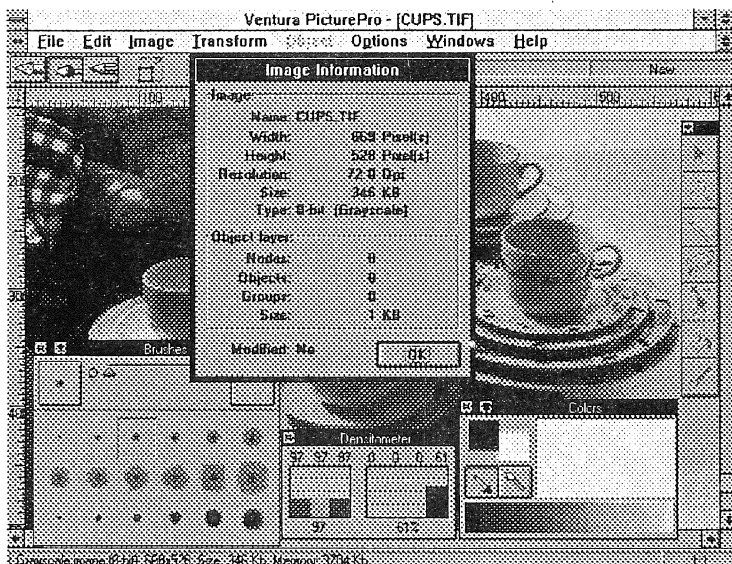
The manual is one of the worst I have seen as regards quality control, and one can only hope that that is not symptomatic of the company behind the product. PicturePro is a rebadged product and although the program seemed to do the job well, the manual got in my way every step of the way. The packaging claimed "Total Image Creation and Control...drawing, painting, retouching, editing, scanning, color correcting, and separating in one package!" I imagined that it would control a scanner, and tried to find that feature. The manual does not even have the word `scanning`

in its index or table of contents. A colour flyer also mentioned it a couple of times—yes, sure enough, I found it in the README.TXT file. I tried to find a mention of 'importing' an image, only to find that the manual calls it 'placing.'

The main manual is variously referred to as a User's Guide and a Reference Guide (two different concepts). There is no pattern to the use of typographical quote marks or inch marks (" "), font size, bolding, font name, and the like. At least one figure depicts the wrong dialogue box. There are no headers; the footers only contain the chapter and page numbers. I can only imagine that VSI's editor did not get to see this manual.

Conclusion

From my brief look I conclude that this is a good product that has been shot in the foot by an appalling manual. Once you overcome that hurdle, you will find some pretty powerful tools waiting to be discovered.



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PROFILE

Carl and Louise Planting's Komputer Kids—the New Wave

Each month we'll profile a Brisbug member, their interests, and activities.

Four hundred eager kids between the ages of four and twelve stream into Carl and Louise Planting's computer van for their multimedia learning experience each week. They can't wait to sit down at their computers and pick up where they left off the previous session. There's an atmosphere of excitement that most teachers only wish they could create in the classroom.

Soon, there will be more children learning their three Rs and computer basics in a unique Australian program, when the Plantings add another van with even more computers to their mobile entourage.

Called the Software School Computer Gym, this unusual computer facility has been in operation since last August. Every day of the week, the van visits schools, kindies and other facilities, which have a bevy of enthusiastic kids awaiting arrival of their computer van. Once in it, the children engage themselves in dynamic educational activities, the kind of hands-on learning one usually only gets in work experience situations. Working in pairs, under expert supervision, the children are surrounded by sight and sound computer programs that wholly engage them in their learning experience.

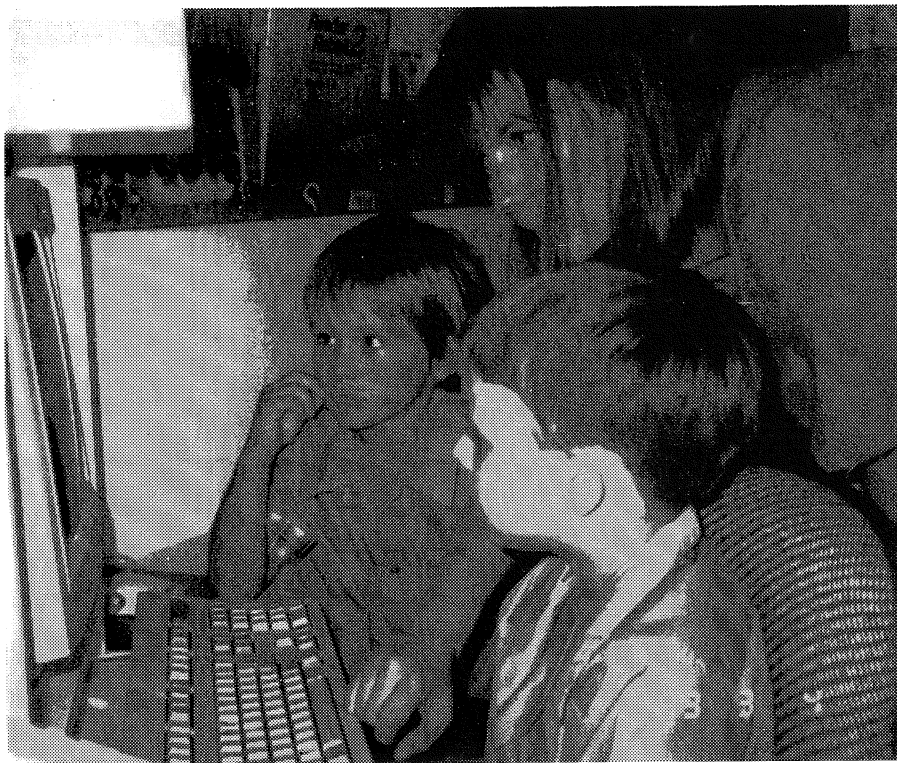
A Circuitous Start

Carl Planting has gone full circle, from providing facilities for the elderly to providing computer education for preschoolers. And he has had to move half way around the globe to do it.

This description makes a lot sense if you know that he and his wife Louise ran their own business in England, that of providing residential and nursing homes for the elderly, before migrating to the Gold Coast in 1989. Here, they also started the same business. While successful, they found the government climate quite different from that of Thatcher's England. "The rules they play be here are different," says Carl. They felt encumbered by bureaucratic



Louise and Carl Planting and Staff in "Welcoming Committee" mode



Working in pairs, Carl's Kids are ready for anything ... with a bit of qualified help, of course

regulations, and questionable ethics by those in business, industry and government.

Thus came the motivation to look for another kind of business, one they would find as fun, one they could become enthused with and one that didn't have the red tape overburden. This was their situation at the time of recession and high interest rates. It was just before they came up with their innovative program to provide computer education to youngsters from pre-school to year seven.

Carl is a Brisbug member and chairs the Gold Coast SIG. His interest in computers goes back to 1985, when he purchased an XT and joined the London IBM PC users group. He felt an immediate excitement about computing and says he simply took to it. As a computer buff, he has his first XT, which he says still growls along.

But other than as a work tool and his personal fascination with this new technology, computers didn't figure as the basis of his business until 1992. Yet as he says, since his first computer, he has always had in the back of his mind a feeling that he wanted to find a way into creating a business for himself out of new computer applications.

Carl started out quite differently--he studied law in South Africa, gaining a B.Com and an LLB, a qualified solicitor was admitted to the bar. He then earned an MBA, preparing for a business career. Indeed, he became the managing director of Hertz and Thomas Cook in southern Africa. Then he moved to England in 1983 and became operations director for the Granada Group television rentals.

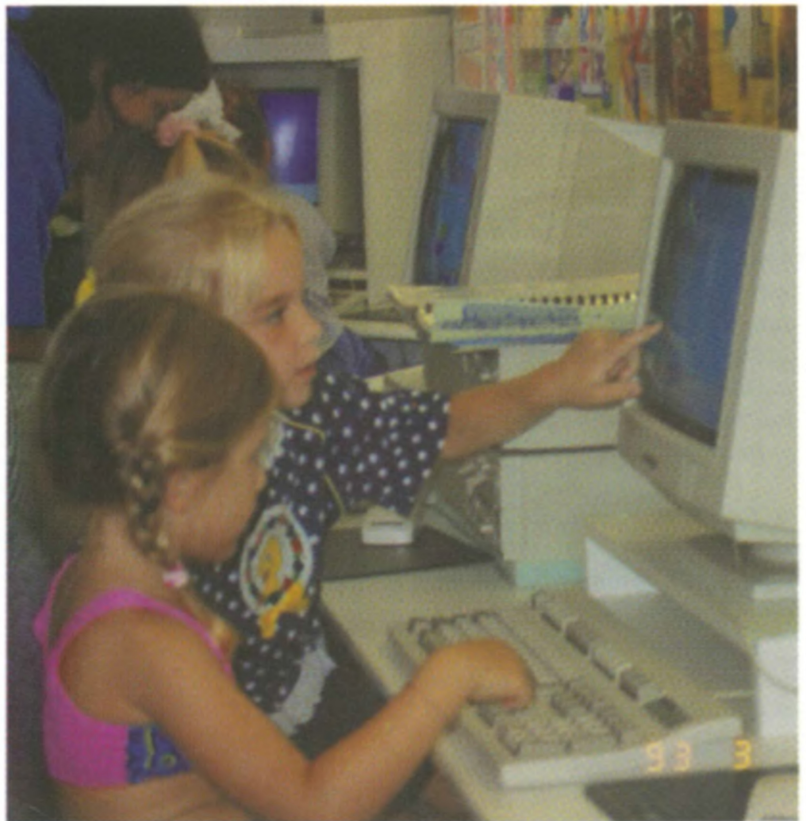
Wanting his own business and a desire to work in the community services area, Carl and his wife started providing residential homes for the elderly. It wasn't as far afield as it first sounded. Carl's business career, from 1969 to 1985, with his experience as a chief executive officer and financial manager helped provide him with an insight into new business opportunities. "It was a time of privatisation, when there was a crying need for places that could provide care for the aged," he says.

He and Louise bought a Grade II listed Victorian school building and converted it into a nursing home. Throwing themselves into the operation, Carl was on the national executive of the growing nursing industry associations in the UK and Europe. In 1988, they sold out, "having received an offer they couldn't refuse.

A previous visit to Australia convinced Carl and Louise that the Gold Coast-Brisbane area was one of the most attractive places in the world to live. It had what they thought were the best of climates, both for business and weather. Their children had already gone through the English school system and that their education wouldn't be interrupted. In addition, they



The latest gear including CD-ROMs makes an attractive environment for kids to learn.



felt lifestyle, government and business were similar to their early years in South Africa.

Coming to Australia under the Business Migration Program in 1989, Carl and Louise invested in a similar business on the Gold Coast. Carl worked with various community associations, including becoming the president of the Retirement Villages

Association of Queensland and the vice president of the national association.

A Change of Direction

When Carl and Louise attended a computer education expo at Bond University in 1991, Carl made up his mind. There had to be a market for computer user education. He formulated a concept about the use of computers in special education. In fact, they took a year to do his research and work out their concept. They attended the 1991 COMDEX computer show in Las Vegas, attended the Florida Education Technical Conference in Tampa, looked at a New Jersey outfit called Keyboard Kids, which used a computerised classroom to supplement the normal teacher chalk-talk type situation. Then the Plantings topped it off by travelling to London and Paris attending specialist education expos in both cities, investigating the latest techniques for using computers in the classroom.

It took them a year to sort out the investment in equipment and software and put it all together, to come up with what he felt was the right approach to computer education for Australian children. He decided to buy the latest and most user friendly equipment available and has a dozen 486 machines with integrated CD ROMs. But those are only the machines. What was key to the concept was to provide a fun atmosphere to learning. It was essential to have enhancing sound, Sound Blaster stereo, and graphics to create the proper learning environment.

What Carl and Louise are providing is a mobile education centre for parents who not only want their children to be computer literate but also want their children to be able to handle what goes on in the conventional classroom better. It is a multimedia approach, a way to make computing entertaining and fun, in which children learn memory skills, eye-hand coordination, reading and writing skills, problem solving skills and most of all a way to express their imagination and creativity. In short, Carl says that the kids simply love their tuition and aren't even aware of the learning process. Carl makes a big distinction between the Computer Gym and arcade games: "The children have to input academic information. They may launch a rocket to the moon, and the sound and graphics may be similar to an arcade game, but the kids have to work out the math of navigation and fuel usage at each stage to be successful.

"Younger children learn to recognise shapes to build images...Kids intuitively learn logical and strategic thinking skills...Parents tell me how much better their kids spell and write after a few sessions...the kids not only enjoy their tuition, but talk about their experiences to other kids, their teachers and parents...computer pairing means that the learning experience is enhanced by learning to work with one another to attain a goal." Not Just a Pretty Screen

Carl's and Louise's specialist education concepts are rapidly gaining acceptance from schools, parent groups and other organisations all around the Gold Coast. Their charges for each session are very modest, five dollars, and children can progress as far as they wish in their individual areas, be it colors, shapes, exploration, adventure or three R concepts. In fact, they have more than 190 packages for a child to delve into, in which not just competence in reading, writing, math and problem-solving is improved, but their confidence in tackling more complex and advanced problems is enhanced.

Louise, a teacher with a degree in psychology, does the searching for CDROM and other disk programs that have the right degree of user friendliness, the right sound and graphics, and the ability to inspire the user to progress from one stage to the next. "The programs have to do the teaching, not us," Carl stresses. "We are there to get them started

and help with any hardware difficulties, but the program menu, and the encompassing sight and sound, has to encourage the children to work intuitively."

The mobile computer centre visits kindies in the morning and early afternoon. Then after school hours, the van visits primary schools. It's on the go seven days a week. There are computer birthday parties, holiday and adult courses to attend to.

Between running the classes, Carl and Louise are busy demonstrating their concept. They talk with heads of schools, with teachers and with parents, to show them their fun and self-learning approach to computer education.

"The problems schools have", says Carl, "are that often the hardware is archaic and the software doesn't encourage self-progress on the part of the student. Our role is to supplement what the Queensland educational system is offering, to help teachers who can't provide individual attention to each student. With us, kids progress at their own rate." Their approach to marketing and presenting their concept is showing signs of success even at this early stage. Educators are coming to them for advice and with suggestions for new areas of application.

Still under the pressure of meeting current commitments and meeting with prospective new clients, Carl and Louise have formulated longer range plans to extend their mobile computing centre into other areas.



March's DOS Presentation a "Hit"

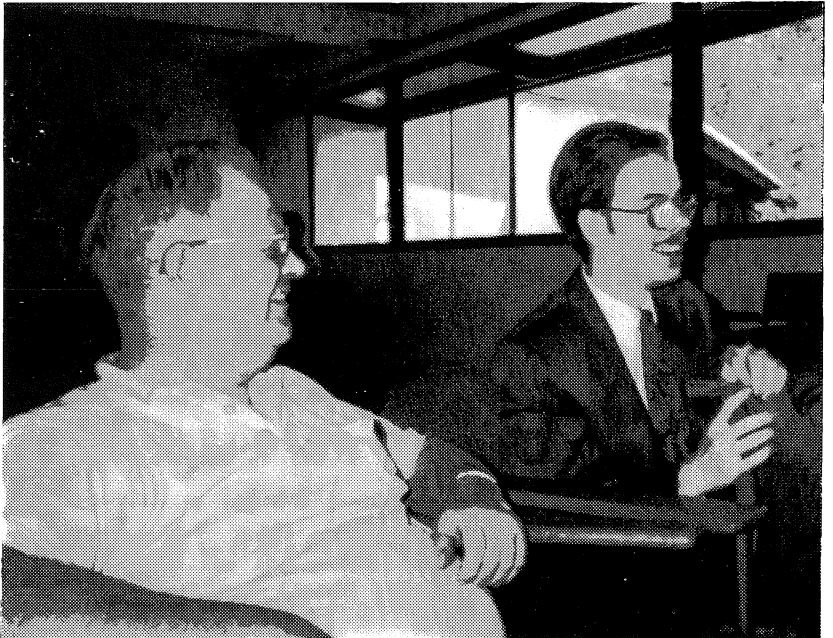
How do you attract members from as far away as Bundaberg (a car-load, including President Merv Hersom) and Gympie (a mini-bus piloted by President, Dorothy Ross), Warwick, Toowoomba, the Gold Coast and too many Brisbane members to comfortably fit into the main theatre at Bardon? And this on the same weekend as the Gold Coast Indy car race!

It's easy, you invite MicroSoft's "Mr DOSman", Jonathon Brecht to present DOS 6 six days before its official release.

Those who had previously enjoyed Jonathon's very professional presentation of version 5 were not disappointed. Again Jonathon outlined the features of the new DOS, leaving plenty of time for an extended Question and Answer session. The automatic memory configuration, anti-virus and disk capacity doubling "goodies" were all covered in detail. At the end of the session, the questions continued to flow in an informal huddle, until it was time for Jonathon to leave to catch his plane back to Sydney.

As a bonus, six members won free copies of DOS 6 in a lucky draw at the end of the session.

Our thanks to MicroSoft for sending Jonathon to Brisbane solely for this presentation.



Vice President, LLOYD Smith (left) was part of the welcoming party for MicroSoft's Jonathon Brecht, who gave an advance briefing to some of our DOS "experts"

*The session's not over, even after the fat man thanks the speaker (to paraphrase a recent NZ Prime Minister). After the formal session, a crowd formed to continue to pepper Jonathon Brecht with questions on DOS 6. How **does** he cover such a complex topic so most listeners can understand?*



POCKET YOUR HARD DISK

Experience with a PHd40 External Drive

by Ted Webber

General

The PHd range of no-slot storage peripherals received a good write-up in the December 1992 issue of PC User, in the article Storage Solutions by Gina Smith. She listed pros as its weight, size, automatic detection and pass-through port; and cons as the need for power consumption through the keyboard port. It was also obvious that the price, starting at \$549, is around half that of its nearest competitor.

Well, there is a bit more to it than that, as I discovered when I tried to buy one for my Toshiba laptop to overcome indigestion on its 20 Mb hard drive.

Trying to buy

Gina gave a Melbourne telephone number for the supplier, KT Technology, so I phoned them for a fax number and sent off a fax early in December asking for a quote to suit my existing equipment. No response for a month in spite of a repeat fax. When the January edition of Your Computer came out, it carried a full page ad for the PHd from KT Technology with address and fax in Sydney. So off went my fax to Sydney.

There followed a deafening silence for two months. I concluded they were not interested in sales, or else they were just testing the market and had none actually in stock. Eventually, I phoned. They disclaimed having received any of my faxes, and told me that they did not engage in mail order anyway: I would have to go through a dealer. So I scanned all the mail order offers in the PC magazines - to no avail. No one is offering external hard drives, it seems.

Next I tried a local dealer in Cairns, Memdex Pty Ltd. They knew nothing about it, but took a copy of the YC advertisement and offered to try to get a PHd-40 for the RRP of \$549, plus mains

power adapter (\$80). Three weeks later, I collected it from Memdex. I had to remind them to give me a proper receipt as at least some form of warranty: there was nothing about warranty in the box.

