

↑ PRTSC

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

PRinT SCreen

April 1985

Volume 3 Number 4

NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, April 24
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Place: Polya Hall,
Turing Auditorium (Rm. 111)
Stanford University

AGENDA

8:00 General Club Business
8:30 **Speaker:** John Van Deman
Topic: Demonstration of IBM's
TopView
9:00 Discussion and Random Access
10:00 Conclusion

April Program:

DEMONSTRATION OF IBM'S TOPVIEW

Member John Van Deman will demonstrate TopView with various program combinations and DOS services. He will point out pros and cons and compare TopView with other windowing environments. John participated in TopView pre-release testing for software compatibility. He is a co-founder of MoneyCare, Inc., Mountain View-based developers of The Financial Navigator...personal financial management software.

FOR THE FAMILY

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(Offer valid until April 20 with this notice only)

MARCH MEETING:

Larry Magid gave a dynamic talk last month about the need for, benefits, and future of computer training. Larry is the Executive Vice President of Know How, a San Francisco based computer training firm.

Computer training is needed because the printed word has a limit to its effectiveness. Hands-on training (preferably one person to a computer) with a "live" instructor is necessary for the average person to get up to speed. Nothing can take the place of the "warm, fuzzy factor" that personalized training provides.

Given that it costs the company \$2000-3000 for the time it takes an employee to train him/herself, the cost of not training is considerably higher than training.

Additionally, training can make employees more aware of the potential and possibilities of the software. Self-trained people are not even aware of many of the software's capabilities.

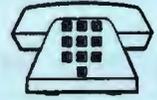
As for the future of computer training, Larry sees a bright future ahead. Contrary to popular rumors, software is not getting easier to learn. Actually, it is getting more complex and harder to use. He gave Symphony and Framework as examples of the complexity of new products.

If you are doing sophisticated financial planning, a user friendly interface (windows, mice, touch screens) will not help much; it is the process of how to manipulate business functions on a computer that requires training. All the mice in the world will not help you amortize a loan, or do a five-year financial projection.

SIG ALERTS

COMMUNICATIONS SIG:

The group met on April 3 and seven members attended. Although the SOURCE demo was a bust (the SOURCE was down!), some useful information about local BBSes (bulletin board systems) was exchanged.



Stay tuned to this column for more information about "THE WELL". This is a planned information source much like the SOURCE or COMPUSERVE, but is aimed directly at the greater Bay Area. It is being organized (if you can call it that) by the folks of Whole Earth fame (Stewart Brand et al). One interesting feature is its cost. Planned rate is \$3.00/hour (any time day or night) and it will be a local number from anywhere in the Bay Area.

Although our club no longer has its own BBS, there are a number of them in our local calling area. Some of these are by subscription, some are free. Some are oriented to computer topics, while others are wide open. Here are a few numbers to explore. These systems are free!

NAME	TOPICS	ACCESS #	BAUD
Dr.'s Office	IBM PC & general	365-9124	1200
Piconet	Computers	965-4097	1200
Datatech	Computers	595-0541	1200
nwonknu	Computers & gen'l	365-4194	300
Palo Alto DYM	Open (adult?)	327-909B	1200

The next Communications SIG meeting is scheduled for May 1 at 7:30 at 3345 Kenneth Dr., Palo Alto. Either the SOURCE or COMPUSERVE or both will be demonstrated.

NOVICE SIG:

Curt Carlson met with the Novice SIG this month and talked about different expansion cards. A dozen people attended.

Printers will be the main topic of the next meeting. We will discuss ways of getting the most out of your printer, new printer technologies, printer add-ons, printing utilities, connecting two printers to one PC, etc. Bring your printer manual with you.



The meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14th at 7:30 p.m. at 637 Alvarado Row, Stanford. Call Rebecca Bridges for details (326-8605).

HARDWARE/ASSEMBLY SIG:

The first programming challenge is on and all members are encouraged to partake. The guidelines are loose and simple:

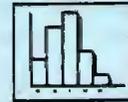
- 1) The program must be a memory resident program that can put a continuously updated clock onto the screen.
- 2) Any language can be used.
- 3) Extra features should be included but are limited only by your creativity (e.g., alarm, hourly beeps, graphics, ...)

