



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

P.O. BOX 75, PANANIA 2213
AUSTRALIA

Volume 15 Issue 2 FEBRUARY 1995 Price \$2.00

CONTENTS

TITLE	AUTHOR	PAGE
And Start Again at Your Beginnings	Kevin Formby - SYDTRUG	11
Treasurer's Report for December 1994	Tom Foley - SYDTRUG	11
For Sale - E. FOLEY		11
Norton Utilities v 7.0	Marc L. Valley	12
aming True Type Fonts	Paul M. Glattstein - FCUG	13
For Sale - RS-232 Boards		13
Exchange Newsletters - October 1994		14
For Sale - MICRO EXPRESS		15
Save Your Old Computer	Kevin Lynn - SVCS	15
For Sale - CD ROM Disks and Caddies		15
Upgrade Mania	The Curmudgeon - SVCS	16
Obituary for Quicksoft - Early Friend of PC Users	T.R. Reid & Brit Hume	16
Software Review: 1st Press	Blair Jones - NCTCUG	17
For Sale - L.A.N. MIND		18

MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

```

*****
*
* Meetings will be held on SECOND and FOURTH Saturday
* afternoons each month commencing at 1:00 P.M. at the
* 1st Sefton Scout Hall, 4 Waldron Road, SEFTON
*
*
* Meetings will be held on
* 11th and 25th of February 1995
* 11th and 25th of March 1995
*
*****

```

```

*****
*
* SYDTRUG Bulletin Board
*
* TRUG-86, the MS-DOS/TRS-80 Bulletin Board,
*
* At the September, 1994 General Meeting, members
* resolved that the Bulletin Board be closed down due to
* lack of interest and participation by members and the
* low number of productive enquiries by visitors.
*
*
* Members may now access the Night Rider Bulletin
* Board on (02) 570-4242
*
*****

```

WHO'S WHO

President	Denis J. PAGETT (02) 772-4848
Vice-President	Peter WIGNELL (02) 759-8024
Secretary	Bruce RAMSAY (02) 660-7248
Treasurer	Tom FOLEY (02) 389-6157
Public Officer	Tom FOLEY (02) 389-6157
Hardware Co-ordinator	Errol ROSSER (02) 796-7646
Membership Secretary	Peter WIGNELL (02) 759-8024
MS-DOS Software Librarian	David SUTTON (02) 771-5482
Newsletter Editor	John MERCER (02) 579-2915

CREDIT CARDS

We have the facility to charge your membership fees, or renewal fees to either **BANKCARD**, **MASTERCARD** or **VISA**. Additionally, purchases 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.

Closing Dates for Newsletter Copy:

March 1995 - 11th February 1995 -
April 1995 - 11th March 1995 -

The contents of this publication are (c) 1995 by SYDTRUG Inc. All rights reserved. Enquiries should be directed to "The Secretary", SYDTRUG Inc., P.O. Box 75, PANANIA N.S.W., AUSTRALIA 2213. Material appearing in this publication may be reprinted in similar computer club newsletters and nonprofit publications if accompanied by the following notice:

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 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.

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".

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)	\$15.00 (Preformatted)

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

And Start Again at Your Beginnings

by Kevin Formby - SYDTRUG

Suppose that your hard disk were to fail - a dreadful thought, but not at all impossible (ask our erstwhile Sysop). Suppose further that your A drive is 5.25 inches and B drive is 3.25 inches, and you can't find your DOS install disks. You are in deep trouble.

Enquiries in the shops reveal that copies of the DOS on 5.25 are not available, although you can get MS-DOS 5 or 6 on 3.5 without much trouble. The problem is then to change your B drive into A drive, both physically and logically. (I have not mentioned lost data on the hard disk because you always back-up your hard disk, don't you?)

In normal operation you change B drive to A drive with the command:

ASSIGN b a <Enter>

but this is a DOS command, and DOS is temporarily not available. We have to take off the cover and get down into the engine-room.

Having removed the power plug and then the cover, you look at the rear of your (floppy) disk drives and observe that each has two cables attached. One cable has four separate wires (the power cable), and the other is a ribbon cable (the signal cable). The power cable comes from a metal box with a warning sign on it - the power supply. The ribbon cable comes from the mother board of the computer.

The power cables need not be touched, although it won't hurt to check that the plugs are fully inserted into the drives.

The ribbon cables have a red line along one side. Down at the mother board you should find that the red line is at the end of the socket marked 1. Do not remove the plug from the mother board, but see if it looks firmly plugged in.

As the ribbon cable leaves the mother board you will see two plugs attached to it (one plug should be in your B drive.) Just past these plugs there is a kind of twist in the ribbon where some wires have been interchanged. Past this twist you come to two more plugs in the ribbon, one of which will be connected to your A drive.

The twist tells the computer that the plugs before the twist are B, and those after it are A. There are two plugs in each position, one suitable for 5.25, the other for 3.5. Most people want A on top, so the A plugs are at the end, furthest from the mother board.

The red line on the cable is to ensure that the plugs are inserted right way round, since they can go either way. If you remove one from a drive, and can't remember which way it went, the red line is adjacent to "pin 1" on the socket of the drive. (This may be hard to see, so you should take note of it before removal.)

You remove the ribbon plugs from your A and B drives, and put the correct A plug into your B drive. This has to be done with great care, since the 3.25 drive has a socket with a double row of pins, and the plug can be easily mis-inserted. Do not push it home until you are sure it is in correctly. Your old B drive is now A (physically), and it remains to make it A drive logically. The original A drive can be left without connection to the ribbon cable for the time being.

Restore power to the computer and check that the lights on each drive go on briefly and then go out. (If a light stays on, then the ribbon plug is probably not inserted correctly.) Put the first INSTALL DOS disk in the drive and press RESET. Press Alt (or whatever) at the prompt before it attempts to use DOS, and go into Setup. If you haven't used Setup before, then it's time you did.

Setup is part of the adjustable ROM without which your computer could never be started. Even its colour scheme can be varied, but I use it so rarely that I never bothered.

