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Print Screen: The newsletter of the Stanford/Palo Alto Users' Group for the IBM PC

PO Box 3738

Stanford, CA 94305

Volume 2 Number 7

July 1984

* Next meeting: Wednesday, July 25 *
* 7:00pm *
* Rm. 111 Polya Hall *
* Stanford University *
* *

AGENDA FOR THE MEETING —

- 7:00 General Club Business
 - Report on the Monday before the Wednesday Meeting
 - New Business
- 7:30 Reports
- 8:30 Random Access
- 9:00 Conclusion of the Official Club Meeting

(Don't forget the Monday before the Wednesday meeting at Talbott's -
8:00 P.M. - 463 California Ave. - Come join us with suggestions/comments)

CLUB OFFICERS

Treasurer: Beverly Altman 329-8232
Speaker's Bureau: Mike Van Waas 325-2507
Soft Copy Librarian: Jim Caldwell 692-7181
Hard Copy Librarian: Joe Wible 497-6831
Bulk Purchasing: Greg Tinfow 493-7404
Membership: Dave Casto 326-7006
Bulleting Board: Lindsey Puckett 968-1809
Newsletter: Jackie Carr 858-1641
Periodical Review: Kevin Ohlson 494-2574

MEETINGS: Last Wednesday of each month - 7 PM

MEMBERSHIP FEE:

\$25.00 (includes a club library listing
diskette which you sign out & return)
1983 newsletters are included.

NEWSLETTER: Deadline for submitting
articles, comments, or information -
10 days before each meeting.

CLUB BULLETIN BOARD 968-1809
6 PM to 11 PM

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS:

DataBase - Greg Tinfow 493-7404
Communications - Glen Ingram 323-1669
Business - Linda de Sosa 856-6281
Expansion Boards - Curt Carlson 941-5680

VOLUNTEER RESOURCE PEOPLE:

Tony Nunes (857-0836) - PC Write
Jackie Carr (858-1641) - Word Star
Les Weil (321-5541) - Freeware
(Copies By Appointment)
Jeff (Days: 321-5930) Pascal: Doc 2.0
Paul 968-8283 - APL
Jim Webster (326-3365) - Multiplan
Corwin Nichols (494-8640) - "C";
Floppy Disk Formats
Greg Tinfow (493-7404) - AST Boards

ADVERTISING RATES

\$25.00 - 8.5" X 11" (full page)
\$15.00 - 8.5" X 5.5" (half page)
\$10.00 - 4.2" X 5.5" (quarter page)

LIBRARY NEWS:

The library is being reorganized as you may know from the last meeting. On the next page is a copy of the first page of the catalog. There have been 20 disks of new programs added to the library this year--ten in March, and another ten this month. They are all in the library now and can be obtained either through our distribution network, headed by Les Weil, or from the Bulletin Board, managed by Lindsey Puckett. The bulletin board now maintains a current version of the catalog, SPACLCAT, and most of the library. [Some Free-ware programs prohibit dissemination through bulletin boards.] If you don't have a modem and want the catalog on disk, bring a formatted disk to the next meeting with your name on it. Turn it in at the beginning of the meeting to the Librarian and a copy will be made from the master catalog.

As decided at the June meeting, the library is now maintained on 9 sector diskettes. Members using DOS 1.1 will be required to use DOS's COPY command (NOT DISKCOPY), or to get the files from the bulletin board. Those bringing formatted diskettes to the meeting or to the distribution library will have the catalog transferred to their diskettes via the COPY command. Thus you will be able to print and read the catalog under whatever DOS version you are using.

The disks added to the library this month are described below with the dates they were added. Other volumes of special interest are also listed.