Installation

What was in the box, was the pocket unit, a 40 cm long ribbon cable, a power cable for connection to an IBM keyboard port, software utilities on 3.5" and 5.25" disks, and a tiny manual. The box itself gave an address for KT Technology in Singapore.

I have only a 3.5" floppy drive, so I went the 3.5" disk for copying according to instructions in the manual. Two of the five files shown in its directory would not copy. Stop! Quick, scan it for viruses! None found, thank God. Norton Disk Doctor reported a bad FAT, and was unable to fix it. Back to Memdex, with a request to copy the files on the 5.25" disk to the 3.5" one, which was successful.

"The manual was clearly out of date, because files mentioned ... such as PHDINIT.COM, were not in the disk directory"

The manual was clearly out of date, because files mentioned in the manual such as PHdInit.COM were not in the disk directory. Reference to the ReadMe.PHd file soon cleared up this mystery, however, although I am left wondering what to do if there is a fault and the drive has to

be re-initialised. ReadMe also has instructions for use with networks, Windows, Desqview, and OS/2; and there are drivers for MS/PC DOS 4 and 5, and for DR DOS 6. I use 4DOS as my command processor (instead of COMMAND.COM): there was nothing relevant to this, but no problems have arisen.

My Toshiba 1200XE uses MS DOS 4.0, so according to instructions in ReadMe I added two lines to the end of my CONFIG.SYS :-

```
INSTALL = C:\DOS\SHARE.EXE /  
F:1100
```

(/F sufficient for FILES = 50)

```
DEVICE = C:\PHD\PH5M040S.SYS  
(in which 040 refers to 40 Mb)
```

SHARE is a standard DOS external file which would normally be loaded only when connected to a network. Examination of my RAM showed that these drivers had reduced available conventional memory by 7760 bytes, but they could probably be loaded high in DOS 5.

Physical installation was simplicity itself, bearing out promises of ease of portability between computers which is one of the major attractions of such equipment.

The routine is:

1. Power off to computer AND printer.
2. Disconnect printer (if applicable).
3. Connect ribbon cable to any printer (parallel) port on the computer
4. Connect other end to PHd unit. Male/female ends ensure correct.
5. Connect printer cable to other end of PHd unit.
6. Connect power to PHd unit, from keyboard cable or mains adapter.
7. Power up and re-boot the computer.

The boot process is slightly prolonged by an automatic self-test of the PHd. On completion, I found I had the standard

hard disk as Drive C:, a RAMdisk as Drive D:, and the PHd unit as Drive E:

Tests

The manual warns that some computer test software, such as CHECKIT and QAPLUS, cannot find the PHd. I tried CHKDSK E:, which reported "Invalid Media". But the manual recommends Norton Disk Doctor (NDD) or Disk Fix in PC Tools. I tried NDD v 4.5 first: this caused the computer to hang during the disk surface test. But NDD v 5.0 was fully successful: it reported no errors, and no bad blocks in the surface test. Total disk space on the PHd 40 is 41,760,768 bytes.

A test of output to the printer from drive C: through the PHd was entirely successful. Using Fastback Plus, I backed up 15.68 Mb on the C: drive to the PHd in 8.5 minutes. Compare about 25 minutes for the same backup to 1.44 Mb disks in A:, not to mention the hassle of changing disks.

Disk Cache

The above times for backup were obtained with a PC-Kwik 1 Mb cache installed. Initially, PC-Kwik would not cache the PHd. However, the PC-Kwik manual mentions that PCKWIK.SYS should be installed in CONFIG.SYS for Bernoulli drives. Well, this is not a Bernoulli drive, but the idea of an external hard disk is similar, so I tried adding another line to CONFIG.SYS: -

```
DEVICE=PCKWIK.SYS
```

This did the trick.

I carried out extensive tests on three proprietary cache programs with the PHd. The following table is a summary of the results, which also indicate relative speeds without cache. The benchmark is RUNBENCH, supplied with Super PC-Kwik v 4, using the "small" model. This does two tests on a 256 Kb file, comprising first 512 records of 512 bytes, and second of 64 records of 4096 bytes.

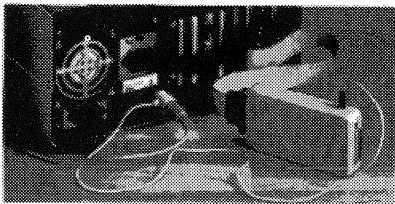
Each test is the average of three passes, and includes creating the file, writing &

reading it sequentially, then randomly, and finally closing and deleting it. The cache is in extended memory, and "Resid. RAM" indicates how much conventional memory remains after loading the cache software. The T1200XE is a 12 MHz 286 machine, with an IDE type hard disk as drive C:

What the tests say

From this, it is clear that PC-Kwik wins hands down. SMARTDRV and Norton NCACHE give the same improvement for drive C:, but SMARTDRV is unable to cache the PHd - times are the same whether it is loaded or not. As expected, the RAMdisk (D:) is made slower by caching, so PC-Kwik should be loaded +/- D to prevent it.

The PHd is slower than a standard hard disk because of the 8-bit data path and other overheads. Without a cache, it took



1.64 times as long as C: to do the benchmark; and 2.59 times as long with the cache. But it was nearly 3 times faster than the floppy drive.

Conclusion

In spite of early purchasing problems, some doubts about warranty conditions, and wondering how to clean up errors (such as lost clusters) if they occur, this is a very worthwhile purchase. KT need to do something about their documentation, obviously.

17 March 1993

For more help, on this or any other subject, please call or fax me on 070-537346 or leave a message for me on the BBS. Please note that, as I am currently hors d'oeuvre, I would appreciate a financial incentive.

DRIVE	CACHE SIZE Kb	RESID. RAM	NO CACHE Seconds	CACHE TYPE	WITH CACHE Seconds	GAIN Times
C:	1024		70	MS SMARTDRV	47	0.67
E: PHd	1024		115	ditto	115	1.0
C:	1024	495	70	Norton NCACHE-F	46	0.66
E:	1024	495	115	ditto	61	0.53
A:	1024	526	798	Multisoft PC-KWIK	144	0.18
C:	1024	526	70	ditto	22	0.31
D:	1024	526	17	ditto	21	1.24
E:	1024	526	115	ditto	57	0.50

Table 1. Showing data transfer rates achieved with PHD40 compared to other drive types

Choosing Accounting Software - Pt1

Daniele Saunders

Where do you start

In all businesses today, it is important to know exactly how the business is travelling. This information is required much more frequently than the once a year report produced by your accountant at tax time. Before rushing out to purchase a computerised accounting system, it is important to determine exactly what your requirements are. These requirements will vary from business to business, depending on the number of employees and the type of industry involved.

Some industry groups provide guidelines or software that help to simplify the decision process. However, it is still important to compare your business' requirements to these guidelines before committing to such an important decision.

Do I need to computerise?

The first major question to consider is whether there is a need to computerise. Sometimes, the manual system that is familiar to you will be better than an electronic system that you don't understand (or more importantly, don't want). If your information requirements are simple and you have an accurate manual recording system that meets these requirements - "Don't fix something that isn't broken!".

However, as the business grows or diversifies, it may become necessary to computerise your accounting function. This is especially true in areas such as debtor and stock control. These are the two largest areas of investment in most businesses. A computerised accounting system can help to provide more timely information to ensure that these investments are managed effectively.

Benefits

Some of the major benefits to contemplate when considering computerising your accounting function include:

Improved stock control

- * help reduce the incidence of obsolescent stock by better monitoring of stock levels

- * help to determine more effective pricing and marketing strategies by identifying slow selling items

- * provide an accurate record of sales tax commitments

Improved debtor control

- * this concept is best demonstrated with an example. A barrister installed a debtors' system, at his secretary's insistence. For various reasons, the system took twelve months to become operational, by that time the balance on the debtors' ledger was close to 3/4 of a million dollars. The first statement run from the system produced a 30% collection rate. This business was in danger of losing considerable sums of money because it didn't know what was owed to it.

Improved management information

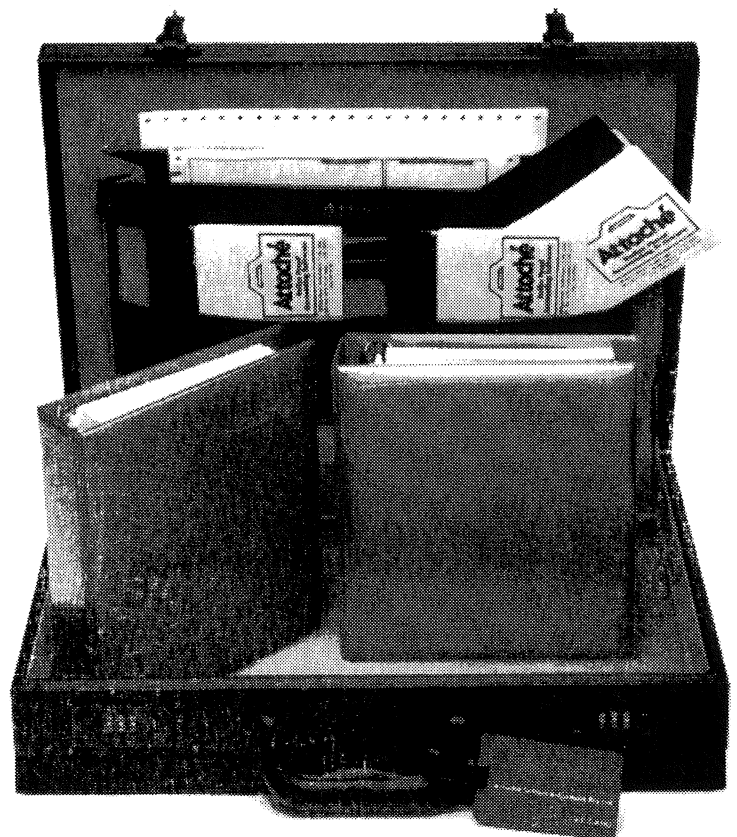
- * A well-established computerised accounting system can provide timely information for decision making, including stock and capital purchase decisions, and financing/leasing decisions.

Reduced accounting fees

- * An additional benefit could be in the reduced fees paid to your accountant. It should free the accountant from data entry, allowing for more time to advise you in areas that could improve your business.

Other areas to consider

Computerised accounting systems can prove to be a valuable addition to a business. However there are some pitfalls for the unwary. The most important consideration has to be that the software that you purchase fits your requirements, not that your requirements bend to fit the software.



This means that you should seek advice from someone who knows not only the software, but has an understanding of accounting requirements and can develop an understanding of your business.

Once the decision on the software package has been made, your hardware requirements should be reviewed. The hardware is a secondary consideration - the choice of software is all important.

The choice of software should also take into account the reliability of the organisation providing the on-going support. Because your accounting software will become so important to the day-to-day operation of your business, it is important that the software is purchased from someone who understands your requirements, is prepared to listen when something goes wrong, and most importantly, is able to help you solve the problems.

Custom-written vs Off-the-Shelf

Another important area to consider is whether to purchase off the shelf software or to have something custom written for your requirements. Unless your business is very different to other business, I would always choose off-the-shelf software. After saying this, I would still recommend off-the-shelf software in all but extreme cases. A number of software houses are happy to provide modifications to reports and processing requirements, if required.

The use of custom software provides a number of headaches (apart from basically reinventing the wheel). You become a guinea-pig, testing the software for the developer. You become tied to that developer for everything, including support. If there is a personality clash, or problems with support, you could find yourself in the position of nowhere to turn.

Off-the-shelf software overcomes this problem because most products are sold through a dealer network, providing you with insurance against the problems outlined above.

Future trends

In future issues of Significant Bits, I intend to explore the features of a number of commercially available accounting systems.

I will also provide some interesting "user stories", examples of how specific products have been used to improve efficiency and cash flow in various organisations.

I would be happy to review any accounting packages that you suggest, please let me know what interests you.



"I never noticed this in my Swiss Army knife."



"Just as I suspected, you are powerless against me without the manual."

APPLICATION FORM

The Membership Secretary, BRISBUG PC USER GROUP INC., P.O. Box 985, TOOWONG, Qld. 4066

Date: _____ Membership Number: (If renewing) _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

Suburb/City: _____

State: _____ Post Code: _____ Phone (Home): _____ (Work): _____

Type of Computer: XT ☐ AT ☐ 386 ☐ 486 ☐ Other ☐ _____

Type of User: Business ☐ Educational ☐ Hobby ☐ Other ☐ _____

Disk Size Required: 5 1/4 ☐ 3 1/2 ☐ Modem: Yes ☐ No ☐

Special Interests: _____

I hereby apply for Membership of
BRISBUG and agree to abide by its rules.

Individual/Family Fees — Joining: \$45.00 — Renewal: \$40.00
Corporate Fees — Joining: \$80.00 — Renewal: \$70.00

Signature: _____ Membership Type: Individual ☐ Family ☐ Corporate ☐

Lotus Improv

Dan Emerson

In doing a review of this product, the question occurred to me "What question do Readers want asked? You range from casual spreadsheet users to power Windows users wanting to compare Improv with Quattro and Excel. Before using Lotus Improv my strategy was to consider how Improv measures up as a product in its own right, compare it to other spreadsheets, then ask the mandatory questions; Would it run all of the old Lotus spreadsheets and macros. ... and the what are the system requirements?

All of this was going to add up to another *ho hum*, dreary review on spreadsheets comparing the minute differences between the windows giants. *Right?*

Not so!!!

Lotus Improv is a radical development of the spreadsheet.

It is good news for those who want to manipulate data to reveal trends for decision making. The better news is that is easy to use.and NO!! it does not work directly with Lotus 123 files and does not operate the macros....but it will import Lotus and Excel spreadsheets, formulae and designated ranges from spreadsheets. but only after an effort to optimise the original for transfer.

Improv is something new!!!

First, some basic facts: Improv operates on the Microsoft Windows platform. Minimum system requirements are a 386sx/20mhz with 4MB ram., 4MB permanent Windows swap file and spare 7MB of disk space. The review was carried out on a machine with the minimum configuration and Improv preformed comfortably. It has a capacity for over 8000 rows. So what is different about IMPROV?

The first obvious difference it that there are no numbers down the side or letters across the top to reference cells.....Eeek!! But that is favourable. Cells are no longer bound by constraints. They can move

about! Groups of cells are referenced by category labels. The labels can be pushed around the screen and the data automatically rearranges according to the priority of the labels on the category bars. The three rearrangements of the spreadsheet (from the tutorial) are rapidly and readily available with a move and drop actions of the mouse powered category labels. Improv is a very fluid spreadsheet. Tables 1 to 3 provide an example of how easy it is to represent data in different ways:

Improv rearrangements of a spreadsheet of Travel Costs

		Canada	Japan	Europe		
				France	Germany	Total
This Year	Planes	740	430	320	425	
	Trains	140	290	460	430	
	Automobiles	640	150	210	325	
Next Year	Planes	888	516	384	510	0
	Trains	168	348	552	516	0
	Automobiles	768	180	252	390	0

Table 1: Category priorities Hours, Travel, Country

Click on and drag Travel to the highest priority on the category bar:-

			This Year	Next Year
Planes	Japan		430	516
	Europe	France	320	384
		Germany	425	510
		Total	745	894
Trains	Japan		290	348
	Europe	France	460	552
		Germany	430	516
		Total	890	1068
Automobiles	Japan		150	180
	Europe	France	210	252
		Germany	325	390
		Total	535	642

Table 2: Category Priorities : Travel, Country, Hours

Should you have a copy?

Improve is different! Lotus have released it with 123. It fills a different niche to the traditional spreadsheet (a number five iron). It is fluid and quick to change data for a different view.

If you are a number cruncher and making decisions with numbers and your position on the ladder of success depends on your ability to compete then Improv is worth a look. It won't necessarily be the one you use every day, but it will give you the quick and unusual fix. The introductory offer makes Lotus Improv good value.

Drag Hours to the filter section on the category bar, Travel to the bottom category bar (Y axis priority) and Country to top category bar (X axis priority) This Year

	Canada	Japan	Europe		
			France	Germany	Total
Planes	740	430	320	425	745
Trains	140	290	460	430	890
Automobiles	640	150	210	325	535

Table 3: Category Priorities Hours (Filtered), Transport, Countries.

The total rearrangement of the data hierarchy is completed in seconds. The facility to restructure data is the basis of Improv's analytical ability.

Formulae are also defined by the category labels. Whole sets of data related to categories are defined by natural language sounding formulae. In the examples above, all Next Year cost figures are defined by a single formula

$Next\ Year = Last\ Year * 1.2$

Gone is the need to copy a formula across a range. The number of formulae in an Improv spreadsheet are fewer than most by a factor of 10. The formula can be created by mouse selection of the appropriate labels from the spreadsheet and operations from a status bar.

Creation of subtotals is a frequent operation carried out in analysis of data and presentation of reports. The sheer ease of the subtotal process is typical of Improv user friendliness. In Table 2, the countries France and Germany have been combined into a single department called Europe. The countries are marked by mouse and a menu selection of (Create/Item Groups) automatically inserts the subtotal in all appropriate locations in the spreadsheet.

The total cell is added by mouse selecting the Europe cell and selecting from the menu (Worksheet/Add Group Summary/Total). Formulae are automatically created for all totals. It is accomplished in seconds. Magic!!

Improv has a powerful data management system called Models. Models can hold open many tables and create virtual views of parts of the many tables. These views are managed by a pick table called the Browser which acts as a pseudo menu.

Now back to the standard comparisons.

Manuals are of clear and adequate. Many tutorials are provided. The tutorial in the Start Here booklet gets the user up and running in half an hour. An application guide explains a suit of business spreadsheets shipped with the package. The manual has a good index and appendices. A function section and a 'what do I do next?' section exist.

Once the concept is mastered the spreadsheet is easy to use most of the time. (Have you ever used a program that is 100% frustration free?). Keys do as expected and operations are fast.

Standard Windows spreadsheet graphing facilities are available. A range of chart

types, text boxes and Windows related functions such as residing is available. A colour palate enables colour selection. Graphics can be tilted and rotated. There is no drawing facility in this version; however graphics can be imported.

A rich set of functions exist.

Improv has a script language to automate procedures. LotusScript is described in the manual as having commands compatible with the Basic programming language with two hundred Improv specific functions. The language can produce new Windows features such as buttons to run scripts as well as provide facilities to produce more traditional methods. Debugging procedures are outlined.

Windows data exchange methods are available for data exchange with other Windows applications.

Some features not available are as menu items are the ability to create a frequency distribution table, matrix inversion and matrix multiplication. My biggest disappointment was the inability to import a data file in dBase format (a nuisance to have to convert to text) into the spreadsheet and then execute a command to quickly and automatically condense repeated elements in a field to Improv categories. My goal was to the use of the powerful category labels to cross tabulate fields. Cross tabulation is a very useful but rare facility that constructs a matrix by crossing all classes of data from two fields and calculates the frequency of each combination. It is a quick way to spot trends in a large quantity of data. Improv can carry out the cross tabulation. Unfortunately to manually categorise an eight thousand record database on two fields would be a tedious business of questionable accuracy. I spent a couple of hours in the wee hours searching manual to find a way but to no avail. I hope I am wrong or they bring it out in the next version.

