PRinT SCreen

The Newsletter for the Stanford/Palo Alto Users' Group for the IBM PC

7:30

Half-Past Seven
Half-Past Seven
Half-Past Seven

What's so special about this time? See page 3

CLUB NEWS

October Meeting

Last month, renowned columnist and industry personality Larry Magid made a return visit to Polya Hall to give us a peek at the state-of-the-art in personal computing. And Larry uses the term literally: he goes nowhere without his lap-top computer and his "personal phone." With his dry wit and unusually broad perspective, Larry gave an entertaining talk in which he offered his views on our operating system woes and the NeXT computer, as well as taking a few shots at some of the industry's sacred cows.

For many, however, the highlight of the talk may have been when his wife called him on his personal phone. Always quick on his feet, Larry just made the phone call part of his presentation, as if this kind of thing goes on all the time. It probably does!

December Meeting

Because of the holidays, there will be no club meeting in December. See everyone in January!

2400-Baud Modems for $80

In John Dvorak's Inside Track column (PC Magazine, November 15th) he highly recommended a very inexpensive $130 GCH Systems 2400- baud modem. Richard Orser contacted the Sunnyvale company and arranged an unheard of special for our club: $90 for external (with power source included) and $80 for internal modems. The PROCOMM communications package is included free. A minimum of 5 modems must be purchased to get this low price.

If you are interested, give your order to Richard at the November meeting or phone him at 325-8441.

November-January Calendar

Nov. 30	Group Meeting	7:30	**Next Meeting**	
Dec. 12	Microsoft Word SIG	7:30	**Date:**	Wednesday, Nov. 30
Jan. 9	Microsoft Word SIG	7:30	**Time:**	7:30 p.m. (new time)
Jan. 11	Planning Meeting	8:00	**Place:**	Polya Hall, Turing
Jan. 25	Group Meeting	8:00		Auditorium (Rm. 111)
				Stanford University

All members are welcome to attend the monthly planning meeting, where we make decisions on the future of the group. Call Beverly Altman, 329-8252, for the location of the next meeting.

SIGS

Microsoft Word SIG meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. Regular attendees are contacted by phone and informed of meeting dates and topics. If you are not a regular attendee, contact Jeanie Triechel at home (851-0100) or work (326-7438).

Stay tuned for information regarding the new **Novice SIG**. For current information, contact Nancy Helmy at 326-1911.

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 ($10 for students) 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 PrtSc.

Goodie Coupons

Remember, the "**Goodie Coupon**" attached to your membership card is presently good for one free disk: the library catalog, Disk of the Month, or a blank disk. Trade in your coupon for a disk at a future meeting.

Floppy disks for sale

Xidex Precision disks are available for $6/box. High density floppies are 4 disks for $5. The catalog and the Disk of the Month will be offered for $1 a disk. 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.

DIR C:\November

New Meeting Time

Due to popular demand, the meeting this month, and possibly all subsequent months, will begin at 7:30, instead of 8:00. Those of you leaving on a five-week trip to Africa after the meeting can now schedule your chartered flight 30 minutes earlier!

The Inevitability of CD-ROM

The speaker at the November 30th meeting will be Chris Bowman of Knowledge Set. He will discuss CD ROM applications on the PC.

Disk of the Month

The Disk of the Month features SD, a sorted directory utility program. It sorts files alphabetically, with 4 columns across the screen. Summary information is also displayed: total number of files, subdirectories, and bytes in the displayed directory; information about the entire disk; and, the date and time. Memory-resident and non-resident versions are available.

Mark Woodward will demonstrate SD at the November 30th meeting. Copies will be available for $1 each or use your "goodie coupon."

DOS of the Month

Our resident DOS expert Rick Altman will surprise us this month with some fabulous discovery, sure to leave all of us begging for more. *(Editor's Note: Translated, he hadn't decided what his topic would be by press time...)*

A Virus Revisisted

by Ralph Muraca, Club President

It was only last month that I noted computer viruses are most prevalent in large multi-user computer network systems. Lo, and Behold! Last week's papers, magazines, radio, and TV screamed that thousands of computers in a government-run system were attacked by a virus!

The problem with news media and computer "rags" is that they seldom get a story correct. Each medium gave a different version of what happened in ARPAnet, a system for rapid information

perpetrator, and considered the prank as harmless, since there was no lasting damage!