On the first screen of Setup, (BIOS SETUP PROGRAM), move the cursor with the direction keys until STANDARD CMOS SETUP is high-lighted, and press Enter. Read the warning screen, and press Enter again. The new screen is headed BIOS SETUP PROGRAM - STANDARD CMOS SETUP. Move cursor with direction keys. As the cursor highlights each item, look in the box below (blue background, off-white printing) where options for the item are displayed. Use the Pg Up or Pg Dn keys to choose the desired option. In this case we are only adjusting Floppy Drive A.

When it is reading the correct values, press Esc (NOT Enter). You are back to BIOS SETUP PROGRAM. Move the cursor to WRITE TO CMOS AND EXIT, and press Enter. Change N to Y, and press Enter again. Press Esc. Change N to Y, press Enter, and you are out of Setup, and back to the normal boot-up routine.

Since DOS is not installed you will be left sitting on the A drive prompt, at which point you re-install DOS. Having done so, just to make sure, you should leave the drive empty and reboot. If it boots up OK, then undo all the above changes which you made in Setup, and you are back in business.

One last thing. If your 5.25 A drive is 1.2 Mb you might like to COPY your DOS onto A floppies, just in case you have another catastrophe, and then you don't have to go through the above rigmarole again. But please be careful putting the plug into the 3.5 inch drive.

Treasurer's Report for December 1994

by Tom Foley - SYDTRUG

INCOME:	December	Year to Date
Members' Subscriptions:		
Renewals:	145.00	1,295.00
New: Joining Fees	0.00	60.00
Annual Fees	0.00	135.00
5 year Subs to 1999	0.00	200.00
	-----	-----
	145.00	1,690.00
Software - Deposit	0.00	300.00
Members' Purchases:		
TRS-80 Software	0.00	80.00
Blank Disks	12.00	286.00
Hardware	0.00	22.00
Sundries	0.00	70.00
	-----	-----
	12.00	458.00
Other Receipts:		
Sundries	0.00	15.00
	-----	-----
TOTAL INCOME	\$157.00	\$2,463.00
	=====	=====
EXPENDITURE:		
Newsletter Costs:		
Printing	160.00	1,040.00
Postage	39.90	282.10
	-----	-----
	199.90	1,322.10
Meeting Costs:		
Rent	50.00	300.00
Purchases for Members:		
Software and Manuals	0.00	80.00
Blank Disks	0.00	255.00
	-----	-----
	0.00	335.00
Admin Costs:		
Bank Charges and fees	4.85	42.13
Committee Expenses	3.25	62.15
Post and Telephone	19.15	161.50
Photocopying Costs	4.80	29.00
	-----	-----
	32.05	294.78
Bulletin Board Running	0.00	269.40
Capital Expenditure	0.00	200.00
	-----	-----
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$ 281.95	\$2,721.28
	=====	=====

For Sale

Amstrad PC1512 Dual Disk Drive. Black & White Monitor
Printer Star NX-1000 multi font. All manuals. Assorted software

Price \$200 or nearest offer.

Phone Elizabeth Foley or Mark Parilla
(02) 810-3017

Norton Utilities v 7.0

by Marc L. Valley

[Reprinted from the October 1994 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 February 1994 issue of "Pikes Peak Computer Applications Society Newsletter", Newsletter of the Pikes Peak Computer Applications Society Inc.]

Peter Norton has always put out a great product, and Norton Utilities version 7.0 has got to be the best yet. Just a couple of the new features that put this version ahead of any others are the addition of support for compressed drives, hardware diagnostics, a "Rescue Disk" and an enhanced File Fix. I'll go through all the new features as well as the "oldies" in the next few hundred words.

In the past, if you had Stacker or some other type of disk compression utility you had to use their defragmenting program, and it always seemed to take hours. With SPEED DISK in version 7.0, not only is it fast, but it can handle Stacker, DoubleSpace, SuperStor and SuperStor Pro. This in itself is a great justification for purchasing the Norton Utilities version 7.0 (from now on I'll call it NU 7.0). In only a few short minutes all my disk's partitions were totally defragmented. If you have large hard drives, NU 7.0 will support them, up to 2 gigabytes in size. I wish I had that much space to play with - 2 gigabytes, that's 2,000 megabytes.

NU 7.0 has its own diagnostics program (NDIAGS). NDIAGS is a very comprehensive, total system, diagnostics program. It will test the memory, the motherboard, serial and parallel ports, hard and floppy drives, your video board and more. For full diagnostics of your serial and parallel ports it gives you the option to use Loop-Back plugs. For \$19.95 Symantec will sell you a complete set (9 and 25 pin serial and a 25 pin parallel), or you can make your own using the pinouts provided. Using the latest Radio Shack catalogue I priced the parts at \$8.14 for the necessary D-sub connectors and hoods. You will need some wire and solder/soldering iron also. I made up a set of the loop-back plugs, tested them out and everything went fine, no bad ports. One thing of note, though, I have a Trident T8900 video board with one meg of memory. It has a bad chip, but NU 7.0 didn't diagnose it. I talked to a few computer dealers. They told me that it is hard to determine how much memory a video board has, and testing it sometimes is not reliable. NU 7.0 takes full advantage of MS-DOS 6.0. It supports DoubleSpace drives, memory optimisation, multiple boot-up configurations and much, much more. Also, now you don't need that utility program you had to have to copy disks. NU 7.0 will copy all disks in one pass. No more disk swapping!

The enhanced File Fix will repair more than it ever did. It uses a feature called Advanced Recovery Mode (ARM). ARM allows you to recover data from disks that have been physically damaged.

Of course, NU 7.0 still has the NDOS command interpreter, but this has also been enhanced. For those of you that don't know what NDOS is, it is a replacement for COMMAND.COM. Many will know it by the name 4DOS. With NDOS you can perform many of the standard DOS commands, as well as many additions that you probably have been using other utility programs for. Some of NDOS's features are: On-line help - just press F1 any time you are at the DOS prompt; Faster and Better Batch files - more than two dozen new batch file commands; and Executable Extensions - all you need to do is type in the name of a file and it will be run. So what you say, I can do that now. Can you do it to a BAS or DBF file? Can you type in LETTER.WP and have Word Perfect start up and automatically load the file? No you say, I thought not. Well, with NDOS you can. Try it out, it might be for you.

