



NEWSLETTER OF SYDTRUG INC.
 SYDNEY TRS-80/MS-DOS USERS' GROUP

P.O. BOX 75, PANANIA 2213
 AUSTRALIA

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MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

 *
 * Meetings usually held on SECOND and FOURTH Saturday
 * afternoons each month commencing at 1:00 P.M. at the
 * 1st Sefton Scout Hall, 2 Waldron Road, SEFTON
 *
 * Meeting this month will be held on
 * Saturday 24th of April
 *
 * Please Note:
 * There will be **NO MEETING**
 * on **EASTER SATURDAY 10th April**
 *

SYDTRUG Bulletin Board

* TRUG-86, the MS-DOS/TRS-80 Bulletin Board, (02) 790-5601
 *
 * For full details see the Services page overleaf.
 *

* CREDIT CARDS

* We have the facility to charge your membership fees, or renewal
 * fees to either BANKCARD, MASTERCARD or VISA. Additionally, pur-
 * chases made on your behalf by the group may also be charged to your
 * credit card. If you wish to use this service, please quote your card
 * number, type of card, expiry date of card, and SIGN your request.
 *

WHO'S WHO

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Closing Dates for
 April 1993 Newsletter:

Hard Copy only - 3rd April 1993 -
 On Disk - 10th April 1993 -
 or Via Bulletin Board

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Reprinted from "SYDTRUG News", P.O. Box 75, PANANIA 2213 AUSTRALIA

SYDTRUG Inc. Information

MEMBERSHIP FEES:

There is a **ONCE ONLY** joining fee of \$20, plus, for single membership, \$45 per standard financial year (July to June) or, for family membership (which includes all family members living at the same address), \$55 per standard financial year. These fees fall due on 1st July each year and are payable by Cash, Bankcard, Mastercard or Visa Card. They cover the cost of the monthly newsletter and admission to Saturday meetings, access to the bulletin board, access to the group library, and reinking of fabric printer ribbons.

For those who wish to insure against possible future fee increases, payment of \$200 for single membership, or \$250 for family membership, will cover five years fees. This represents a saving of \$5 per year and any increases which may occur during the five years.

For those who join between 1st January 1993 and 30th June 1993 a special reduced fee of \$25 will apply for single membership. The joining fee remains the same at \$20

Our NEWSLETTER ("SYDTRUG News"):

Distributed on a regular basis, it includes group business information along with software and hardware articles and information from local and overseas sources. Contributions from members are always welcome. See below for advertisements.

COST: Included in your membership fee. Back issues available at \$2.00 ea plus postage (within Australia) \$0.70.

Other NEWSLETTERS:

We receive numerous exchange newsletters from similar groups, both locally and from overseas. See the resume which appears regularly in "SYDTRUG News". Copies are available for borrowing from our Sefton meetings. You can also borrow by mail if you drop us a line including outgoing postage, as for back issues of "SYDTRUG News" shown above, one magazine at a time for one month.

DISKS:

Floppy disks are purchased in quantity to enable members to benefit from the resulting price saving. Members may buy them by contacting our secretary, preferably at group meetings, but, for those unable to attend meetings, Bruce may be contacted by phone at the number shown on the front cover to make arrangements.

The prices, per ten (10) disks, are as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 5.25 DS DD (360K) | \$6.00 |
| 5.25 DS HD (1.2M) | \$10.00 (Unboxed) |
| 5.25 DS HD (1.2M) | \$11.00 (Boxed) |
| 3.50 DS DD (720K) | \$11.00 |
| 3.50 DS HD (1.4M) | \$18.00 (High Quality) |
| 3.50 DS HD (1.4M) | \$15.00 |

LIBRARY:

We maintain a library of interesting books, mainly at present on TRS-80 matters, along with most issues of "80-MICRO". There are a number of other magazines available as well as copies of some local computer magazines. These are available for borrowing from the group for one month at a time.

FABRIC RIBBON RE-INKING:

Most printer ribbons can be reinked quite successfully, so long as they have not been thrashed. There needs to be a reasonable fabric base to absorb the ink. **NOTE: Fabric ribbons only, carbon film ribbons cannot be reinked.** If given to the reinker person at meetings they will normally be ready at the same meeting of the next month. By mail, send them to the Group P.O. Box in a padded jiffy bag. Before you mail it, get it weighed and pop postage value of stamps into the bag before you seal it so that we can return it.

COST: This service is free to members, but postage and packing charges will apply where applicable.

SIGs (Special Interest Groups):

On the second meeting of the month we often have either hardware or software tutorials. If you can present an area of interest or can suggest something that you might like to learn about, please contact a committee member.

DISCLAIMER:

No Patent liability is assumed with respect to the use of the information contained herein. While every precaution has been taken in the preparation of this publication, neither SYDTRUG Inc. nor its appointed office bearers assume any responsibility for errors or omissions. Neither is any liability assumed for damages arising from the use of any information contained herein. Any opinions expressed are those of the author concerned, and not necessarily those of the Group or its committee.

SOFTWARE:

MS-DOS Public Domain/Trial Ware:

We have an ever increasing range of MS-DOS Public Domain and Trial Ware disks from a number of sources. Watch the newsletter for details.

COST: The software is normally available on a 5.25 inch 360K disk format for a cost of \$5, plus postage and packaging if applicable. Alternatively, the software can be supplied on a 3.5 inch 720K disk for an additional \$1.00. Two programs normally available on two 360K disks can be supplied on the one 3.5 inch disk format for the cost of two 360K disks plus \$1. The group does not charge for the software but charges a disk purchase price to cover the cost of the disk medium and the cost that SYDTRUG Inc. has to outlay to maintain the software library. Members have the option of picking the order up at a SYDTRUG meeting (provided the order is placed 5 days in advance) or having the disks posted to them in a disk mailer box.

The additional cost of postage and packaging will vary depending on the destination and the current charges are as shown:

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------|---------|
| 1 - 5 disks: | Within Australia: | \$2.00 |
| | Overseas Airmail: | \$5.00 |
| 6 - 10 disks: | Within Australia: | \$4.00 |
| | Overseas Airmail: | \$10.00 |

TRS-80 Public Domain:

A huge range of TRS-80 Public Domain Software is available for Mod I/Sys 80 along with Mod III, 4/4P. See our catalogue disks for details, if you don't have them write and ask, including \$8.00 to cover disks and P/P. Be sure to let us know in what format you require the catalogue disks written.

Members are reminded that this software has been acquired over the years from a multitude of different sources and, in common with a lot of P/D software, does not always spell out exactly what system resources are required to run it successfully. In many cases further development is required to suit the user's specific system. This being the case, SYDTRUG Inc. cannot offer any guarantee as to the suitability of any particular program to any specific purpose. Having said that, there is still a lot of very useful material in the collection.

COST: \$3.00 per disk, plus postage and packing as for MS-DOS disks above.

BULLETIN BOARD:

Our MS-DOS/TRS-80 BBS called TRUG-86, now up and running on (02) 790-5681, is still in the process of development. So please bear with us if it does not yet have all the bells and whistles which you may expect. All members of SYDTRUG Inc. will have access, while limited access is available to visitors.

Initially your password is your membership number, so it would be a good idea to log on and change your password to one which only you know.

The following formats are available:-

| | |
|-------|---|
| CCITT | V21 (300/300), V22 (1200/1200) V23 (1200/75) and V22 bis (2400/2400) |
| BELL | 103 (300 FULL Duplex), 212 (1200/1200) 2400 (2400 FULL Duplex) |

All formats utilise 8 DATA bits, 1 STOP bit and NO Parity

You should set your Modem and/or software for "Originate", except for V23 (1200/75) which should be set for VIATEL or 1200 Receive/75 Transmit.

COST: This service is FREE to MEMBERS.

ADVERTISEMENTS:

Members may place "For Sale", "Exchange", or "Wanted" advertisements in "SYDTRUG News" There is no charge, but inclusion is dependent upon space being available. The editor reserves the right to amend advertisements as thought fit.

Editorial Comment

Those members who bother to read this issue of "SYDTRUG News" may perhaps note that, with the exception of our Treasurer's Report, there is not a single contribution by a SYDTRUG member. Considering that there are over 150 financial members of the group this is a pretty poor show.

One is tempted to wonder whether we are not so much members of a computer user group, as a number of computer group users. Robert Frost once said that the world is full of willing people. Some are willing to work, the rest are willing to let them.

If the newsletter does not contain a reasonable minimum of interesting articles, it is a safe bet that someone will complain. But strangely enough, they don't come up with any articles for publication.

Some of our members contribute articles for "SYDTRUG News" on a fairly regular basis. Others provide articles less frequently. These are all very much appreciated and are very welcome indeed. Thank you all. However, I am sure that a good many of our members (besides the ones who already contribute with varying degrees of regularity) have the capability of producing an interesting article for publication. Articles don't have to be full of deep technical computer related material. Almost any original article of general interest submitted by a member is sure of publication.

Don't hold back because you feel that your efforts will not be good enough. If your contribution contains spelling or grammatical errors, these can be corrected before publication. To the best of your editor's knowledge, no contributions have ever been refused because of spelling or grammatical shortcomings.

If you are not sure of how to submit a contribution, get in touch with the editor. Phone number appears on the front cover of the newsletter, or for our remote members, write care of the PO Box. And don't forget, any original contribution submitted by a member, which fills at least half a column of "SYDTRUG News", entitles the author to a free disk of either MS-DOS shareware or TRS-80 P/D software of their choice.

While on the subject of articles for the newsletter, may I remind members that SYDTRUG Inc. has been granted reprinting rights for articles appearing in both "Your Computer" and "Australian PC World". If you come across an article in either of these magazines which you think might be of interest to other members please do one of the following: 1. Prepare an ASCII file of the article on disk and either hand it to a committee member or mail it to our PO Box; 2. Photocopy the article, making sure that the copy is clear enough to be read for retyping and deliver as in item 1; 3. If you cannot manage either of the above then contact a committee member and let them know the details of which magazine, which month, article name and what page it starts on. Your editor can only do so much towards preparing the newsletter.

Can a Model 4 Drive a LaserJet 4 ?

by Roy T. Beck - SAGATUG

[Reprinted from the January 1993 issue of "The Interface", Newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley Tandy User's Group, P.O. Box 6818, BURBANK CALIFORNIA 91510, U S of A]

The Laserjet 4 is Hewlett-Packard's (HP) latest offering in their line of Laserjet printers. Indeed, with 600 dots per inch (dpi), the Model 4 has suddenly doubled the resolution capability of their previous 300 dpi machines.

What does this mean to the user? Let's digress a moment. Your typical EGA monitor has a resolution (they call it dot pitch) of .28 millimetres, which is about .011 inches per dot. The reciprocal of this is about 91 dots per inch. The previous laser standard of 300 dpi is more than 3x this and the Laserjet 4 is now better than 6x your monitor. This is a darn good resolution and can present BEAUTIFUL printed images.

Can we TRS types use the printer? Well, let's consider. The Laser 4 uses PCL 5, which is the 5th version of HP's Printer Control Language. Some years ago, HP introduced PCL with a flourish of trumpets, and implied that you couldn't use their Laser Printers without knowing all about PCL and having the necessary drivers for it. Well

This article was drafted up, as usual, on one of my 4Ps, originally printed out on an HP Laser IIIP, which I use at my office, and polished up on another 4P at home, which is now driving a Laserjet 4. So what did I have to do to translate from LS-DOS and Allwrite to drive a laser?