Disk File Catalog Listing >> Sorted by CATEGORY on 07-13-1984 at 11:38:12

FILE NAME	DATE	SIZE	DISK	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
SPACLCAT	07/13/84		SPACLCAT	Vol. Name	The Club Library Catalog*
SPACLB01	07/06/84	0	SPACLB01	Vol. Name	DEMO; TAX/INVESTMNT STRATEGY -XQ Co.
SPACLB02	07/06/84	0	SPACLB02	Vol. Name	NEW BUSINESS PROGRAMS 1984.7
SPACLB03	07/06/84	0	SPACLB03	Vol. Name	TAX456: LOTUS UTILITY DEMO 1984.7
SPACLD01			SPACLD01	Vol. Name	SPACL D01 EPISTAT--Statistics Wrongly named; should be M00 Math/Statistics
SPACLD02			SPACLD02	Vol. Name	GENEALOGY ON DISPLAY: DATABASE PROG.
SPACLD03	07/02/84	0	SPACLD03	Vol. Name	DEMO:DBASE: ADDED TO LIBRARY JUL 84
SPACLD04	07/06/84	0	SPACLD04	Vol. Name	DEMO: ADVANCED DB MASTER: 2 DISK SET
SPACLE00	07/06/84	0	SPACLE00	Vol. Name	EDUCATION: Speed Reading Demo
SPACLI00			SPACLI00	Vol. Name	PC-FIRING LINE/UNDERGROUND DISK MAG
SPACLL00			SPACLL00	Vol. Name	FORTH LANG. 2 DISKS--#2 in FORTH
SPACLL01			SPACLL01	Vol. name	SPL: STRUCTURED PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE
SPACLL02	07/06/84	0	SPACLL02	Vol. Name	CHASM: ADDED TO LIBRARY 1984.07.06
SPACLO00	07/06/84	0	SPACLO00	Vol. Name	OPERATING SYSTEM PROGRAMS 1984.7 TENKEY Calculator that can be accessed from any program. DEMO*
SPACLS11			SPACLS11	Vol. Name	PC-MENU/CODE1/CODE1: CRYPTOGRAPHY
SPACLS12			SPACLS12	Vol. Name	DEMO; FONTASTIC PRINTER PROGRAM Wrongly named. Should be SPACLU-- a PRINTER utility.
SPACLT02			SPACLT02	Vol. Name	SPACL T02 TELECOMMUNICATIONS:KERMIT1
SPACLU0F			SPACLU0F	Vol. Name	SYSTEM UTILITIES: SCREEN TXT EDITOR
SPACLU11			SPACLU11	Vol. Name	DISKCAT 4.0: DISK CATALOG PROGRAM
SPACLU12	07/02/84	0	SPACLU12	Vol. Name	UTILITIES ADDED TO LIBRARY JUL 84
SPACLW00			SPACLW00	Vol. Name	PCWRITE 2.012 WHOLE DISK PROGRAM
SPACLW01			SPACLW01	Vol. Name	WORD PROC DEMO: M.S. WORD
SPACLW02	07/06/84	0	SPACLW02	Vol. Name	PC-WRITE 2.1 UPDATE 1984.7
SPACLZ00			SPACLZ00	Vol. Name	PC-MUSICIAN: Christopher Wiley

**STANFORD/PALO ALTO USERS GROUP FOR THE IBM PC
SOFTWARE LIBRARY CATALOG: "SPACLCAT"**

DISK VOLUME CATEGORIES

Disks are named with the abbreviation SPACL for The Stanford Palo Alto Club Library. This prefix is followed by a Disk Volume Category--listed below--and this, in turn is followed by a suffix in Hexadecimal. Hexadecimal numbers run from 00 to FF in sets of 16: 00, 01, ... 09, 0A, 0B, ... 0F; 10, 11, ... 1A, 1B... 1F, etc. Thus we can have a series of 256 in a two digit space instead of the 99 we would have if we limited ourselves to decimal integers. Since "A" represents the volume category "Artificial Intelligence," Disk Volume number SPACLA00 is the first disk in that category, SPACLA01 would be the second, SPACLA10 would be the 16th, and SPACLAFF would be the 256th. The exception is this catalog disk, named SPACLCAT.

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
A	Artificial Intelligence	N	New Unclassified Disks
B	Business Applications/Programs	O	Operating Systems/Utilities
C	Color Graphics/Games	P	
D	Data Base & Filing Programs	Q	
E	Education	R	
F		S	Special Interest Applications
G	Games/Graphics--Monochrome	T	Telecommunications
H		U	Utilities--General
I	Information & Data Files	V	
J		W	Word Processing
K		X	
L	Languages for Programming	Y	
M	Math and Statistics	Z	Miscellaneous

SUBCATEGORIES WITHIN DISK VOLUMES

The following subcategories are used to classify programs on a disk volume. They are built into the DISKCAT 4.0 program that the librarian uses to catalogue the new library acquisitions. These categories can be modified if we can come up with a better scheme.

