

↑ PRTSC

A newsletter for the Stanford/Palo Alto User's Group for the IBM PC

PRint SScreen

February 1985

Volume 3 Number 2

NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, February 27
Time: 8:00 p.m. (NOTE NEW TIME!!!) ←
Place: Polya Hall,
Turing Auditorium (Rm. 111)
Stanford University

AGENDA

8:00 General Club Business
8:30 Speaker: John Halamka
Topic: "Windowing and Mice: Are They Really Useful?"
9:00 Discussion and Random Access
10:00 Conclusion

February Program:

"Windowing and Mice: Are They Really Useful?"

This month we look forward to being revisited by John Halamka, one of the earliest members of our group. He will be illustrating his presentation on the AT with appropriate software, such as VisiOn. It was during his undergraduate days at Stanford that he established his company, Colossus, which writes specialized applications software for clients such as Dow Chemical, Levi Strauss and IBM. A frequent contributor to InfoWorld and UNIX magazine, he has also been published in Newsweek, PC magazine, Interface Age, PC Products, Personal Computing and the Whole Earth Software Catalog. His books, "Espionage in Silicon Valley," "Real World Unix," and "The Best of CP/M Software" have been published by Sybex. He is currently writing a regular feature in IBM PC Update, and working toward concurrent PhD and MD degrees at UC in Berkeley and San Francisco.

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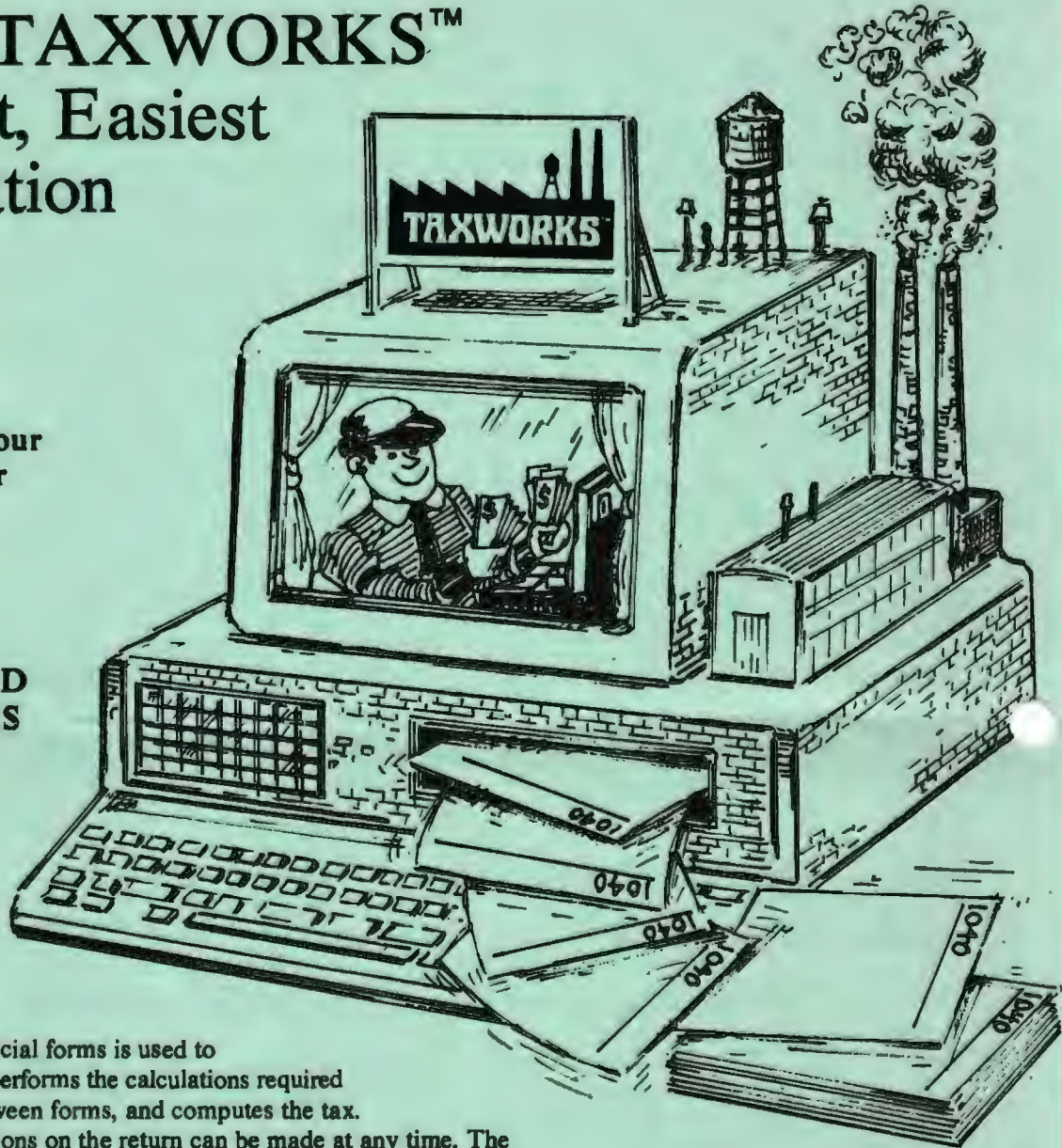
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EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