I simply went into ALINSTAL, and told it to send a line feed after every carriage return. I also adjusted the default margins to account for the HP's somewhat strange idea of what constitutes a standard piece of paper. HP thinks it should be 10.5 inches high and 8 inches wide. I do this with the following string which I put at the head of each Allwrite document:

```
;lm0;tm3;bm3;ll65
```

This gives me one inch left and right margins, and about one inch top and bottom, with a line length of 6.5 inches on an ordinary 8.5 inch by eleven inch sheet of paper. This is my default page layout. So what is PCL all about? What it is about is many, many additional commands which allow any program to do many more things than your 8-pin dot matrix. To make use of all these fancy additional features, you do need special drivers. But some of these are already available from, who else? Computer News 80, who is selling drivers for Allwrite, written by Lee C. Rice and for SCRIPSIT, written by David Goblen. Gary Shanafelt has contributed a matching set of drivers to allow Allwrite to drive an HP Deskjet, which is HP's corresponding printer in the inkjet technology family.

There is much in common between the Deskjet series and the Laserjet series, but they are not identical. I have also used a Deskjet 500 C with my 4P, and it also works. But the big reason people want to use HP Deskjets and Laserjets is because of their built-in and down-loadable alternate fonts and other very extensive graphic features. By loading in some alternate fonts, or enabling some of the built-in defaults, Allwrite can do even more beautiful things. Of course, if you also have an IBM clone, you can make use of the HP drivers now built into most new software. If you are a Mac user, then you cannot swap a Laserjet between your Mac and your Model 4. Apple, as usual, has done things in ways which make it mandatory to use a special ("M") version of an HP with a Mac. Such HPs do exist, but they are incompatible with the rest of the world. Sorry about that.

A word of caution about switching a Laserjet between two or more computers. The usual mechanical A-B switch box can be dangerous to the health of Laserjets. I have heard through the grapevine, that using one of these ordinary A-B switches can feed transient voltages into a laser (or any other printer). Apparently, the Laserjet is a bit more delicate than Epsoms, for example, and it is possible to damage the electronics of a Laserjet. Not only can the Laserjet be incapacitated, but HP will not repair it under warranty. It will COST you a good bundle to restore the Laserjet to working order.

The same grapevine says the solution to this problem is to bus all the grounded wires in the A-B switch together so that the ground wires, in and out of the A-B switch are never open circuited, and only the "hot" wires are switched when the A-B knob is operated. I may do this later.

I have purchased and am using, without incident, a Tandy "Printer Interface Selector 3" switch which is a more exotic, electronic version of a printer switch, which will switch either of two printers, automatically, to a preferred printer. It will also allow software selection of either of two printers by either computer. ["SYDTRUG NEWS" Editor's Note: There seems to be a typo there somewhere. I would suggest checking with Tandy as to its actual capabilities before assuming that it will connect two printers to two computers.] This device is RS Cat No 26-2844, and it has not injured the Laserjet IIIP to which it is connected.

The automatic feature allows the first computer to request the preferred printer to proceed, and holds off the second computer until the first one is finished. The software feature allows the computer to force the switch to select a specific one of the two printers which can be simultaneously connected to it.

Of course, up to this point, I haven't told you how to do any of the marvelous tricks with the Laserjet, only that you can make it work with a Model 4 computer and Allwrite. That's because I haven't yet learned how to make it do all these tricks. But I will! I have Lee Rice's drivers, and Gary Shanafelt has offered some useful advice, which I hope soon to make use of. When I do, I will try to pass along the necessary info. Meantime, both Laserjets operate happily with my 486-50DX (at home), my 386-SX16 (at work), and my venerable 4Ps (both places).

Treasurer's Report for February 1993

by Tom Foley

| INCOME: | February | Year to Date |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Members' Subscriptions: | | |
| Renewals: | 0.00 | 2,375.00 |
| New: Joining Fees | 0.00 | 380.00 |
| Annual Fees | 0.00 | 830.00 |
| 1 year subs in adv. | 0.00 | 145.00 |
| 3 year Subs to 1997 | 0.00 | 200.00 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| Hardware Deposit | 0.00 | 3,930.00 |
| | 0.00 | 10.00 |
| Members' Purchases: | | |
| MS-DOS Shareware | 0.00 | 67.00 |
| TRS-80 Software | 0.00 | 330.00 |
| Blank Disks | 114.00 | 1,090.50 |
| Hardware | 0.00 | 22.00 |
| Sundries | 0.00 | 57.50 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| | 114.00 | 1,575.00 |
| Other Receipts: | | |
| Donations | 0.00 | 25.00 |
| Newsletter Advertising | 0.00 | 120.00 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$114.00 | \$5,660.00 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| | ***** | ***** |
| EXPENDITURE: | | |
| Newsletter Costs: | | |
| Printing | 135.00 | 1,080.00 |
| Postage | 48.64 | 396.67 |
| Other | 0.00 | 75.60 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| | 183.64 | 1,552.27 |
| Meeting Costs: | | |
| Rent | 50.00 | 400.00 |
| Insurance | 347.78 | 347.78 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| | 397.78 | 747.78 |
| Purchases for Members: | | |
| Blank Disks | 0.00 | 1,187.50 |
| Admin Costs: | | |
| Advertising | 0.00 | 39.30 |
| Bank Charges and fees | 11.16 | 91.56 |
| Equipment Maintenance | 0.00 | 44.85 |
| Post and Telephone | 3.90 | 424.70 |
| Photocopying Costs | 161.52 | 293.77 |
| General Expenses | 160.90 | 402.58 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| | 397.48 | 1,296.76 |
| Bulletin Board Running | 49.50 | 147.55 |
| Capital Expenditure | 0.00 | 190.00 |
| Sundries | 67.00 | 229.93 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | \$1,035.40 | \$5,351.79 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| | ***** | ***** |

Buying A Computer ? -- Consider

by Peter Lymn - AMUG

[Reprinted from the February 1993 issue of "Adelaide Micro User News", Newsletter of the Adelaide Micro User Group Inc., GPO Box 214, ADELAIDE SA 5001, AUSTRALIA]

When considering the purchase of any new item, there are steps that people usually go through such as, "do I really need it?", "what do I want?", "from whom do I purchase it?". If you buy on impulse then some or all of the questions do not apply.

As a help to members, I have listed below some of the things I think are relevant in the decision making process. There are many other points on which people may place different emphasis.

I will limit the guide to the purchase of a new computer -- having decided that you must have a new computer then:

1. What is the reason for buying ? -- Is the computer going to be used for word processing or for database programs or for graphics ? Bear in mind that this is the uses that you can perceive at the present time and may change once you have purchased the computer.

2. How much can I spend ? -- Set yourself an approximate limit.

3. What type of computer ? -- This is the hard part. It depends on how you answered question 1. There are four types of computers (considering only desktop IBM compatibles, not portables) to choose from. These are 386SX, 386DX, 486SX and 486DX. I have listed these in ascending price order, which is also the performance order.

If the main use is for word processing, then a 386SX would be suitable. If there is a possibility of number crunching work such as data bases or CAD, then a 386DX or 486SX could be more appropriate. If the computer is for CAD work or intensive graphics, then a 386DX or a 486DX should be considered. Note - the 486DX has a co-processor incorporated into the processor chip, whereas a 387DX co-processor has to be purchased separately for most CAD work.

4. Other factors to consider:

To complicate the picture, the computers are available in different speeds -- 25MHz, 33MHz, 40MHz and 50MHz (not all speeds are available for each type). Generally speaking, the faster the speed the better, bearing in mind that the cost increases with the speed rating.

Also, computers now come in a variety of case styles, the main ones being desktop or tower. The desktop case is placed on top of the desk, usually with the monitor on top of the case. This case type uses desk space which can be a problem and if the monitor is placed on top of the case, the monitor is probably too high (you have to look up, instead of straight ahead or preferably slightly down, and this can cause neck and back problems). The tower case comes in two sizes, -- midi and mini (although mini is most common). The towers can be placed under the desk with only the monitor on top of the desk. This allows the monitor to be placed at a better viewing angle. The difference between a mini and midi is size (mini is smaller) -- the mini is better but can pose problems with types and quantity of expansion cards that can be installed at a later date.

Choice of monitors is dependent on the applications to be used. Monitors are available in a variety of types -- single frequency (not very common now), dual frequency and multi-frequency. It is preferable to consider multi-frequency types as these will allow for future applications. A point to be aware of concerns auto-sizing. Monitors can operate in various modes namely CGA, EGA, VGA, SVGA and Extended VGA. The vertical and horizontal scan rates vary between modes, and the multi-frequency types can accommodate these different modes. With some multi-frequency monitors, the height (and possibly width) can vary when changing modes. The height control has to be adjusted manually to correct this, and on some monitors the control is on the rear which is very hard to get to, as well as being annoying to continually adjust the height for different modes. The more expensive monitors have auto-sizing which corrects the size when changing modes. If in doubt, ask the salesperson to demonstrate the monitor on different modes.

The type of video card should be considered mainly in the amount of memory on the card. Choose one that has 1MB if possible, and also check that the card is supported by the applications you want to use.

The size of the hard disk is determined by the types of applications and also how much data you are going to manipulate. I would consider 80MB as a minimum -- 120MB or even 185-200MB would be better. Consider how you want the hard disk to be partitioned. Advise the selected vendor as early as possible the partitioning you want, otherwise you will have to remove all the files, repartition the hard disk, and then replace all the files.

If possible, have both a 5.25 inch and a 3.5 inch (high density) drive installed. This will suit applications supplied on either size of floppy disk.

The size of memory is also dependent in the applications -- Windows requires 4-8MB and CAD at least 8MB. Check with the salesperson the type of memory required to go from 4MB to 8MB -- some motherboards allow you to add four or more 1MB modules, while others require you to remove and discard the existing modules and replace them with 4MB modules -- it pays to ask.

The choice of printer depends on the applications. Desktop publishing and word processing require very good (high resolution) output -- consider a laser or inkjet printer. An alternative would be a 24 pin dot matrix printer with colour as an option. ["SYDTRUG News" Editor's comment: Go into both the purchase price and the running cost of various printers thoroughly before making a decision. These can vary quite significantly.]

As you can see, there are a large number of questions to ask, and these are not all of them -- I have only considered general types of questions. As prices are very competitive, the choice of vendor really depends on how you relate to the salesperson. Prepare a list of questions that you want answered and use this list when talking to the salespersons. Rate the vendor according to the answers received.

Many vendors fill the hard drive with Shareware programs as a bonus. Be aware that these cost the vendor little or nothing, and as such are a bonus or extra, I would give them a low weighting when choosing between two vendors (one supplying the programs and one not). Also, if you use them you are required to send the authors the required fees. I am not saying to refuse them, but just to be aware of these points.

Also see if the vendor will supply such things as a mouse free of charge to win the sale.

The above points are some of those that I try to cover when approached by a member for advice. All I can add is, feel free to ask any member for advice, because the points that I consider important might not be the same for you, and the more people that you ask, the more information and hints you obtain.

DR DOS The Other Operating System

by Peter Donnelly

[Reprinted from the December 1993 issue of the Newsletter of the National Capital Tandy Computer Users Group, PO Box 949, ARLINGTON VIRGINIA 22216, U S of A where it was reprinted from "Big Blue & Cousins", February 1992]

In the beginning there was MS-DOS; then there were the third-party utilities to do jobs that MS-DOS should have done. Microsoft has finally come out with a version that fills many of the gaps, but meanwhile Digital Research is leading the way with version 6.0 of DR DOS, a seamless integrated package of just about everything you need in an operating system.

The benefits begin right at boot-up, with an enhanced CONFIG.SYS that is in effect a programmable batch file, capable of displaying a menu anywhere on the screen and running up to nine different configuration subroutines, each with its own autoexec file. You can even add a timeout to select a default configuration if no key is pressed.