Source codes will be exchanged so that we can all learn how to do something like this. The best program will be demonstrated and a prize given. The deadline for entries is the July SIG meeting.

If you are interested, come to the next SIG meeting: May 7, 7:30 p.m. Terman Engineering Bldg.

LOTUS SIG:

The next Lotus SIG meeting will be on Tuesday May 13 at 7:30. Symphony will be the topic. The meeting will be held at 3000 Sand Hill Road, Building 2. Call Joann Connors at 854-8000 for directions. Group leader, Nancy Crewdson, can answer any other questions at 328-9270.



The Lotus SIG is building a library of reference materials at 636 Waverley in Palo Alto. Please call Nancy before you stop by.

Nancy has submitted a copy of the Lotus Graphic Printer Library II disk to the club library. It contains the following new drivers:

Canon PJ1080
Epson LQ1500
Epson JX80
HP LaserJet
HP ThinkJet
HP 7550
IBM Color Graphics
Okidata Pace Mark 2410
Quadram Quadjet
TI 855

She will bring a copy of the disk to the April 24 group meeting for those who wish to make a copy.

Nancy also has a copy of Lotus' latest Technical Notes. Please give her a call if you are interested in finding out tips and tricks on a variety of topics.

PC JR

Several people have expressed interest in forming a PCjr Special Interest Group. Please call Suresh Desai (342-8052) if you would like to be a member of this SIG.

LIBRARY NEWS

by Jim Caldwell

1 CATALOG DISTRIBUTION

As you know the catalog is constantly being worked on so each month it needs to be updated. To help you update it we provide you with a disk that can be copied each month. This month we are in a special transition to an entirely new system. You may continue to use the old catalog (CATLG#00) with the DISKCAT Program, or (BYDISK) with DOS.



Below is a printed list of the latest disks. You will not need an electronic version now. Next month we will come out with the new catalog and an explanation. Our policy will be to separately catalog the new disks each month and give you a listing, then we will add it to the full catalog so that newcomers can get the whole catalog at once. You may want to print out the catalog, then print out only the additions each month to update your printed catalog.

NEW PROGRAMS THIS MONTH

.1 DBASE#02 "Genealogy On Display 3.0" Updated Version

DISKCAT43G "Diskcat" Version 4.3g 1985 Disk Catalog Pgm

AMLY#03 "Check Book Distribution Program" ups Checkbook entries expense categories and totals, etc. User Wrted Software: \$20 is sted.

#00 "Marketmaker" ent Demo

NEW PROGRAMS

(CONT'D)

4.5 FINANCE#01 "PFR01" Portfolio Manager Demo

4.6 GAMES#05 updated: Jetset, Wormcity, Space War

4.7 GAMES#06 "King's Quest" Demonstration

4.8 INOUT#05 "Watson" Phone Manager Demo

4.9 MULTIFCT#00/#01 TWO DISK DEMO SET "Get Organized!" DEMONSTRATION of "Get Organized!" Seven function program: Wordprocessor, Addressbook, calendar, notepad, calculator, index cards, telecommunications.

4.10 OPSYS#08 "Fansi-Console" Fast Ansi Console Driver. Speeds up screen writes. Other Utilities for the console.

4.11 QUICKREPORT Trial Copy of DBase III Report Program

4.12 SVCS#66 A Mixed Bag of Programs

4.13 SVCS#89 A Mixed Bag of Programs

4.14 SVCS#92 A Mixed Bag of Programs

2 PROGRAM REVIEWS

We will have available at the meeting a text template for reviewing programs. You may volunteer to take the template, copy it, and fill in the blanks as you review your favorite program or one of the new programs each month.

PROGRAM REVIEWS (CONT'D)

We ask you to get a copy of your completed review to the librarians, who will put it in the library for others to read. We are looking forward to having a rich catalog of reviews and of programs that are properly evaluated. Please chip in where you can.