The offending program was called a "virus;" it was in fact a relatively benign "worm." A virus breeds by insinuating its own logic into existing programs and making them bear its offspring; a worm remains self-contained, and lives off weaknesses in the host's logic. The worm we are discussing did nothing but reproduce madly, and a serious flaw in its own logic caused it to breed so recklessly that it was quickly discovered.

Most computer "rags" declared the worm's creator a "brilliant" hacker; one who just has to be "smart." As a matter of fact, the worm was found so flawed that J. Schiller of MIT said, "I'd be embarrassed if I'd written it! It's a dumb program." In actuality, the worm exploited a known flaw in Berkeley's version of UNIX as used in VAX computers; the worm seemed to invade only equipment produced by Sun Microsystems. Its virulence thus was limited; it could not infest military computer systems because they use a different logic. Indeed, Bell Labs' computers on

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exchange between academic users, created and sponsored by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). But, most aggravating, all sang praises for the "cleverness" of the

ARPAnet remained untouched, for they don't use Berkeley UNIX BSD 4.3.

The ARPAnet operating system has a "sendmail" function that allows interchange of information with other computers on the network. Also, there is a status report function known as "finger demon," or "Fingerd." Access to these facilities is, of course, by password, and the alleged perpetrator of this calamity is known to have an unauthorized list of passwords that includes those of the affected systems.

It made illegal use of the Data Encryption Standard encoding system to crack passwords. Once inside a system, the "debug" mode of sendmail was called upon, and this allowed tinkering with operating system commands to set orders for self-replication. And the program "knew" how to overpack the memory allocation for Fingerd so that the overflow would be interpreted as a command.

As can be surmised, some systems are particularly susceptible to hanky-panky inasmuch as a remote operator is permitted access to the "guts" of another on-line computer. Some BBS systems are operated this way; in fact, you're probably aware the SYSOP's of our SPAUG BBS actually can call up and get into the DOS of the BBS computer on campus. Access is password-controlled, but if a word is let out—would you consider a perpetrator of mayhem on our BBS a "brilliant" hacker, or just a malicious brat that should be slapped down?

There isn't very much difference between SPAUG's BBS and a system like ARPAnet where all users are trusted

SPARC NEWS

Use SPARC and Win

Last month, the bulletin board kept track of everyone who logged on between September 29 and October 25. Those individuals were eligible for a drawing which was held at the October 26th meeting. Henry Hollwedel was the winner last month; he won two boxes of floppy disks.

We will hold a similar drawing at the January 25th meeting. Just log onto SPARC between November 30th and January 24th and you will be entered into the drawing. You must be present at the meeting to win.

SPARC Info

The bulletin board (SPARC) is available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. The number is 723-7995. Use the following communication settings: 300, 1200, or 2400 baud; no parity; 8 bits; and 1 stop bit. A plethora of free software is available for the downloading, and a healthy exchange of ideas is the name of the game on the message center.

If you are having a problem logging onto SPARC, call one of the System Operators:

Ralph Muraca 365-1659
Beverly Altman..........329-8252
Christopher George ...323-1515
Robert Noyes 494-0715

Virus Redux

caretakers. But no system is safe if passwords are available to unauthorized malevolents.

Interconnected computer systems will have some weak point, especially when each user is given great latitude in the use of other on-line systems. So does your house have weak points; windows, for example. Would you consider me "brilliant" if I use those weak points to gain entrance and spray eau de skunk all over? After all, there won't be any lasting damage!

A far-flung computer system such as ARPAnet, which is intended to provide a maximum of interdigitated resources, has its operating system more or less at the mercy of its users (or whoever has passwords, etc.) Efforts are made to restrict access to any operating system largely to prevent accidental as well as deliberate tampering, but considerable liberties were granted to ARPAnet users, lest the usefulness of the system be compromised.

Mayhem caused by the more common breaking into a bank- or business-computer system, so that an unauthorized person may take or alter databank information, is easier to fend off. Moreover, the operating systems of these large computer systems are not made available to users. Accordingly, these operating systems can be wrecked only by direct access to the computer; for example, by a disenchanted employee. If you are the only one with access to your operating system, only you can infest the system with a worm! It can't come in overnight by modem as it did in ARPAnet.