Improv belongs to the Lotus stable, and shares concurrent release of other Windows products such as Lotus 123, Ami Pro, Lotus Organizer, Lotus Freelance Graphics, Lotus Smartsuite, Lotus cc:Mail and Lotus Notes.

Sign up before the 31st May 93 and it will cost you \$195 to become an Improv Owner instead of the RRP of \$735. Lotus Customer Service is available on (02) 286 1800 or (008) 252 408.

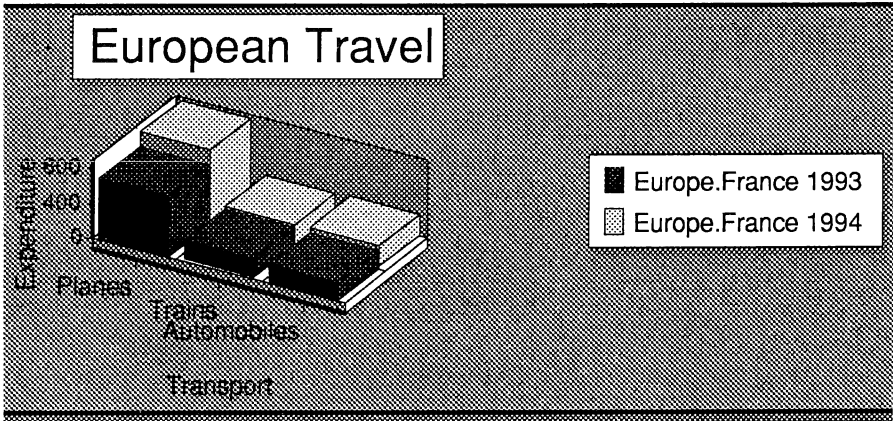
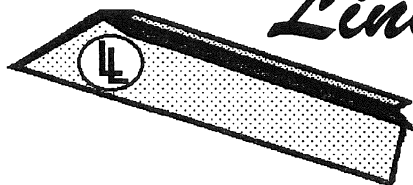


Figure 1 :Improv Chart Output.



Lindsay's Letter

Lindsay Bates

Practical Computing for New and Established Computer Users.

Greetings and welcome again to LL! Because this column is written for you, the readers, comments as to what you want/don't want are not just welcome, but essential to planning what I should write. Just give me or Nettie a buzz (Phone No. always at end).

By the time you read this there will be those who've already given MS-DOS 6 a try. Let's hope it does a great job for all of us.

Various hardware shortages have again bugged the industry in recent time, but with a rising dollar (at time of writing) we can again look to computer price drops in 1993.



Hardware Comparo

486DX2-66 vs. 386SX-33

There's a large gulf between the fastest PC and the not so fast - including in price. Which is the best buy today?

This hardware comparo is between the fastest PC we can buy locally - The 486DX2-66 - and the slowest we can buy, the 386SX-33.

First of all, the 386. Purchasers of this computer are likely to configure it with 4Mb RAM, at least a 105Mb hard-drive and a SuperVGA monitor. Those who refuse to buy a cheap 'n' nasty will likely spend about \$1,800 on their computer system.

Purchasers of the 486DX2-66 are perhaps more likely to go for 8Mb RAM, a SuperVGA monitor and a 210Mb hard-drive, and they expect to outlay something like \$3,900 on this system.

Thus we have a factor of almost exactly 2 separating the cost of the fastest PC on the market from the slowest. But what about speed?

The old Landmark will give 200+ for the 486, and around 47 for the 386. The much more realistic Landmark Version 2 gives 223Mhz for the 486 and 48Mhz for the 386. So here the difference is much more marked: a speed factor of 4.6 times.

Clearly, the DX2-66 is the Ferrari of the PC world. There's no question it feels good to own one - and it certainly does run fast. The 386 is more like the city runabout, the vehicle to take you from point A to point B - slowly perhaps, but surely.

Okay, we all *want* a Ferrari as our next car; sadly, most of us will have to settle for less. If we do, what happens?

Running the 66 surely is quite an experience. The raw speed and power in DOS really is quite amazing. In a New Technology program - a *today* program - like Windows, it's a similar story (but see figures below).

So is the 486 speedster 4.6 times as fast as the 386 machine when running DOS or Windows? The answer for most of us is, no, it's not, and a couple of quick and simple tests show this.

Loading a reasonable sized spreadsheet into an old DOS version of Lotus123 gave figures of 4.2 secs. and 2.0 secs for the 486 and 386 respectively. A speed factor of around 2.

Running into a relatively vanilla installation of Windows 3.1 took the 486 around 8.5 secs. while the 386 managed it in just

over 13. (Note: each time you put the stopwatch on a Windows operation you'll tend to get a different figure, so you have to take averages to give meaningful results.)

Here the speed factor is lower than 2 - in fact, it's around 1.5. Surprised?

Despite the faster disk speed of the 210Mb drive compared to the still-speedy 105, the relatively slow speed of hard-disks (compared to RAM) and a number of other factors inside our computers combine to prevent our fastest computer realising anywhere near it's true potential as indicated in the Landmark speed.

So if the Ferrari perhaps doesn't quite perform as expected, does this mean that a more mid-course computer like a 486SX-25 or DX-33 will do nearly as well? Again for most of us, the answer is yes.

They say that we pay for what we get. Interestingly, in the case of our fastest and slowest computers, the end-of-the-day speed the systems will run for most of us, coincide remarkably with each computer's initial costs.

There's little question that for many, that will be good news. For it means that if you simply cannot afford the Ferrari, then the Honda Civic, or the Falcon or Commodore, will still do a fine job.

FOOTNOTE: it doesn't seem long to me since the 386DX-25 was our top speedster! From it to the 486DX2-66 seems like a mighty step.

But because a number of other things inside the computer are still much the same (like the - now very old - ISA bus), the gulf separating these two computers is nowhere near as great as many would imagine.



A ONE-KEY BRANCH AT BOOTUP

All the following utilities are on Brisbug disk 8603, available from the Library.

These days, for good or ill, my computer boots up straight into Windows. I then run my DOS programs from Windows. This sort of feels like 'going backwards' to me, but it works!

But there are times when I wish to stop the computer running straight into Windows, and it's easy to do. In fact we often need the option of going one way or another as we run our computer.

The following procedure is a simple way of branching in a batchfile (or AUTOEXEC.BAT), allowing you to choose one option or the other - via just one keystroke!

Okay, here's the file I use (just a little simplified). It needs the two wonderful little utility files STACKEY and GET, both on Brisbug 8603 available from the Library.

```
@echo off
echo.
echo Tap ESC to not go to Windows,
echo or tap ENTER to continue . . .
stackey w100 cr
get ce
stackey !
if %get%.==}. win
```

That's it (ensure you type it all carefully).

If you want to branch to Windows, tap Enter - or just do nothing, and 5 seconds later it will go on, in any case (I hope you like that automated bit). If you wish to NOT go to Windows, simply tap Esc.

GET CE is what does the job here. It's simply waiting for any key-press. In the last line it checks what the key-press is. If it's } (which represents Enter) then it runs Windows.

If it's any other key - including Esc - it skips the line, NOT running Windows. If you wanted it to test specifically for Esc (~ represents Esc), you'd use the line:

```
if %get%.==~. [whatever you wanted to do via Esc]
```

The first STACKEY line uses W100 as the 5 second wait, then CR to do the Enter

key-press automatically - unless you do some other key sooner (the 2nd STACKEY line knocks out the CR if it's not needed.)

To see how to use this technique to branch for other programs, here's a second example:

```
@echo off
echo.
echo Tap ESC to not go to Windows, or
echo tap ENTER to continue . . .
stackey w100 cr
get ce
stackey !
```

```
:BRANCH
if %get%.==}. goto WIN
if %get%.==~. goto BACKUP
goto BRANCH
```

```
:BACKUP
cpbackup
quit
```

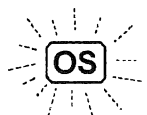
```
:WIN
win /e
```

NOTE: QUIT refers to a zero-length file easily created in any directory in PATH, by simply typing the following line at the DOS prompt:

```
rem>quit.bat
```

Make sure you then check that QUIT.BAT exists. As soon as you run QUIT in any batchfile, the batchfile runs QUIT.BAT and so promptly ends.

Software



BUT IS IT AN OPERATING SYSTEM?

You may have noticed that Microsoft is calling Windows 3.1 an Operating System. But is it?

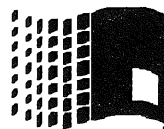
Depends on your definition, I guess. If we use our past definition of what an OS really is, we have to conclude that W3.1 certainly is not.

It's a program that runs "on top of" DOS (the real OS), i.e. you need the essential DOS files of MSDOS.SYS, IO.SYS and COMMAND.COM (or their equivalents) in your root directory.

In the sense that it needs these files to first be loaded into the computer's memory (to "teach the computer" how to actually BE a computer), then it's no different from any other DOS program.

Sure, Windows does reconfigure the way DOS works to some degree; and it certainly does do a number of extras like "manipulating" memory (to enable you to effectively use all you have). In this respect we could probably say that it's acting like a pseudo OS.

But Windows 3.1 is NOT an Operating System - try using it without a DOS and see how far you get!



USING WINDOWS 3.1

1. USING FULL-SCREEN WINDOWS

When you run many Windows programs, they come up NOT as full-screen. You can click on the little upward-facing diamond at top right to make them full-screen, of course.

Much easier and quicker is to double-click the mouse anywhere in the Title-Bar. (FIG 1)

2. USING ALT+TAB TO SWAP WINDOWS

Suppose you're in a dialog box ready to load your application, but suddenly you need to be in another application. It won't work click the minimise button so you can get back to Program Manager.

Use Alt+Tab (hold Alt and tap Tab) instead. When Program Manager shows on

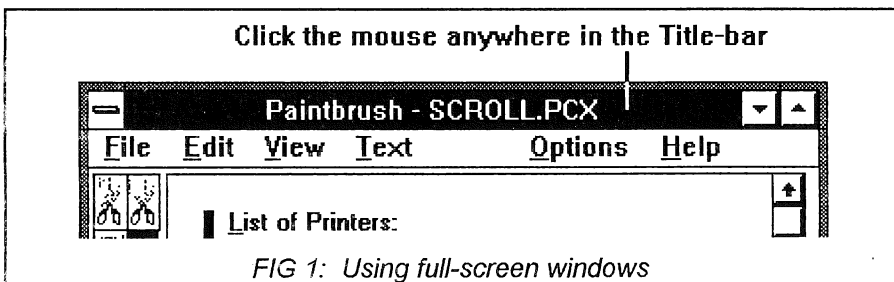


FIG 1: Using full-screen windows

When you think about it, theft is only one way we can lose the lot. A fire can do the same in very quick order; but so can losing the roof off our house in a storm, when everything may be destroyed by water or tempest.

A small proportion of computer users do take precautions to avoid loss: they keep a backup of all essential data from their hard-disk, storing it on floppies kept for the purpose. Trouble is, in the above scenarios, it's highly likely the backup will be lost along with the original.

WHAT'S GONE?

So what if you totally lost everything you have on floppy-disk and hard-disk? What exactly has gone?

- ♦ *First of all, you've lost the actual configuration of your computer.*

This is something most users take for granted, and so would not consider when thinking of total loss. But it's crucially important. It's what makes the computer run fast and efficiently. If you lose it, your computer may never work the same again.

If you did the configuration yourself, presumably you can redo it in the event of total loss - but would you want to spend the time it takes to set it all up again? More importantly, would you ever be able to get it the same again (I know I certainly couldn't - and my job is configuring computers!)

If someone else did the config. for you, can you get it done again without a lot of trouble and expense?

- ♦ *Secondly, you've lost all the programs you had.*

Now many folk would be able to replace these, one way or another. Only if you happen to use some uncommon programs may it be more of a bind.

Of more concern is the matter of *installation*. All of your programs had to be installed, put into your menu system, and configured for your computer and your printer.

If you use Windows, then everything you've ever installed changed some of your Windows system files. This will be all gone in the event of a total loss.

Note that bit above about the printer. No printer can do a job for you until it's been told how to deal with the data that streams to it from the program. Or to put that



INSTALL - EASY ENOUGH?

Once upon a time installing a new program to your computer required you to hang by one leg from the chandelier, have at least 3 hands, at least Ph. D. degree - and a certain amount of luck as well.

There are those who'd say it isn't a whole lot better today. If I've just had a *!@^ time trying to install a new program, I'll be the first to agree with them.

But I'm pleased to say that it is improving. In the Windows environment, for example, most programs totally install themselves with a minimum of intervention from the user.

I say minimum because, sadly, there are still questions you'll get asked. One of the sillier ones goes something like this: you've just told the program, yes, please install the widgit word-processor in the c:\widgit directory.

Install comes back and informs you that this directory does not exist, and asks do you want install to create it? . . . (if I said 'no' there it would be a clear case of a silly question deserving a silly answer).

Nonetheless, it does seem to me that the computer world is slowly getting its act together - and trying to see if it can do the whole job without bothering you.

Admittedly, a lot of the problems have stemmed from the hopelessnesses built into various parts of DOS (please, please Mr Microsoft, help us with this!)

On the question of DOS, incredibly, some programs today still insist on adding their newly created directory into your PATH statement.

Despite the limitations of DOS, that's inexcusable these days - most decent programs should know by now how to change to their own directory, and keep track of things from there.

Anyway, my PATH is so long already that it simply cannot handle any new directories. And the silly writers of the WEB Network install program (reviewed elsewhere in this issue) wanted to add nothing less than C:\NETWORK\APPS into my PATH! I really couldn't believe it!!

The other trick some INSTALL programmers come up with (and once again the WEB install program failed on this) is to add the new directory to your path at the END of AUTOEXEC.BAT!

For goodness sake, surely they know that most of us have long since gone out into our menu, or directly into Windows, one line earlier. So effectively their directory is never ever added to PATH!

I spose all of this is to give work to people like me, because I then get a call from the customer to say the program doesn't work.

It does. It's just that the writers who program INSTALL or SETUP programs, well, sometimes it looks like they've never actually used a PC.

screen, release the buttons. Use Alt+Tab again later to return to your original application.

3. USING ALT+TAB (TAB held)

Alt+Tab (Alt held) is a way of quickly and easily scrolling through the applications you have open. Just hold Alt and tap Tab, watching till you get to the one you want. This is especially helpful if you have one or more DOS windows open.

4. GETTING HELP

In many Windows applications, tapping the F1 key will run Help, while Shift+F1 may give you context-sensitive help or maybe run the Tutorial on that application.

If there is a Tutorial and Shift-F1 doesn't put it on line, click on Help on the Menu-bar and read the list of options to see if it's listed there. Many Tutorials are far and away the easiest way to learn an application. (FIG 2)

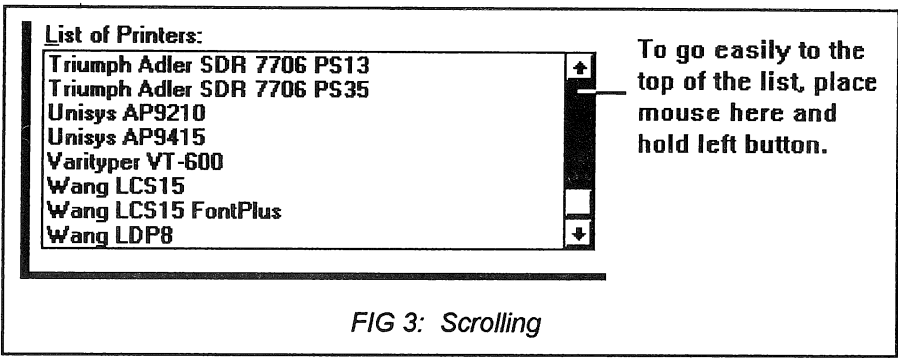
5. TWO QUICK SCROLLING METHODS

(a) If you have a long list of things in the dialog box, there's a fast way of getting from the top to the bottom - or to a place in the middle. Just pop the mouse cursor round about where you want to go, and hold the button.

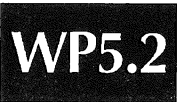
This technique can be extremely helpful for long lists rather than short ones (you soon get to know which technique to use where). Some readers will definitely find this worth learning.

(b) There's an even quicker way to get to an entry that's not showing on screen.

To get to, say, a Hewlett Packard printer in the screen above, click once on any entry anywhere in the list of printers. Then tap the h key. From there use the up and down arrow keys to find Hewlett Packard. This method is both quick and easy.



Software



WORDPERFECT5.2 FOR WINDOWS

The copy of this new version gave a customer a great deal of problems before we discovered what was happening.

V5.2 uses the same manuals as for 5.1, with one extra to cover the new features. Bundled with it are Grammatik for Windows and Adobe Type Manager v2.5.

Prior to installation of WP5.2, Lotus 1-2-3 for Windows had been put onto the computer. Lotus also bundles Adobe, but it uses the much older v1.15.

When installing WP5.2, the installation program found the old version and asked if we wished to upgrade. Clearly, just about everyone is going to say yes, to get the much, much newer version. That's where the trouble started.

It manifested itself as random missing and added letters Help screens in WP5.2 and 123W - but only if you'd run Windows own WINTUTOR first. It looked like some kind of wierd monitor card problem.

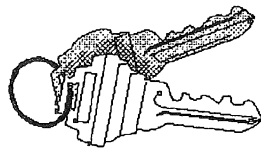
After trying every card imaginable with no success, we had to look for something else. A colleague eventually discovered that the problem stopped when Adobe

was disabled - and I'm still mystified how he stumbled onto that.

Wordperfect knew what the problem was, because they gave the remedy as soon as they were told about it: totally remove Adobe, then reinstall it.

So it appears that the "do you want to upgrade to the new version" process fails - and the result can cause a lot of people an awful lot of difficulty and wasted time.

Practical Computer User



HOW SECURE IS YOUR COMPUTER?

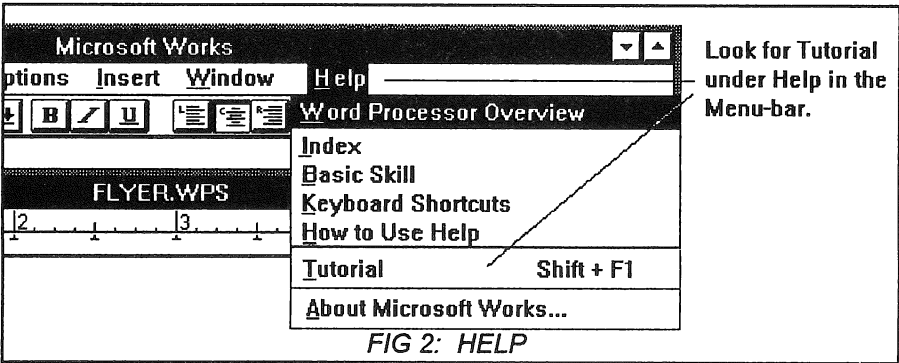
It's all gone. Gone for ever. But what's lost and how serious is it? What will be involved in having to start again?