3 PROGRAM SOLICITATION

We are ready now to accept new disks of public domain programs to add to the library. Let us know if you have some programs that are not already in the library. Give us the source as well. We'll copy them onto club diskettes and make them available to members. Please help us enrich the services the club can offer.

SIG's please offer templates written by your members. Also write us some reviews. Make it a SIG project to get the review template and to review the software available in your field of interest.

JRAM-2 Update

by Jim Caldwell

The disadvantages of the Tall Tree JRAM-2 Board that I mentioned last month seem now to be not so bad as I thought. First of all you get to use 704K of RAM to run Framework, Symphony, and/or windows with other programs. That is not as good as an AT or the rumored PC-2, but it is pretty good nevertheless.

On top of that you can add a virtual disk and large print spooler without using any of your 704K main memory. Main memory can be devoted entirely to running your programs. Of course we wish

JRAM UPDATE (CONT'D)

programs like Framework were more efficient with memory but wishing doesn't get the job done. Moreover, if you are adding memory anyway, the price of JRAM-2 is low compared with other leading memory boards.

PRICE UPDATE: Bare board \$219; add \$180 for two ports and clock; Buy your own memory chips. If you buy 5 the price drops to \$153 + 126; an order of 50 gets them for \$131 + 108. It seems AST and others that offer two ports, a clock and max capability of 384K for \$200 wholesale (+ chips) will have to upgrade to stay competitive. One JRAM-AT costs \$269 + 130 list.

FRAMEWORK NOTES

by Jim Caldwell

MANIPULATING DATABASE PARAMETERS. One of the features I have gotten spoiled by in Framework is the ability to redefine my database whenever I wish. Although I have not yet remoulded my thinking patterns to the point where planning my projects in convenient 100K byte-sized pieces is automatic, I find it easy to restructure on-the-fly in Framework.

Since Databases are laid out like spreadsheets, with columns as fields, one can simply add, delete, copy, move, or change the size of a column (field) (within or across files) whenever one wishes. The displayed size, the printed size, and the actual size are also independent of each other. The actual field size is variable--you can just keep typing data into a cell and it will be stored. What displays depends on

FRAMEWORK NOTES (CONT'D)

how wide you set the column; what prints depends on how wide you set the field in the report format.

Sorting records is as simple as two keystrokes. Selecting records is done with a formula either in a cell or behind the border of the file frame. The latter hides unselected records from operations performed on the file; to get them back simply delete the formula.

KEYBOARD MACROS. There are two kinds of macros in Framework that make programs like PROKEY unnecessary. The first is the built-in macro in a utility file called "Maclib." Certain keys are predefined, such as formats for letters, memos, standard reports, etc., that put the date and your return address, and other standard items in automatically.

Others are fully user defineable by putting Maclib on your screen and pressing Alt-F2. You can put anything in a macro from a series of keystrokes to a series of formulae that get files from disk, manipulate them, put the results in a new file, and write a report from the new file.

There are 46 possible "alt+key" macros in Maclib. But this is only the beginning. The second kind of macro is one you can define in as many of your own libraries of macros as you like. You then save them with the appropriate projects, and have everything predefined for each project.

TOPVIEW

It will be interesting to see what John Van Deman has to say about TopView at the general meeting; most of the press has been quite negative.

TOP VIEW (CONT'D)

PC Week (Feb. 26, 1985) blasted the program. "TopView is ... ill-suited to the capabilities of the PC's 8088 microprocessor," says reviewer Gary Ray. The program requires 165K for its own operational requirements which doesn't leave much room for your applications.

Besides hogging a good portion of your memory, TopView slows down the performance of the applications you are running. Benchmark tests showed a 10 to 20% performance degradation with one task resident, and with four tasks to perform, the foreground application operated at only half speed.

To sum it up: "It's too slow, too rigid in its insistence upon insulating the user from DOS, and therefore too limiting to the experienced PC user. In fact, there are few things about this program that make it worth recommending at all."