1	Accounting	9	Language	17	Util-Disk	25	Util-Montr
2	Database	10	Music	18	Util-DOS1	26	Util-Print
3	Education	11	Other	19	Util-DOS2	27	Util-Sound
4	Engineer'g	12	Spreadsh't	20	Util-Edit	28	Word-Proc.
5	Finance	13	Statistics	21	Util-File	29	
6	Games	14	Telecomm	22	Util-Graph	30	
7	Graphics	15	Util-Coam	23	Util-Keybd	31	
8	Informat'n	16	Util-Conv't	24	Util-Lang	32	

The files on this disk are this title page, two DISKCAT<tm> data files, and a PC-FILE III<tm> Header file. The data may be printed with the DISKCAT Program in several formats: sorted in several ways, and printouts may include spaces for easier reading if you have a printer with a wide carriage or compressed print mode. The DISKCAT<tm> 4.0 Program is available on SPACLU11 for your use under the User Supported Distribution Concept. The catalog can also be PRINTED or TYPED under DOS and you can use PC-FILE III<tm> (on SPACLD00) with the Header file on this disk to print it any way you want. Most files and programs in the library are available on the club bulletin board. Exceptions are those FREWARE<tm> programs that specifically prohibit electronic distribution (e.g., Andrew Fluegelman's PC-TALK III<tm>).

PLEASE OFFER HELP AND SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE THE LIBRARY AND CATALOG

Jim Caldwell, Librarian

FOR SALE

Diskettes - DS/DD, Reenforcement ring, envelopes,
Warranted = \$16.84 tax included.
Data Masters (408) 370-0390

SPACLCAT Page 1

LOTUS SYMPHONY... FIRST IMPRESSIONS

After reading several not-so-favorable reviews of Lotus Development Corporation's new SYMPHONY, I was really not expecting too much from this program. Three reviewers in PC World (July 1984) all agreed that SYMPHONY was powerful, but too difficult to learn. A GE executive in InfoWorld (July 16, 1984) said that the program was awkward to work with. Thus, when a friend of mine, who trains dealers for Lotus, offered to spend an afternoon with me and Symphony, I was not overly excited, despite his assurances that Lotus 1-2-3 got similar reviews when it was first released.

However, I was very impressed with Symphony, and I'd like to share my first impressions with you.

For those not familiar with Symphony, it is an integrated software package containing spreadsheet, data management, graphics, word processing and communications. Suggested retail is \$695. Symphony requires a minimum of 320K, so if you do not already have a RAM expansion card (like myself), you will have to make the investment. If you are a present 1-2-3 owner, you can trade up to Symphony by surrendering your 1-2-3 manual, System disk and \$200 to any Lotus dealer. The good news is that you can keep your back-up System Disk.

*** SPREADSHEET ***

When you load Symphony, you are immediately brought into "SHEET" mode, which is almost identical to 1-2-3's spreadsheet. The size of the spreadsheet has been increased from 2048 rows to 8192. Better get lots of RAM if you want to work on something that large!

*** WORD PROCESSING ***

I first looked at Symphony's word processing, or "DOC" mode. Symphony has all the standard word processing features: insert, delete, centering, block move, block copy, search and replace. "DOC" mode uses the same cursor movement commands as the spreadsheet. This is one of the benefits of using an integrated package.

The word processing was enjoyably easy to use. All the commands are on the function keys or on the command menu. Symphony does not have automatic reformatting, however. When you edit your text, you must press the justify key, [F2], to reformat the text. This reminds me of good, old-fashioned WordStar. I prefer MultiMate's automatic reformatting as you make changes to the text.