These were the questions I found running through my mind after reading a short piece tucked away in the back of the local paper - and the things I discovered from it all thoroughly shocked me.

The piece was about a family who returned from a short spell away. They returned to the shock of finding the computer, the printer and the floppy-diskettes all gone.

They lost everything. But it wasn't the computer (the hardware) that concerned me about this story. That can be replaced under insurance. Far worse was that they lost every program and every piece of data on their computer.

This led me to consider just what we can lose and what we can't on our computer. As well as how we can come to lose it. And it was a rather sobering experience, I must admit.



another way, every program has to have a printer driver for your specific printer. It is okay to lose all that?

♦ *Thirdly, you've lost all the data from your programs.*

The programs themselves may be replaceable, but what about all the data your programs have created?

HOW TO PROTECT

If it doesn't matter too much if all this data goes, and if you're confident you can easily enough configure your computer again, then about all you need do is ensure that your computer is properly covered by your home insurance.

But if some of the stuff on your computer is important, then it's time to take stock as to how to protect it. As I go along, I'll tell you how we do it, as this may give you some ideas to help at your place.

The starting point is a *regular backup*. Modern backup programs are so easy to use that it's hard to find an excuse any more for people who won't do backups.

For \$100 to \$150 you can set yourself up with great insurance for your config., your programs and your data. We use an early copy of Fastback Plus which still does the job fine. Newer programs are even easier to use.

You will backup onto floppy disks or onto tape. *Don't leave these with the computer.* Some people don't backup their programs, but keep the original disks so they can reinstall from them. Same applies: don't store them with the computer.

Doesn't matter how you do this. You may keep backups in the garden shed perhaps, or major ones with a neighbour or rellie. Because of fire and tempest and theft, at all times we keep original programs disks and backups of the hard-drive in an esky - which always goes with us when we leave the house.

The important thing is to assess the risk, and work out a *workable* procedure that will do the job. It has to be workable, or you may as well not bother. But it's worth remembering that any protection is always going to be better than *no* protection at all.

THE BONUS

There's a definite bonus to taking the trouble of organising regular backups as a protection against theft, fire or tempest.

They can protect against other traumas also.

If you have a serious glitch as you're using the computer, the backup can be used to restore damaged or lost files - whether they be program files or data files.

How can such a glitch occur? Power surges can easily enough clobber files on your hard-drive. You can have yourself an accident by wiping out files unwittingly, as we did just recently. Or you can cop a virus that damages some or all of the material on your hard-drive.

Having backups can give marvellous protection against all of these traumas.

But what if you don't find the damage for some time, and meantime you've already backed it up? If you'd like real peace of mind, keep more than one backup and do the backups in rotation.

A simple example would be weekly backups onto *two* lots of disks: one week you backup onto the 1st lot, the next onto the 2nd lot, the 3rd week back to the first lot of disks. Easy enough.

It's important to realise that many viruses will NOT show their hand for some time. That's why we do a 4-weekly backup rotation (4 lots of disks) and then a 4-monthly rotation also.

Most folk will not need to go to such trouble, but if your data is highly important, it's the sort of thing that should be considered.

Productivity



TIME,
GENTLEMEN..

I've seen many computers where their system clock is running fast or slow. It's a common problem: most do NOT keep good time.

If you leave it long enough, eventually it may even be registering the wrong day - yes, the clock can be that bad!

The way round it is easy: reset your system clock once a week. And the way to remind yourself is to get the computer to tell you.

The utility DO-ONCE which I wrote about last time will do the job admirably (it's on Brisbug 8603). You require just the one line in your AUTOEXEC.BAT file:

```
do-once @+Sun time
```

Change Sun to whatever day you wish, of course, and do note that the next time you run AUTOEXEC.BAT you'll be prompted for TIME. After that you'll be prompted just on Sun (or the very next time you turn on, after Sunday).

To actually set the time is also easy. Please note that the following is for DOS 5 - earlier versions of DOS may be different.

What you'll see on screen is this:

```
Current time is 10:45:14.13a
```

```
Enter new time:
```

If the correct time is 10.47am, then that's what you should type in (then press Enter, of course). You can even leave out the 'm' there: 10.47a will do the trick just fine.

But suppose it arvo. - 3.09pm, for example. If it's running fast, the computer will then give you the time as something like, let's say, 15:11:25.51p. But you don't need to do 15:09 there because 3.09p will do the job and is much easier.

In fact, even 3.9p will work. Note that you can leave the 'p' out, too, but if you do, the computer will assume 'a', rather than 'p'. Oh, and if the time is about right, just press Enter for no change.

So, having the right time for the Wolf really is easy...

Hardware Test

Tina's
Turbo

Henry's
Hummer

SIMPLE NETWORKING FOR 2 COMPUTERS

Here's a report on the first of the Networks I've looked at that will effectively connect two home (or small-business) computers.

'Simple Networking' refers to the fact that you're connecting your two computers simply by cable connection via the serial or parallel ports of your computers.

No internal cards are involved, and so it's sometimes termed slotless networking.

A normal local area network (LAN) uses a network card in each computer (costs more obviously), and then connects these via network cabling and connectors (also may be dearer).

The WEB Pairware Network will cost you between \$199 and \$299. It uses a serial cable to connect your two computers (7m supplied, and you can order up to 20m or more at a modest extra cost).

It's operates as a fully-fledged LAN (some of the things you can do are specified below), and in fact it *is* a full network, losing out only on speed compared to card-based networks - this because it connects via serial cable.

On test we found this speed loss to be quite acceptable for many users under many normal computer operations. We noticed considerably longer operation times when doing things like printing a complex Windows document or loading a large and complex spreadsheet from the other computer.

On the other hand, many normal operations like logging on to the remote computer's drive, and copying a file from it (or deleting it) is almost as fast as usual.

The WEB peer-to-peer network has a distinct advantage in that it offers a relatively easy upgrade path to a full, card-based network, running at normal network speed (and the moment you do this, you can then add other PC's to your LAN).

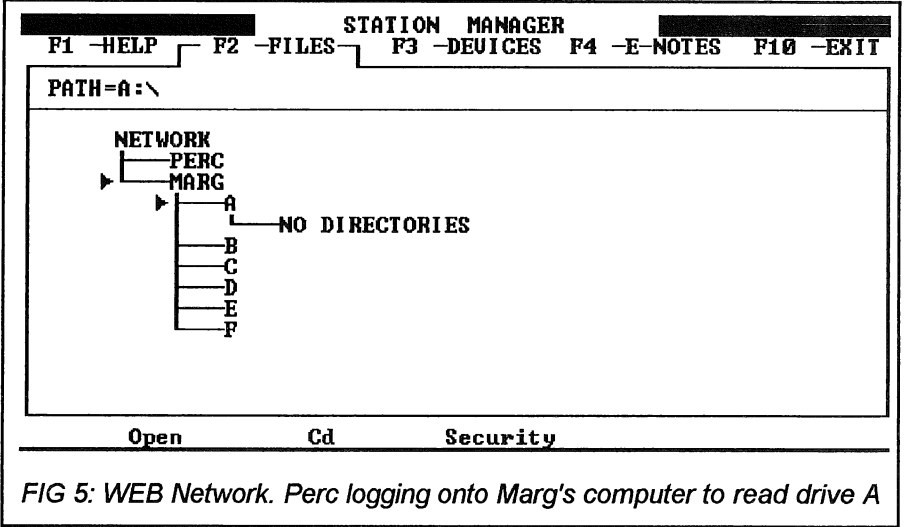
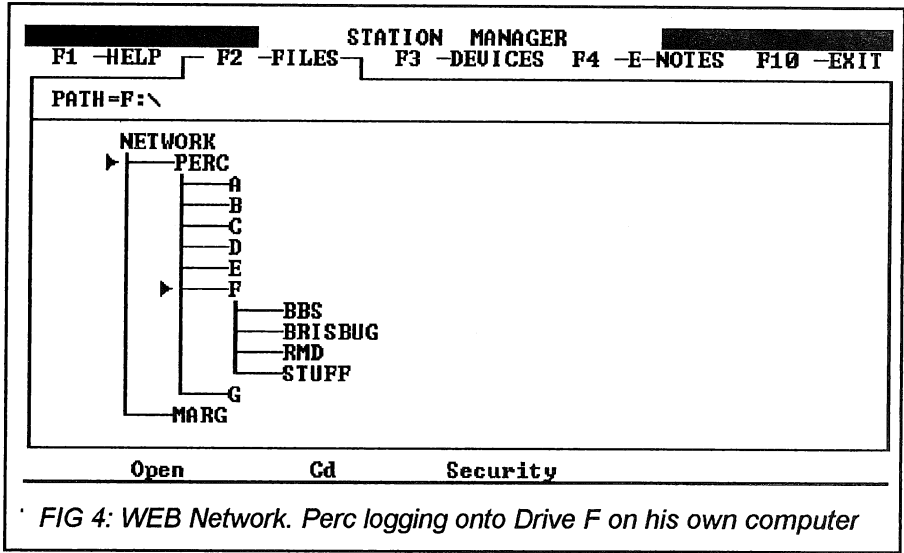
This would allow users to install the cheaper, slotless version to trial it, to see if the many advantages of networking are for you, and to upgrade if you eventually found speed to be a bother.

SETTING UP

To set up the network, first you connect your two computers by plugging in the supplied (computer to computer) serial cable. Secondly, you run the setup program to install the software and set up for your configuration.

In theory this all looks like it should be pretty easy. In practice, we found it wasn't, and we feel that the novice should never attempt it, but should have the installation done by someone experienced.

The first problem we struck was that one of the computers had the two normal serial ports already used for mouse and modem.



Connecting a 3rd serial port was easy enough, but this serial-port based network could use only IRQ3 and 4 and we could find no way of getting the network, mouse and modem to happily co-exist.

Had the modem been an internal one that allowed you to set other interrupts, there would have been no problem. The card-based upgrade should have no problems here either, as it will configure to other interrupts.

While the WEB network program seems to be nicely featured, relatively friendly, and generally worked well, we found the installation program fell short on a number of counts, and this could be another reason to seek the help of someone who can do the job. Despite this, when we looked at this objectively, these slotless networks still look like superb value, i.e. even after paying someone to install you can still get a full-fledged network under \$300.

WHAT THE NETWORK DOES

To help you understand some of the networking advantages, let me step you

through the two computers. We networked. We chose to configure them both as Servers, thus enabling each to share the other's resources. This is the most logical way for two computers to be connected in a home or small-business setting.

Install asks you to 'name' each computer. In the examples I've called them Perc and Marg. You could call them PC1 and PC2, or whatever. The Perc computer had Drives C,D,E,F,G while the Marg computer had Drives C to F (both had A and B floppy-drives also).

When networked and working on Perc, you have everything totally as normal and it all works as normal. When you change to Drive W (the Network), that's when all the magic starts.

Drive W consists of the two computers, Perc and Marg. Perc still has all its drives (and its directories), and so does Marg. See Figure 4. This means I could sit at the Perc computer and I have a 2nd computer's drives acting like they'd been stuffed inside Perc!

So what things could I do with Marg's drives now they're 'inside' Perc? The answer is simple - *pretty much all the things you can already do on your own drives!* ALL of Marg's drives were now part of it - so you could copy, delete, create directories, run programs, save files . . . whatever!

But there are a couple of provisos to this. You should note that some programs won't run across a network; also, the person 'owning' the other computer can decide what you have access to and what you don't.

The other magical thing you can do is access the printers and other external peripherals of the remote computer. There was just one printer on the network as tested, and it was connected to Perc. No problem: once networked, Marg could also print to Perc's printer.

So maybe you can see just a little as to why many people get excited about the possibility of connecting their two computers.

SOME FINAL COMMENTS

After many hours of frustration and hard work, we failed to get Windows to run in Enhanced Mode on this network. It runs fine in Standard, but the moment we ran one of the computers into Enhanced, it clobbered the network.

I'm reliably told that the WEB card-based LAN works in all modes, no problem. Many users would be able to (or have) to run Standard Mode, anyway, and that's what we did to test this network. Others would probably find this a disadvantage in the long term, if not short term.

When it was finally up and running we found the network *quite amazing* as to what it would do for so few dollars. If it's a portent of some of the things to come in the fast-moving computer world, then roll on, and let 'em come!

Next time, I expect to write about the somewhat cheaper Lantastic Z network as advertised in March Sig. Bits. As a direct comparo. we'll try to test it in the same config. as the WEB LAN, and report our findings to you then.

See you all next time. Have yourself a good one!

Lindsay Bates

Ph: (07) 808 9441 after 11am.

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for MS-DOS systems



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SIG REPORTS

Windows SIG

The March meeting comprised a general forward planning session, followed by a Q & A session. Mark Wibaux then showed a new shareware utility called SuperBar, that allows you to create icon toolbars for any Windows applications and attach any standard menu function for that application. It is a very useful utility.

The planning session discussed the possibility of a Windows SIG Newsletter as a special insert in Significant Bits say four times a year, to collate all the Windows hints and tips in a compact four page "special". Also discussion was held to establish the feasibility of a Windows SIG section of the Brisbug Software Library, where SIG members would help to look after the Windows software and relieve some of the pressure from Lloyd and his band of overworked helpers. Both of these items will be submitted to the Brisbug management committee for discussion. I will report further on these items in due course.

The format for future SIG meetings, will be a special feature on affordable commercial software, followed by a segment on shareware and utilities and closing with a Q & A session. Coming up for future meetings, we will have a look at Microsoft Publisher and Money, Microsoft Project, and the new Microsoft Databases Access and Foxpro. The present SIG committee are mainly Microsoft users, so if you have expertise in other Non-Microsoft Windows software and would like a chance to show your latest software, please contact me, and we will organise a session in a future meeting for you. Also if you feel that you would like to contribute to the general running of the SIG, call me or talk to me at meetings, and we will invite you to join the SIG sub-committee, because you might be the one to add new ideas and interests to the group.

For the April meeting I will be demonstrating the MS-Apps that are contained in major Microsoft applications, the ones that install as subdirectories under Windows, you know the ones, MS-Draw, Note-it, MS-Graph and WordArt. These simple

little applications have a surprising amount of power, and best of all are available across the board, to use in almost any major Windows application.

Hope to see you at the next meeting,

Brian Bere-Streeter.

PASCAL SIG

The March meeting of the Pascal SIG was devoted to an informal question and answer session, with special interest in the application of pointers. There was also a round table problem solving exercise devoted to one of the member's assignment questions. After the success of February meeting where we had a flood of members demonstrating their own programs they had written we will be again be having Sig members showing their wares.

So if anyone would like also to demonstrate their short (or long) program they have written or they think is of interest, bring it along to the April Pascal Sig meeting.

Weekday SIG

The inaugural meeting was held on Tuesday 23rd March at 10am, with three people attending.

We did a run-down on the quantity of shareware acquired over the years, as well as a few tips on WordPerfect and DOS.

Contact: Dulcie Haydon 2737393 anytime.

Editors note. This SIG meets on the Southside around Algester.

Gold Coast SIG

The forward meeting program is:

April 6 - Computerland

April 20 - Windows by Bernard Speight

May 4 - Books by Gavin Bruce

This SIG meets on the Gold Coast at 7pm at the Broadbeach Senior Citizens Club, Gold Coast Highway... next to Jupiters Casino.

Contact Jo-anne Ellis Tel 075-710113

ACCOUNTING SIG

Thanks to Ian Charlton for presenting SYBIZ so that we could compare it to features available in shareware.

The article on Straight Forward Accounting distributed at our February meeting lists some of the main features you need to monitor your business-financial condition. We need advice from SIG members as to the importance they place on the various functions so that we can capture the development of our dream list.

The bean counters are still looking for the product that does everything but does not cost anything. All programmers are invited to our meeting to demonstrate their favourite. It may even be commercial.

Any ideas you have for the Accounting Expo will be appreciated.

Graphics SIG

I understand an attempt will be made to revive this SIG. Stay tuned to the SIG report on meeting day.

New Users SIG

A general discussion was held on topics of interest. This will continue as the format for our April meeting.

Genealogy SIG

The Genealogy Sig is on the move again. Sorry for the delay over the Christmas break, but so did my computer.

Due to the requests for a visit to the Eight Miles Plains Research Centre, we organised it for the 26th of March. But they had only 10 machines we can work on and not much room. You can be in time for this month's visit to Burpengary Centre, at the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints in Buckley Road, Burpengary. This will be on the Saturday (24 April) after our Brisbug meeting. It is a day's meet starting about 8:30 a.m. through to 3 p.m.. Too long for me, but a hint for those with their ancestral files on disk__bring it with some extra blanks.

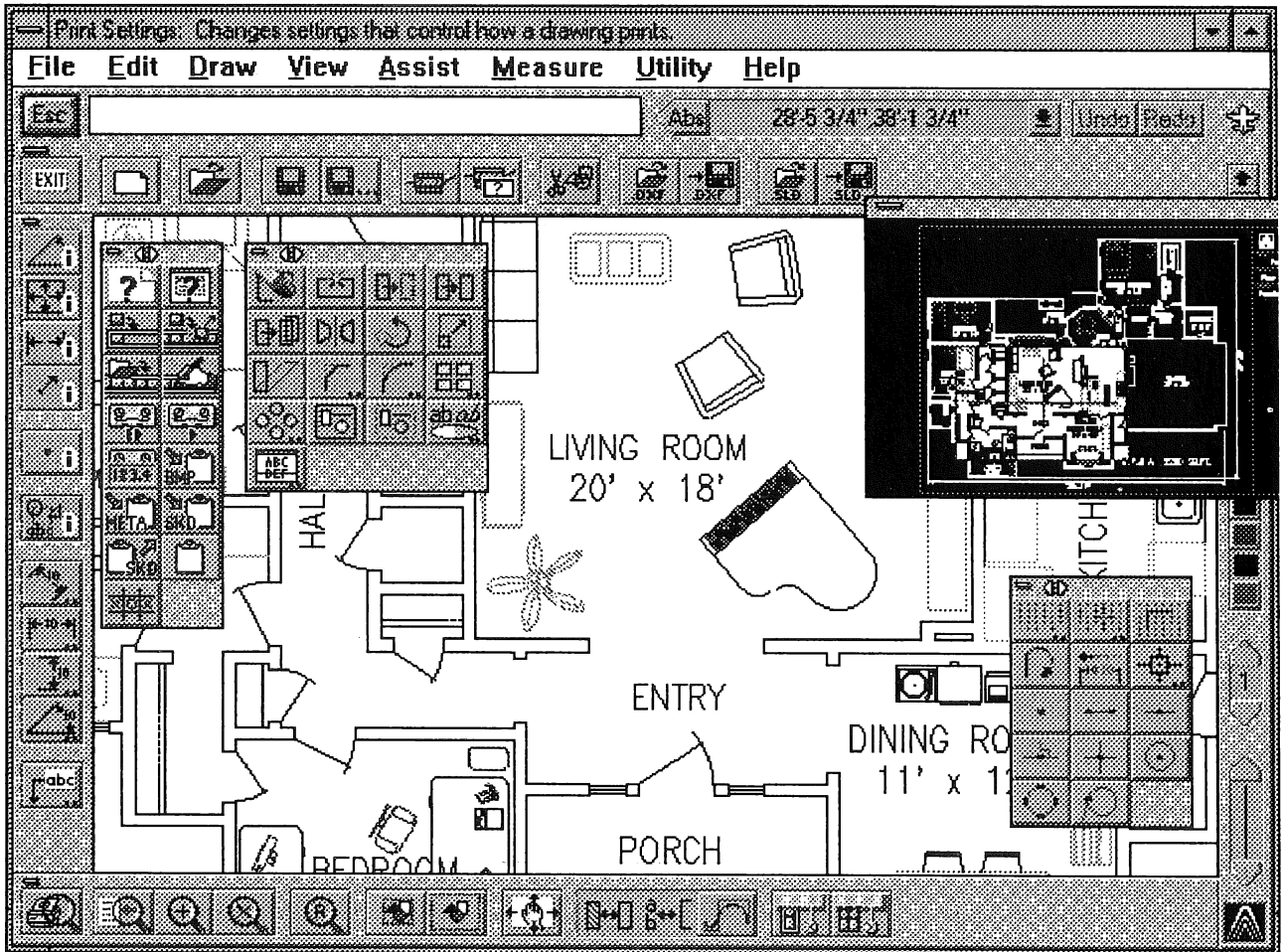
The meeting we had planned with the Queensland Historical Society had to be deferred until next month (May). Hey Cuz will appear when I can find where it went (on my computer) or else I have to start a new list. More digging to do...