The documentation that comes with NU 7.0 is very impressive. There are individual chapters on each utility. However, that is not the best part. There are three tutorial chapters to keep you out of trouble; the first is Recovery; the next is Prevention and the last is Performance tutorial. These tutorials are quite in-depth and will help you out of most problems encountered. The appendixes are also not what you would expect. Normally appendixes are a few short pages which just whet your appetite or (in my case) get you into more trouble. Not so in NU 7.0. Appendix A is called Disk Companion. It tells you everything you always wanted to know about disks - 21 pages in all. Appendix B is the Troubleshooter. Everything from CHKDSK to Norton's Disk Doctor is covered. The final Appendix C is the Command Line Reference. One thing I like to see in program user manuals is a command line reference. Quite often you will get cryptic descriptions telling you either too much or too little. This one is in between; you can use this reference to accomplish all the NU 7.0 utilities as well as NDOS.

One thing I had NU 7.0 do on installation was to automatically run the Norton Disk Doctor (NDD) on boot-up. Having NDD run daily is good insurance against any disk failures. One thing to note is that NDD does not do a complete test upon boot-up. It does the partition table, boot record, FAT, directory structure, file structure, lost cluster and compression structure tests but does not do the surface test. Doing the surface test would take some time as it tests every bit of the surface of the disk. I don't know about you, but running NDD every time I boot up takes time as I sometimes do many reboots in a day. I found a small utility that only runs the program once per day. It is called ONCEADAY and it is freeware. You can find quite a few of these daily automation programs on BBSs. This saves me time as I am sure it would you.

Some more of the utilities NU 7.0 includes are:

Batch Enhancer - this little utility allows you to make some pretty spiffy batch files.

Calibrate - it evaluates a hard disks interleave and, if needed, performs a low level non-destructive format to improve your disk's performance and speed.

Directory Sort - sorts your files and directories by name, date, size or any combination thereof.

Disk Editor - allows you to edit anything at the disk level; you can edit the FAT, partition tables, the boot record or anywhere else on the disk.

*** (CAUTION, YOU CAN REALLY SCREW UP A DISK THIS WAY.) ***

Disk Monitor - it is an 8K TSR that prevents writing to your disk without your approval, displays a disk light in the upper right corner of your screen so you can observe disk activity (just like the one on the front panel of your PC) and also parks the disk heads.

Disk Tool - this is a set of utilities that allows you to revive a floppy disk, make a disk bootable and mark clusters as good or bad.

File Fix - repairs dBase, Clipper, Quattro Pro, Lotus 1-2-3, Symphony, Excel, and WordPerfect files.

Image - stores an image of the disk's boot record, FAT, and root directory information. This allows you to recover from a format.

Rescue Disk - this utility is a very valuable one. It creates a disk that contains all the files you need to bring your system back up in the event of a crash. It is smart enough to include Stacker files and any files unique to your system.

SmartCan - protects deleted files from being overwritten until you decide if you really want to trash them.

Unerase and Unformat - need I say more?

Diskreet - encrypts and decrypts files for total security. No one can read your files unless they have the password.

Wipe Info - this utility totally writes over the entire file for maximum security. A deleted file is not really deleted, the DOS just thinks it's gone, but it is still there.

Norton cache - a disk cache.

Speed Disk - the popular and powerful disk defragmenter (works with compressed drives).

Norton Utilities Configuration - configures NU 7.0 to your taste.

Norton Control Center - changes many hardware settings; cursor size, video mode, keyboard and mouse speed, etc.

Duplicate Disk - makes multiple copies of any floppy in a single pass.

File Attributes - changes the attributes for files to read only, hidden, system, etc.

File Find - file find utility. You can find a file even if you can't remember its name; you can view the contents of the file; and replace text in the file. The best thing about this utility is the ability to find a file by specifying the text within the file. For example, I can't remember the name of the file but I do know that the words File Find are in it. It isn't exactly the fastest file finder, but it has to read every file.

File Locate - super fast file find. This is the fast file finder. It whips through directories. It will even look at all your hard drives automatically.

File Size - shows the exact size of files and the amount of wasted space.

Line Printer - an enhanced version of the DOS's PRINT. You can specify page numbers, margins, and headers to name a few.

Norton Change Directory - graphical directory maintenance utility. You can change a directory, make a directory etc.

Safe Format - a format command that allows you to unformat a disk as well as format one.

System Information - provides information about the hardware and software on your PC as well as the configuration, memory usage and performance.

Text Search - another utility like File Find but not as powerful.

Many utilities like these can be found on BBSs, but then you'd have to register a whole bunch of programs. Why not get NU 7.0 and have your problems solved. Oh, yeah. I installed MS-DOS 6.0, then upgraded to 6.2 in the middle of writing this article and tested all the NU 7.0 features (except NDO5) and had no problems.

I give The Norton Utilities v 7.0 the following ratings:

- Ease of Installation: 4-star
- Ease of Use: 4-star
- Documentation: 3-star

Taming True Type Fonts

by Paul M. Glattstein - FCUG

[Reprinted from the December 1994 issue of "The Voice of FCUG", Newsletter of the Fairfield County Computer Users Group Inc., 400 Main Street - Room 515, STAMFORD CT 06901, U S of A]

True Type fonts seem to proliferate like weeds. Every major program and many minor ones add True Type fonts to your system by default. In some cases you can't even say no and may have little idea of what's been added. Later, looking at WIN.INI or the list of files in your WINDOWS/SYSTEM subdirectory you may find dozens of new True Type fonts cluttering up your hard disk. It doesn't have to be that way. Here is how to tame those True Type fonts.

By default Windows installs True Type font files in the WINDOWS/SYSTEM subdirectory but, they don't need to stay there. The .TTF files can be located in any subdirectory or even on a floppy disk as long as they are accessible when needed. Some newer True Type fonts include an .FIF file with information about the font. This file also does not need to be in the WINDOWS/SYSTEM subdirectory. In fact the only True Type font file that needs to be in the WINDOWS/SYSTEM subdirectory is the .FOT file and the Windows font manager will create the file for you if the proper one does not exist. The easiest way to keep control of your True Type fonts is to store the fonts in their own subdirectory or on a different disk drive than Windows. The advantage of this approach is you can easily identify new fonts and remove them. Also, if the disk drive Windows is on is getting full, you can keep large numbers of True Type fonts on another drive and still have them installed and ready for use.