*** DATA MANAGEMENT ***

Lotus 1-2-3's data management has been completely revamped in Symphony. Rather than entering your data in the spreadsheet cells, you fill in forms on your screen, like in other data base programs such as dBase II and PFS:File. For example:

NAME _____
PHONE _____
CITY _____

Basically, the data management portion has become less dependent on the spreadsheet structure in order to make it appear more like other standard file management programs. However, if you are accustomed to the way 1-2-3 handled data management, you may find Symphony more difficult to learn. One thing I liked about the "DATA" mode is that you do not need to specify input ranges or criteria ranges, like you do in 1-2-3; this is all handled internally now. New comers will probably have little trouble with Symphony's data management.

*** GRAPHICS AND WINDOWS ***

Symphony's sophisticated windows feature really can show-off the power of this program. In one window we set-up a spreadsheet with numbers we wished to graph. In another window we had Symphony draw us a beautiful, multi-colored bar graph of this data. Impressive: we could see the data and the graph simultaneously. But that's not all... change one of the numbers in the spreadsheet and the graph will instantly and automatically redraw itself!

With Symphony's "GRAPH" mode you do not need to keep "viewing" the graph every time you add an option (like titles); each change is instantly displayed on your graph.

*** COMMUNICATIONS AND INTEGRATION ***

We connected with the Dow Jones News Service to see Symphony's communication program in action. My friend had Symphony set up so that the entire procedure was fully automated: Symphony dialed Dow Jones, entered the required ID and password, requested the previous week's stock quotes for IBM (high, low, close), and dumped all this information into an ongoing data base. All this took about two or three minutes. In the next minute we had a graph of this data. In a procedure like this, you really get to appreciate the ease and speed of working with an integrated software package.

*** SUMMARY ***

While I liked Symphony and was quite impressed with its capabilities, I have to admit that I often was confused with the mire of menus. "Where am I now?" was a frequent question I had to ask myself. The many levels of menus are indeed like a maze, and it doesn't take long for the beginner to get lost within them. My friend, however, had no trouble at all and executed commands very quickly and skillfully. Of course he has been working with Symphony for months, and like anything else, practice makes perfect.

Because of Symphony's complexity, you should set aside some learning time, even if you are familiar with 1-2-3. Since Symphony is actually five integrated applications in one, you must expect to expend almost the same effort you would to learn five different programs. You will find it is well worth the time invested to learn the many powerful features and intricacies of this integrated program.

REBECCA BRIDGES,
Consultant in microcomputer training and development
(415) 326-8605

ANYONE FOR GENEALOGY? Anyone interested in genealogy using the IBMPC please contact Dave Casto 326-7006 evenings or weekends Object: Small special interest group.

MINI-REVIEW: LDS PERSONAL ANCESTRAL FILE (The new Mormon Church genealogy program). The price is right! For \$35 one gets a 6 disk package with a very thorough manual. It is in Basic, and attempts to serve both the novice genealogist and the novice PC'er, as well as being the cornerstone for the church's big plans for individual researchers with computers.

Aside from being a bargain and easy to use, it would appear to be a good investment for anyone into genealogy, since

1. the Mormon genealogical computer effort is the world's largest by far, and anyone doing genealogy will be ahead to learn how they are doing what, in order to better use the LDS resources. (This first package has no communications capability, however).
2. Several expansions of this Version 1.0 are planned, which may well become THE genealogy software route for the individual for the future.
3. Those using alternate software, commercial or self-programmed, should carefully consider the conventions used by LDS, both because of the huge effort that went into the design, and because its features are likely to become standards of the future.

Although the special features dealing with internal church requirements are several, both the instructions and the total concept have been wisely tailored for non-Mormon acceptability.

We can thank Jim Caldwell, Rebecca Bridges, and Dave Casto for their contributions to this newsletter. If any member wishes to contribute a review, an opinion, some information about software or hardware, or simply an opinion to this Stanford/Palo Alto IBM-PC User's Group newsletter; mail your contributions before the 15th of any month to:

1655 Stanford Ave.
Palo Alto, CA 94306

NOTE that our new membership information number is 326-7006. This number will appear in User Club directory sections of newspapers and magazines. It is an answering machine where you can leave messages or get information.

The top half of this page came off of the new HP Thinkjet Printer. For information about this printer, check with Dave or bring up the subject at the next meeting.



**The Stanford/Palo Alto
Users Group for the IBM PC**
Box 3738 STANFORD, CA 94305

THE FILE (The new format...)
THE BARRAGE OF... (The new format...)

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