Rob Gurney 07 355 4982

AutoSketch for Windows

Geoff Harrod

Autodesk's lowest priced CAD program is in its 3rd DOS version, and now is available in a Windows version also. It is quite a capable CAD program with a very good and quite innovative user interface.



AutoSketch for Windows with every icon menu pasted onto the screen at once, showing the various forms they can take. This is really too many menus at once for the 640x480 screen. The "Aerial View" insert showing the entire drawing is also active; the white rectangle in the Aerial View is the current full screen extent. Note the explanation of the currently pointed-to menu item temporarily replacing the title bar. The actual cursor arrow & its text label does not appear on clipboard screen captures unfortunately.

IT HAS always surprised me that there has not been a rash of CAD programs on Windows. Probably the reason is that the CAD programs that exist were developed before Windows was a really satisfactory system, and because they could be made to run faster if they provided their own graphics support instead of using Windows. Writing graphics programs in DOS necessitates all programs providing their own set of drivers for the numerous setup options likely to be found on PCs. Using Windows as a basis avoids the need for those overheads within each program. Now that Windows is firmly established and hugely popular,

there is some inertia against converting programs to Windows partly because of the work involved, and partly because it does still incur quite a speed penalty.

AutoSketch for Windows is basically a conversion of AutoSketch version 3 for DOS into the Windows environment. It does most things very similarly to ver 3 but takes advantage of Windows to provide an exceptionally convenient and pleasant working environment for the user.

It actually goes a step beyond most Windows programs, with some quite innovative user control elements. Some may

consider this to be not such a great idea, as one of the great advantages of Windows over DOS is the consistent user interface that one expects to find in all Windows programs. But in fact it has been done in such a way that it is "conceptually compatible" for the user with standard Windows conventions, and does contribute some extra user convenience. The main innovation is that the usual horizontal main menu bar does not, for most items, cause vertical text menus to fall down in the usual way. There is a horizontal icon "toolbar" beneath the main menu bar, as is now quite common, but here the set of toolbar icons change

when main menu items are picked, instead of the fall-down text menus.

I have always been less than enthusiastic about over use of icons in place of text. There are so many functions that do not lend themselves to being represented pictorially in an immediately obvious and unambiguous way. One of the things that turned me off the Mac was its use of icons where they were inappropriate, and anyone who has ever used that awful DR-HALO “paintbrush”-type program that is often given away with cheap mice will know what I mean.

Icons with explanations

In AutoSketch they have found a novel way of satisfying those who like the conciseness of icons, once learned, as well as those who like text or need help during familiarisation. Whenever you move the pointer arrow over one of the toolbar icon buttons a small text description of that button appears beside the pointer. Very neat!

Those who really don’t like icon menus at all can have it their way too. There is a menu item to switch between toolbar menus and conventional pull-down text menus as often as desired.

Another innovation makes use of that area of Windows screen real estate that is normally rather wasted; the window title bar. It sits there all the time reminding you that you are running AutoSketch or whatever; not a big contribution! In AutoSketch that title bar gets temporarily usurped whenever the pointer is over a menu item or toolbar button, to display a reasonably long text description of the function being pointed to. I think that’s very sensible and worthwhile.

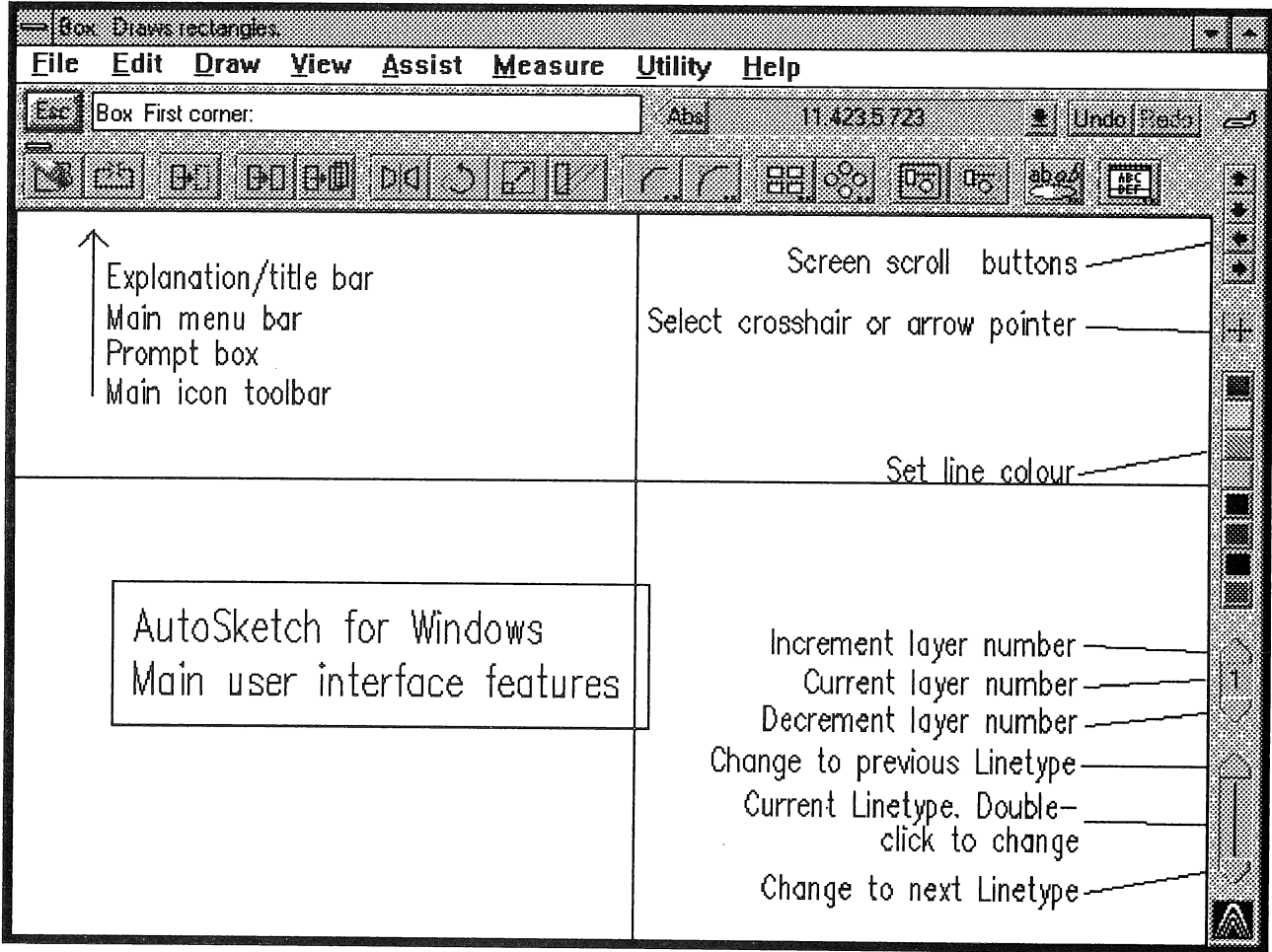
Pasteable icon menus

If the toolbar menus are being used, which is the default, they each have a tiny control button at the top left corner. This pops up a text menu that allows you to copy that toolbar to other parts of the screen; left, right, bottom or floating. Once copied, they can be dragged around and

left wherever convenient, or made to vanish. The main top toolbar always remains there and is always subject to changing in response to main menu picks. This scheme means you can have all the toolbars that the top bar can change to, permanently visible around or on the work area, or just some of them. Of course if you paste all the toolbars on the screen it makes the work area a bit restricted on a 640x480 screen, but that’s your choice, and you can easily change the arrangement as often as you wish while working.

Aerial View

As well as the permanent menu area across the top there is a permanent status area down the right hand side. Its parts are labelled on the illustration. The little aero-plane icon at the top enables the “aerial view” which places a small view of the entire drawing in the corner with the current full screen area marked. The only problems with that excellent feature is that it can take a long time to initially generate the image, and the current main screen zoom area is indicated by the off-



The screen with no menus pasted on, and with the main user interface features labelled. I wrote the explanatory text as a drawing, and the text quality you see here is the result of the clipboard screen capture. When plotted normally the text & sloping lines are all well-formed and "kinkless".

screen parts being in reverse image; white on black. That is too drastic for the image size and makes it hard to see what's what, rather spoiling the usefulness of the feature. A red line around the zoom area would have sufficed and maintained clarity. It is most commendable that such a feature is provided though.

Text facilities

Text is very well provided for, with both in-drawing text entry and via a full screen editor. Altering existing blocks of text, especially multi-line text is made easy with the full screen text editor. The fonts provided are the same as the well worn AutoCAD set and could do with some updating. It's high time that awful "jerky" TXT style, called Standard here, was abolished, or at least not kept as the default.

A bit slow

The only problem is that it's a bit slow. I've been running it on a 386SX-16 and a 386DX-33, both with maths coprocessor. The SX, my home machine, is a good test of a program on a minimal cost home-style setup, which is really what AutoSketch is aimed at. Admittedly many home buyers are now going for 486's but the SX-16 represents the absolute practical minimum for Windows. On that, AutoSketch is quite usable but you have to be rather patient with the screen redraws. I don't know how much worse it gets without a copro as I don't have access to a machine without one. On my 386-33 it is much better but still rather annoying on the screen redraws that occur every time you zoom out or pan.

Parts Libraries

The bonus is that you get a very large collection of ready drawn "parts", otherwise known as "blocks" by AutoCad users. These get installed quite methodically into numerous subdirectories named for their categories; electrical schematic symbols, building layout elect symbols, piping, furniture, building parts, etc. These take up about ten megabytes, so they represent good value in terms of bulk. Users would probably not keep the whole lot on the disk; just the groups relevant to their own fields of work.

The parts insertion user interface is a visual menu system of "buttons" bearing the parts drawings on their faces, which is highly convenient. If you add your own

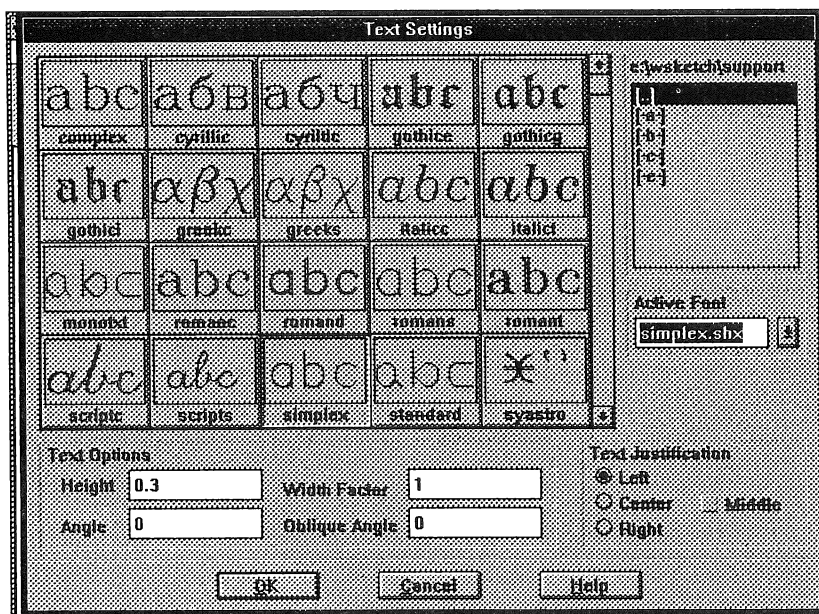
parts they appear automatically on the buttons.

The only problem with the parts library is, as usual, that the drawings are all American. Here, like just about everywhere in the world except America, metric units and European based standards apply. It's easy enough to insert the parts at a 1:25.4 scale to match a drawing using drawing units as millimetres, but that doesn't always completely solve the problem. The sizes of parts used in metric countries is often not just a mm/inch ratio.

For some parts, conversion would be easy; others a bit hard; and some, like schematic symbols, are totally inappropriate as they use a totally different set of symbols.

Autodesk are apparently quite unhelpful when asked about non-American libraries I am told, so the large library may not be such great value after all. AutoSketch does have a script language capability, so it would be possible to write scripts to automate the alteration of the parts drawings in bulk in certain aspects at least, but it is a pity they don't provide for the rest of the world.

There are several parts libraries produced in Australia for AutoSketch by other parties and available for purchase, so that is probably the better way.



The text selection pop-up screen. Here you can visually pick the font to use and set size, slope, compression and justification. Another pop-up provides word-processor like text editing & text file import & export.

Summary

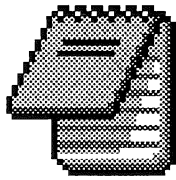
AutoSketch is now quite a usable tool for light duty use but serious 2D business drafting, and would cope very well with drawing house or home unit plans and things of similar magnitude. It is also fine as an introduction to CAD for teaching or self instruction. Early versions of AutoSketch were not up to serious use at all due to their lack of things like selectable fonts and hatching fills.

Version 3 and this Windows version can use all the AutoCad fonts and hatch patterns or any extra ones sold for AutoCad. It also supports the AutoCad ADI driver system, and so adapts to many peripherals, but does not support true digitising. Digitisers can only be used as a mouse substitute.

Transfer of drawing data to and from AutoCAD via DXF is quite complete, subject of course, to losing any AutoCad 3D data or other things that have no counterpart.

I like the new Windows user interface and believe it contributes significant extra useability over the DOS version, even though the actual drawing features are about the same. I think AutoSketch for Windows represents good value even if the parts libraries prove mostly unusable.





Consultant's Notepad

Geoff Harrod

More on backing up as you work

After last month's column, a member spoke to me about a problem he had with WordPerfect (for DOS) when he frequently saved his work in progress to floppy. It seemed WordPerfect had trouble writing to the floppy disk after it had been changed several times to backup onto different disks. I didn't know whether this was a WP bug or whether it was purely some disk defect. Floppy disks are often a bit fickle.

As we talked about it, it became clear that he was running WordPerfect with the A: drive as the default working path. This is not a very good method of working. If a floppy disk causes an access error, it can give rise to a sort of "lock-out" situation, where you can't proceed because the program insists on re-reading the default drive but that drive won't read.

For the same reason you shouldn't run from the DOS prompt with a floppy drive as the default, assuming you have a hard drive of course. It surprises me how many users seem to think they need to be logged onto A (with a "A:>" prompt) to do things with files on the A drive.

At DOS you can escape from this lock-out by choosing the "Fail" option of "Abort Retry Fail" (or "Ignore" on some systems). Then the prompt becomes "Current drive is no longer valid>". You can then type "C:" and get back to normal. In a program such as WordPerfect, that escape route is rarely provided. Hence I suggest keeping the default drive as a hard drive.

However, thinking about my advice last month a bit more, I realised that many modern programs make it more difficult to work from C: and save to a floppy than the older ones did. More often than not, if you use the Save command and specify "A:NAME" then the A drive becomes the default from then on, which is very annoying and undesirable.

That is so in the case of WordPerfect 5.1, but there is a way round it, though a bit

clumsy. If you Block the entire file the Save command then writes that block as a file and does not change the default document filename and drive. You can block the whole file reasonably quickly thus: Move to top of file by Home, Home, Home, Up; Turn Block on by Alt-F4; Move to end of file by Home, Home, Down; Save. That's a good candidate for a macro.

An alternative in WP that might be better is: Save to the default hard disk file. Press F5 to show the file directory, mark the current file, press C to copy it and type "A:" as the destination. When doing critical and lengthy work in WP it is wise to enable WP's update backup and timed backup options in the setup (shift-F1).

Although my choice in word processors is Word for Windows, I have been dismayed to find it (like most Windows programs) makes it almost impossible to frequently save to floppy while editing. The easiest way seems to be to keep File Manager running behind Word; save to the default file on the hard drive by File, Save; then click over to File manager and copy the file to A:, and click back to Word.

I do most of my writing with the Q-Edit plain ASCII DOS text editor, which makes regular saving easy and fast. I later take the text file into Pagemaker to fancy it up if need be.

486's & all those suffixes

There's a bewildering assortment of type suffix letters and speeds now, and it makes figuring out how each relate to the others very hard. One trap I found that I hadn't realised was so extreme concerns the 486DLC. These seem real bargains and one might reasonably assume that the bargain price results only from their using a 486 chip made by Cyrix instead of Intel, considering all we may have heard about Intel's pricing.

However, apart from that element which is a factor in other Cyrix and non-Intel chips, in the case of the DLC we need to note that these are 486 chips in 386 pin packages. The PCs that are sold so cheaply

using these are essentially 386 motherboards with an upgrade 486 chip plugged in.

As such they do quite a good job of improving on the 386 basic machine, but because of the compromises in bus pinouts to match the 386 sockets their performance is restricted. For not too critical applications it may not be very significant, but for speed-critical work like CAD they are so bad in comparison with a real 486DX that they are poor value and should not be considered.

In similar vein, you may be told that a 486DX-50 and a 486DX2-50 are the same, or even that the DX2 has superseded the DX. In fact, the DX2 is a lesser performer than the DX of the same claimed speed. The difference is not by any means as significant as with the DLC but is quite noticeable in speed critical work. The DX2-50 is really a DX-25 Mhz machine with only the chip internals running at 50 Mhz, whereas a DX-50 machine has the whole board running at 50 MHz.