Here's how to do it.

1. First, make a copy of your WIN.INI file and the WINDOWS/SYSTEM subdirectory. You can put the copies in a safe spot on another drive or on a floppy disk. Just make sure this copy is where it won't be accidentally overwritten in case you need to recover from an error.
2. Next, copy all the .TTF files and .FIF files from the WINDOWS/SYSTEM subdirectory to the drive and subdirectory you want to store True Type fonts in. Do not copy any of the .FOT files or any other font files such as .FON files.
3. Now you need to make another copy of several of the True Type fonts that Windows requires frequently for printing. The Arial, Symbol, and Times New Roman fonts are frequently needed for printing and should be copied a second time to ensure that they can be easily recovered if they are accidentally deleted.

Copy the following files to the Windows subdirectory: ARIAL.TTF, ARIALBD.TTF, ARIALBI.TTF, ARIALI.TTF ... SYMBOL.TTF, TIMES.TTF, TIMESBD.TTF, TIMESBI.TTF, TIMESI.TTF.

4. The next step is to uninstall the True Type fonts and remove them from the WINDOWS/SYSTEM subdirectory. To do this, double click on the "Control Panel" icon and then on "Fonts" to display the Font installation dialogue box. Highlight each TrueType font and then click on "Remove" to bring up the Remove Font dialogue box. You can highlight a group of fonts by clicking on the first one and holding down the "Shift" key when clicking on the last font or you can hold down the "Ctrl" key to highlight any font you click on. Be sure to highlight ONLY fonts which say (True Type) after the font name. DO NOT highlight any of the non True Type fonts. From the Remove Font dialogue box click on the check box "Delete Font File From Disk" and then on the button "Yes to All". This will uninstall each font, delete the font file from the WINDOWS/SYSTEM subdirectory and remove the font description line from the WIN.INI file. The only fonts left installed at this point are the basic screen, printer, and plotter fonts. Don't delete them or Windows will not be able to display or print anything.
5. Look in the WINDOWS/SYSTEM subdirectory and check that there are no .TTF files. If you find any, check "Control Panel", "Fonts" to make sure that you uninstalled all of the True Type fonts. Once you are sure that all of the True Type fonts have been uninstalled, delete any .TTF, .FIF and .FOT files remaining in the WINDOWS/SYSTEM subdirectory.
6. To reinstall all of the True Type fonts double click on the "Control Panel" and then on "Fonts". Next click on "Add" to bring up the Add Fonts dialogue box. Select the drive and directory where your fonts are located and click on "Select All" so that they are highlighted in the "List of Fonts" list box. Make sure that the check box for "Copy fonts to Windows Directory" is NOT checked and click on "OK" to install the fonts. By leaving "Copy fonts to Windows Directory" unchecked the font will be installed and a new .FOT file created but the .TTF file will not be copied to the WINDOWS/SYSTEM subdirectory.
7. After all the fonts are installed print a sample of each for reference and identification. One way to print a font sample is to use a Windows word processor such as Write to print a sample line in each different font. Another choice is to use a program such as The Printer's Apprentice. This shareware program will print a sample of all your installed fonts and is easy to use. It can be found on most Bulletin Boards as PA405.ZIP. Another shareware font printing program that's even simpler to use is Font Sampler, which can be found as FSAMP11A.ZIP. Whichever method you use you should end up with a catalogue of all the fonts you have for easy reference.

Now you really have your True Type fonts under control. For all True Type fonts the WINDOWS/SYSTEM subdirectory contains only .FOT files. The .TTF and .FIF files are located elsewhere so they don't take up space on your Windows drive. In fact, they can even be stored on a compressed drive to really reduce storage requirements. You can easily install other fonts as needed by selecting them from your catalogue and keeping them installed only as long as you really need them. Best of all, if you check the WINDOWS/SYSTEM subdirectory on a regular basis you can spot True Type fonts dumped there by the installation of new programs and clean them up with ease.

For Sale - RS-232 Boards

These are brand new, genuine Tandy, TRS-80 RS-232 boards which were obtained as a special deal when Tandy were clearing out TRS-80 stock.

They are designed to fit both Model III and Model 4

There are still a few left but this may well be your last opportunity to get one of these.

Catalogue Number - 26-1148

Price \$22 plus shipping charges where applicable.

For further information contact a committee member.

Exchange Newsletters

Some of what is included in our library. Members may have a copy of any article listed by contacting the Editor, either by letter to our P.O. Box, or by phone at the number shown on the front page. Cost will be 10 cents per page, plus postage if not collected at Sefton.

October 1994

SOME of the articles listed below have an identifying letter in brackets in front of them. This has been done to assist Members in picking out items of interest

The significance of the letters is as follows:

- (A) Amiga
- (C) "C" Language
- (CC) CoCo
- (D) Databases
- (DT) Desk Top Publishing
- (G) General - May cover more than one subject
- (H) Humour
- (L) Local Interest
- (M) MS-DOS
- (MM) Multi-media
- (O) OS/2
- (T) TRS-80 (Except CoCo)
- (U) Unix
- (W) Windows
- (X) Xenix

"Adelaide Micro User News"

Newsletter of the Adelaide Micro User Group
GPO Box 214, ADELAIDE S.A. 5001

- (G) From Our Chairman Erik
- Mainly local interest:
- (T) Model III/4 Corner
- Mainly local interest:
- (G) AMUG Camp Quality 1944
- Mainly local interest:
- (M) Multiple Menu Configurations in MS-DOS 6.x
- One way of doing it:
- (G) Which Monitor is Best
- Some broad generalisations:
- (G) Everything About Computer Displays
- Reprinted from "SYDTRUG News" - July 1994:
- (G) Backups - Technologies and Strategies
- Some interesting information:
- (G) Buying a PC - Minus the Trauma
- Very little real help