If you're using a 386 or better, you can throw out your old memory manager, because Digital Research's EMM386.SYS is as smart as any of them. It will configure extra memory on the fly as either extended or expanded, according to what the application requests; it will open up the mysterious memory zone above 640K for device drivers, TSRs, and DR DOS itself; and it will map video ROM into RAM for faster screen writes. Using EMM386 in combination with the rest of what is called the MemoryMAX system, I was easily able to expand usable program space on my machine to 626K.

Throw out your disk cache too, unless you're already using Super PC-Kwik, which has been licensed from Multisoft as a replacement for the rather poor cache provided with DR DOS 5.0. This clever program will use all available memory above 1MB until some is requested by an application; then it will lend just as much as is needed. Thus you can enjoy advantages of a huge cache without sacrificing flexibility.

(One thing that took me a while to discover is that if you configure the cache for extended memory, it can't lend expanded memory and vice versa. However, you can limit the cache size, and then any memory reserved for applications can still be used either way. For Windows, which immediately appropriates all available memory, the best course is to set up a fairly small cache and disable lending altogether. I should have mentioned that the DR DOS memory manager and cache will quite comfortably replace Windows' HINEM and SMARTDRIVE.)

After installing this operating system you may find yourself combing through your utilities directory for programs you don't need anymore. Among other things, DR DOS renames directories; creates a block cursor for laptops; keeps a history of command lines, and allows them to be edited with intuitive keystrokes; moves, redates, and undeletes files; defragments disks; copies files between computers; translates output to PostScript; searches for files (with TREE); and allows deletion of whole subdirectory structures with a single command.

There are many little enhancements to common commands. For instance, DISKCOPY uses all available memory, or a temporary file on the hard drive, so that one-pass copying can be done with a single high-capacity drive. Wildcards are allowed with FIND, making that text-search command useful for the first time. You can set up default switches for DIR in your autoexec file, so that it automatically appears, for example, in five-column or two-column format whenever it is called. There is also a sorted directory, XDIR, but unhappily it will not produce a two-column display.

Various security features are now offered; password protection for the system as a whole or for individual files, and an optional kind of file deletion that guarantees full recovery by hiding files in a disk buffer.

DR DOS has a full screen editor that will handle files of any size; it uses the venerable WordStar commands, does not support the mouse, and is no competition for QEdit. Also supplied is SID, a DEBUG replacement. There is no BASIC.

Perhaps the most interesting new feature is the task switcher, TaskMAX. The name may be a tongue twister, but the program is simplicity itself to use. You just load it like any other TSR, then run the first task from the DOS command line. Within the application, hit the (configurable) shift-hotkey combination and up pops a little menu that lets you shell out to another session of the DOS and load another task. You can run up to 20 programs this way; to switch between them you either go through the menu or just hit the shift key plus a number. Text can be cut and pasted between applications. The task switcher will swap to disk if necessary, but works best in extra memory. With 4 MB available, I've found switching between four or five programs quick and error free; even super-VGA modes don't faze TaskMAX, though it isn't always able to redraw the full screen.

Another supplied utility, SuperStor, allows you to set up one or more partitions on your hard disk where data is stored in compressed form, and then deals with that data transparently, which is to say that you can run compressed programs and operate on compressed files without ever knowing the difference. (You might think there would be a penalty in speed, but Digital Research claims that the time spent compressing and decompressing is offset by quicker disk access.) In addition to shrinking the files to as little as an eighth of their normal size, the program reduces the minimum space reserved for a file to 512 bytes from the regular 2048 or 4096. Average space savings are supposed to be about 50 per cent. The trade-off is that SuperStor itself takes up a good chunk of conventional RAM, offsetting much of the gain from MemoryMAX.

Finally, the package includes ViewMAX, a graphical shell with an attractive and nimble GEM-like interface. It lets you run applications by clicking on associated data files; curiously, though, I wasn't successful in getting this to work with the GEM version of Ventura Publisher.

Documentation and help are excellent. The hefty and very readable manual is supplemented by an onscreen reference called DOSBOOK, and every single internal and external command has command line help.

At a Canadian price of around \$100, DR DOS costs a bit more than MS-DOS 5.0. However it is a fully bootable operating system, not a half-crippled upgrade, and it will even let you leave MS-DOS installed in case you have any regrets. Apart from that, I think it's well worth the extra 20 or 30 bucks to get one of the best memory management systems on the market, an award winning disk cache, a superb task switcher, and a utility that could double the storage capacity of your hard drive. The many other immediately useful enhancements simply make the choice clearer.

Worth Repeating

To love is to stop comparing.

-- Bernard Grasset

CorelDraw - An Overview

by Roy Bowman - NCTCUG

[Reprinted from the December '92 and January '93 issues of the Newsletter of the National Capital Tandy Computer Users Group, PO Box 949, ARLINGTON VIRGINIA 22216, U S of A]

CorelDraw is developed and published by:
Corel Systems Corporation
1600 Carling Avenue
OTTAWA ONTARIO CANADA K1Z 0R7
Voice: (613) 728-8200 - Fax: (613) 728-9790

CorelDraw is a very comprehensive software program and contains some features that were a surprise to me. The program comes on disk or CD-ROM. I am reviewing the CorelDraw for Windows on 5.25 HD disks.

Since this software program is very extensive, I plan to write the review in four parts.

Part I CorelDraw basic program
Part II Mosaic program and clipart library system
Part III WFNBOSS and font programs
Part IV Corel Trace program

Part I: The Main Program

The Corel Package contains the following:

Two VCR tapes: an introduction to CorelDraw and an explanation and demonstration of what CorelDraw can do; Eight-lesson tutorial; User's manual; Technical Reference Manual; Mosaic visual file manager; Symbol and Clipart Libraries guide; WFN BOSS typeface conversion and creation of fonts guide; Typeface Reference Chart; Corel Trace manual; Character Reference Chart; Toolbox Reference Card; Keyboard Shortcuts Reference Card; Process Colour Chart; Corel ruler to measure typeface fonts, points etc.; Registration Card

Installation

To use CorelDraw the program requires a PC AT/386/486 with hard disk, at least 640K of memory, Microsoft Windows Version 3.0 or better, graphics monitor supported by Microsoft Windows 3.0 (EGA, Hercules, VGA are all acceptable; CGA is not) and a printer and a mouse supported by Microsoft Windows 3.0.

The package that I have came with nine 1.2MB HD disks. Four are the install disks, and five contain the Clipart Library. The installation program went very smoothly. The CorelDraw program has five executable files: CORELDRAW.EXE, CORELTRC.EXE, LHARC.EXE, MOSAIC.EXE, WFNBOSS.EXE. The clipart library is maintained in LHARC files, more about that later.

I used DoubleDisk and the CorelDraw install program used 7.4MB which compressed to 4.7MB (36% compression). The clipart library which is already in LHARC files used 5.4MB and compressed 17% under DoubleDisk to 4.4MB.

Since I have very little experience with graphics programs, this was a double learning lesson. I had to learn the graphics language as well as the graphics program. The learning manual is broken down into eight categories.

1. Using the CorelDraw screen.
2. Drawing objects (rectangles, ellipses, lines and text).
3. Transforming objects (selecting, moving, scaling, rotating, skewing, and repeating and clearing transformations).
4. Shaping and zooming objects (shaping rectangles and ellipses, zooming in and out on objects, shaping curves, kerning text and changing character attributes, shaping text, and adjusting text spacing).
5. Outlining objects (using the preview window, setting outline shape and colour, creating custom outline shapes, and creating custom outline colours).
6. Filling objects (filling with grays and colours, filling with bitmap and vector patterns, using fountain fills, and filling with post-script textures).
7. Arranging objects (Duplicating and deleting objects, moving objects to front and back, grouping and ungrouping, aligning, fitting text to a path).
8. Working with files (opening and saving files, importing and exporting files, printing files).

The above gives a good highlight of most of the possibilities that you can perform with CorelDraw.

The opening screen on CorelDraw has seven menus and nine tools.

The seven menu items are files, edit, transform, effects, arrange, display and special.

The toolbox contains:

- The Pick tool for selecting and transforming objects.
- Shape tool for shaping objects.
- Zoom tool for changing the viewing window.
- Pencil tool for drawing lines or curves.
- Rectangle tool for drawing rectangles or squares.
- Ellipse tool for drawing ellipses or circles.
- Text tool for adding text and symbol.
- Outline tool for setting outline attributes.
- Fill tool for setting fill attributes.

The manual is laid out very similarly to the tutorial manual and gives more pictures, examples, and detail. For a first time user it seems like a lot to learn, and it is, but the two manuals together are very easy to learn. The graphics potential is awesome.

CorelDraw will import the following files: Adobe Illustrator files; Bitmaps (PCX, TIFF); Bitmaps for tracing option; CorelDraw files; GDF (PIF) files; GEM files; HPGL files; Lotus PIC files; Macintosh PICT files; Windows 3.0 bitmaps.

CorelDraw will export the following file formats: Adobe Illustrator (AI); CorelDraw; DXF (AutoCAD); Encapsulated Postscript; GEM; Graphics Metafile (CGM); HPGL Plotter; IBM PIF (GDF); Macintosh (PICT); PCX; SCODL; TIFF; VideoShow; Windows Metafile; WordPerfect (WPG).

The mouse is essential; however, for the power users, there are a number of keyboard shortcuts. The reference card outlines all of the keyboard shortcuts.

Part II: MOSAIC Clipart Library Management System

Mosaic is a new utility for cataloguing and maintaining a library system for clipart. It can be operated separately in Windows or within CorelDraw.

CorelDraw saves a picture in two files, the picture in its regular size and a small (thumbnail) picture. The main feature of Mosaic is that it will preview 28 pictures (1 inch by 1 inch) at one time on the screen or six pictures (2.25 by 2.25) at a time. It is possible to browse quickly and easily through all the pictures in one clipart collection.

The clipart art library contains 750 colour images and are broken down into the following categories:

- Animals
- Architecture
- Business
- Environment
- Festive
- Flags
- Food
- Industrial
- Maps
- People
- Science
- Sports
- Technology
- Transportation

The clipart was provided by over seventeen clipart companies, which are listed in the back of the library manual.

Corel's Symbol library includes over 3000 black and white symbols, which were developed by CorelDraw and are listed under the following headings:

- Animals, Architecture, Arrows - Filled, Arrows - Outlined, Balloons, Banners & Awards, Borders, Borders - Ornamental, Boxes, Bullets - Circles, Bullets - Rectangles, Bullets - Triangles, Computers, Electronics, Floorplans, Food, Furniture, Holidays, Household Items, Hygiene, Musical Instruments, Nature, Nautical Flags, Science & Medicine, Shapes - 2D, Shapes - 3D, Signs & Symbols, Space, Sports Figures, Sports & Hobbies, Stars - Filled, Stars - Outlined, Technology, Tools & Gardening, Transportation, Weather.

The Mosaic program screen has three menus:

FILE: for adding/deleting library pictures, expanding, selections, etc.

CORELDRAW: to open, print, import selection to CorelDraw .

PREFERENCES: to set the icon display size.

About Mosaic

Mosaic is designed so that you can set up your own library or add to the existing library. In the manual it suggests that a person can purchase several different kinds of books of pictures that are on the market. These can be scanned and added to the library. Using a scanner, even a hand scanner or half page scanner, gives one unlimited access to images to use in CorelDraw. If you use the CD-ROM version, there are over 10,000 pictures and symbols.

The symbol library is accessed from within CorelDraw by highlighting the text tool and placing the text tool symbol within the page of CorelDraw. Hold down the shift key, click the mouse left key, and the symbol menu pops up. After selecting the symbol, the next step is to set the size. The symbol pops up on the page of CorelDraw and can then be modified just like any other picture (resize, reshape, special effects, etc.).

