↑ PRT SC

NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, Sept. 25 '

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Place: Polya Hall,
            Turing Auditorium (Rm. 111)
            Stanford University

AGENDA

8:00 PM   General Club Business

8:30 PM   Speaker: Alan Fisher
            Topic : Demonstration of "Capital M.1"
                                    expert system

9:00 PM   Discussion and Random Access

10:00 PM   Conclusion

"M.1" is a novel and powerful tool that goes beyond most current
decision support software, and uses "if-then" rules to reason with
probability and uncertainty. Alan, a Stanford alumnus, is Senior
Software Engineer and Product Manager for "Techknowledge, Inc.",
of Palo Alto.

PLANNING MEETING:

All members are welcome to
attend the monthly Planning
Meeting, where we make decisions
on the future of the group (e.g.,
speakers, topics).

Please call Beverly Altman,
329-8252, for the location of the
next meeting, which will be held
on Wednesday, October 16th at
8 p.m.   If you can't reach
Beverly, call any Club Officer.

CALENDAR

Sept. 25	Group Meeting	8:00
Sept. 26	Novice SIG	7:30
Oct. 2	Communications SIG	7:30
Oct. 14	Lotus SIG	7:30
Oct. 15	Hardware SIG	8:00
Oct. 16	Planning Meeting	7:30
Oct. 30	Group Meeting	8:00

CLUB NEWS

Membership renewals: For the two months preceding the expiration of your membership you will find a renewal envelope enclosed in your newsletter. Use this envelope to promptly send in your $25 check so that you won't miss an issue of the monthly newsletter. A current membership card will then be sent to you in the next issue of PrtSc.

Remember, the **"Goodie Coupon"** attached to your membership card is presently good for one free disk: the library catalog, Program of the Month, or a blank disk. Trade in your coupon for a disk at a future meeting.
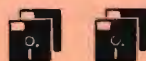
If you wish to purchase disks at the meetings, you will need to present your membership card, so be sure to bring it with you.

Xidex disks will again be available at the meeting for $11/box. The Program of the Month will be offered on disk for $2.

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LIBRARY NEWS

The following new disks are available in the library from Les Weil:

MATH#01A and MATH#01B. These disks contain a program called **STATA** which can be used to manipulate and analyze various types of data.

The two disks run together and are set up in sub-directories. It is necessary to issue a "CD" on each drive before starting.

SIG REPORTS

LOTUS SIG:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 14th at 7:30 PM. We will discuss Lotus' new release of 1-2-3 and see a demonstration of the 1-2-3 Report Writer.

The meeting is going to be held at 636 Waverley Street in Palo Alto. Call Nancy Crewdson at 328-9270 for additional information.

COMMUNICATIONS SIG:

The COMM SIG will meet on Wednesday October 2nd at 7:30 p.m. at Corwin Nichols' home. Please call 494-8640 for details.

HARDWARE/ASSEMBLY SIG:

The next SIG meeting will be held Tuesday October 15th at 7:30 p.m. in the bottom of the Terman Engineering Bldg. Call Curt Carlson at 941-5680 for details.

NOVICE SIG:

The next meeting will be held the day following the group meeting -- Thursday, September 26th at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be at Jim Dinkey's home at 3380 Cork Oak Way in Palo Alto. Call Sally See at 941-1378 for additional information. If you get lost, Jim's number is 493-9307.

EXCHANGE MAGAZINE

Don't forget to pick up your free copy of IBM's Exchange magazine at the meeting. Some of the articles in this month's issue are:

    Customize Your DOS Prompt
    IBM BASIC Compiler 2.0
    DOS 3.10 Reference Chart
    DOS Filter Commands
    Keyboard Input for Batch Files

The magazine will be available at the back of the meeting room.

INSET:
MERGE GRAPHICS & TEXT

An August issue of PC Week reviewed a nifty little program called Inset. This memory-resident print utility allows you to integrate graphic images with text documents (see example below). They tested Inset with a variety of software packages including WordStar, XyWrite II+, dBase III, 1-2-3 and Symphony. They did not encounter any compatibility problems.

The program sells for $149. For more information contact:

APG Software
American Programmers Guide Ltd.
12 Mill Plain Road
Danbury, Conn. 06811
(203) 794-0396

Looks like an interesting program, and PC Week rated it highly. "In sum, Inset is an easy-to-use program that can provide spectacular results....it has the ability to add a new dimension to every program you own, and thus it is one of the most original and exciting pieces of software released for the IBM PC in a long time."
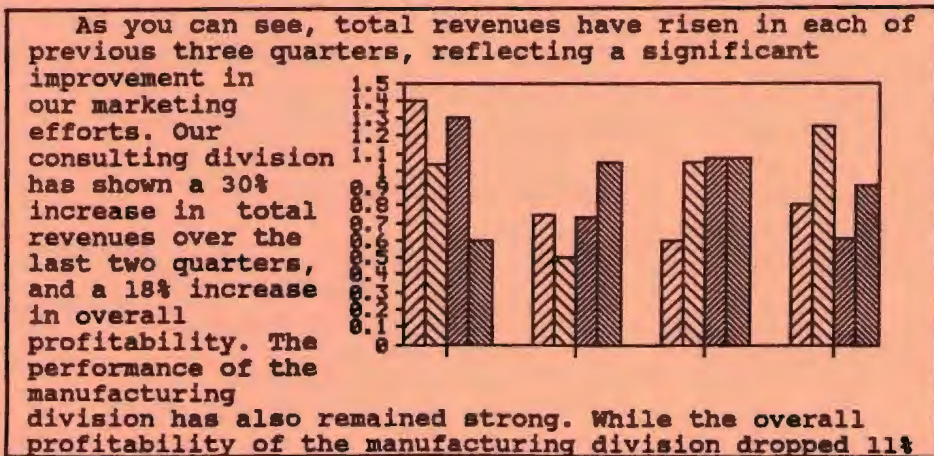

"The computer says we can pay our bills if we sell it."