"Computer News 80"

PO Box 680, CASPER WYOMING 82602-0680, US of A

- (G) Editorial Comment
- Mainly local interest:
- (T) Lantern and HRToggle
- Some random comments:
- (T) Scripsit Pro Tips
- For users of this word processor:
- (T) Tips for Using Magic Lantern with Macintosh Files
- How to beat the system:
- (G) Surfing the Internet
- Some general background:
- (T) Cryptogram Solving Program
- A BASIC program:
- (T) Model 4 Misc. Repairs
- A couple of risky exercises:
- (G) Open Forum
- Letters, questions, and sometimes, answers

"Thuggery"

Newsletter of The Hobart Users Group
PO Box 609, SANDY BAY TASMANIA 7006

- (G) President's Notes
- Mainly local content:
- (G) Interesting Times
- Mainly local interest:
- (G) Are You Looking SCSI Lately ?
- Reprinted from "SYDTRUG News" - September 1994:
- (G) High Speed Serial Communications Solutions
- Reprinted from "SYDTRUG News" - September 1994:
- (G) User Supported Software Library
- Strictly local

"Bits & Bytes"

Newsletter of the Bits & Bytes Computer Users Group Inc.
PO Box 1404, STAFFORD Qld. 4053

- (M) Paradox - A Problem Solved
- Generating serial numbers:
- (T) TRS-80 Users at the Crossroads
- Reprinted from "SYDTRUG News" - March 1994:
- (T) Ditto from "Bits & Bytes"
- Follow up to previous item:
- (M) A Feature of Xtree Gold
- Viewing graphic files:
- (M) Image File Formats
- An overview of various types:
- (M) More on Paradox
- Follow up on first item:
- (M) Disk Optimisation
- A light overview

"Monitor"

Magazine of the Capital PC Users Group
51 Monroe Street PE 2, ROCKVILLE MD 20850-2421, US of A

- (G) Publishing Post
- Mainly local interest:
- (G) President's Notes
- Mainly local interest:
- (M) Elementary ZMODEM
- A general overview:
- (G) Rich's Ramblings
- Mainly local interest:
- (W) Capital Windows
- A regular column:
- (M) Microletter 69
- What Size are your Partitions ?:
- (G) Ranjit's CAD Corner
- CADKEY 7.0 offers unbeatable value for mechanical designers:
- (O) OS/2 On Tap
- General interest for current or potential OS/2 users:
- (G) Product Reviews
- America Adventure; Bug Adventure; Golden CommPass 2.11; PC-Install; Pebble Beach Golf Links; Wall Street Journal Personal Finance Library; Executive Diet Series

"Eastern Suburbs 80 Users Group Newsletter"

Newsletter of the Eastern Suburbs 80 Users Group
PO Box 134, DONCASTER VIC 3108

- (G) Editorial
- Mainly local interest:
- Various downloads from Internet

"The Interface"

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

- (G) The Prez Says
- Mainly local interest:
- (G) Beat the Game
- Zork I

"LLIST"

Newsletter of the Calgary Color Computer Club
201 2512 1st Street NW, CALGARY AB T2N 0C2, CANADA.

All strictly local interest

"MCTRUG"

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities TRS User Group,
PO Box 171566, ARLINGTON TEXAS 76003, US of A

- (T) What's Happening in My 2-80 World ?
- In praise of SHELL v2.0 for Model 4:
- (W) Window on Windows
- A regular column:
- (G) Friends Help Friends
- Mainly local interest:
- (G) The Freeloader
- Mainly local interest:
- (T) TRS-80 Chat
- Some more patches:
- (G) Where Do We Go From Here ?
- Mainly local interest

"Canberra Micro-80"

Newsletter of the Canberra Micro-80 Users Group
4 Gleeson Place, KAMBAH ACT 2902

(G) Mein Kampf
A little about Works for Windows

"National Capital Tandy Computer Users Group"

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

(G) Presidential Bits
Mainly of local interest:
(O) OS/2 2.1: Exploring 32-bit Computing
One user's favourable impressions:
(G) Preventative Maintenance - Part 1
Putting together a maintenance kit:
(W) Windows TidBit
About Breakpoints:
(M) Norton Utilities v 7.0
A favourable review:
(DT)1st Press
Review of an introductory level desktop publishing package

"PCW Australia Group Newsletter"

Newsletter of the PCW Australia Group
PO Box 434
FAIRFIELD NSW 2165, AUSTRALIA

(G) Editor's Page
Mainly local interest:
(G) Clyde Reports
PCW Plus August 1994, PCW User July 1994, PCW User August 1994:
(L) The Brisbane Scene
Mainly local interest

"SVCS Newsletter"

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

(G) Envoy from WordPerfect
About a utility for electronic distribution of documents:
(G) From the Oval Office
Mainly local interest:
(M) Upgrading to MS-DOS 6.22
One man's quest for a trouble free installation:
(G) Curmudgeon's Column
Fragged by Defrag!

"The Voice of FCUG"

Newsletter of The Fairfield County Computer Users Group
400 Main Street - Room 614, STAMFORD CT 06901, US of A

(G) Editor's Desk
Mainly local interest:
(G) Font Madness
The title says it all:
(M) How to Get Maximum Upper Memory with MS-DOS Memory Management
One person's approach:
(G) Battery Escapade
Another satisfied customer:
(O) OS/2 Re-Re-Visited
Some favourable general comments:
(G) Profile
A thumbnail autobiography

=====

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

=====

Save Your Old Computer

by Kevin Lynn - SVCS

[Reprinted from the December 1994 issue of "The Journal"
Newsletter of the Silicon Valley Computer Society
2464 El Camino Real, #190, SANTA CLARA CA 95051, U S of A]

There have been lots of articles about upgrading your PC with a faster microprocessor chip or upgrade module. The economics of the upgrade don't make a lot of sense to me. What's the advantage of taking a perfectly good MS-DOS machine and making it into a poorly equipped Windows machine ?