Part III: WFN BOSS and Font Programs

This program consists of two parts, WFN BOSS Typeface Conversion Utility and, Corel symbol and Typeface Export Filter.

WFN BOSS typeface conversion is used to convert typefaces from many different manufacturers into WFN fonts, CorelDraw's native typeface format. This lets you add thousands of new typefaces to the 150 currently packaged with CorelDraw.

Corel Symbol and Typeface Export Filter allows you to use CorelDraw to actually edit the shape of any character in any WFN typeface or symbol file. This makes it possible to customise typefaces in any way you want, or create wholly new sets of typefaces or symbol libraries. These two programs are in effect a font editor capable of altering Corel's own typeface and those in use by many other software applications.

The following formats can be converted to WFN typefaces:

Adobe Type 1: Most type 1 .PFB .AFM font pairs (Corel's WFN BOSS can convert the WFN font to Adobe type 1. Files produced are .PFB, .AFM and .PFM).

Agfa Compugraphic: Paired .FF fonts for the type director system and .FF fonts purchased from Agfa Compugraphics in the Curvilinear Typeface Library.

Bitstream: .TDF, .BCO and .BEZ format files.

Digifont: .DFI files

Readable PostScript: Fonts made using Fontographer, including Casady & Greene, Image Club, Treacyfaces, and others .PFA/.AFM pairs. Any font made using the IKARUS font system, and fonts made using the Bitstream FontWare system.

Z-Soft Type Foundry: .OTL files (WFN BOSS can also be used to convert Corel's WFN fonts to .OTL format. Type foundry's OTL Editor may then be employed to edit and add kerning information to the font. Fonts can then be used in CorelDraw or other applications.

Substitution: This conversion allows the user to access printer-resident PostScript fonts.

Since the subject of fonts is all new to me, I found this subject almost like learning calculus. The manual is well written and goes into a great amount of detail about the above fonts, with many pictures to demonstrate the subject matter. This is a subject that a person could spend hours learning and only a person who wanted to specialise in this subject could justify spending the time to learn it, however, it is a good addition to CorelDraw, and makes it an outstanding professional package.

Part IV: Corel Trace

Corel Trace is a program that converts bitmap images into vector images. Now I wonder what are bitmap images and what are vector images. Bitmaps as I understand it are a lot of pixels on the screen. When you try to enlarge or shrink the picture, you end up

with jagged edges, etc. Whereas vector images are x + y images or mathematical dots or pixels. Vector images can be enlarged or made smaller without distortion.

Scanners and many of the images (.PCX, .TIF, etc.) use bitmap images. Corel Trace is a program to change bitmap images to vector images, and when imported into CorelDraw, the images then can be taken apart and changed as desired.

Corel Trace can be used to trace any type of artwork, from logos to any other pictures that have a good clear image.

To run Corel Trace the following is required: 80286 or higher based IBM or compatible computer, 640K of memory, Microsoft Windows Version 3.0 or higher, mouse or other windows compatible pointing device, and Windows compatible display adapter card and monitor.

Corel Trace will trace black and white, grey scale and colour images. The file must be in TIFF (.TIF) files or .PCX files.

This means that if the files are in some other format a conversion program must be used to convert them to the above files.

It also means I must get out the manual on my scanner and learn how to use it before I can go on with this article.

I scanned a picture in a .PCX format and then ran the trace program. The trace program gives a .EPS format, which caused me a problem in that I was expecting to get an image in a .TIF or .PCX file. I called the company twice to find out what I was doing wrong. When I called the company, I was put on hold for a minute and then was asked to leave a message and they would call back. I never did get a return call. I finally gave up waiting and started doing more research on the main manual and finally found my answers. When I loaded CorelDraw and wanted to import the tracing, I was so busy looking for .PCX or .TIF files I didn't look enough at the pull down menu. It has a specific line for a Corel Trace (.EPS) or Adobe Illustrator (.AI or .EPS) file.

I usually try to call Technical Support in order to find out what kind of results I will get, even if my question is stupid.

The nice part about Corel Trace is that the image can now be taken apart and worked on, any way a person wants to make changes. According to the manual the reason for making the tracing into an .EPS file is that you can trace and go directly to several publishing programs, without using CorelDraw.

I know I talked about using a scanner, but any other bitmap files can also be traced and converted to vector files.

There are two methods of choosing a tracing method, outline or centreline method.

Although Corel Trace is designed for CorelDraw the .EPS files can be used to import images into the following software packages:

Aldus Pacemaker 3.0, Xerox Ventura 3.0, WordPerfect 5.1, Microsoft Word 5.0, Ami Pro, Arts and Letters (via decipher program).

It is possible to use Corel Trace by importing into CorelDraw and exporting in one of the other export modes. These were outlined in part I of the review.

To print the .EPS file directly to a printer a Postscript printer is required. To use any other printers the .EPS files must be loaded into CorelDraw and changed to a file that can be printed by your printer.

The manual is well written and outlines the following subjects: Introduction, Using Corel Trace, Choosing a Tracing Method, Saving Traced Images, Customising Tracing Options, Preferences Menu, Importing Corel Trace Images, Tips and Hints, Samples. The manual contains many images and diagrams as well as the written text to explain the capabilities of Corel Trace. My overall reaction is that CorelDraw is an outstanding software package, however, their technical support left me cold. It boggles the mind when a person tries to comprehend all the opportunities this software offers.

[NCTCUG Editor's Note: CorelDraw 3.0 is now out, with even more fonts and clipart, and uses True Type and Adobe Type 1 fonts, but also supports the WFN format. It now includes Paint, Show, and Chart modules, as well as the CD-ROM version!]

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MS-DOS File Compression

by Terry Bibo

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File compression programs have a variety of uses, besides making for shorter connect time on bulletin boards. One is as a cheap, easy and effective way of backing up hard disks. Without some way of splitting large compressed files over two, or more, disks though, they suffered in comparison with MS-DOS or third-party backup programs -- despite being easier to use than some. This problem is solved with the companion programs ZSPLIT.EXE and ZJOIN.EXE. Sensible use of ZSPLIT dictates that all files must first be compressed into a .ZIP file on the hard disk using PKZIP.EXE which we will consider later. Looking at the size of the .ZIP file will tell you how many floppy disks it needs. A compressed file, DIRECTORY.ZIP, of perhaps a whole directory might be 2.3 megabytes in size -- too big for a 1.44 floppy. It will fit on two HD or four 2DD disks. ZSPLIT will break it into any portion size specified on the command line. Zsplit - M1300 Directory.zip will split the file into a 1300KB portion on the first disk, and then prompt for a second disk for the remaining 1000KB. Zsplit - M710 Directory.zip would split it into 710KB portions and prompt for four disk changes. To put it all back together later use ZJOIN.EXE with the command line Zjoin directory.zip. The resulting file, after the appropriate prompts for disk changes, would be the original DIRECTORY.ZIP, ready for unzipping into its component parts.

PKZ110.EXE is a self extracting zipped file containing all the files and documentation relating to PKZIP, the main ones being PKZIP.EXE, PKUNZIP.EXE, and ZIP2EXE.EXE. The first two should be self explanatory, the third takes a zipped file and converts it to an executable file that does not need PKUNZIP to unpack it.

The trouble that I and others have had with PKZIP is its intimidating command line structure. Typing PKZIP/H produces a screen overflowing with options and looking like graffiti off the walls of an Egyptian tomb. If you are into visual flagellation I invite you to run the program, I am not going to reproduce it here. Fortunately, there are others who have empathy with me, and the capacity to be constructive.

EZIP10D.ZIP is a file created with PKZIP that contains an easy to use tool kit for the PKZIP family of programs. All the tools are contained in a menu that hides the complexities in the original programs and, like a legendary British butler, does the job with a minimum of fuss.

The program, EZIP.EXE, only provides the shell around the PKZIP family that has to be obtained separately. It comes with an icon and a PIF file for installation under Windows. Documentation is clear and adequate, and should certainly be read before using the program. Installation will alter your autoexec.bat file to accommodate the EZIP environment, and I had to enlarge my environment space to 386 bytes to get it to run.

Unfortunately, it does not recognise the mouse and requires typed entries, another weakness of mine. But I found I could cheat on directory names by leaving off backslashes and colons. A bit rough in places, having compressed all the required files it then displays total original size, final compressed size and overall compression ratio, and asks if you want to delete the original files. The question remains on the screen during deletion, with the only indication of activity being the drive light -- a bit disconcerting. Overall a good program, and worth investigating at the price. Shareware.

SHEZ Version 6.2

by Larry McQuerry

[Reprinted from the January 1992 issue of the Newsletter of the National Capital Tandy Computer Users Group, PO Box 949, ARLINGTON VIRGINIA 22216, U S of A, where it was reprinted from the June 1991 issue of "Orange Bytes"]

You can tell that the shareware software industry is becoming more mature when you review a program like SHEZ from California Software Design. SHEZ is a shell program designed to make viewing and working with compressed files easy.

The program makes an assumption that you already have several other shareware products. To publish a follow-on product that requires other shareware products indicates that the other products have a distribution which is wide and stable.

SHEZ is a shell which will allow you to manage compressed files with any one or all of the following programs: PKZIP, PKPAK, and PKARC by Phil Katz; LHARC by Haruyasu Yoshizaki; ZOO by Rahul Dhesi; PAK by NoGate Consulting; ARJ by Robert Jung for ARJ files.

In addition it will allow you to view compressed files using LIST.COM, by Vernon Buerg and to scan the compressed files files for viruses with SCAN.EXE by McAfee Associates.

If you are unfamiliar with the file compression programs, you should consider the advantages they offer. They are most often used to reduce the size of files to be transmitted over a modem. Smaller files mean less transmission time. Secondly, they offer a way to store more information on your hard disk by compression of little used programs and files. And thirdly, they offer a way to keep multiple related files files bundled together. Like a program and all of its support files and configuration files. Program files are usually not compressed more than to 50% of their original size, but a typical dBASE file can often be compressed to less than 25% of its original size. Unlike some of the hardware based compression available with some new hard disk drive controllers, the software compressed files are compatible with the myriad of hard disk optimising software.

The one drawback on compressed files is that they cannot be used in that form. They must be uncompressed to be used and the data files must be recompressed after being altered. This is where SHEZ comes to your aid. With simple pop down menus it allows you to easily select and mark files for compression or decompression without knowing the commands necessary to accomplish these tasks for all of the available compression programs.

In addition you can view the list of files in each compressed file and the contents of compressed text files. If you prefer one of the compression programs over the others SHEZ will easily convert all of your downloaded files to your favourite compression technique.

For the more advanced users, it will allow you to create self uncompressing files (with an EXE extension) for distribution to those who do not have your particular compression program.

Registration of SHEZ with the author, which supplies you with a registration number (not another disk) is only \$30.00.

WordPerfect for Windows

by Anne Ehrenhalt - ETPCUG

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Let me start by saying this has literally been one of the hardest pieces I have ever had to write. You'll see why towards the end of the article.

Registered users of WordPerfect have by now received a copy of the Winter 1991 report in which considerable space was devoted to WordPerfect for Windows, hence forth abbreviated to WP4Win. The rest of you have probably seen at least one of the reviews in the computer magazines about the program.

Therefore, I won't take up space with a list of features like WYSIWYG display of font attributes or graphics (although it is nice to be able to see what a graphics image looks like in View prior to retrieval into the document), nor will I tell you very much about the Button Bar that can be customised for quick access to your favourite commands or macros except to say that I appreciate being able to have text on the button instead of wondering what a little picture means at 11:30 p.m. when my eyes are tired and my brain has already gone to sleep.