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- INDIVIDUAL FEDERAL & CALIF.** _____ \$100.
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JANUARY MEETING:

At our last meeting, member Nicholas de Paul demonstrated the popular macro utility, ProKey. Likening ProKey to a tape recorder, Nicholas showed us how keystrokes can be recorded so that the touch of one key can automatically perform a series of commands. ProKey can also be used to change the layout of the poorly designed IBM PC keyboard. For example, you may want to redefine the back slash key as the SHIFT key. This utility is similar to DEFKEY which can be found in the Club Library.

Nicholas uses ProKey extensively for Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheets. Although ProKey cannot do conditional testing like Lotus' command language, it does offer several advantages over 1-2-3 macros. First, ProKey can record keystrokes as you are performing the commands (similar to Symphony's "learn mode"). Second, ProKey macros can extend to other applications. For example, the macro can print a spreadsheet to a file, exit 1-2-3, load WordStar, and edit the file. Lotus macros are limited to the spreadsheet program.

ProKey, published by RoseSoft, retails for \$129. It is available at Los Altos PC for \$95.

SIG ALERTS

COMMUNICATIONS SIG:

The Communications SIG met on February 6th at Corwin Nichols' home. Eight people attended and saw demonstrations of Transend and MCI Mail. The usual gossip and question and answer session ensured. Contrary to a rumor overheard, there WILL be

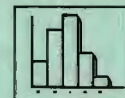


another Comm SIG meeting on Wednesday March 6 at 7:30. A new communications package "VersaCom" will be shown. If you have questions about the meeting, contact Corwin at 494-8640.

NOVICE SIG: The Novice SIG discussed RAM disks and print spoolers at its February 5th meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 5th at 7:30 p.m. "What Makes Your PC Tick" will be the main topic; by the end of the evening you should understand how that bucket of nuts and bolts on your desk works! Call Rebecca Bridges if you have any questions (326-8605).

LOTUS SIG:

Nancy Crewdson and Nicholas de Paul are the new co-leaders of the Lotus SIG. An orientation meeting was held on Monday, February 11th. The next meeting will be on Monday, March 11th at Nancy's Palo Alto office (636 Waverley). Macros will be the topic of discussion. Your assignment, if you choose to accept it, is to write a macro which will print the range A1..R100. Bring to next meeting. Call Nancy at 328-9270 if you have any questions. Wine and popcorn will be served.




BASIC SIG: Jim Beck is interested in starting a SIG for advanced users of BASIC. Please call Jim at 493-7612 if you are interested.