There are dozens of advertisements in the Sunday Computing section of the SJMN, as well as in Computer Currents and MicroTimes, the bi-weekly free magazines available around the Bay Area. A typical ad shows a matrix of processor types down the left, with a basic system and more features added across the page to the right. A 386SX-33 ISA motherboard plus CPU is \$54, while a 486SLC-33 is \$88 (the SLC is the Cyrix/TI/AMD/IBM 386/486 "tweener"), and a 486SX-25C is \$108.

If you really want to run Windows, you need a 386 CPU, 8MB DRAM, a video accelerator graphics card, and a fast (14 msec) hard drive. A math coprocessor isn't needed unless you're doing CAD or math intensive programs.

The typical price for a 286 to 386 (486SLC) upgrade chip is \$289. For that price you can get an AMD 486DX2-66 on a VLB board with 256K cache. If you add the upgrade chip to an AT you have 1MB DRAM, a slow hard drive, EGA video and a "tweener" CPU. It's sort of like putting a Porche engine in a VW Beetle. It screams away from the traffic lights, but overall it's still a "Bug".

Then there are the Intel "OverDrive" replacements for your existing 386 or 486 CPU. These chips fit in the extra socket on the newer motherboards, turning off the original CPU chip. Now that's really clever! Why don't they utilise the power of the original chip to do steady things like keyboard monitoring, interrupt control, memory management and disk buffering ? It seems wasteful to me to disable a working device so that a faster device can do all of its work. Why not have a multi-processing system ? The same thing happens when you put a 486DX chip into a board which has a 486SX, as the "crippled" (no math coprocessor) SX is turned off.

When I upgraded from an AT to a 386, I bought a new case, keyboard, monitor, memory and hard drive over the next year, and then installed the 286 board back in the old case with the old components and gave it to my niece to take to college. Likewise, when I upgraded to a 486, the 386 was downgraded bit by bit, and she traded the 286 back to me for the 386, since it would run windows a lot better.

I originally got a Copy II PC option board to let me read and write 700K Mac format disks on my PC (and defeat some of the nastier copy protection schemes). I didn't install it in the 386, as I didn't need it. I tried to read a CP/M 5.25 inch disk recently, using PC-Uniform on my ISA 486-33, and discovered that the IDE floppy controllers don't read the 'non-standard' formats. I tried Xenocopy and a couple of other old converters and they also failed.

I guess I'll have to resurrect my old MFM 286 AT with the Copy II PC board, so I can read my old Mac disks. I can also use it to run my FAX/Modem with MS-DOS or Windows (as long as I don't want to do more than one thing at a time). It runs WordPerfect DOS 5.1, Quattro Pro (DOS) and dBase IV with plenty of speed. I recently heard that WordPerfect 5.1 has the largest installed base of any word processor in the world, mostly on networks.

If someone would use it, I can make them a really great deal on a CP/M Xerox 820-II with their choice of 5.25 inch DSDD, 8 inch DSDD, or 8 Meg Hard disk with 8 inch DSDD. I even have 8086 add-on boards with 128K DRAM for 8 inch MS-DOS 2.11! As it is, I can read those 5.25 inch strange format disks on it.

=====

For Sale

CD ROM Disks and Caddies

For details call D.J. Pagett

(02) 772-4848

=====

Upgrade Mania

by The Curmudgeon - SVCS

[Reprinted from the December 1994 issue of "The Journal" Newsletter of the Silicon Valley Computer Society
2464 El Camino Real, #190, SANTA CLARA CA 95051, U S of A]

Something about the end of the calendar year, perhaps the drive home from work in the dark, thanks to "Daylight Losing Time", makes men want to buy a new car and to upgrade their software to the latest version. (Yes, I did write "men", as the effect appears to be gender specific.) The car which is looked at, test driven, and yearned for, is usually small, sporty and brightly coloured. The car that is purchased is usually larger, more practical for family use, and less expensive. Software upgrades are sometimes bought in the same manner.

There was a report a few years ago that productivity in the United States has DECREASED since the advent of the PC in 1981. My thought is that the decrease is due to everyone having to relearn all of the keystrokes and mouse movements every year, as new upgrades (version creep) are loaded onto their machines.

Of course Windows has been a tremendous contributor to the decline in useful work output, between the choices of background colours, screen savers, font types, and the "Unexplained Application Error" (UAE) in Windows 3.0 (which was replaced by "General Protection Fault" (GPF) in 3.1). It has not been helped by the lack of a bell when it's time to change disks in most installation or diskcopy programs. Of course, Solitaire was added to Windows so first time mouse users could practice hand-eye-mouse-click coordination.

I started with SuperCalc on a CP/M machine, graduated to Multiplan, moved both of those to the IBM PC, then saw Lotus 1-2-3. Wow! Colour graphs, multiple fonts, spreadsheets larger than 64K! I grudgingly leaned new keystroke sequences and math formulas to replace the ones I'd painstakingly debugged in SC or MP. Then Quattro Pro came out at an unbelievably low price, with no copy protection or Key disks, and more powerful math functions. The keystrokes were like SC or MP, or I could choose to use 1-2-3's.

I kept Multiplan around because it could be used across platforms, on the Mac, CP/M, or MS-DOS. I paid \$30 - \$40 every couple of years to Borland, for their Quattro upgrades, which could read and write 1-2-3 files, as long as you didn't use the unique Quattro math functions. (I was making up mortgage amortization tables for variable rate loans, and used Quattro's @IPAYMT and @PPAYMT to list the monthly interest and principle amounts.) If I saved my .WQ1 files as .WK1, the formulas were converted into numeric values in the 1-2-3 version.

When Excel for Windows came out, I tried it and didn't like having to enter =, + or - to start a formula (e.g. if I entered 5/8 in Quattro, I saw 0.625 on the screen). I also preferred to hit F2 to edit the cell I had highlighted, not mouse up to the upper left and double-click. I see that the New! Improved! Quattro 6 for Windows now requires =, + or - to start a formula, and Excel 5 lets me hit F2 to edit in place. Excel also reads my Quattro .WQ1 files, @IPAYMT functions and all.

So what's there to get excited about with the new model year? Quattro 6 for Windows now has OLE 2 Client/Server links and "Formula Composer", a dialogue box that lets you see what your changes do to the data. (It does not have the 1-2-3 keystrokes anymore, thanks to a court decision.) Excel has 1-2-3 strokes (how come?), 3 Wizards (compared to Quattro's 30 Experts), and is compatible with the Mac version.