I won't spend time rhapsodising over the fact that nine documents can be open at the same time nor will I tell you much about the separate WordPerfect File Manager that leaves Windows File Manager in the dust. I also won't tell you about the Draft Mode that mimics WP/DOS display, nor will I tell you about the hundreds

of printers supported or the ease with which WP4Win imports files created by other programs. I also won't tell you how simple it is to access the 1500+ character set by merely doing a CONTROL W or the continued availability of the sometimes hated, mostly under-used Reveal Codes screen. And of course, I won't waste your time mentioning the world-famous no questions asked toll-free support lines. Instead, let me concentrate on my experiences with the program.

First some background about me and my equipment. People either love or hate Windows. I use Windows but I don't really know or like it except as an attractive menu system. The environment and I don't really think about computer use in the same way. I'm hardware phobic and Windows has insisted that I learn how to optimize my hardware settings in order to run it in enhanced 386 mode. I've spent too much time tweaking the settings and still get UAEs (Unrecoverable Application Errors).

My home computer is a DTK 386/25 with 4M of memory, a Trident VGA card with 1M of memory running MS-DOS 5.0 and Windows 3.0. My work computer is a Northgate 486/33 with 8M of memory, an ATI VGA card with 1M of memory, running MS-DOS 5.0 and Northgate-supplied Windows. WP4Win requires at least a 286 with 2M of memory, and a hard disk with 8M of available space, although a 386 and at least 4M of memory is highly recommended. Both my systems exceed these criteria. Taking advantage of WP's new concurrent licence that allows installation on multiple computers as long as only one computer is in use at a given time, I installed the WP4Win on both computers. If you are limited in storage space, you are given the choice not to install the dictionary, PTR, and several other modules that use the same programs as the MS-DOS version. Going to setup ('scuse me, 'Preferences' as it's known in Windows) you can tell WP4Win where to find those programs.

I also opted to install several print drivers, being very unhappy with the standard Windows drivers, which I later deleted and went on my merry way using my WP/DOS drivers. I then went through the entire workbook to acquaint myself with the program. It was like greeting an old friend who had undergone extensive cosmetic surgery. WP4Win allows you to select a CUA (Common User Access) keyboard which is Windows jargon for Close = CTRL F4; Open = F4; F2 = Search in all Windows programs or an almost compatible WP 5.1 keyboard as well as defining your own. I chose the CUA to see how comfortable I was with the new set of function keys.

It's a Windows myth that you have to use a mouse to get the most out of Windows applications. Most tasks can be done from the keyboard, and I found myself using the keyboard (tabbing to menu choices), mnemonics (Alt plus a letter) or the shortcut keys more and more as I became familiar with the program. It's also a myth that if you use one Windows program, you can use any Windows programs because of the CUA. Each program I've used does things differently and it takes time to become comfortable with each program's terminology once you get past Open, Close, Search, etc.

Now to the meat of this critique. I was particularly interested in testing the supposed compatibility between documents created in the MS-DOS and Windows products. It worked flawlessly especially since I chose to use my WP/DOS printer drivers. All the fonts and formatting went back and forth beautifully. In corporate America, this may be the single best reason to choose WP4Win over another Windows word processing program. I also liked being able to reset tabs, columns and table cell widths from the ruler with my mouse and seeing the changes immediately on screen as they were made.

I love graphics! As well as charts that illustrate ideas, they provide welcome relief to densely packed text. As previously mentioned, WP4Win lets you view a graphic before retrieving it into a document. Using a mouse, the graphic can be resized or dragged to a new location or you can open an edit screen and do the same thing from the keyboard. When I turned text wrap off, however, I found that I couldn't select the graphic with a mouse click. I'll have to experiment further doing this.

Because Windows permits different screen fonts, I was able to see complete lines of text but found that what was displayed on the screen didn't really match the actual page which is critical when doing page layouts. A glance at the ruler showed that my margins were set at 1 inch and 7.5 inches, but the end of my 11 point type seemed to stop at the 5 inch mark. To be fair, if I positioned the cursor at the end of the line, the status line did show the actual position. So much for Windows' WYSIWYG. A recent column in PC Magazine told how to partially overcome this predicament by matching the size of screen fonts with printer fonts as closely as possible.

Now for the wish list, without which no review is complete. First, it would be wonderful if changes could be made in Print Review mode, the only way to see an entire page layout, instead of toggling back to the edit screen to move a graphic and then tabbing back to Preview to see how the changes effect the whole page. I expect to see this feature in an interim release or the next version. Second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth is a desire for Speed. My DTK 386 slowed to a crawl because of slow screen redraws. This isn't WP4Win's fault. This is a Windows problem.

It's true confession time and the reason why this piece was hard to write. I've written most of this review using WP/DOS. Given my system's predilection for UAEs I don't trust important work to Windows applications. Like so many others, I really wanted WP4Win to help my transition to the Windows environment and was fully prepared to throw away WP/DOS. I've successfully resisted numerous trade-in/trade-up offers to switch to different word processors or page layout programs because I like WordPerfect the product and respect WordPerfect the corporation. But, alas, my DTK chokes more on WP4Win than on any other Windows application. I'm constantly getting UAEs. There seems to be a real problem with the interaction of my hardware and how WP4Win builds its screen display. Every time I try to retrieve an ASCII file, the program goes "belly up" and I have to reboot. I sometimes get UAEs using CONTROL BACKSPACE to delete words or when scrolling through a file which forced me to very quickly learn where the save button or keystroke combination (CONTROL F3) was to save my work frequently. I've called WP technical support and got no help. They hadn't heard of anything like this. I didn't stop there, however. I went to the BBS nets next. The following is the text of a message I received on DataWorld's ILink WordPerfect conference from Tim Holder of WP.

"We have isolated one rather weird set of circumstances that will cause a UAE. If you have auto ruler display on, have 'format for default printer' set to no, and have a font code in doc init codes, you can expect a UAE every time you open a file. Look for variations of these settings in your configuration."

I found that I had indeed been using some of these settings. Changing them had no effect. I still got my UAEs. Calls to the mail order business from whom I purchased the computer got me "Please call Microsoft. If they can tell you what hardware is failing, we'll replace it." The only number I had for Microsoft was a 900 number which came with my MS-DOS 5 upgrade. So here sits WP4Win almost unusable on my DTK. It's essentially in a new category of software called "shelfware" by some pundits. Please note that this phenomenon doesn't occur on the Northgate and I can work all day with nary a UAE. I've even developed a work around by creating a macro that places a few hard returns and selects a mono-spaced font in a document. I then RETRIEVE rather than OPEN a file and am able to edit the file to my heart's content.

Would I recommend WP4Win? I'd have to give a qualified "yes". If you are using a fast 386 or better computer that contains "standard" parts and a fast video card, if you don't mind Windows and tweaking, if compatibility with previously created documents that have to be shared with WP/DOS users is important to you, and most importantly, if you already know WP/DOS, you'll be up and running with WP4Win immediately.

WordPerfect for Windows is available from WordPerfect Corporation, 1515 N. Technology Way, OREM UT 84057, US of A, (800) 451-5151 and carries a list price of \$495 for a single copy with full documentation. Mail order costs range from \$225-250 depending on the vendor. There's even a full package called a WP4Win upgrade from the same channels which sells for about \$79. Check with the vendor to see what the criteria are for this super deal.

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How Do I Love Thee ? Let Me LIST the Ways

by George Kollar - CAUG

[Reprinted from the January 1993 issue of the Newsletter of the National Capital Tandy Computer Users Group, PO Box 949, ARLINGTON VIRGINIA 22216, U S of A, where it was reprinted from the May 1991 issue of "Hard Copy", Journal of The Chicago Computer Society]

I was first introduced to LIST soon after I took the plunge onto the CCS bulletin board for the first time, back in 1985. Someone recommended I download LIST as a good program for viewing files. So, I did, and found LIST version 4.3. It was much better than its simpler cousin called BROWSE. LIST could view my WordStar files easily and filter out those funny looking embedded control characters through its "junk filter" option. LIST could change colours, too. The latter option was the selling point to stick with LIST, since I had just switched from Hercules monochrome to a CGA colour monitor.

Veteran users often echo me in encouraging all PC users to include LIST among their arsenal of utilities. It is the premier shareware program for displaying ASCII text files on your monitor -- a standard that others only imitate in some form. LIST should be on everyone's hard disk and in a directory in your path. It overshadows the MS-DOS TYPE command that mercilessly rolls information past the monitor, never to be seen again without restarting the command. LIST effortlessly views very long and very wide files (up to 16 Megs) scrollable in all directions.

In recent times, I do PC presentations using LIST to display my outlines and notes through a video projector. I sometimes change my monitor to 40-column mode by entering the MS-DOS command "MODE 40", then display text using LIST. This large character mode is presented, making text easier for an audience to read. During these occasions, I explain how I am using my PC for the presentation and take a few minutes to extol the features of LIST. Now I never leave home to do a presentation without it.

In its most recent 7.x (LIST Plus) version, LIST has added a front-end directory viewer with file management options like copy, delete, move, rename and sort directory. Its directory view is unique in its ability to display a directory in one to six column format simply by pressing keys <1> through <6>. Names in this directory view preceded by a down-arrow indicate a subdirectory under the currently displayed directory. An up-arrow indicates a parent directory. Selecting a directory will display the files contained within it.

LIST also can load your choice of editor from this viewer as long as your editor is in the path and renamed to EDIT. To edit a file in the list, just highlight a file and press <E>. I use Q-Edit (renamed to EDIT.EXE) as my choice of shareware editors for this purpose.

With the growing importance of archives to many users, LIST 7.x has a View Arc option from its file manager. Pressing <V> invokes a companion program called FV (File View) to display the highlighted archive file's directory through LIST. The only requirement is that FV.COM is also in a directory included in the path. Once the archive directory list is displayed, press <Alt-I> and use the cursor to point at a text file in the list to view its contents through LIST. All this is done without unarchiving the file to disk. In this case, the companion unarchiving program ARCE.COM must be in the path.

LIST options need not be memorised, since all options are displayed at the bottom of the screen in the directory view or summarised on a help screen displayed with <F1>. Just point-n-shoot (highlight with your cursor and hit enter) to view a text file or select an option from the bottom to perform one of the file management features described above. Similarly to big-league file managers, LIST can invoke (execute) any EXE, COM or BAT file displayed by highlighting it and pressing <I>.

The file management options are nice, but only a small slice of features that LIST contains once you view a text file, the primary purpose of LIST. Though LIST has many more options than described below, the following are ten of my favourite ways I use LIST with text files:

1. Colour and customise to taste. I like the ability to colour my software to match my wardrobe or mood of the moment. LIST colours are controlled by the function keys <F2> and <F4> through <F8>, which controls the border, main text area and highlighting colours. You can customise LIST many ways beyond colours and

press <Alt-C> to save the choices. Therefore, it is possible to clone LIST, rename it, and use each version for a different purpose.

2. View long files. Many users choose to view a text file with their word processor or editor. This works fine if the file is not too large. However, many editors can only view a file that fits into available memory after the program itself has loaded. LIST uses all available memory and then swaps sections of a file from disk into memory as needed. The result: even files up to 16 Megs can be viewed with ease. Long DOC files containing the documentation of shareware programs are easily scanned for key syntax options without the need for time consuming printing. For BBS users who capture their sessions into LOG files, LIST provides a way to scan this information quickly.

3. Display wide files. LIST can display very wide files, up to 2048 columns without wrapping. Simply use the <Right Arrow> <Left Arrow> keys to move in the direction you wish to view. To display a column ruler to keep track of your location press <Alt-R>. To make LIST wrap the viewed file within 80 columns, press <W>.