NATIONAL ENQUIRER

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Writer Wants
Naked Ladies

I've got a side yard full of agapanthas that die back just when naked ladies bloom all over Palo Alto. If you have any of the latter that you'd like removed from your yard to mine, please call me at 322-2072. Or log on my BBS (a Fido!) at 322-6451.

Also: I write ads and PR for anything related to computers, software and assorted high technology subjects, in case you'd rather send me work than flowers.

Cheers!

Paul Pease, Writer
302 Bryant Palo Alto 94301

As you can see, total revenues have risen in each of previous three quarters, reflecting a significant improvement in our marketing efforts. Our consulting division has shown a 30% increase in total revenues over the last two quarters, and a 18% increase in overall profitability. The performance of the manufacturing division has also remained strong. While the overall profitability of the manufacturing division dropped 11%

Inset **can integrate graphics into a printed document with astonishing simplicity.**

IMPLICATIONS
OF NON-IBM PCS

by Jim Dinkey

There is a definite niche in the marketplace for non-IBM PCs. They can save one a whale of a lot of money; but all is not necessarily roses when one does this.

For example, the Department of Defense (Army, Navy, etc.) has contracted with Zenith to purchase about 200,000 Z-151 IBM compatible PCs for its various services. Why didn't it go IBM? That would have been the 'safe' thing to do. There are some pretty good reasons to not go IBM, but that is a subject for a later discussion. What is important is the fact that the machine will run software that an IBM will run with a few 'gotchas'.

For example, it won't run a program written in IBM supported BASIC unless it has the Zenith BASIC in residence. As long as the application program does not use machine dependent PEEK & POKE, all will be well. But you had better pray for deliverance if the application program does this stunt.

Another so-called compatible machine is the AT&T. Good name. Big company. Fast. Looks nice. Totally unsupportable.

Only after you buy the thing do you find out two significant problems with the unit. The first is that AT&T will refuse to sell its schematics and maintenance information. To the single user this is not too much of a catastrophe, but it sure makes it a pain to the integrator of different types of printers and monitors if things are not just entirely correct. As a balance, Zenith supplies the schematics free with the H-151 and IBM makes you buy it for $295.

While the AT&T runs about twice as fast as the IBM and the Zenith (8.00 vs 4.77 mhz) as a plus, a significant negative is the realization that the interrupt handling is not the same. We bought a number of them for the specialized purpose of doing some calculation-intensive work - very little I/O.

The only problem was that the software wouldn't work. It was traced, with a lot of work, to the fact that the interrupt structure implemented by AT&T was not the same as IBM's so the software was not sensing the interrupt. Once we understood the problem, one of our computer designers was able to bridge the offending chips without the use of schematics, to make the AT&T run the necessary software.

With so many vendors making software for IBM first and then for the compatibles second, my message is simply to put all of the software that you intend to run onto the machines and have all of the support items that you need tested and reviewed before you go out and save 40% with a compatible. The savings is usually worth the time an effort - just look very carefully before you leap.

This is one of the functions of the PC newsletter you are reading - to provide a forum for you to try out an idea. There is a wealth of information available from the members; we just have to be sure that we both provide and use the forum for the trading of knowledge and ideas.

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PRT SC

Please contact Rebecca Bridges if you are interested in writing for PRinT SCreen. All articles are welcome.

Please submit the articles:

o   In WordStar or ASCII format.
o   Single-spaced.
o   Double-spaced between paragraphs.
o   Any right margin.
o   By the 15th of the month.

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:

FrameWork:	Jim Caldwell	692-7181
Lotus:	Nancy Crewdson	328-9270
	Nicholas de Paul	424-6968
Communications:	Corwin Nichols	494-8640
Hardware/Assembly:	Curt Carlson	941-5680
Novice:	Jim Dinkey	493-9307
	Sally See	941-1378

LIBRARY:

Public Domain Software	Les Weil	321-5541
Soft Copy	Jim Caldwell	692-7181
	Ralph Muraca	365-1659
Hard Copy	Joe Wible	497-6831

RESOURCE PEOPLE

Application Packages:

WordStar	Jackie Carr	858-1641
	Jonathan Steibel	494-0122
MicroSoft Word	Jeanie Treichel	851-8828
Word Perfect	Jim Caldwell	692-7181
Lotus 1-2-3	Bruce Codding	367-8642
	Nicholas de Paul	424-6968
MultiPlan	Jim Webster	326-3365
Framework	Jim Caldwell	692-7181
Financial Software	John Van Deman	854-1167
Accounting Applications	Phyllis Boden	340-1119
Perfect Series	Stefan Unger	321-7319

Languages/Operating Systems:

Pascal, DOS 2.0	Jeff	321-5930
	Jonathan Steibel	494-0122
"C"	Corwin Nichols	494-8640
	Jonathan Steibel	494-0122
APL	Paul	968-8283
	Stefan Unger	321-7319

Hardware:

AST Boards	Greg Tinfow	493-7404
Expansion Boards	Curt Carlson	941-5680
Columbia computer	Stefan Unger	321-7319
Hard disks	Jim Caldwell	692-7181
	Jonathan Steibel	494-0122
Epson printers	Jim Caldwell	692-7181

C L U B   I N F O R M A T I O N

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

MEMBERSHIP: Dave Casto   326-7006
                        $25/year fee

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

A D V E R T I S I N G

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 (8.5 X 11) $25.
    Half Page (7.5 X 4.5) $15.
    Qtr. Page (4.5 X 3.5) $10.

Classified ads are free to paying members.

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