Lotus has been regularly improving their product, with the 1-2-3 release 5 for Windows as an upgrade for a street price of \$99 (with a \$30 rebate coupon), bundled with their Approach 3.0 database for \$149. It is advertised as "the only one that's completely compatible with 1-2-3 for DOS and all earlier versions of 1-2-3 for Windows". Wow! Lotus also offers Smart Suite, bundling the above with Ami Pro 3.1, Freelance Graphics 2.1 and Organiser 1.1 upgrade for \$299.

Corel is reported to be bringing out a new 32-bit suite for Windows 95, which will include OLE 2.x, Wordstar, Chart, Presentation, Corel Draw and networking support. It will be distributed only on a CD-ROM.

There are hints that CD-ROM may be the latest version of copy protection. In high volume it costs less to produce a CD-ROM than a single 1.44 MB floppy. Microsoft, Novell and others are reported to be readying CD-ROM suite packs, which contain ALL of the coor-

dated products, with most of them enabled only as demonstration versions.

Once you decide that you want the full-blown version of an application, you call and give them your credit card number and they give you a password that unlocks the particular files on your CD-ROM. That's a sneaky way to bypass the reseller's income stream. I wonder how soon the passwords will appear on the Internet forums? Or will they include a "personalised" floppy with an embedded serial number which will keep you from using a free password (then a copy of the personal file, will probably appear on the boards).

Of course you have to have a CD-ROM to install the disks, which adds another facet to your hardware needs. I suspect that Microsoft has invested in the DRAM, video accelerator, floppy and hard disk markets, since each upgrade to their software requires upgrades in those items. Add CD-ROM to that list.

There is also talk of a "special" format used on Microsoft's 3.5 inch distribution floppy disks - 1.7 MB, 21 sectors - which can't be copied or formatted by PCs. The disk loads a reader program that allows the software to be installed. There is a freeware TSR to permit copy and format of these disks on Compuserve already. Older 3.5 inch floppy drives might have problems with these disks.

=====

Obituary for Quicksoft Early Friend of PC Users

by T.R. Reid & Brit Hume

[Reprinted from the December 1994 issue of "The Voice of FCUG", Newsletter of the Fairfield County Computer Users Group Inc., 400 Main Street - Room 515, STAMFORD CT 06901, U S of A where it was reprinted from "The Washington Post"]

Quicksoft, one of the personal computer industry's most remarkable early success stories has shut down, a development which says much about what the PC business has come to.

Quicksoft published a program called PC-Write, which was written by the company's president, a brilliant programmer named Bob Wallace. He marketed PC-Write as "shareware", which meant it could be passed around free of charge so users could try it before buying it.

PC-Write was of such high quality that it did much to establish shareware as a serious force in the marketing of PC software. Such other successful programs as Procomm, a modem communications package, were shareware, at least in their early editions. The concept is still alive, but its impact has diminished.

When the PC first came out, it was more powerful than the other microcomputers then in use, but it was a snail compared to the systems of today. Its Intel 8088 microprocessor ran at a speed of 4.77 megahertz. By comparison, today's 80486 systems can run at up to 66 megahertz.

There was, in those days, a premium on elegant, tightly written computer code. Tightly written programs ran much faster. Programmers then couldn't depend on the sheer screaming speed of the computer to make bloated programs run fast enough to keep up with the user.

PC-Write was fast, one of the fastest word processors around a decade ago when it first came out. Search and replace operations for example, were instantaneous. It was almost fun to practice them and watch the screen scrolling by in a blur as the program found and replaced the designated word a multitude of times in an instant.

You could operate PC-Write by a system of menus, but that was a little like driving a car with an automatic transmission. "Power users" preferred the stick shift method, learning the keyboard combinations that did what the menu did, but much faster.

PC-Write also had an advanced "macro" capability. It took some doing, but you could customize the program so that it would carry out whatever function you wanted in response to keystroke combinations of your choosing. If, for example, you had a continuing need to reformat your text to make it look a certain way, you could store the whole sequence of commands to do that under a single key chord, Control-R, for example.

PC-Write was a huge hit in the computer underground, among the hobbyists and hackers who frequented bulletin boards where you

could "download" software with your modem. PC-Write was also popular with students, and even some companies -- the Los Angeles Times, for example -- used it. Wallace and Quicksort kept pace with the new features other word processors were adding -- a spelling checker for instance, and the company prospered throughout the 1980s.

Gradually, though, more and more powerful computers were making such elegantly written, fast executing code less of a necessity. XyWrite, for example, a program strikingly similar to PC-Write, began losing ground. Today, you can't even buy XyWrite at most software stores.

Increasingly businesses were standardising, and Microsoft Windows and the programs written for it were becoming the standard. Windows, because of its graphical nature, is naturally slow. The computer has to work hard to keep redrawing the screen, pixel by pixel, as a graphical program requires. But new and faster computers were compensating for the programs' lack of speed.

The growing popularity of Microsoft Windows made having a Windows version of a program almost a necessity, but that was a huge undertaking. The day when Bob Wallace could sit down and write a full-scale application was gone. Windows programs are huge and exceedingly complex, requiring a team of programmers to produce in time to keep up with the market.

Dozens of programs that were big hits in the early days of the PC began to disappear. Word processors such as WordStar and Multimate, for instance, faded almost out of sight, as did XyWrite. PC-Write, a small company, didn't have the money to hire a team of programmers to work with Bob Wallace to write a Windows edition.

The company kept updating its DOS (non-Windows) program, to include, for example, an elaborate system of pull down menus. That made the program easy to operate using a mouse. But it was still a "text-based" program and didn't have the distinctive "look and feel" that Windows provides. Prices, meanwhile, were dropping. PC-Write, once a bargain at under \$100, found prices in that range being offered to entice people to try such programs as WordPerfect for Windows.

Quicksort's last press release: "PC-Write was getting a smaller piece of the smaller DOS pie ... that shrinkage became untenable".