4. View several files. LIST can read in several files by listing them in sequence: LIST file1 file2 file3 ... or using a wildcard character to read in similarly named files: LIST *.TXT. LIST can then move forward from one file to the next with <Ctrl-N> or backwards through the group with <Ctrl-U>. LIST will remember your place in each file as you move back and forth among them.

5. Split the view in two. LIST can split the screen horizontally in any proportion with <Alt-W>. Then place your cursor where you want the split to occur and press <Enter>. This allows you to freeze the view of a section in one window; then view another part of the file or select a different file in the second window with <Alt-F>. To split the view vertically, press <Alt-W>, then press <Home>. Move the cursor to the column where you want the split to occur vertically and press <Enter>.

6. Bookmark places in a file. LIST can mark several places in a file with <Ctrl-Y> and then successively jump to them with repeated presses of <Alt-Y>.

7. Search for strings. LIST can search for a string by matching without regard for case with option "F" or with an exact upper and lower case match with "/". Repeat the search for the next occurrence with function key <F3> or for a previous occurrence with <F9>.

8. Split large files. LIST can mark any part of a viewed file with <Alt-M> and <Alt-B> to mark the top and bottom of a block. The highlighted section can now be written to another file with <Alt-D>. When prompted, enter the name of the file to receive the block. One huge file (up to 16 Megs) can be broken up into two or more smaller files by repeating this process as many times as necessary. After editing these smaller files, recombine them with the MS-DOS COPY:

```
COPY part1.txt + part2.txt + part3.txt combo.txt
```

9. Select and append text. LIST can aid in saving selected blocks of text to a single file. Use the same keystrokes described above to highlight text and by using the same file when prompted by pressing <D>, LIST will append (not overlay) marked text to the second file. Use this technique as a handy way to save only selected captured information or messages from a long BBS log file.

10. Print files. LIST can print an entire file you are viewing with <Ctrl-P> or just the screen currently viewed by pressing <P>. To print selected text, use <Ctrl-M> and <Ctrl-B> as described above to mark a block, then <P> to print only the highlighted section.

LIST was written by Vernon Buerg who also authors companion utilities such as FV (file view of an archive) and ARCE (an archive extractor). LIST is usually distributed on bulletin boards and shareware disks in a ZIP file that includes these companion programs. Also included are two other versions of LIST called LISTS and LISTR, which use less memory than LIST Plus, but have fewer features.

LIST is user supported software so, as Mr Buerg states in his <F1> help screen: "If you find LIST of value, your gift of \$20, or any amount, would be greatly appreciated." Any regular user of LIST should agree that he heartily deserves monetary thanks.

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MS-DOS Novice Nook # 28 Computer TechnoSpeak

by Roger R. GILER - FCUG

[Reprinted from "Voice of FCUG",
Newsletter of the Fairfield County Computer Users Group Inc.,
14 Wakefield Road, WILTON CT 06897, February 1992]

Every so often, I get pulled back down to earth by comments from club members which make me realise that my lingo has gotten out of hand. This implies that I get carried away by words and phrases that make intrinsic sense to me, but might confuse the living daylights out of people not familiar with them. For the newcomers amongst us, it may be worthwhile to take a fresh look at computers and explain words that may not be clear to everyone.

We all employ colloquialisms that we have heard for a long time and which have become second nature to us. Foreign visitors are confused by English phrases, and we are not aware that we may not make sense to them. Being foreign born and educated (somewhat), I remember that when I first went to parties, someone would invariably direct a glass towards me, and say "Here is to you!" In my mind, it translated to "Here is for you!" So I would reach for it and the clod would drink it himself. I used to think that this was a joke -- not very funny, and rather rude. Or people would say "How are you doing?" Doing what? While I attempted to figure out what they meant, they would respond to my puzzled look with "You know? How are things going?" Good grief! What things? Going where? What are they talking about?

I wanted to make these points as a way of weaseling out of the charge that I am being too technical. I promise to make amends, and clarify some of the words that I have bandied around rather freely. My hope is to make you see in your minds eye, the ideas that I am trying to convey. It is similar to learning another language. I am often asked what language I think in. I found that I do not think in any language, but in concepts that then have to be expressed in words. For people who speak only their native tongue, this notion may be difficult to comprehend since they know only a single word to verbalise each concept.

Back to Computers

I will not try to explain that word as I know that everyone comprehends what the device is. Your understanding, or mental image, may be quite different from mine, but I am convinced that the concept is clear in your mind. Of course, a computer can be a mainframe with zillions of terminals attached to it by snaking umbilical cords, or a lonely microcomputer, which is what I think about when I write this column.

While there is a popular concept that computers make a lot of mistakes (who has not seen a billing blunder in the last year?), the responsibility should in fact be placed on the shoulders of some individual. Most computers are really just plain stupid. But they are extremely obedient, lightning fast, and possess a reliable memory. When they mess up -- it can happen -- all hell breaks loose and you will know it. It will usually sit there, stare at you, and dare you to do something about it.

At the centre of the computer, figuratively speaking, is the CPU -- Central Processing Unit -- which is the brains of the machine. It is supported by peripherals. This is a fancy name for all the doodads that surround it. Without them, nothing useful would happen; or if it did, we would not know it. We have to communicate with the machine. It is like our organic computer, not much good if it just sits in our cranium and meditates. We need at least eyes, ears and hands to get anything useful flowing in and out.

Input/Output

Communication is a two-way affair. The official moniker is I/O, which stands for Input/Output. Let us look first at the input part, or eyes and ears. The most common method employed to speak to the computer is with the keyboard. This is what most of us visualise. Yet most of the data to the CPU comes from ROM (Read Only Memory chips) and disks or diskettes. Before you even type in the first character, the computer has swilled up thousands of instructions from those sources. Without that preliminary input, nothing could be done with the beast. Remember also that while the computer sits there, it is never idle. At the very least it continuously queries the keyboard for any input, and sends oxygen (make that electrons) to the memory chips to keep them alive.

When you type a single character on the keyboard, thousands of operations are taking place in the machine. It is operating continuously and looking everywhere for signs of activity. When one of the 98 to 120 keys, or combination of keys, is depressed, the computer senses which one it is. It searches its memory to determine what

action is appropriate. At the same time, a signal is sent to the video board (printed circuit in the computer that controls the display).

If you look very closely at the screen, you will see that each letter is made up of a multitude of dots, say 9 by 14 (for a total of 126 spots). Thus it is quite different from the old typewriter which only has to smack one letter always at the same spot. In direct contrast, the typical CRT (Cathode Ray Tube) has 25 rows of 80 characters (or 2000 different positions where a character can be placed). And don't forget also that many colours may be involved. It is enough to boggle the mind. Better not to think of it.

More esoteric input devices would be scanners (that read pictures or text), bar code readers, magnetic strip readers (as on credit cards), microphones And then, there is a series of devices that can perform both Input and Output. These are called storage devices and cover magnetic disks and tapes, optical storage devices, and now CDs. The modem (MOdulator/DEModulator) is a widget that connects your computer to the telephone line. This is what you need to get in touch with the rest of the world, including our bulletin board. To finish the communication cycle, the main output devices are the display, printer and speaker.

Computer Activities

Statistics show that close to 90% of all home computers are used for "word processing" -- plus other things, of course. The main comment here is that they are used to write letters or documents, but they are not at all like a typewriter. They are much more versatile even though the end result may be the same.

A somewhat newer word is "desktop publishing", which is more advanced than just producing printed words. It can generate brochures or newspapers, complete with pictures and a broad variety of fonts (characters of various shapes and sizes). The physical appearance of a promotional brochure will have a pronounced effect on the sales of the products advertised. The computer is only the tool that can generate appealing documents. The secret ingredient is still the mind (genius?) of the human artist who conceives the layout.

Next in line of uses is the spreadsheet, this is nothing more than a grid with letters and numbers to designate the rows and columns. I have heard from unreliable sources that the green colour of screen was selected to avoid causing a trauma for the beancounters. All the paper spreadsheets that I had to use in my corporate days were always green. In Europe, the paper spreadsheets are generally amber. Care to guess what the most popular screen colour is there? While a spreadsheet can perform many mathematical functions, the main feature is its ability to add rows and rows, as well as columns and columns of numbers -- swiftly.

The "database" is a new word for a collection of information, and has spawned more new words than the previously mentioned applications. This was because it introduced new concepts in keeping records. The major types are the flat and the relational databases. Without going into lengthy explanations, let me say that the relational one saves a great deal of input effort. It accomplishes this by allowing us to use short but meaningful -- to us -- code names such as FCUG, for the club. When we look at the item on the screen, the computer will show the full name, address, phone number and members in a "related" file (collection of data) which contains that information. This is an example where the computer can greatly simplify our life..

Lately, there has been a new approach to simplify the use of the computer, and baffle the users. It is called Windows. It is an operating system which works with MS-DOS but hides it from us so that we can now point at cutesy little pictures to generate action. It is colourful and useful, but rather slow and requires a lot of hardware (make that fast chips, copious memory, more hard disk space) plus a great deal of patience to get results. Of course, it has introduced a whole new vocabulary dealing with the rodent, with words such as click, double click, pointer, drag, scroll bar Don't forget also UAE (the ever present Unidentified Application Error) which tends to send your data to never-never land.

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UNITED STATES of AMERICA

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Some of what is included in our library. These newsletters may be borrowed by members. Members attending meetings at Sefton should see our Librarian. Other members may apply to our P.O. Box. Postage will, of course, be charged for those forwarded by mail.

December 1992**"Canberra Micro-80"**

Newsletter of the Canberra Micro-80 Users Group
18 Callabonna Street, KALBEN ACT 2617

Grammar, According to Ami Pro - Which only confirms that we are still waiting for a satisfactory computer based grammar checker:
Of Ramdrive and Manuals and Such Things - More problems with Windows:
Tracking Changes in Your System - About BATch files to produce "before and after" snapshots of the system when making changes in order to identify any new files generated in the process.

"Computer News 80"

P.O. Box 680, CASPER WYOMING 82602-0680, US of A

Editorial Comments - Mainly local interest:

The Old and the New - About some programs available from The File Cabinet:

Mine Field and Other Subjects - About a game and communication programming:

A Visit With David Goben - DeskMate Notes; Gemini 10 Printers; Tandy Idiosyncrasies; Newdos/80 Formats; HD Filter or Repartition ?; Dotwriter Font Format; Postmaster Font Format; Disk Pieces Parts; Disk Optimisation; What Are Subdirectories ?:

Hard Disk Drives - A general discussion:

RECOPY3 and RECOPY4 - Two programs available on the CN80 Disk Series:

Andy's Hardware Hacker Project Number Two - Reducing RFI on the Model 4 Gate Array:

Compare Differences for Model III and 4 Basic Programs - A pair of BASIC programs:

Two BASIC Programs for Model 4 - For calculating bicycle gearing and printing scales to indicate print width:

Open Forum - Letters, questions, and sometimes, answers.

"HAWTUG NEWS"

Newsletter of the Hawaii TRS-80 User Group,
366 Elelupe Road, HONOLULU HAWAII 96821

Word for Windows Tip - Modifying the Files Menu:

Guava Graphics - About some Hawaiian clipart:

Microsoft Money - Microsoft goes for the low end of the software market:

Typeface Selection Guidelines - Some suggestions for typefaces to be use for various applications, also a few general pointers for desktop publishing etc.

"National Capital Tandy Computer Users Group"

Newsletter of the National Capital Tandy Computer Users Group
P.O. Box 949, ARLINGTON VIRGINIA 22216, US of A

Presidential Bits - Mainly of local interest:

PC-Write Standard Level 2.0 - Very brief overview of a word processor:

The Smart Label Printer - Review of a hardware cum software package:

Professor DOS #9 - A regular column of MS-DOS commands and/or operation:

CorelDraw - Part 1 - An overview:

Wait States and Caches - Some words of wisdom:

DR DOS: The Other Operating System - Some general discussion:

Batch File for Startups - One batch file to start various applications:

Dot and Dot Dot - Quick reference to directories.