Filing, Graphics, Interactive / User friendly

CLUB BITS & BYTES

PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE:

At the January 30 meeting  Dave Casto distributed copies of selected disks from our library at \$2 a piece. We will probably be continuing this procedure at some time in the future.

MORE CLUB NEWS

LIBRARY: Please let the club know when you come across an especially useful program in the library. Either make an announcement at the meeting, or send a paragraph describing the program to PRinT SCreen.

RESOURCE PEOPLE: Many thanks to those who volunteered themselves as resource people. See the list at the back of the newsletter for the complete list of Resource People. Please feel free to volunteer yourself at any time.

PAY YOUR DUES! For the two months before your membership is due to expire, we will include in your newsletter a self-addressed envelope for you to enclose your \$25 dues. You will be deleted from the membership list, a fate worse than death, if you do not pay your dues after your second notice.

Q&A COLUMN: Are you too shy to ask questions at the Group Meetings? Get too tired to wait for Random Access at the end of the Meeting? Want to try to stump Mike Van Waas? If you can answer YES to any of these questions, you will love our new Q&A Column to be featured in PRinT SCreen monthly. Send your questions before the 15th of the month to the newsletter editor.

PLANNING MEETING: All members are welcome to attend the monthly Planning Meeting, where we make decisions on the direction of the Group. Please call Beverly Altman, 329-8252, if you can make the next meeting on Wednesday March 13 at 8 p.m.

SPEAKERS/TOPICS: Do you have anyone you are interested in hearing speak at our monthly

meetings, or any particular topics you would like to have discussed? (Got any connections to get local "heros" to talk to us?) If so, let Kathy Carroll, chairman of the Speaker's Bureau, know. We will pass around a suggestion list at the meeting.

REVEAL YOUR SOURCE: Everyone seems to have their favorite sources for computer hardware/software/supplies. Spread the good word! Fill in the form at the back of the newsletter and we will publish the list in the next PRinT SCreen.

FROM OTHER PUBS.

SYMPHONY VS. 1-2-3: Undecided whether to get Symphony? An excellent article entitled, "Do you need the higher priced spreadsheet?", appeared in the January 1985 issue of Business Software magazine. The article describes the differences between 1-2-3 and Symphony, and the pros and cons of each program.

MATHEMATICAL EXPRESSIONS: If you have ever had the "pleasure" of typing complex equations into WordStar you will welcome a new software package called SuperScript. As described in PC Week, the program displays mathematical expressions on screen as they would appear in printed form. These expressions can then be integrated with word processing programs such as WordStar. SuperScript is ideal for engineers, scientists, mathematicians and technical document writers.

The publisher, Technical Support Software, can be reached at P.O. Box 289 Chestnut Hill, MA 02167. (617) 734-4130. SuperScript retails for \$475.

FROM OTHER PUBS. (CONT'D)

SPEED UP YOUR AT: According to a recent article in PC Magazine (2/19/85), the AT can be sped up by 33 percent by replacing the system board crystal with a \$5 16-Mhz version available at most electronics stores. No soldering is necessary; installation can be done with a screwdriver. Where's the catch? Well, replacing the crystal voids your warranty.

PC POWER SUPPLY LIMITATIONS

by Jim Dinkey

Recently both at the club and at work, I have been involved in the evaluation of equipment and have had to suggest criteria for the selection of equipment. Part of that selection process has included reviewing the capabilities and requirements of the IBM PC power supply as we wish to add further equipment than is readily available for the PC such as IEEE buss attachments.

Towards this end I obtained an IBM PC and after reviewing it for two weeks, got rid of it for many reasons, not the least being that the power supply was undernourished. The Heathkit/Zenith came in at 160 watts and the AT&T came in at 200 watts compared to the IBM 63.5.

Further to this is the assumption that if the unit works, all is well. This probably isn't the case and the problems resultant can be manifested in many ways; some from just early failure of overstressed parts all the way up in severity to fire. The latter will be most critical in unattended operation.