Finally as I've often commented, don't consider a 486SX if there's any chance at all you will ever need to run programs that require a maths coprocessor, such as CAD, engineering or statistics. A 386SX or 386DX is OK, since you can easily buy and plug in a copro chip. In the 486s the DX and DX2 have a copro already built-in, but the 486SX doesn't and it is not practical to add one. If you can buy one at all, it is ridiculously expensive.

The Cyrix DLC chips lack a copro also, but they make a low cost matching one called 87DLC to fit a 387 socket, and the machines sold as 486DLCs normally provide an 87DLC as standard. But if you have an Intel 486SX you're stuck with a motherboard swap as the best way out.

Most of the other new type suffix letters relate to low current versions for laptops.

Education News

I have found that one of the greatest concerns or worries that new computer users have, is the fear of the unknown — what the hell is going to happen when I press “*T H A T*” key ?

I am sure that some 60 or 70 members who have attended John Tacey's series of lectures during this past months and will attend his sixth and final lecture of the series at the Club's April meeting, will now have, with the help of the John Tacey eraser, that FEAR somewhat removed.

Should you be a new computer user and still in the 'wondering mode' of just what makes this computer 'thing' work. I would suggest that you make the time available to attend a Brisbug - New User - course of lectures.

Brisbug offers two such courses :

10 am. - noon John Tacey

3.15pm - 5.pm. Chris Raisin

Both John and Chris have proven communication skills and have structured their lectures so that, should you be unable to attend a particular months lecture you will not be greatly disadvantaged.

Please refer to the Educational Program Timetable in this report, for information regarding courses available, program time, lecturer, degree of difficulty and brief info. into subject matter.

Brisbug's March Club Meet saw :

The introduction of three new Education Courses :

1. Environmental Analysis presented by Dan Emerson.

2. New User 'NUTS' Course presented by Chris Raisin.

3. The previous 'Junior SIG' has been restructured and is now the Junior Education Group presented by Les Cathcart.

The introduction of afternoon educational Courses :

The two afternoon lectures will allow Brisbug members a choice of time slots.

This new structure caters for 'New Users' with John Tacey's morning lecture and Chris Raisin's afternoon lecture.

APRIL MEETING -Program of Lectures

10.00am to 12.00pm

NEW USER GROUP

John Tacey - Room S5

Lesson 6 : BATCH FILES WITH REPLACEABLE PARAMETERS DOS BACKUP also RESTORE COMMANDS

As part of this - April - lesson John will explain the reasons why we should 'BACK UP', also where 'CMOS' fits into the equation.

NOT SO NEW USER GROUP

Ron Lewis — Main Auditorium
Topic : Demonstration of Building a Computer.

ADVANCED GROUP

Rex Ramsey - Room S4

Lesson 3. - Visual Basic for Dos .

Brisbug members who are interested in this subject area and have been unable to attend previous lectures will be pleased to know that Rex has structured his lectures to allow for ample revision . This will ensure new course members will not be disadvantaged.

C GROUP

Geoff Baker — Room S8

Review of 'C' .

Students of course 'C' and it's extension 'C++' and also Brisbug members who are prospective 'students' in this course should attend Geoff's April lecture, if only to ascertain the probable structural changes as Geoff completes 'C' and commences 'C++'.

12.00pm to 3.00pm

The Junior Educational Group

Les Cathcart - Room S17

Lesson 2: Loading and Unarc'ing Library Games Disks to both Hard and Floppy Disks.

12.15pm. to 12.45pm.

NEW MEMBERS ORIENTATION GROUP

New members will meet between 12.15pm - 12.45pm in the courtyard, or if the weather does not permit, we will meet in the foyer. This meeting is very informative and will give you some indications as to what Brisbug is all about.

A separate meeting will also be held from 3.15pm to 5.00pm in Room S1, at the rear of the library. Items such as how to extract your catalogs onto your hard disk, order software from the library are demonstrated.

3.15pm to 5.00pm

NEW USER GROUP

Chris Raisin - Room S1.

Lesson 2 — 'NUTS' course

Chris will give his second lecture of a his New User 'NUTS' course for this year.

ADVANCED GROUP

Dan Emerson - Room S17

Lesson 2: Information retrieval using the microcomputer.

This months lecture will be the second of four lectures.

New Course Advanced dBase

(Programming the Database)

**Dan Emerson
Room S1**

(rear of library)

10:00 - 12:00

SOFTWARE LIBRARY NEWS

HOW MUCH DO COPIES COST?

Unfortunately when I write this news report each month I tend to forget that members are not always sure of disk copy prices. So for those who are new or maybe for those who just forgot....

5.25" DISKS - \$ 4.00 each

3.5" DISKS - \$ 5.50 each

I must remember this every month. Last month (March), I supplied an "ad" to the magazine editor, but obviously he didn't have room to put it in the magazine (or else he didn't like my design - *Looked like a watermelon that had picked up the type from the newspaper it was wrapped in ...* Ed :-)) maybe he will put it in this month!

Postage on orders

**up to 8 disks \$3.00
over 8 disks \$5.00.**

If you require exchange catalogs don't forget that there are FIVE (5) 5.25" disks or THREE (3) 3.5" disks so calculate your postage to include these.

VIRUSES

Contrary to the misleading report in the Courier Mail on Tuesday 23rd. March, SCAN Version 102 supplied by BRISBUG was not infected by any virus.

(I have the greatest respect for journalists - they dramatize every story they print - doesn't matter if there is very little truth in it or not. It's a pity they don't check with people who know what is really happening! Newspapers live for sensationalism!)

Each time Brisbug receives a new version of SCAN and CLEAN the programs are thoroughly checked to see if they have been tampered with or have a problem before they are released. The Sysop, Paul Marwick, carefully checks every program

before it goes on the BBS, and similarly I check every program before releasing it into the library. The chances of you getting an infected program are very slim.

VIRUS BUSTER

If you really want to be sure that your machine is kept free of viruses at all times you should invest \$120.00 (plus \$5.00 postage) with Brisbug and we will send you the latest version of VIRUS BUSTER.

VIRUS BUSTER can be setup so that each day as you switch on your computer, it will check every file for possibilities of contamination, and will not let you execute any program without first checking out all the files. It's a sure way to achieve peace of mind.

Now for all those
Commander Keen fans ...
A KIT !!!

COMMANDER KEEN

With the release of Commander Keen 5 last month, a small amount of confusion has arisen regarding this particular program. Because of the extremely large size of one of the files, it was impossible to supply this program in the standard 360K format. As a result, 5.25" 1.2Meg and 3.5" 720K disks were supplied. The price for these disks is \$7.00 and not the normal disk prices of \$4.00 or \$5.50.

For those who have never tried Commander Keen games, a new kit ADVENTURES OF COMMANDER KEEN will be available for sale at the library for a special price of \$20.00. The kit comprises all the shareware versions available, which include COMMANDER KEEN 1, 4, 5 and 6 (Demo Version) as well as KEEN DREAMS. This is quite a saving, as the

normal price of these games would be \$27.00 (5.25") or \$34.50 (3.5") disks.

The kit comes with an installation program which will setup all the "Keen" programs on your hard disk. - \$20.00 kit.

MOKE

Following the increased interest in "MOKE" (Mark's own Kanji Editor), a complete disk kit, including a Japanese/English dictionary program has now been prepared. This is now available in both formats (5.25" and 3.5") together with a simple install program for \$20.00

GAMES KITS

A new series of Games Kits are being prepared, and it is hoped that these will be available by the May Meeting. These will replace the present 10 Games Kits and will contain lots of new games for the young (and not so young) members.

BLANK DISK PRICES

No change in prices of 3.5" disks yet, but when our current stocks are sold, the price of 3.5" disks will rise due to the imposition of Import duty by the government.

Current Prices: (per box of 10 disks)

5.25" 360K MD2D Disks	\$ 8.00
5.25" 1.2M MD2HD Disks	\$15.00
3.5" 720K MF2DD Disks	\$15.00
3.5" 1.4M MF2HD Disks	\$30.00

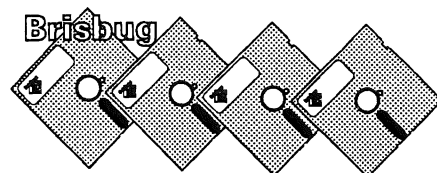
Drive Head Cleaning Kits

3.5" and 5.25" Disk Drive Cleaning Disks
\$5.00 each.

**Brisbug Library is an
Equal Opportunity
Employer**

We don't pay anyone !

New Listings



BBUG 8992 HMENU

*CLASSIFICATION * Menu * Hard Disk*

HMENU is a simple menu for those of you who may like it that way. HMENU is easily installed on your hard disk, and the simplicity of setting up each task assigned makes it very easy to operate.

As an added attraction, an ALERT feature has been added. The ALERT feature is a simple way of checking to see if there are any extra bits (or bytes) in memory that you may not want there. (A virus perhaps!) Or perhaps you have SHELLED out of a program and then forgotten about it. The menu will tell you all about it. (Saves that "OUT OF MEMORY" message) Just set the ALERT to your free memory size and it will keep an eye on that figure. You may change this at any time or toggle the ALERT off.

From Brisbug member Harry Strybos.

BBUG 8993 MATHCOUNTS 3+4 Version 1.0

*CLASSIFICATION * Educational * Floppy Disk * Graphics Monitor*

MATHCOUNTS 3+4 is a graphics-based math tutorial for 3rd and 4th grades, covering addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, estimation, word problems, fractions, decimals and more; record keeping, context-sensitive remedial work, automatic beginner's mode.

MATHCOUNTS 3+4 features: Graphics-based 3rd and 4th grade math tutorial covering +, -, x, /, %, fractions, decimals, word problems, and more. Instructive feedback and remedial work are provided.

A simple Menu system, or an automatic Beginner's Mode, can accommodate students with different rates of learning. MATHCOUNTS 3+4 keeps track of students' progress: where they are, what they've done, what they're ready to do next. The program can be customized with favorite reinforcing words and phrases, and friends' names in word problems.

BBUG 8994 MATH MADE EASY Version 1.0

*CLASSIFICATION * Educational * Hard Disk*

MATH MADE EASY integrates a Three Dimensional Mouse Pad to provide a fast and easy way to enter calculations, four complete sets of Math Tables (1 Each: Multiplication, Division, Addition, and Subtraction), the ability to print each set of Math Tables, and an In-Depth Report can be printed that will give a complete picture of all of the User's mathematical strengths and weaknesses. This report is a full page in length and can be invaluable in determining exactly where the User needs to spend additional Study Time.

This educational program was designed to help all age groups... from Pre-School on up. Any individual with the need to learn, will certainly benefit by the use of both programs.

BBUG 8995 MATHPLOT Version 2.0

*CLASSIFICATION * Plotting * Floppy Disk * CGA/EGA/VGA * Printer*

MATHPLOT allows interactive entry and plotting of mathematical functions. MATHPLOT allows you to specify complicated mathematical functions using ordinary algebraic expressions and immediately plot them.

Four types of functions may be specified: cartesian ($Y=f(X)$); parametric cartesian ($Y=f(T)$ and $X=f(T)$); polar ($Radius=f(Angle)$); and parametric polar ($Radius=f(T)$ and $Angle=f(T)$). Up to four functions may be plotted simultaneously. Scaling is automatic.

Options are available to control axis display and labeling as well as grid lines. Hard copy output may be generated as well as screen display.

MATHPLOT is an ideal tool for engineers, scientists, math and science teachers, and anyone else who needs to quickly visualize mathematical functions.

BBUG 8996 MATH WORKOUT Version 1.3 (Disk 1 of 2, also 8997) BBUG 8997 MATH WORKOUT Version 1.3 (Disk 2 of 2, also 8996)

*CLASSIFICATION * Educational * Hard/LFloppy Disk*

MATH WORKOUT provides an Arithmetic drill for all ages that is comprehensive, stimulating, rewarding, uniquely straightforward, and designed especially for mastering mental calculation. MATH WORKOUT has 180 levels of difficulty.

The program covers addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, decimals and percentages. Generates problems randomly. Reviews mistakes during or after exercise, or not at all. Graphs grade and speed for 200 exercises per difficulty level.

Exercise modes include: Practice, Beat-the-Clock, View 2 Seconds, Mix of Levels, Estimation. Has 17 user-definable defaults. Up to 7 users have separate score history, graphs, and passwords. Creates comprehensive score - history file that can be imported into a database.

MATH WORKOUT has simple menu interface supported by extensive On-Line Help and thorough printed manual.

BBUG 8998 CLIPART FOR WINDOWS

*CLASSIFICATION * Graphics * Windows * Hard/LFloppy Disk*

For the desktop publisher, this collection of clipart in .BMP files will supply you with a selection of Japanese etchings and a series of drawings of dogs.

BBUG 8999 MATH WORKSHEET GENERATOR Version 2.2

*CLASSIFICATION * Educational * Floppy Disk * Printer*

MATH WORKSHEET GENERATOR comprises a series of programs to help the busy teacher individualize instruction for

multiple levels at the stroke of a few keys. Most software today is written with the student in mind. The MATH WORKSHEET GENERATOR has been written with the teacher in mind. As teachers in today's schools we now have more heterogeneous grouping with multiple levels of student ability. This places an extra burden on us, especially when it comes to preparation of materials for each of these levels. The MATH WORKSHEET GENERATOR has been designed precisely to facilitate these preparations.

The MATH WORKSHEET GENERATOR will generate and print worksheets that are used to practice and reinforce basic arithmetical skills. From the Main Menu, you will have a choice of four types of numbers: 1. WHOLE NUMBERS, 2. INTEGERS, 3. DECIMALS and 4. FRACTIONS.

For each of these choices, you have an option as to which operation you wish to practice: 1. ADDITION, 2. SUBTRACTION, 3. MULTIPLICATION and 4. DIVISION.

The MATH WORKSHEET GENERATOR uses a randomizing process to generate different exercises for each worksheet. This randomizing process depends on the computer's internal time clock. If your computer does not have a battery-operated internal clock, you will need to enter the time on your computer before each session with MATH WORKSHEET GENERATOR.

BBUG 9000 DISK COPY FAST and FFIT

*CLASSIFICATION * Utilities * Floppy/ Hard Disk*

DISK COPY FAST Version 4.0, is a one pass diskette duplication utility which makes copies of 1.44 MB, 720 KB, 1.2 MB and 360 KB diskettes.

DISK COPY FAST is incredibly fast. For example, using DOS command DISKCOPY to duplicate a 360 KB, 1.2 MB, 720 KB or 1.44 Mb diskette, assuming diskette shuffling doesn't take any time, will take 43%, 50%, 42% or 57% longer than using DISK COPY FAST. Add up the shuffling time the saving becomes unbelievable. See page 18-19 for details.

More importantly, DISK COPY FAST achieves its high performance by precise

timing, not by sacrificing compatibility. Every single read, write or format is done following the industry standard, strictly, no compromise!

FFIT Version 1.62, was made to help you copy files to disks, without having to think about how to group the files so they will take up the least number of disks. This problem is often referred to as the 'The Knapsack Problem'. FFIT checks the size of the disks you are going to copy to and then combines the files so they will fill the disks optimally. After this, the program will copy the files to the disks prompting you for each disk.

Game of the month

BBUG 9001 KEEN DREAMS

*CLASSIFICATION * Games * Hard Disk * EGA/VGA * Sound card supported*

Only you can help Commander Keen overcome killer vegetables and fruits which have conspired to spoil his day and "clean his plate" in this action-packed KEEN DREAMS, the "lost episode."

Armed with plenty of Flower Powers and Boobus Bombs, you must defeat King Boobus Tuber, evil ruler of the vegetarian Land of Tuberia—and one heck of a spud! Tater Troopers, Sour Grapes, Broccolashes, and Asparagustos have joined forces with a host of other organic foes in a quest to "clean your plate."

Chock-full of action and lively animations—a must-play hit from the award-winning creators of Commander Keen!

BBUG 9002 COMMANDER KEEN 6

*CLASSIFICATION * Games * L/Floppy/ Hard Disk * EGA/VGA * Sound Card support*

While out in his backyard clubhouse, Billy's baby sitter, Molly, calls him for dinner. He continues working on his new wrist computer. Suddenly, a loud noise sounds outside! Rushing out, Keen finds his baby sitter gone and a note on a patch of scorched grass... The Bloogs of Fribulux Xax are going to make a meal out of Molly! You've got to rescue her, because your parents would never believe you when

you tell them... "Aliens ate your Baby Sitter!"

Episode 6 of the COMMANDER KEEN series is not shareware. However this is the next best thing - a Demo Version of ALIENS ATE MY BABY SITTER which gives you a taste of the full version. Various levels are unavailable, but even so, the version give you plenty of scope for practice.

BBUG 2907 POWERBBS
Version 1.7 (Disk 1 of 3,
also 2908, 2909) BBUG 2908
POWERBBS Version 1.7 (Disk 2 of
3, also 2907, 2909)
BBUG 2909 POWERBBS Version 1.7
(Disk 3 of 3, also 2907, 2908)

*CLASSIFICATION * BBS * Hard Disk * Modem*

POWERBBS for DOS or WINDOWS. Two versions of POWERBBS are available for the budding BBS enthusiasts. Now you can easily run 16 or more than 32 lines on one computer! POWERBBS features interactive menus! No longer are you limited to those pre-historic BBS MENUS! Now you can use your ARROWS, and follow through your options as if you were in a regular program! ALL the menus in POWERBBS can be changed. Including the type of interaction, the menu screens, etc. Its ALL UP TO YOU! Don't let the other BBS Software companies tell you what you have to have!

You can AFFORD the POWER of WINDOWS and DOS!

POWERBBS announces many NEW features, now available in a BBS.

* INTERACTIVE MENUS! Use your up/down/right/left arrows for Graphics Mode Users! * MENU Arrow Support! Updated MENU setup in CONFIG, permits you to set up where the UP and DOWN arrows will go at the menus. * New LOCAL button control, for reading messages (looks like you are in a windows mail reader). With buttons for any commands. You can use your MOUSE to zip around the message bases Locally!! - Windows version. * Added AUTO ANSI Detect! * WINDOW Version Message Editing now includes LOCAL arrow capability. * The Who function NODE chat has been enhanced. * Added User #, and Call # to activity log for each caller. * Help file built-in display. * New ANSI translator is about 35% quicker and File Date search is about 45% quicker. * POWERBBS will

now check to see if someone trying to log on, is on another node (or line). If they are, the user will not be permitted on the current line. * Added `|forum|` macro, which will give the current forum name * Added new status line, with current time left, time logged on, current forum #, and more. * Updated Visual Editor. Scrolling will still leave text on the screen, not disappear as before. * `DOS_WINDOWS` Script command to `POWERLANG`, to run `POWERDOOR` True Windows Applications from `POWERLANG`. * `POWERBBS` for DOS permits you to run multitasking packages, and use MANY `MULTI`PORT Cards! (Digiboard/ast/intel hub/etc) * `POWERBBS` for WINDOWS is the ONLY TRUE WINDOWS bbs package available. Take advantage of the Windows operating system! * In `POWERBBS` you GET the DOS version, the WINDOWS version, the source code library, documentation, and an EASY to use `INSTALL` program to set up `POWERBBS`. You can have one of the most POWERful BBS programs running in no time! Australian Support available.