"SVCS Newsletter"

Newsletter of the Silicon Valley Computer Society
2464 El Camino Real #190, SANTA CLARA CA 95051, US of A

Change and the "Year of UNIX" - Why UNIX won't take the computer world by storm:

Symantec Product Notes - Information collected at an APCUG "Summit Meeting":

Word Rapping with Jan - A regular Q and A column for Word for Windows and/or Excel.

"LLIST"

Newsletter of the Calgary Color Computer Club
Box 22 STN."M", CALGARY. ALBERTA. T2P 2G9, CANADA.

From the Editor's Desk - Mainly local interest:

We Get a Letter - About a magazine on disk for CoCo users:

President's Message - Mainly local interest:

We Get a Letter - Mainly local interest:

Correction to DOSUP Program - Correcting a typo in a previously published program:

What is a computer ? - A humorous item.

"NATGUG News"

Newsletter of the National Tandy & General User Group
24 Granville Road, MELKSHAM SN12 8AS, UNITED KINGDOM

Editorial Jottings - A BASIC program for sorting UK mail to get preferential postage rates:

The Lost Screen - Reprinted from "The Voice of FCUG" - July 1991:

Resolution - Reprinted from Canberra Micro-80 - July 1991:

Bert's Raving Again - Reprinted from "Thuggery" - July 1991:

Novice Nook - Reprinted from "The Voice of FCUG" - November 1991:

Dorchester Dottings - Mainly personal and or local material:

Wise Old Sayings - Reprinted from "Adelaide Micro User News" - October 1991:

Is Bigger Better ? - Reprinted from "The Voice of FCUG" - August 1991:

The Tandy 2810 - A Mini Review - Reprinted from "The Voice of FCUG" - June 1991:

PRO's Notes - Mainly personal and or local material:

A Saga of a Cable Connector - Reprinted from "Bits & Bytes" - April 1991:

A Poor Man's Hard Drive - Reprinted from "Bits & Bytes" - March 1991:

More on Tandy Printer Cables - Reprinted from "Thuggery" - September 1991:

Who Needs It ? - Reprinted from Canberra Micro-80 - July 1991:

Bert's Raving Again - Reprinted from "Thuggery" - July 1991:

Model 4 Corner - Memory Upgrades - Reprinted from "Bits & Bytes" - April 1991:

Mods 4/4D/4P - Reprinted from "Bits & Bytes" - April 1991:

Hard Drives Revisited - Reprinted from "Hawtug News" - January 1991:

Novice Nook - DOSKEY - Reprinted from "The Voice of FCUG" - December 1991:

IBM Characters on a TRS-80 - Reprinted from "SYDTRUG News" - August 1991:

Windows BBS - Reprinted from Canberra Micro-80 - August 1991:

Model 4 Corner - Reprinted from "Bits & Bytes":

The World According to Student Bloopers - Reprinted from "Bits & Bytes" - May 1992.

"The Voice of FCUG"

Newsletter of The Fairfield County Computer Users Group
14 Wakefield Road, WILTON CT 06897, US of A

Editor's Desk - Mainly local interest:

How to Keep Your Sanity - Some consoling thoughts about some error messages:

A Virus of its Own - Some advice re the CORRECT method of using anti-virus software:

Now You See It - Now You Don't - About deleting files under MS-DOS:

Reverse Printing - HP LJIII - A quick tip:

The Cry of the Curmudgeon - A lament for the increasing complexity of commercial software:

Far East Computers - A poem:

Abstract Computing - Tricks with Dot and Double-Dot:

User Group Demographic Study - Relates to American scene:

Temporary File Names - Quick Tip:

Windows 3.1 and 9600 BPS Modem Use in Background - Quick tip:

What's News - Keeping in touch with current (Computer) events:

The End - Winding up his first issue as editor.

"WNYTUG News"

Newsletter of Western New York Tandy Users Group
172 Congress Street, BUFFALO NEW YORK 14213, US of A

Editorial - Mainly local interest:

Scanners and IBMs Do Mix - Discussing a new interface for scanning radio receivers and computers:

The One (and Only) i486 - Reprinted from National Capital Tandy Users Group - November 1992:

How to Sell Your Trash - Reprinted from "SYDTRUG News".

"Adelaide Micro User News"

Newsletter of the Adelaide Micro User Group
G.P.O. Box 214, ADELAIDE S.A. 5001

The Army's Ultimate Network - Report on a talk presented to a group meeting:

PC Corner - Strictly local interest:

From Our Chairman Erik - Mainly local interest:

Rod's Ramblings - Mainly local interest:

Installing a Second IDE Hard Disk - Quite a saga:

On the Board - Mainly local interest:

Word Processors and Text Editors - Mainly about QEDIT:

How to Solve Logic Problems - Reprinted from "NATGUG News" - April 1991:

Number Crunching - Reprinted from "SYDTRUG News" - August 1992:

A Bit of Unusual Computer History - Reprinted from "The Voice of FCUG" - July 1991.

"The Interface"

Newsletter of The San Gabriel Valley Tandy Users Group
P.O. Box 6818, BURBANK CA 91510, US of A

President's Column - Mainly local interest:

PC Hints & Tips - A variety of pointers for users of MS-DOS applications.

"Thuggery"

Newsletter of The Hobart Users Group
P.O. Box 420, MOONAH TASMANIA 7009

President's Page - Mainly local content:

Back to the Computer - Some general information about the Canadian scene:

Chips and More Chips - Reprinted from "PC-NATGUG News" - November 1992:

Public Domain Library Notes - Strictly local:

Happenings - Mainly local content:

Computer Hygiene - A discussion of computer viruses.

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MS-DOS Novice Nook # 29
Books Galore

by Roger R. GILER - FCUG

[Reprinted from "Voice of FCUG",
Newsletter of the Fairfield County Computer Users Group Inc.,
14 Wakefield Road, WILTON CT 06897, May 1992]

As computers become more popular (allegedly 28% of all households own one), it does not take a rocket scientist to see why books on the subject proliferate. Even before programs are officially available, books that purport to make their use easier are already in the bookstores. While I am not a voracious reader, I like to browse the shelves to see what is available. Invariably, my feet take me to the computer book area. This undoubtedly must have something to do with the age, as in the olden days, I seem to recall drifting more toward the "art" section, the one with all the interesting pictures

In a large store, looking through the stacks can be quite a chore. There are so many different books. No need to ask why there are so many: authors, or their agents, have discovered a financial bonanza. Do we really need that much printed information? Should not software be friendly enough to avoid all these books? The manager of a local computer book outlet told me that he stocked over one hundred titles on WordPerfect. Amazing, considering that WordPerfect claims to employ 815 software support

people and provides that service with a battery of toll-free 800 numbers.

If you have not visited a store yourself, you might think that I am exaggerating. No way! I received a flier in the mail covering titles for DOS 5.0. Here is a sampler from it: User's handbook, Power Tools, Mastering, Maximizing, ABCs of, Unlocking, Best Book of, Little Book of, Key to, At Work, Made easy, First Book, Discovering, Reference and Instant Reference. And don't forget that the DOS is only a platform (a necessary evil) on which programs operate. Many users have been known to lead full and productive lives without ever worrying about the DOS.

Pirate Fodder

People who "borrow" software are known as pirates. After all, many of us have been known to do that, but we bristle at the thought of being branded as thieves. Heaven forbid, that would be calling a spade a spade. Unfortunately, there are more pirated copies of software in the real world than honestly acquired ones. So one of the uses of software books is to support programs that the user has not legitimately purchased. Many business persons who would never think of stealing, have no qualms about copying someone's program. But it is not my intent here to pontificate or philosophise on the subject of honesty -- as related to computing.

The first question, knowing that all my readers are upstanding moral citizens is: why buy a computer book? Normally, big and thorough manuals come with most good software. The manuals from Borland are enough to cause a hernia. But what about documentation quality? That is the big variable. An example of a good manual is the one that Microsoft provides with MS-DOS 5.0. Yet when I went to buy the program at the local store, a great effort was made to sell me a separate book about it. I succumbed, as most others did, and bought it -- but I should not have. It offered nothing useful.

Why Buy Books

Other than nefarious purposes mentioned earlier, there are often needs for a book. The main one, in my mind, is to get examples of actual uses, in contrast to the manuals' explanation of how things can be done. As an example, I work with Borland's Paradox database. It comes with eight large booklets as documentation. Since I am a heavy user of it, I found it worthwhile to acquire another eight textbooks on the subject. Overkill? For sure, but one good example per book saves me enough in billable time to pay for it.

Quite often, manuals are written under duress by the software developers after their work is complete. They understand very clearly what they wrote, but unfortunately, they may be the only ones who do. Their boss will count the number of pages produced to determine if the job was done properly. How else could one establish the compensation? By the number of pages, of course. What does the boss know or care about content? Ever speak to a publisher? The first question is: how many pages? Under those conditions, a book written by a user, or third party, may be of far greater value than the manual.

The best beginner's book ever written would probably be by a first time user of a program. He would record all the questions that came to his mind when working with the software. I am still waiting for that one. I buy a lot of books. If I had to pick the worst one, it would be the PC Computing Guide to Quicken 5.0. It cost more than the program, and the manual that came with the software was better and easier to use. I just happened to be looking for Nirvana: the painless way to do accounting.

How to Pick

With the plethora of books, how should you know which one to buy? That depends on your needs, particularly when it comes to reference manuals. First look at the book's font. Is it easily readable? That will depend on the quality of your vision. Is the table of contents organized in an intelligent (in your opinion) way? This would indicate a similar approach to problems -- and solving them.

My own method is simple and effective. I decide on three specific questions that I would like answered and use that as the criterion for buying the book. Which book most clearly describes the solutions that I seek? And that includes finding the subjects in the table of contents. In case I cannot think of three unsolved problems, I try to come up with subjects that took me time to resolve satisfactorily. In searching for these answers, I also get a first hand acquaintance with the book.

Come to think of it, it must be time for me to start a used book store. Need anything?

Installing a Second IDE Drive

by Peter Lynn

[Reprinted from "Adelaide Micro User News", Newsletter of the Adelaide Micro User Group Inc., GPO Box 214, ADELAIDE SA 5001, December 1992]

How things change. When I purchased my latest computer, I decided on an 80MB hard drive which should have given me virtually unlimited space compared to the 20MB in the previous computer. Oh how wrong you can be. Within twelve months I was fighting a losing battle with insufficient disk space.

The question I had to answer was, how much disk space did I need? I thought about replacing the current disk drive with a 120MB drive but that only gave me an additional 40MB -- not really a wise move based on previous experience. I could go for a 200MB drive which should be adequate. If I replaced the 80MB drive with a 200MB drive, I would have to transfer all the files using a backup program. This did not excite me, when I thought about all the floppy disks required.

The alternative was to leave the 80MB drive in the computer and add a 120MB drive as the second drive. The IDE specification allows for two drives, the first is the "master", and the second the slave. The controller card in my computer does support two drives. This seemed the best and easiest way to go.

The 80MB drive is a Maxtor and on checking prices around town and interstate, I found that Quantum or Western Digital 120MB were the cheapest. I decided on a Connor based on other people's experience.

The Connor drive was purchased and on opening the anti-static bag I found that it had the usual amount of documentation -- none. There were three jumpers on the drive namely E1, DSP and C/D. These names meant nothing to me so I had to locate the agent for Connor and get the necessary information as to how to configure the jumpers for a slave drive. All the local computer suppliers I contacted could not help as they only install one drive and they come already configured. It turns out that C/D is C drive or D drive (no jumper for D), DSP when jumpered indicates that a slave drive is present (only jumpered on the master).