Because the IBM power supply can supply only 63.5 watts and because the basic configurations soak up much of that capability, there is little room for error on the IBM design. Let us take some examples:

The IBM PC is rated by IBM 2 amps at 12 volts and 7 amps at 5 volts.

Taking the five volt portion alone, the boards that go into the IBM PC draw the currents indicated in the accompanying figure (as stated by BYTE Magazine, October 1984 Page 203). With this information, you can add up the power requirements of each of your own configurations to establish what the current requirements of your own machine are going to be.

Any machine running much more than 80% of rated output is going to usually have a bunch of problems some of the them being:

1. Very little tolerance of voltage spikes and sags as very little reserve will be held in the capacitors. Usually evidenced by

Mother board + keyboard	1.6	amps	8.0	watts	(required)
color graphics	1.3		6.5		(usual)
Floppy controller	.8		4.0		(required)
Winchester controller	1.7		8.5		(4 A. start)
AST 6 Pak+	.7		3.5		(often)
First floppy	.6		3.0		
Second floppy	.6		3.0		(often)
Hard disk	1.5		7.5		

8.8

POWER SUPPLY (CONT'D)

continuous rebooting of the system or hang-ups whenever spikes appear on the lines from local copiers, typewriters, etc. or from external impulses such as switchgear outside of the building.

2. Overheating of most-stressed parts leading to early failure.

3. Depending on conditions, destruction of the power supply by incineration of components. Fuses often melt only after the destruction begins to accelerate.

Assuming that all is well when there is no outward sign of problem is not a safe assumption unless adequate recognition of the problems associated with overloaded power supplies are recognized.

Later manufacturers having recognized the problem have countered with significantly larger power supplies in the basic unit. AT&T uses a 200 watt supply as a minimum and Heath/Zenith uses a 165 watt supply. Both of these permit the addition of Winchester drives with adequate reserves and margin for start up currents.

WORDSTAR INSTALLATION

Jim Dinkey submitted the following technical note that he received from MicroPro regarding the WordStar 3.30 installation "too little memory" error.

Question: I have 576K of memory on my IBM-PC, yet when I try to install WordStar I get the error message "Too little memory." What causes this?

Answer: You can correct this by running Debug on WINSTALL.COM and changing an instruction at location 02D4H. The instruction should be changed from 7C to 72. Here's how to do it.

```
At the DOS prompt, type
DEBUG WINSTALL.COM <return>
-E2D4
xxxx:02D4 7C.72 <return>
-W <return>
Writing xxxx bytes
-Q <return>
```

The "xxxx" represents a four digit number which is system dependent.

SORTED PROBLEMS

You have an ASCII text file that you would like to have sorted. For example, you want to sort a document that you created on your word processor, but you don't have a data base program.

SOLUTION #1: The command SORT <OLDFILE.TXT > NEWFILE.TXT will cause SORT to read the file OLDFILE.TXT, sort the lines within it, and write the sorted output to file NEWFILE.TXT. The command SORT/R <OLDFILE.TXT >NEWFILE.TXT will do the same thing except that it will reverse the sort (from Z to A so to speak). The command SORT/+9 <OLD.TXT > NEW.TXT will perform the sort starting in column 9 ignoring any data in the first 8 columns of each line in OLD.TXT.

SOLUTION #2: If you own SideKick, you can sort a block of text in the NotePad. Just load the ASCII file, mark off the block you wish to sort (^KB marks the beginning, ^KK marks the end), and then press ^KS to sort.

TAX WOES...

Turley Angle discovered a public domain Lotus 1-2-3 template which will ease the burden of figuring your 1984 federal taxes. He highly recommends FEDTAX84, and will bring it to the next meeting. Bring a disk if you would like to copy it.