BBUG 2910 WINDOWS UTILITIES NO 2

*CLASSIFICATION * Windows * Hard Disk * Printer*

A useful collection of Windows utilities including `BMPPAK`, `ICONLIB`, `PRINT QUE`, `SCAP`, `WININIT` and `XCLOCK`.

`BMPPAK` Version 10/91 is a collection of about 30 .BMP image files for use with Microsoft Windows. These images are psychedelic geometric repeating patterns to be used as Windows wallpaper; however, they can serve a variety of graphic needs. The files are variations on the same base geometric function, resulting in lots of straight intersecting lines. You get plenty of versions and color combinations to suit your fancy.

With over 200 icons, `ICONLIB`, Version 07/90, is a programmer's Windows 3.0 development tool for use with Presentation Manager. After un-zipping the file, point the Program Manager Properties to this file and View Next.

If you're tired of waiting for Microsoft Excel or Word for Windows to print, `PRINT QUE`, Version 1.2, can help. The normal procedure for printing a document involves waiting for the application to send the entire document to the Print

Manager before the next document can be created or loaded. `PRINT QUE` is designed to let you create a list of the documents and/or spreadsheets to be printed, which `PRINT QUE` will then print.

Windows screens are sometimes difficult to capture, but here's an easy-to-use screen capture utility designed specifically for Windows. Now with `SCAP`, Version 1.0, you can capture your Windows screen, an area of the screen, application window, and application window's client area to clipboard, printer, or file in .DBF (device-independent bitmap format).

`WININIT`, Version 1.0, is a simple Windows application to set up the initial desktop based upon a list of applications and window sizes read from `WIN.INI`. Application windows will be moved to the specified position and size on the screen, and shown or iconized, as specified. `WININIT` is expected to be executed only during Windows initialization, though it can be executed at any time. In keeping with its simplicity, `WININIT` must be manually installed, including manual editing of `WIN.INI`.

`XWORLD CLOCK`, Version 0.95, gives you the time relative to your time anywhere around the world. Installed in Windows and with eXtended setup for all time displays, time zones, and alarms to any city or country in the world, `XWORLD CLOCK` always knows whether the time in the place you're interested in is ahead or behind your time.

BBUG 2911 FORTRAN 77 TO C Version 06/91 (Disk 1 of 2, also 2912) BBUG 2912 FORTRAN 77 TO C Version 06/91 (Disk 2 of 2, also 2911)

*CLASSIFICATION * Programming * Hard Drive * C*

`F2C - FORTRAN77 TO C` converts Fortran 77 source code files to C or C++. Files with names ending in either '.f' or '.F' are converted to C (or C++) source files in the current directory, with '.c' substituted for the final '.f' or '.F'.

If no Fortran files are named, `F2C` reads Fortran from standard input and writes C on standard output. File names that end with '.p' or '.P' are taken to be prototype files, as produced by option '-P', and are read first.

The program and the libraries were com-

plied under Microsoft C 5.1. If you use a different C compiler, you may need to recompile the libraries. The complete source code is supplied.

BBUG 2913 DOS UTILITIES NO 23

*CLASSIFICATION * Utilities * HardDisk*

`ADCACHE - EMSHARD-DISK CACHE` is a TSR hard-disk cache that uses EMS memory. It requires EMS version 3.2 or better and MS/PC-DOS 2.0 or above. `ADCACHE` is small and fast. It works on any IBM PC/XT/AT or PS/2 or compatible with one or two hard disk drives that use the BIOS INT 13h interface.

`DVORAKKB` Version 1.0 is a keyboard utility which will allow you to reconfigure your keyboard layout to the Dvorak layout. Unlike the standard QWERTY layout, the Dvorak layout has been designed to maximize typing speed by rearranging the most frequently typed letters onto the most easily reached keys. `DVORAKKB` uses less than 1.5K of memory.

`PCLOCK`, Version 0.03 provides security for your computer by requiring the user to enter a password before using the computer. Names and passwords for a number of users are allowed. `PCLOCK` also provides a screen blanker which will be activated after a specified time.

WARNING - If you use a password to access your computer, don't forget it. You may have to re-format your hard disk and will lose all your data and programs if you do!

BBUG 2916 GRAPHICS and OTHER UTILITIES NO 10

*CLASSIFICATION * Utilities * Hard/Floppy Disk * VGA/SVGA * Mouse*

`GIFEXE` Version: 1.0. Now you can do something with that favourite GIF file that just takes up valuable disk space. `GIFEXE` is a simple program that creates an executable file from your GIF file. By putting a GIF file in an executable format, `GIFEXE` gives you the power to use your best GIF image as a startup screen in your `autoexec.bat`, a title screen to your software, or as part of any other batch file. With a little creativity, you'll find plenty of places to show off the capabilities of your VGA or SuperVGA screen.

`GIFLITE` Version: 1.41. If you are a GIF

collector or a BBS sysop, you will find your GIF collection occupies a large portion of your hard disk. GIFLITE is an easy-to-use GIF file compression program. It compresses the GIF files so that they will require much less disk space yet still preserve the same quality and resolution.

GIFLIGHT FRONT-END Version: 1.1, is a front-end program for Tsung Hu's GIFLITE GIF compression program. More than a menu system, GIFLIGHT FRONT-END is a file scanning program that reads all the GIF files in a directory and determines which of them have already been compressed by GIFLITE and which haven't. The names of all GIFs containing the characteristic GIFLITE signature is written to a file, then added to GIFLITE for use in its own tracking routine.

VGACOLOR SCREEN UTILITY Version 3.1, will let you get the most out of your VGA monitor as possible. The VGA monitor has thousands and thousands of colors, but only a tiny number of them are actually being used by most of us. VGACOLOR SCREEN UTILITY will help you take full advantage of your monitor's color capability and make your hours and hours of work at the computer more enjoyable.

If you own an Adlib Music Card, you know how music files (.ROL) eat up disk space. **ADLIB ZIP MENU** Version 3.0 saves space by compressing your .ROL files into one ZIP file. After compression, ADMENU presents you with a scrollable menu of each file within your ZIP file, which you can then play at the touch of a button. ADMENU supports up to 2,048 files within a single ZIP file and allows for multiple ZIP files.

BBUG 2706 PC-WIZARD POWERMASTER PLUS+ Ver.4.0 (Disk 1 of 2, also 2917)
BBUG 2917 PC-WIZARD POWERMASTER PLUS+ Ver.4.0 (Disk 2 of 2, also 2706)

*CLASSIFICATION * Utilities * HardDisk*
PC-WIZARD POWERMASTER PLUS+ gives you the power to run your favorite application program by selecting it from the PC-WIZARD Programs Menu and then immediately prepare a backup of your changes by accessing the PC-WIZARD Backups Menu. You can add, change, or delete your programs and backup menu selections quickly and easily by accessing

the PC-WIZARD Setup modules.

These features alone make PC-WIZARD POWERMASTER PLUS+ one of the most powerful productivity tools available today. However, with the addition of the PC-WIZARD Manager you have been taken to the next generation of computer usefulness, efficiency and POWER!

The PC-WIZARD Manager not only allows you to execute any, and ALL, commands that can be entered from the normal DOS prompt, but actually TEACHES you how to use each of these commands. Through this revolutionary new approach, even first-time computer users will be capable of mastering the complexities of DOS in a matter of hours by viewing all needed instructions for each command on-screen and then immediately executing the command from the PC-WIZARD Manager Command Line.

One of the most unique, and POWERFUL, features of PC-WIZARD POWERMASTER PLUS+ is that it automatically removes itself from memory prior to running of the selections made from the Programs Menus. This allows you to run even your largest accounting or database programs from within PowerMaster without fear of running out of precious RAM memory needed by those programs. PowerMaster is also completely reliable for running of communications programs without interference or conflict of any kind.

BBUG 2918 MORFORM Version 1.0 (Disk 1 of 2, also 2919)
BBUG 2919 MORFORM Version 1.0 (Disk 2 of 2, also 2918)

*CLASSIFICATION * Business * Hard Disk * Printer*

A form in its simplest sense is a piece of paper with pre-printed boxes, lines, text and information on it. With the use of MORFORM anyone can quickly and easily develop attractive and useful forms and without the high costs involved.

MORFORM is a complete forms management tool and with the system you can draw both simple and complex forms on your computer screen using boxes, lines, text, special characters, shading, and even specify any special fonts your printer is capable of. You can then print the forms on your printer to be filled out later by hand or define where the information is to

be entered and fill them out on the computer using MORFORM.

When defining the information on the form you can specify what type of data is to be entered; text, numbers, money amounts, dates, times, phone numbers, etc. When entering the data the system will automatically insert any required editing characters for you (dollar signs, commas, decimal points, credit symbols, dashes or slashes for dates, etc.). Also the system will automatically perform calculations (sum, count, average, or formula) based on other information on the form and/or constants such as a fixed tax or interest rate. The completed forms may then be printed and also saved on disk for later modification or reprinting.

MORFORM may be customized for your system and provides you the ability to set up many options to meet your needs and preferences.

BBUG 2258 PC/BILL Version 3.3 (Disk 1 of 3, also 2920, 2921)
BBUG 2920 PC/BILL Version 3.3 (Disk 2 of 3, also 2258, 2921)
BBUG 2921 PC/BILL Version 3.3 (Disk 3 of 3, also 2258, 2920)

*CLASSIFICATION * Business * Hard/2/ Floppy Drives * Printer*

Here's a time and billing system for those who bill by hourly rates or dollar amounts for specific services.

With PC/BILL, all options are selected with a single key; it's completely menu-driven. Calculate fees based on either hours billed or a flat fee for services. Five different billing formats are available, allowing for varying amounts of detail in the bill for individual clients. Summary bills for clients with multiple accounts are generated automatically. Ageing of accounts receivable and calculation of late-charge interest is optional for individual clients. Messages can be printed at the end of the bill with different messages available for accounts which are delinquent for 30, 60, 90, or over 90 days.

By using separate files, customized bills can be easily produced. Client information can be listed by account number or by client name. Each client's account can be checked for accuracy prior to generating any bills. If an error is found in a client's account, a bill cannot be produced until the error is corrected, an invaluable safe-

guard. Data security is assured by a file backup procedure carried out each month as part of the end-of-month procedures.

BBUG 2922 MAH JONGG VGA Version 3.0

*CLASSIFICATION * Games * Hard/L/ Floppy Disk * VGA * Mouse*

MAH JONGG VGA is a high-tech simulation of the ancient Chinese game of Mah Jongg. Some historians date Mah Jongg back to the time of Confucius—over 25 centuries ago! It's believed that sailors and fishermen played Mah Jongg as a diversion from the monotony of their long voyages. The game was originally played with cards, but eventually bone and bamboo tiles were substituted since these were less likely to be blown off the deck. The object of the game was to match tiles, but the tiles had to first meet certain criteria.

MAH JONGG VGA recreates the beauty and addictive pleasure of Mah Jongg, but uses modern data processing techniques and high-resolution graphics instead of bamboo tiles.



BBUG 2926 COMPUTER TEST UTILITIES

*CLASSIFICATION * Utilities * HardDisk*

386TEST Version 11/91 is a diagnostic program designed to test motherboards and system components. This program is used by a computer manufacturer to test their computers in a 110 degree burn-in room for 48 hours. Any computer with high quality, properly rated components can run this test for weeks without crashing.

386TEST tests all of the system's resources including the BIOS, CPU, NDP, Cache, RAM, Extended Memory, and Display Memory. Once started, 386TEST will run for 24 hours.

The best time to use this program is when you receive your brand new computer. While you won't be able to use your new computer for one day, it is better to locate any problems as soon as possible and

while your warranty is still good. If your system passes the 24 hour test, it should keep running.

Requirements: 80386/486/586 processor, Hard Drive

WARPSPEED Version 1.0, is a keyboard utility which will dramatically speed up the repetition rate of your keyboard, and it does it without overrun (when you release the key you have been holding down and the key continues to repeat). In addition, WARPSPEED does it using less than 1K of memory.

Highly customizable, parameters can be specified when WARPSPEED is loaded or at any other time through the DOS command line or a batch file. You can turn WARPSPEED on or off, cause a speed-up delay, control overrun and repetition rate per second, unload it and reclaim memory, and display a reminder screen of WARPSPEED's parameters.

VIZ Version 4.20 is a small resident program that accelerates BIOS (and DOS) video input and output in text mode. VIZ does not function with old CGA cards.

VIZ includes an independent, resident component for displaying a block cursor, either continuously or alternating with a line cursor at an adjustable rate of alternation. The latter display is well suited for easy localization of the cursor in some laptop screens.

VIZ also contains an independent, resident ANSI-filter driver that mediates a subset of the ANSI escape sequences to control the console. This filter can be used, instead of ANSI.SYS, to implement ANSI escape sequences to control video display, with the advantage that can be turned off and on, and removed from memory without rebooting.

All 3 resident modules occupy a total of less than about 1800 bytes of RAM. Depending on the system configuration and BIOS version, video accelerations by a factor of between 2 and 10 have been obtained.

Requirements: MDA/EGA/VGA or Hercules HGC/HGC+ and hard drive.

UMAX Version 1.20, allows for the testing of a number of services of the extended memory manager, which implements the extended memory specification in 80286-based or higher machines. The testing includes upper-memory block services, and provides a list of the size and address

of available upper-memory blocks.

Requirements: High memory manager.

BBUG 2927 COMMANDER KEEN IV - CGA (Disk 1 of 2, also 2928) BBUG 2928 COMMANDER KEEN IV - CGA (Disk 2 of 2, also 2927) GOODBYE GALAXY!

*CLASSIFICATION * Games * CGA * HardDisk * Joystick/Mouse * Sound Card*

Eight year old Kid genius, Billy Blaze, is in his backyard fort testing out his newly built Photachyon Transceiver.

Simply put, it's an instantaneous radio that can pick up signals anywhere in the galaxy.

While listening to an alien sitcom, "My Favorite Garg", Billy hears a disturbing message. Bzzt...grdddz...blow up...ferrrt...zzzz...galaxy and... buzzt...rule...pzzzt...bip! "So the Shikadi are planning to destroy the galaxy, huh?", thinks Billy. "Sounds like a job for... Commander Keen!"

In this episode, "Secret of the Oracle", Keen rockets to an alien planet to rescue the Keepers of the Oracle, who are the only ones capable of helping Keen find out more about the Shikadi. Who are the Shikadi and why are they planning to use our Galaxy as target practice!

"Secret of the Oracle" is packed with exciting features which include: Incredibly smooth scrolling and animation, Titled perspective—gives all levels the appearance of depth.

1.6 Megs graphics for episode one
Ad Lib soundtrack.

Episode one has 5 songs, 14 creatures in episode one, Three skill levels, which can add new creatures to the game! You can finally save ANYWHERE in the game, even inside levels.

Amazing ending animated sequences.
Star Wars-style text scrolling!
Terminator-style opening sequence!
Hundreds and hundreds of screens to explore, with HUGE levels.

Keen has new abilities, such as hanging onto ledges and pulling himself up. Self-running demonstration mode.

Joystick support.

More fun than you can probably live with!

BBUG 2929 WUNDER BOOK Version 1.0

*CLASSIFICATION * Games * Floppy
Disk * EGA/VGA * Mouse Optional*

WUNDER BOOK is a collection of five colorful and fun games for children 3 to 10 years old to learn and explore WUNDERFUL objects, numbers, alphabets, words, shapes, and 4 different languages (English, Spanish, French, and German) using the universal language of graphics. 40 pictures are included.

WUNDERBOOK stimulates and encourages children to develop memory, perception, pattern and word recognition, and language efficiency at the same time makes learning an interactive activity of fun. Different topics and subjects can also be easily added later as additional libraries as children continue to expand their knowledge.

The games are totally child-friendly, symbol-menu-driven, supports mouse, music, and scores.

BBUG 2930 ANIMAL QUEST Version 1.00

*CLASSIFICATION * Games * Floppy
Disk * EGA/VGA/SVGA * Mouse*

You are about to experience Nature through very different eyes. ANIMAL QUEST is a Fun Game for any age. First you select what animal you like to become and then you try to cross your habitat collecting as many Energy Tokens as possible by capturing your prey while avoiding your Predators and outsmarting your Competitors.

ANIMAL QUEST is a never ending adventure in the fascinating world of Nature. All animals are placed randomly at different screens so that each game is unique and unpredictable, challenging you every time.

ANIMAL QUEST is also a realistic simulation of Food Chain Ecology. The rules of the game are based on factual Prey and Predator relationships. A truly Educational game that balances Gaming with Learning. To play the game you must first learn what is your prey and who are your predators.

Three Difficulty Levels to choose from, each providing increasingly more challenging games, score-keeping, on-line help, easy con-based user input and extensive information on each animal and plant.

Its Colorful graphics and realistic sound effects will surprise you !!!

BBUG 2932 KINQUEST Version 5.0

*CLASSIFICATION * Genealogy * Hard/
L/Floppy Disk * Printer*

KINQUEST is a genealogical research tool that is not only easy to use but is a serious research tool for both the amateur and professional genealogist. It was designed to answer a need to correlate large amounts of detailed source information quickly.

KINQUEST is designed to handle the problem of conflicting facts. As a genealogical record grows, it becomes more difficult to validate new facts. KINQUEST can quickly display vital statistics and a list of all documents in the research file that contain any one name on the database.

KINQUEST also handles the problem of the indefinite relative. Research turns up many names that cannot be easily related to a family but whose relationship cannot be ruled out. KINQUEST is a place to put that information until such a time as that fact is needed.

This program allows the entry of 2 billion names without the need to enter relationships or ID numbers. Relationships can be added or changed without the need to re-enter data. Different families and unrelated names can be kept on the same database. Multiple databases are allowed. There are no program limits to numbers of marriages or children. Searching can be done by parts of names or places (e.g. middle name or birth county) or by jumping to any immediate relative or ancestor (by using an ancestor chart).

KINQUEST controls document references and displays all documents for a given name, and will produce five reports.

BBUG 2933 DATA MANAGER Version 2/92 (Disk 1 of 2, also 2934) BBUG 2934 DATA MANAGER Version 2/92 (Disk 2 of 2, also 2933)

*CLASSIFICATION * Desktop Scheduler
* Hard Disk * Printer*

DATA MANAGER will help you organize much of the day-to-day information you need at your fingertips. DATA MAN-

AGER is extremely easy to use, yet very powerful. It is an outstanding learning tool for novices as well as appealing and functional for the pros. Most menu options work the same way — once you learn one, you have learned them all.