That problem over, another one appeared -- what were the jumpers on the Maxtor and how to change them if required. I took the Maxtor out of the computer and found numerous jumpers with no indication as to the function of each jumper. Another search to find the agent and another request for information. This was given and was basically to reverse the jumpers on J19 and J20 (i.e. if there was a jumper on J19, remove it, and install one if there was not a jumper on it). As part of the discussion, I was asked if the new drive was a Western Digital. I asked, WHY, and was told that there can be compatibility problems between some Maxtor and WD drives. Seems I chose right for a change.

With all that sorted out, I installed the new drive, set up the CMOS RAM configuration for the new drive, did an FDISK to create 4 partitions and formatted each without any problems.

To test the disk drive prior to placing files on it, I ran a program called CALIBRATE for about ten hours -- this does an extensive pattern write/read of the surface to check for defects -- none were reported. I now have a total of 200MB of hard disk space which should last for a while -- maybe.

I had read that IDE drives were easier to install compared to the ST506 MFM drives but I think that only applies to a single drive -- there appears to be no standard for naming the jumpers used in configuring the drives (I have seen the documentation for Quantum drives and the jumpers have different markings on them).

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PrimeType from LaserTools

by Rod McKenzie - Madison PC Users Group

[Reprinted from the January 1993 issue of the Newsletter of the National Capital Tandy Computer Users Group, PO Box 949, ARLINGTON VIRGINIA 22216, U S of A, where it was reprinted from "Bits & PCs", newsletter of Madison PC Users Group via APCUG]

Maybe this is the case with you. You'd like better looking typefaces than the ones in your printer, but you're not ready to work in Windows and a new laser printer is out of the question. You

don't need to envy the Windows word processors any more. Any PostScript Type 1 typeface can be used with WordPerfect for MS-DOS simply by adding PrimeType from LaserTools. You don't need a PostScript printer. In fact, it doesn't require that you use a laser printer at all.

It really is a simple task to load PrimeType and get it running with WordPerfect. The setup program moves the user through a very straightforward process of installation, starting with selection of the directories where PrimeType will reside and where it can find the font files that it will need. The PostScript Type 1 files are scaleable so it doesn't use a lot of hard disk space to hold a large selection of typefaces.

Besides WordPerfect 5.0/5.1 for MS-DOS, PrimeType works with LetterPerfect 1.0, PlanPerfect 5.0/5.1, WordPerfect Works 1.0, and WordPerfect for Windows 5.1. To support the Windows version, PrimeType includes a copy of Adobe Type Manager. There are 13 fonts supplied with the software to get the user started. Many sources exist for PostScript fonts: Adobe, Image Club, The Monotype Library, other third-party vendors, and user group BBSs, shareware authors and even freeware.

PrimeType's installation program, PTINSTALL, will add several printer driver files for WordPerfect. It's necessary to have selected one of these special printer drivers first, before trying to include the fonts into a document. There are printer drivers for dot matrix, inkjet, and laser printers. In the case of laser printers, the program will ask the user to identify how much memory the printer has installed. During the setup of the printer driver, the user will have to identify the drive and directory where the PostScript files will be found. After selecting a printer, select the Edit option, and then press C for cartridges and fonts.

Using WordPerfect with PrimeType is a simple matter. Start the program by typing PTWP. This will start PrimeType and WordPerfect at the same time. To get at the fonts and choose one of these special typefaces that's going to catch lots of attention, press Ctrl-F8 for Fonts, and F for Base Font. A list of the fonts that have been loaded in PrimeType should appear. Highlight one from this list and then enter a point size to get started.

LaserTools has made it as easy as possible for the WordPerfect user to enjoy the direct access to fonts that the GUI word processors have at hand. They've included a keyboard definition file called Quick Keys, which gives the control key combinations that really speed up the management of typeface appearance. The keyboard definition is selected in the Shift-F1 Setup screen, under the Keyboard Layout choice. Here are some of the key combinations: ctrl-b (bold), ctrl-c (centre), ctrl-f (base font), ctrl-i (italics), ctrl-u (underline), ctrl-[(open double quote), ctrl-] (close double quote), control-r (round bullet), ctrl-m (special characters menu). Wait a minute! All this action with the Control key? Did somebody from WordStar just sneak in the side door?

Users who find that changing from their MS-DOS based version of WordPerfect is just too much trouble, but still want the graphic type interfaces that PostScript can offer, should take a serious look at PrimeType from LaserTools.

PrimeType is from: LaserTools, 1250 45th Street, Suite 100, Emeryville CA 94608, US of A. (510) 420-8777, (800) 767-8004, (510) 420-1150 (Fax)

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For Sale

Members wishing to purchase MS-DOS type hardware should first contact:

MICRO EXPRESS

mention SYDTRUG Inc. and quote their membership number. They should be pleasantly surprised by the discounts available to members.

Voice Phone: (02) 484-6507 after 8:00 PM
FAX: (02) 481-0236

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Worth Repeating

When schemes are laid in advance, it is surprising how often the circumstances fit in with them. -- Sir William Osler

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SYDTRUG Inc.

The Sydney TRS-80 / MS-DOS Users Group

Payment of Annual Membership Fees for 1993/1994

Family Name : _____ Membership No. : _____
Given Name(s) : _____
Preferred Name : _____
Telephone No. Home : _____ Work : _____
Residential Address Postal Address
Street : _____ Street : _____
Suburb : _____ Suburb : _____
State : _____ State : _____
Post Code : _____ Post Code : _____

Please fill in details of your computer equipment and interests on the back of this form so that the Group may be better able to support you.

Payment Details

| | Single | Family |
|----------------------|----------|----------|
| Group Membership Fee | \$ 45.00 | \$ 55.00 |

I enclose Cash/Cheque/Money Order for \$_____ No. of Members _____
(Family)

or

Please CHARGE my BANKCARD MASTERCARD VISA

Name on Card : _____ Card EXPIRY Date. ___/___/___

No. : _____ with the amount of \$_____

Signature : _____ Date ___/___/___

Cheques should be crossed and made payable to "SYDTRUG Inc."

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This completed form should be returned to :

The Secretary, SYDTRUG Inc., P.O. Box 75, PANANIA NSW 2213, Australia

Office Use Only :

Date Received ___/___/___

Badge Issued Init : _____ Mail/Hand

Receipt No. : _____ ___/___/___

Membership No. Checked:

Init. : _____

Members Database: Updated/Added ___/___/___

Bulletin Board(s) : Updated/Added ___/___/___

Member's Computer System(s) Details

Please enter the details of your computer equipment on this questionnaire.

This is not mandatory, but will enable us to determine the services best suited to your needs / interests.

Use [1] to indicate your Primary (most used) System and [X] for any other equipment that you use / own.

Tandy 8 bit Computers & Compatibles

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Model I <input type="checkbox"/> | Model 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | Model II <input type="checkbox"/> | Coco 2 <input type="checkbox"/> | Model 100 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| System 80 <input type="checkbox"/> | Model 4P <input type="checkbox"/> | Model 12 <input type="checkbox"/> | Coco 3 <input type="checkbox"/> | Model 200 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Genie <input type="checkbox"/> | | Model 16 <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Model III <input type="checkbox"/> | Other _____ | | | |

Storage

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------|---|---|---|----------------------|
| Cassette <input type="checkbox"/> | Drives | 8" | 5 1/4" | 3 1/2" | Hard Disk _____ Megs |
| Cartridge <input type="checkbox"/> | Sides | SS <input type="checkbox"/> DS <input type="checkbox"/> | SS <input type="checkbox"/> DS <input type="checkbox"/> | SS <input type="checkbox"/> DS <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | Density | SD <input type="checkbox"/> DD <input type="checkbox"/> | SD <input type="checkbox"/> DD <input type="checkbox"/> | SD <input type="checkbox"/> DD <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | Tracks | 77 <input type="checkbox"/> 80 <input type="checkbox"/> | 40 <input type="checkbox"/> 80 <input type="checkbox"/> | 40 <input type="checkbox"/> 80 <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Operating System

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Level I <input type="checkbox"/> | TRS-DOS 2.x <input type="checkbox"/> | NewDOS 80 <input type="checkbox"/> | LDOS 5.x <input type="checkbox"/> | CPM <input type="checkbox"/> | OS-9 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Level II <input type="checkbox"/> | TRS-DOS 1.3 <input type="checkbox"/> | | TRS-DOS 6.x <input type="checkbox"/> | UNIX <input type="checkbox"/> | |

MS-DOS based Computers

| Brand | Type | Memory | Style | Monitor | VGA Type |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| IBM <input type="checkbox"/> | PC <input type="checkbox"/> | _____K | Laptop <input type="checkbox"/> | Mono <input type="checkbox"/> | Mono <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tandy <input type="checkbox"/> | XT <input type="checkbox"/> | _____K | Portable <input type="checkbox"/> | Hercules <input type="checkbox"/> | Colour <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Amstrad <input type="checkbox"/> | AT <input type="checkbox"/> | _____K | Desktop <input type="checkbox"/> | CGA <input type="checkbox"/> | Super <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commodore <input type="checkbox"/> | 386 <input type="checkbox"/> | _____K | Tower <input type="checkbox"/> | EGA <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | 486 <input type="checkbox"/> | _____K | Mini-Tower <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| | | _____K | | | |

Storage

| Disk Drives | | Hard Disk _____ Megs | | Tape Drives | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| 5 1/4" | 3 1/2" | MFM <input type="checkbox"/> | ESDI <input type="checkbox"/> | Cassette _____ Megs | |
| 180K <input type="checkbox"/> | 720K <input type="checkbox"/> | RLL <input type="checkbox"/> | SCSI <input type="checkbox"/> | Cartridge _____ Megs | |
| 360K <input type="checkbox"/> | 1.44M <input type="checkbox"/> | IDE <input type="checkbox"/> | CD-ROM <input type="checkbox"/> | Other _____ | |
| 720K <input type="checkbox"/> | 2.88M <input type="checkbox"/> | | | _____ Megs | |
| 1.2M <input type="checkbox"/> | | Cartridge _____ Megs | Optical _____ Megs | | |

Printer

| Dot Matrix | | Daisy Wheel | | Laser | |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| C.Itoh & compatible | Model _____ | Tandy DWP | Model _____ | Postscript | Model _____ |
| Epson & compatible | Model _____ | NEC | Model _____ | HP | Model _____ |
| Tandy LP / DMP | Model _____ | Qume | Model _____ | TI | Model _____ |
| IBM & compatible | Model _____ | Other _____ | | Epson | Model _____ |
| InkJet | Model _____ | | | Brother | Model _____ |
| Other _____ | | | | Brother | Model _____ |
| | | | | Other _____ | |

Modem

V21 V23 V22 V22bis V32 Trail Blazer Hayes Compatible Other _____

Interests and/or Expertise

| Hardware | Applications | Programming | | Games | |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Design <input type="checkbox"/> | Utilities <input type="checkbox"/> | JCL/Batch <input type="checkbox"/> | Basic <input type="checkbox"/> | Graphics <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Repair <input type="checkbox"/> | Word Processors <input type="checkbox"/> | Assembly <input type="checkbox"/> | C <input type="checkbox"/> | Text Adv. <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | Business <input type="checkbox"/> | PostScript <input type="checkbox"/> | Pascal <input type="checkbox"/> | Educational <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| | Spread Sheets <input type="checkbox"/> | Fortran <input type="checkbox"/> | Forth <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| | Databases <input type="checkbox"/> | Cobol <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| | Educational <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | |

Other _____

Office Use Only.

Entered into Membership Database: ____/____/____

Inits : _____