Another 1-2-3 template, though not public domain, is Taxcalc. Taxcalc will calculate both federal and California state income taxes; data only has to be entered once. Besides calculating 1040 information, Taxcalc provides information for filling out Schedules A, D, G, and SE. Being a small business owner, I would have also liked to see Schedule C (Business Income or Loss) in there. I did my taxes on it (double-checked it manually) and the template appears to be accurate.

Speaking of taxes, if you use your PC for business purposes, and the computer is in a residence, you will now have to keep a precise log of all the time you spend on the PC. I am using SideKick to make this hassle somewhat less painful. Follow these steps:

1. Boot up the computer with SideKick.
2. Go into the NotePad. (I made A:COMPLOG the auto-loading file. I save the file right on the SideKick disk so that I can keep everything on one disk.)
3. Move to the bottom of the file (^QC), and press ^QT which enters the current date and time. Type in the description of the task you will be working on. Press F2 to save and hit ESC to leave SideKick.

4. Continue with your work. When you're done, press CTRL-ALT to bring SideKick up onto the screen, and repeat steps 2 and 3 to enter the time you finished the project. Be sure to insert the SideKick disk in drive A when you wish to save.

* * * * *

CLASSIFIEDS

Anchor 1200B Smart Modem for sale. Used only a few times. Asking \$225. Call Steve at 573-6692.

ADVERTISING

If you are interested in advertising in PRINT SCREEN, send camera ready copy to P.O. Box 3738, Stanford, CA 94305 before the 8th of the month. All ads are payable by check in advance. Rates per issue are:

Full Page (8-1/2 X 11)	\$25.
Half Page (8/12 X 5-1/2)	\$15.
Qtr. Page (4.2 X 5-1/2)	\$10.

Classified ads are free to paying members.

Other Uses For the IBM Chiclet Keyboard



Belt buckles for urban buckaroos

CLUB INFORMATION

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 3738
Stanford, CA 94305

MEMBERSHIP: Dave Casto 326-7006
\$25/year fee (bring disk to meeting to copy
library listing)

NEWSLETTER: Rebecca Bridges 326-8605
P.O. Box 982
Palo Alto, CA 94302
Deadline for submissions: 15th of each month

LIBRARY:

Public Domain Software	Les Weil	321-5541
Soft Copy	Jim Caldwell	692-7181
Hard Copy	Joe Wible	497-6831

SIGS:

Novices:	Rebecca Bridges	326-8605
Lotus:	Nancy Crewdson	328-9270
	Nichols de Paul	493-5342
Communications:	Corwin Nichols	494-8640
Hardware/Assembly:	Curt Carlson	941-5680
Genealogy:	Dave Casto	326-7006

CLUB OFFICERS

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ASSU Representative	Curt Carlson	941-5680
Speaker's Bureau:	Kathy Carroll	325-0824

RESOURCE PEOPLE

PC Write	Tony Nunez	857-0836
WordStar	Jackie Carr	858-1641
Microsoft Word	Jeanie Treichel	851-8828
Lotus 1-2-3	Bruce Coddling	367-8642
MultiPlan	Jim Webster	326-3365
Financial Software	John Van Deman	854-1167
Perfect Series	Stefan Unger	321-7319
Pascal, DOS 2.0	Jeff	321-5930
"C"	Corwin Nichols	494-8640
BASIC	Jim Beck	493-7612
APL	Paul	968-8283
	Stefan Unger	321-7319
AST Boards	Greg Tinfow	493-7404
Expansion Boards	Curt Carlson	941-5680
Columbia computer	Stefan Unger	321-7319



If you know of any stores which consistently offer good prices, service, or availability, let us know. Please give complete information.

___ YES, I would like to reveal my sources!!

COMPANY _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

TYPE OF PRODUCT (BE AS SPECIFIC AS POSSIBLE)

OTHER COMMENTS (HOW'S THE SERVICE, INVENTORY?)

YOUR NAME _____

Mail this form to: Rebecca Bridges, P.O. Box 982, Palo Alto, CA 94302.



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