=====

Software Review: 1st Press

by Blair Jones - NCTCUG

[Reprinted from the October 1994 issue of the Newsletter of the National Capital Tandy Computer Users Group, PO Box 949, ARLINGTON VIRGINIA 22216, U S of A]

1st Press is an easy to use introductory level desktop publishing package. It has the features you would expect, such as text import from major word processors, graphics import of several picture formats, some editing ability and drawing tools, and of course a way to place these things on the page where you want them, with stories flowing from one frame to the next one you want, even on another page. Everything is done in frames.

Installation

Installation was easy. you can put the program in any directory you want. By running the install program several times, various optional features, such as clipart, can be put in different directories rather than all in the program directory.

General Operation

Modes of operation:

- Frame: for creating, sizing, moving and ordering frames
- Paragraph: for creating, editing, and assigning paragraph styles
- Text: for editing text and changing font styles
- Draw: to use the drawing tools in 1st Press

Frame handling

Frames are easily created using the typical mouse-drag-a-crossbar method and are easy to move and resize. They may be placed overlapping or inside other frames. Frames are stacked in the order you create them, but it is easy to reorder them.

Reordering may be necessary if one frame overlaps another and the "wrong thing" is in front. You can "lose" a frame if it's in the back. The way it looks on screen is what will print, so be sure to have the frames in the stacking order you want! If a text frame is sent behind a graphic frame, the text reflows so that part of the story is not hidden. Frames can be set to have text wraparound or not.

Frames can have borders, and there are several choices of line types, but there is no choice of how far from the text to put the border. However, another frame can be used to make the border anywhere you want it, as long as the frame stacking is done properly. However, there is no way to lock frames together, so it's difficult to move a "set" since the frames have to be repositioned individually.

Import text and pictures

This is easily done with a selection from the file menu. Several word processor formats are supported, though not the latest versions of MS Word for Windows or WordPerfect. The most common graphics file formats are also supported. Most graphics programs can save in a format that 1st Press can import. If an imported story is too long for the frame you've chosen, it shows a dotted line at the bottom of the frame; then you just have to click on the next frames you want the story to flow to until it's all in. You can create the frames as needed; you don't have to guess ahead about how many to make.

Enter or edit text

Text can be entered directly into 1st Press, but it's faster and easier to do the writing with a word processor and import it. You can also edit text after it has been entered or imported. The original file is not changed. There is no spelling checker or grammar checker, but there is a search and replace function. Some text features from compatible word processors are carried in, such as bold or italic. When I imported from Word for Windows, the paragraph styles were also imported, though not necessarily with the same name.

Assigning paragraph styles is easy: in paragraph mode, click on your choice of styles in the style list box. Since only one paragraph at a time can be styled, doing a lot of styling in 1st Press can be tedious. It's easier to do the styling in your word processor for a lot of text.

In text mode, individual words and characters can be given styles with font, font size, and attributes such as sub/superscript or underline.

Graphics features

Power text

Power text is a text-graphic mini-app that will do a few fancy things with text such as various fill patterns, rotate and skew, button-look, arched up/down. Strangely, the position of a power text frame is where the frame centre is, instead of where the top left of the frame is, in relation to the top left of the page. This is confusing; it also makes it more difficult to place power text exactly where you want it.

Drawing tools

You can do some simple drawing with the tools in 1st Press: circles and rectangles, free form lines.

Graphics handling

Imported pictures can be scaled (with or without preserving aspect ratio - i.e. you can squish it if you want), cropped (without losing the original image, so you can change your mind about the cropping later), and some formats can be pixel edited. EPS files can be rotated, but they don't show on the screen.

Status report

There is a status report choice on the options menu that will tell you how big your file is, how many words and pages, and how many empty text frame-inches you have.

Options

Options can be set in a general preference dialogue box, but can also be changed ad lib from the options menu.

There are options about what to show on screen, such as frame lines, story list, rulers. Measurements can be in picas/points, centimetres, inches and tenths or eighths.

View size has a limited number of choices, from half-size to two pages. The toolbar only has icons for full page and actual size.

What I Liked

Generally easy to use.

Toolbar icons are clear.

Easy to draw and place frames, with optional snap-to-guidelines.

There's a nifty pie chart style progress report when doing imports.

If you can save your work often enough you can take advantage of a feature called "abandon change", in case you've done several things that just don't come out right - handy if you want to experiment with different effects. This will open the same document as you last saved it. Of course, you can also save it under several names if you want to.

The program comes with a tutorial and several templates to help you get started.

What I Didn't Like

No undo. But if you delete something you can immediately get it back with the paste command or button.

Limited keyboard cursor control in the window - pressing page up/down changes pages rather than moving within the same page, so you have to just use the arrow keys or the mouse to move around on the page. You also can't cursor between frames, even those in the same story; you have to use the mouse.

No print preview, limited options for view size, only see maximum of two pages at once.

Slow at some operations, such as editing paragraph styles or changing a text font, even when doing the same thing several times in a row. The delay is in fetching the dialogue box rather than in carrying out the action itself.

Can't change toolbar and help is not context sensitive.

Summary

Overall I found this an easy program to use. Much of what you can do with it can be done with a "high-end" word processor, especially in Windows, but it is quite adequate for simple layout jobs. Sometimes operations can be frustrating, and without an Undo function you have to be very careful.

For Sale

Members requiring computer network repair or consulting should first contact:

L.A.N. MIND

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

Voice Phone: (02) 763-1174

FAX: (02) 746-2751

Worth Repeating

Most of life's problems are like those cloverleaf interchanges we find on our highways -- unlikely though it may seem, there is a way out. -- Bill Vaughan

Freud was way off base in considering sex the fundamental motivation. The ruling passion in men is minding each other's business. -- Robert Frost

If we could learn how to utilise all the intelligence and patient goodwill children are born with, instead of ignoring much of it -- why, there might be enough to go round. -- Dorothy Canfield Fisher

This space was reserved for the article which you were to submit for publication. However, it had not arrived when we went to press. We hope that you will submit it in time for the next issue. You will note that the newsletter is thinner than usual. This is because the editor was not able to spend as much time as usual typing in articles from exchange newsletters.