Menu options for DATA MANAGER include: Automobile, Calendar, Directory, Financial, Inventory, Library (audio/video), Messages, To Do Lists, Outlines, Shopping, Word Processing (with mail-merge to Directory and Business Contacts). Additional menu choices specifically for the office are: Business Contacts and Training Classes. Specifically for home are: TV, Recipes, Foreign Language Vocabulary Testing, Weight, and Exercise.

Other features include: security levels, the ability to add notes of information (up to 20 pages per note, depending on disk space!) to most data entries, print report options, on-line help, scrolling windows, and the ability to easily change operating options from within the program.

DATA MANAGER is quite interesting, comprehensive, and fun. You'll wonder how you ever got along without it.

NOTE... Will not operate under Dos 5 or 6.

BBUG 2935 BACK & FORTH PROFESSIONAL Version 2.00 (Disk 1 of 5)

**BBUG 2936 BACK & FORTH
PROFESSIONAL Version 2.00 (Disk
2 of 5) BBUG 2937 BACK & FORTH
PROFESSIONAL Version 2.00 (Disk
3 of 5) BBUG 2938 BACK & FORTH
PROFESSIONAL Version 2.00 (Disk
4 of 5) BBUG 2939 BACK & FORTH
PROFESSIONAL Version 2.00 (Disk
5 of 5)**

*CLASSIFICATION * Utilities * Hard Disk
* EMS/XMS * Mouse (optional)*

BACK & FORTH PROFESSIONAL is a versatile program management tool that gives you the power to load up to 20 programs at once. Now you can switch between your favorite word processor, database, graphics program, and TSR utilities at will without having to exit one to open and use another. Its features include:

Delivers a flexible task management environment where up to 20 programs may be open in memory, with each provided as much memory as needed. Offers an easy-to-use, colorful, & customizable environ-

ment. Uses expanded memory (EMS), extended memory, RAM disks, hard disks, and conventional memory to store swapped programs. Permits you to select the hot keys used to pop up BACK & FORTH, other B&F commands, and all defined programs. Accepts the definition of 50 programs for use within BACK & FORTH and provides an alternative menu list for use in defining menus and programs for use within BACK & FORTH.

Runs a selected list of programs automatically when first loaded, as well as providing a set of desktop accessories that include an address book, time and event scheduler, graphics screen capture, editor, tape and RPN calculator, and much more.

BBUG 2940 VIRTUAL REALITY

*CLASSIFICATION * Games * Floppy Disk * EGA/VGA * 286 or better*

VIRTUAL REALITY comprises a collection of games which allow you to interact in real time within a small environment or "virtual world".

MAZEWARs is a maze game coupled with adventure. You must exit the maze to win and go on to a harder level. Level 0 ... is the slowest, and is for the beginners. Level 10... is the final level, and is very difficult. Before you are allowed to exit, you must destroy all the monsters. The monsters behave like land mines. They move at will and if one touches you, you blow up and lose the game.

SUPERSCAPE Version 1.1 is an interactive demonstration allowing you to interact within the environment of your computer which becomes a "virtual" environment. After loading the program the use of pre-defined keys allows you to move your viewpoint forwards into the environment, change your view to either left or right, explore and alter locations and objects within the virtual world created.

RUNVGA is a demo of Virtual Reality Studio. Apart from being a demo program it is also a full-fledged adventure game in which your goal is to get off the planet.

BBUG 2941 ULTIMATE GEOGRAPHY Version 11/91

*CLASSIFICATION * Education * Floppy Disk * EGA/VGA * Mouse support*

ULTIMATE GEOGRAPHY was designed

to assist the user learn about the United States as well as including a wide variety of general information.

You'll find Ultimate Geography is full of interesting statistics about all 50 states, while still holding on to an excellent quizzing system. Capitals as well as State names can be quizzed, and all of the states have information about their population, size, trivia, industries, crime, marriage, births, divorce, and death.

ULTIMATE GEOGRAPHY provides both students and teachers with an abundance of useful information. All statistical information used in the program is current as of 1990.

BBUG 2942 PRO-PLAY BLACKJACK Version 1.0

*CLASSIFICATION * Games * Floppy Disk * CGA/EGA*

You have a King and a seven and the dealers has a nine showing. What do you do? I'll take another card! "Never hit hard 17 or more." That's something the advanced blackjack player knows and that something that PRO-PLAY BLACKJACK will remind you of. Have fun and learn the advanced concepts of blackjack with PRO-PLAY BLACKJACK; a blackjack simulation with great graphics.

If you have a basic understanding of blackjack, but want to take the next step and play like a "pro," here's your chance. PRO-PLAY includes all the help screens and the tables of strategies you'll need. PRO-PLAY uses the rules found in most casinos on the Las Vegas Strip to teach you concepts of hard/soft hands, splitting, double downing, and more. Once you have skills improved, invite six other friends to play and PRO-PLAY will keep the score.

BBUG 2943 ZGRAFWIN Version 1.8

*CLASSIFICATION * Graphing * Windows * Hard Disk * VGA * Mouse*

ZGRAFWIN is designed to allow the user to create, display, and print X/Y, Polar, Log, Bar, Pie, and Area graphs, as well as graphs of 2-D functions/expressions [$Y = F(X)$, or $F(X,Y) = 0$], and 3-D functions [$Z = G(X,Y)$]. The graphs can be customized in terms of color and scaling.

ZGRAFWIN can support three kinds of

data input. Firstly through a spreadsheet kind of module that is built in. Secondly by simply importing a file of numbers as a data file. The last is the most powerful but also somewhat complex: creating a data file in ZGRAFWIN's format. This file can have all pertinent information about the graph such as its type, size, data, scaling etc.

The output from this program takes advantage of various Windows' GUI functions, namely, printing to a pre-defined printer, a PCX file or into the clipboard for further integration into another Windows application.

This high level of customization possible with ZGRAFWIN makes it an attractive alternative to Windows-loving students and professionals in business, education, and presentation areas.

BBUG 2944 AMORTIZE IT! Version 1.1D

*CLASSIFICATION * Finance * L/Floppy/ Hard Disk*

AMORTIZEIT! will amortize nearly any loan, quickly and simply. Just answer the questions, the fill-in-the-blank interface and the help screens make AMORTIZEIT! extremely easy to use. There is never any need for programming.

AMORTIZEIT! supports: Payments in Arrears (Mortgage), Payments in Advance (Lease), 8 payment and 8 compounding periods. Normal, Interest Only, Fixed Principal, and Negative Amortization is supported. Displays tables by loan year, calendar year or financial year. Interest Rates may be adjusted on any payment date (ARM) and there is a unique summary window that will summarize the loan to any payment period which will show the interest saved as the result of extra payments toward principal.

BBUG 2947 WINEZ Version 2.0

*CLASSIFICATION * Utilities * Windows * Hard/Floppy Disk*

WINEZ attempts to fix some of the deficiencies of Windows' Program and Task Manager. It installs itself as a couple of icons in the Title bar of each Window. One icon is the new task manager and the other can double up as an application menu or a direct path to Program Manager.

The Task Manager icon does what it says - manages tasks and manages them well. All loaded and running applications in Windows are available from the menu of this icon and can be selected with a single mouse stroke. This icon menu also includes a run command with full path selection and a menu of previously issued commands.

The other icon can be configured as either a power menu or a path to the Program Manager. It really shines when configured as the former. This power menu lists all the groups in Program manager and any application defined in those groups is accessible from here. This may not sound as good as it really is. That is Program Manager has a bad habit of not releasing all the system resources it uses when a group is opened in Windows whereas WINEZ doesn't open a group so no system resources are wasted in that. If system resources are a shortage, then WinEZ may provide a very good solution. When configured as a path to the PM, WINEZ simply pulls up the Program Manager on any application currently on screen with one simple click.

WINEZ is a very powerful piece of Windows shareware that will work wonders on any windows workstation. Installation is a snap and documentation very comprehensive. A must have Windows utility.

BBUG 2948 PC- SHERLOCK Version 1.0

*CLASSIFICATION * Games * Floppy Disk * Herc/EGA/VGA/SVGA*

PC-SHERLOCK is a "brain" game involving logical reasoning and deduction. You and your PC play against each other to deduce each other's secret number.

PC-SHERLOCK presents your PC as an extremely intelligent player who is tough to win against. Of course, every advantage is given to the human player to ensure that good players can really win against the PC. Surprisingly, the game becomes more and more exciting as you learn to apply your logic in a more skillful manner. Of course, PC-SHERLOCK is random and there is no fixed strategy or formula to win. So it remains exciting even after thousands of plays.

BBUG 2950 XMAS LEMMINGS Version 1991

*CLASSIFICATION * Games * L/Floppy/ Hard Disk * CGA/EGA/VGA * Mouse/ Joystick * Sound Card supported*

Lemmings are little rodents known for their collective consciousness. They travel in dense groups and seem to move as a mass rather than as individuals. They're infamous for following each other off cliffs or into the sea to their death. In the video world, Lemmings have much the same personality. They aren't predispositioned to do anything but follow. They will do whatever they're told, and follow that until you tell them to do something else. Since you're in charge of where the lemmings go and what they do, it's up to you to save the Lemmings from falling to their death.

As "hoards of roaming rodents" are released from a chute at the top of the screen, you use the mouse to tag them for a certain job as they scurry around the screen. You can make them walkers, climbers, diggers, or builders.

Virus False Alarms in DOS 6

MicroSoft support staff have received reports of viruses being detected on the MS-DOS 6 distribution disks. MicroSoft advise that the source of this problem has been traced to the coincidental occurrence of data on the MS-DOS 6 disks, similar to that of a virus' signature- thus generating false alerts from many virus detection utilities. Therefore there is no need for concern - the MS-DOS 6 product does not contain any viruses and should be installed as normal.

Virus detection Software affected by MS-DOS 6

The following virus detection software packages have been found to falsely report instances of virus infection on the MS-DOS 6 distribution disks. Below is a summary of each of these utilities and an accompanying brief explanation of how to remedy the situation. In all circumstances, the third party vendor of each utility will be able to provide more detailed information as to their individual method of virus detection.

TB Virus v5.x (Shareware)..... Detects the Golden Gate Virus

Documentation included with TB Virus v5.1 states that by using the "/mutant" and/or "/sectors" switches, unstable or inaccurate behaviour may result. Until further notice from the Shareware vendor, please avoid these supplemental command-line switches.

Norton Anti-Virus v2.1 (Symantec).... Detects the Forms virus (boot sector)

Signatures (similar to those created by the Forms virus) are mistakenly detected as the Forms virus by the Symantec-Norton Antivirus program. Please be assured that the MS-DOS 6 distribution disks do not contain such a virus in the boot sector or any other region of the disk. As a precaution to the user, the Norton Antivirus product will stringently detect virus (or virus-related) activity, to ensure system integrity.

Further Information.

MicroSoft Product Support - telephone (02) 870 2131 (business hours).

Source: MicroSoft 2 April 1993.

BRISBUG HELP LINES

The following members have generously offered to give telephone assistance on the topics listed. Please be sure to observe the restrictions on times specified by each person. This service is not intended to serve as on-going training or a substitute for reading the manuals, or for

not having manuals. It is for assistance with particular difficulties and for general advice such as when considering becoming involved in that topic.

New offers of help are always welcome, and there are some topics absent from the list.

Subject	Name	Phone	Days & times
4DOS	Chris Raisin	379-1415	Any time
	Dan Bridges	345-9298	Anytime
Accounting	Ian Haly	870-1463	After 5:30 & W/Ends
	Dan Bridges	345-9298	Anytime
As-Easy-As	Dan Emerson	288-6070	
	Scott Hendry	245-1330	After-hours
Assembly	Geoff Harrod	378-8534	Evenings, W/E
AutoCad			
C language	Danny Thomas	371-7938	Mon-Fri 6pm-9 & W/E
	Ian Haly	870-1463	After 5:30 & W/E
Clarion	Ray Creighton	354-1107	eve & W/E
Clipper	Chris Raisin	379-1415	Evenings
	Don Andersen	881-2432	after 7pm & W/E
	Dan Emerson	288-6070	
	Mike Theocharous	824-1450	Anytime
CodeBase	Ian Haly	870-1463	After 5:30 & W/E
	Ron Lewis	273-8946	9am-9pm
	Scott Hendry	245-1330	After-hours
	Tony Obermeit	2875534	Mon-Sat A/Hrs & Sun
Dataflex			
dBase	Ian Haly	870-1463	After 5:30 & W/E
	Mike Theocharous	824-1450	Anytime
	Sylvia willie	393-3388	Evenings
	Bob Boon	209-1931	M-F 8am-5pm
	Chris Raisin	379-1415	Any time
	Dan Emerson	288-6070	
DBXL	Ian Haly	870-1463	After 5:30 & W/E
	Mike Lester	275-1742	(343-5703 a/hrs)
	Dan Bridges	345-9298	Anytime
DisplayWrite 4			
DOS			
Forth	Danny Thomas	371-7938	M-F 5-9, W/E
	Cec Chardon	870-1812	Evenings
	Rob Andamson	266-8353	Evenings
Fortran			
Fox/Fox-Pro	Geoff Tolputt	016-783111	M-F 9-6
	Rob Adamson	266-8353	Evenings
	Colin Cunningham	263-3005	9-9 all days
	Bob Gurney	355-4982	Mon-Sat 8-8
Genealogy			
Hardware	Chris Ossowski	274-4144	9-9 all days
	Dan Bridges	345-9298	Anytime
	Scott Hendry	245-1330	After-hrs
Help!	David Shaw	870-3633	9-9 all days
	Chris Raisin	379-1415	Any time
Meta 5			
MS Word			

Multimate	Frank Mehr	397-3984	Anytime
Multi-user DOS	David Shaw	870-3633	9am-9pm
Novell Netware	Dan Emerson	288-6070	Evenings
Open Access 2	Cec Chardon	870-1812	Evenings
OS/2	Alan Gibson	207-2118	6:30-9:30pm
PostScript	Danny Thomas	371-7938	M-F 5-9 & W/E
PowerBase	Mike Lester	275-1742	(343-5703 A/hrs)
Project Manage- ment & planning	Brian Doyle	355-1328	9am - 9pm all days
Quick-BASIC 4.5	Harry Strybos	288-5145	4pm-7pm Weekdays
Q&A	Dan Bridges	345-9298	Anytime
Q-Edit	Dan Bridges	345-9298	Anytime
Quicksilver	Ian Haly	870-1463	M-F after 5:30 & W/E
R-Base	Tony Luck	279-3033	9-9 all days
Spreadsheets	Sylvia Willie	393-3388	Evenings
SQL	Cec Chardon	870-1812	Evenings
System Manager	David Shaw	870-3633	9-9 all days
True-Basic	Bob Gurney	355-4982	Mon-Sat 8-8
Unix	Paul Watts	892-2226	Mon-Sat a/hrs & Sun
Virus problems	Dan Bridges	345-9298	Any time
Windows	Bernard Speight	349-6677	6pm-9pm
WordPerfect	Geoff Tolputt	016-783111	Mon-Fri 9-6
Wordstar (all ver)	Neil McPherson	075-971240	A/hrs
Wordstar-2000/4	Bob Boon	209-1931	Mon-Fri 8-5
Xenix	Paul Watts	892-2226	Mon-Sat a/hrs, Sun
	Mike Lester	275-1742	(343-5703 a/hrs)

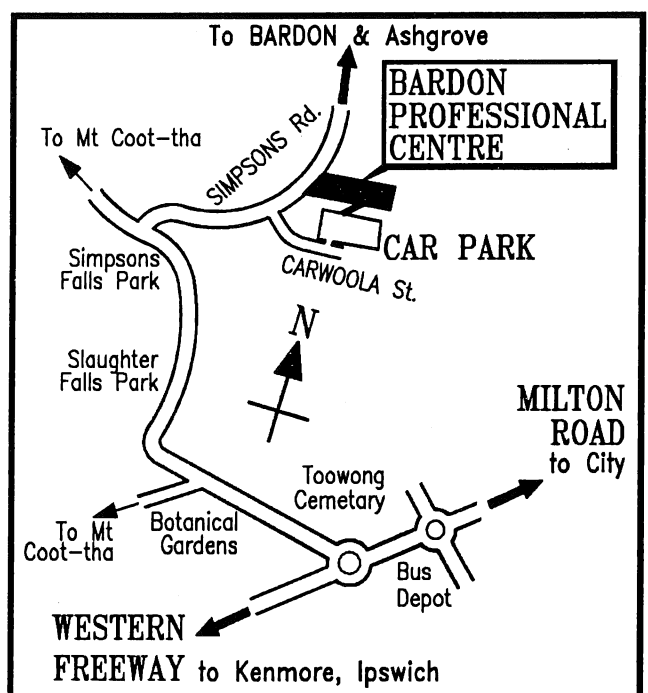
MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday of every month, except under unusual circumstances, at

BARDON PROFESSIONAL CENTRE
Simpsons Road,
Bardon, Brisbane 10am to 5pm.

Brisbug occupies the main theatre and several other rooms. Please note that other groups are usually using the centre at the same time, and that parking is totally prohibited around the buildings and driveways, and the upper level car park is strictly reserved for staff and for exhibitors with specific prior permission.

There is a large car park off Carwoola Street with a footbridge over the creek and a pathway to the centre.



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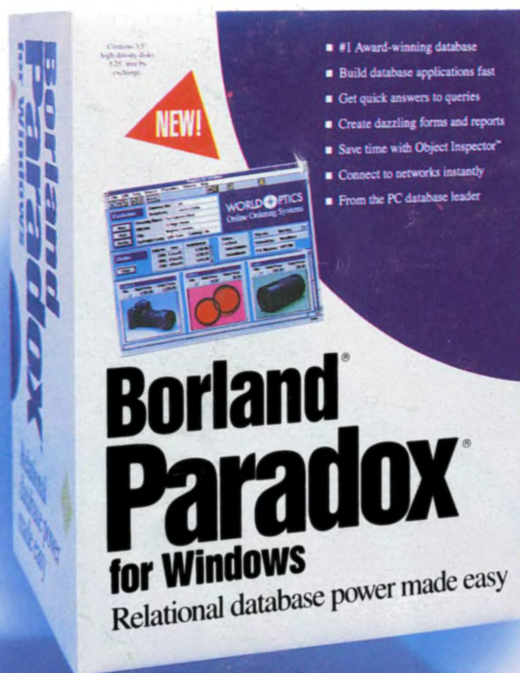
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New Paradox® for Windows is here! It's easy, powerful, and it puts you in control of your data like no other database. Best of all, it's so visual and intuitive that no matter what your database experience, you'll get up and running immediately.

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different table formats. You make your request for data by simply checking off boxes with easy-to-use

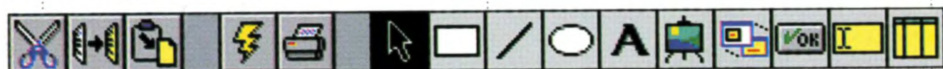
Name	
Data Dependent...	
Alignment	▶
Color	▶
Font	▶

▲ Object Inspector menus allow you to change an object's properties.

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▲ The SpeedBar™ icons provide convenient point-and-click access to the features you use most often.

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