SAVVY PC

Last November, 25 of us received the Savvy sample kit. The company has now "reorganized" and is offering the complete \$400 package for \$125.50 (\$105.50 without the tutorial manual). Call 800-551-5199 and ask for Richard; mention our group. Call Dave Casto (326-7006) if you have any questions.

DISASTER STRIKES: FORMATTING YOUR HARD DISK

by Rebecca Bridges

At a recent consulting assignment, the data processing director of a hospital came up to me with a sorrowful expression on his face. "I wanted to format a floppy disk and I ended up formatting the entire hard disk."

FORMATTING (CONT'D)

His tale is not an unusual one. As many people have found out, if you are logged onto drive C and type **FORMAT** without specifying which drive you wish to format, you will wipe out your hard disk. Thus, I have always recommended keeping **FORMAT.COM** off the hard disk despite the fact that is annoying to have to hunt down your DOS disk whenever you wish to format a floppy.

PC World to the rescue!! Several solutions to this problem were published in the March issue and are reprinted below.

```
For DOS 2.00:
A> DATE 12/12/2012
A> DEBUG FORMAT.COM
- E1B9 B0 00 90 90
- W
Writing xxxx bytes
- Q
A>

For DOS 2.10:
A> DATE 12/12/2012
A> DEBUG FORMAT.COM
- E174 B0 00 90 90
- W
Writing xxxx bytes
- Q
A>

For DOS 3.00:
A> DATE 12/12/2012
A> DEBUG FORMAT.COM
- E648 B0 00 90 90
- W
Writing xxxx bytes
- Q
A>
```

FORMATFIX1: A patch to modify **FORMAT.COM** to format the disk in drive A: unless another drive is specified

```
For DOS 2.00:
A> DATE 12/12/2012
A> DEBUG FORMAT.COM
- E1B9 EB F5 90 90
- W
Writing xxxx bytes
- Q
A>

For DOS 2.10:
A> DATE 12/12/2012
A> DEBUG FORMAT.COM
- E174 EB F5 90 90
- W
Writing xxxx bytes
- Q
A>

For DOS 3.00:
A> DATE 12/12/2012
A> DEBUG FORMAT.COM
- E648 EB D5 90 90
- W
Writing xxxx bytes
- Q
A>
```

FORMATFIX2: A patch that modifies **FORMAT.COM** to require that the user specify which drive contains the disk to be formatted.

DOS 3.0

by Rebecca Bridges

While we are on the subject of accidental formatting of the hard disk, Peter Norton in the April 30 issue of PC Magazine extolled the virtues of DOS 3.0. One major

DOS 3.0 (CONT'D)

benefit is that when you unwittingly say to format drive C you will get this message:
WARNING, ALL DATA ON NON-REMOVABLE DISK DRIVE C: WILL BE LOST! PROCEED WITH FORMAT (Y/N)?

If you read the message, I doubt you will accidentally format your hard disk.

Also, DOS 3.0 makes it easier to recover files that were unintentionally erased. Previous versions of DOS will save data in the most recently erased portions of the disk. DOS 3.0 saves data in the space that was discarded the longest time ago.

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:

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Half Page (7.5 X 4.5)	\$15.
Qtr. Page (4.5 X 3.5)	\$10.

Classified ads are free to paying members.

CALENDAR

April 24.....	Group Meeting.....	8:00
May 1.....	Communications SIG.....	7:30
May 7.....	Hardware SIG.....	7:30
May 13.....	Lotus SIG.....	7:30
May 14.....	Novice SIG.....	7:30
May 15.....	Planning Meeting.....	8:00
May 29.....	Group Meeting.....	8:00

CLUB OFFICERS:

President:	Jim Caldwell	692-7181
Vice President:	Rebecca Bridges	326-8605
Financial Manager:	Beverly Altman	329-8252
ASSU Representative	Curt Carlson	941-5680
Speaker's Bureau:	Kathy Carroll	325-0824

SIGS:

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

LIBRARY:

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Application Packages:

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Hard disks	Jim Caldwell	692-7181
	Jonathan Steibel	494-0122
Epson printers	Jim Caldwell	692-7181

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

**The Stanford/Palo Alto
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