We have indications that the FBI is investigating the prank; since the worm went overseas in ARPAnet and there is a rule against exporting the DES encryption system, the culprit may be cited for an offense. I'm all for a stiff prison sentence and a parole that keeps the perpetrator away from computers for 10 years. Else a number of other "wise guys" may try something worse—after all, you'll only get your wrists slapped, and world-wide recognition as a superb computer genius! If this person goes unpunished, why, even I might try for world-wide notoriety.

Last week, I used my NEC hard-disk portable (Uh, it's luggable, not portable). I systematically saved the day's notes and took it home. The next day, boot-up reported COMMAND.COM on the hard disk is missing or damaged. After boot-up from a DOS disk, in A:, it was found COMMAND.COM in C: had a day-before date and low bytes! Also, the AUTOEXEC.BAT had been erased. "Aha," I thought, "The virus has struck!"

I never found the file with that day's notes, but the text had replaced the contents of COMMAND.COM! All has worked well after restoring files. Now, maybe I should report that NEC DOS may have a virus in it; or maybe I should install some arcane de- virusator; or maybe I should reformat the hard disk; or maybe I should ask you viruphobes what to do! And then, maybe the NEC doesn't have a virus, and if I don't write about it, I'll never have problems again? ¶

Getting More From Lotus and Your LaserJet

by Becky Bridges,
PRTSC Editor

Note: This article is the second and final part of a review of the Laser-Mate program. This program will work in conjunction with almost any software program. Since Lotus 1-2-3 and Symphony are especially lacking in laser support, the article focuses on using LaserMate with these two programs. However, most of the information is applicable to other programs, as well.

LaserMate is a memory-resident utility that allows you to use your Hewlett-Packard LaserJet (or compatible) printer more effectively with software application packages such as Lotus 1-2-3 and Symphony. In Part One of this review (in the October 1988 issue of PRinT SCreen), I discussed the basic features LaserMate offers. With LaserMate, you can:

• pop-up LaserMate

before you print a spread-sheet to change the report's default font (e.g., to the landscape 8-point Line Printer font).

• choose printer control codes from a pull-down menu and insert them into a spreadsheet to apply multiple fonts in a single report.

• enhance your spread-sheets with lines, borders, and boxes.

• download soft fonts.

I will discuss some of the more advanced aspects of LaserMate in Part Two of this review.

Get the Point

LaserMate allows you to change fonts (typeface, style, stroke- weight, or size) both globally and locally. To make a font change in the middle of a report, you first position the cell pointer where you want the new font to begin and then bring up the LaserMate menu with Alt-L. When you have located the desired font on

LaserMate

the displayed list (see figure 1), press the Ins key and the appropriate code will be inserted at the cell pointer location. For example, 'LC12'I is LaserMate's macro code that will be inserted if you choose Landscape Courier 12-point Italic.

Though changing the style or stroke-weight (bold, italic, etc.) is a straight-forward task, you may run into problems when you change point sizes in a spreadsheet. If you are changing font sizes within a single report, you must set the left margin through LaserMate, not Lotus. If you fail to do this, the left margin will move in and out as you change point sizes. Be sure to set your left margin in Lotus to 0 because the LaserMate left margin is added to whatever left margin you have set in 1-2-3 or Symphony.

Also, because spacing varies in each point size, columns of data will not line up if you change the point size for part of a column. However, there is a way around this if you really need (or simply have a great desire) to make a point size change.

Let's say for example that you want 14-point bold italic column headings with the columns of data in 10-point regular type. First, insert the codes above and below the column headings to make the desired font changes. Print out the table, and you will immediately notice that the headings are not aligned over the data columns. Then get out a ruler and measure where you want each column heading to appear. Using these measurements, insert left margin codes at the beginning of each column heading cell as shown in figure 2. (You must go into Edit mode and position the cursor at the beginning of the cell contents before invoking LaserMate.) This technique may seem like a lot of work but it's really not too different from setting tab stops. And it gets the job done.

Sometimes you may want to create a true underline under your column headings or under a column of numbers. Underlining doesn't require an extra row and it also looks nicer than a row of dashes. Using LaserMate, you can insert macros to turn underlining on and off. If you are underlining values, you must insert the begin underlining code in the column to the immediate left of where you want the underlining to start and place the end underlining code in the column to the right. The Fill Character should be turned ON. With labels, you can insert the underline codes directly into the first and last cells you want to underline.
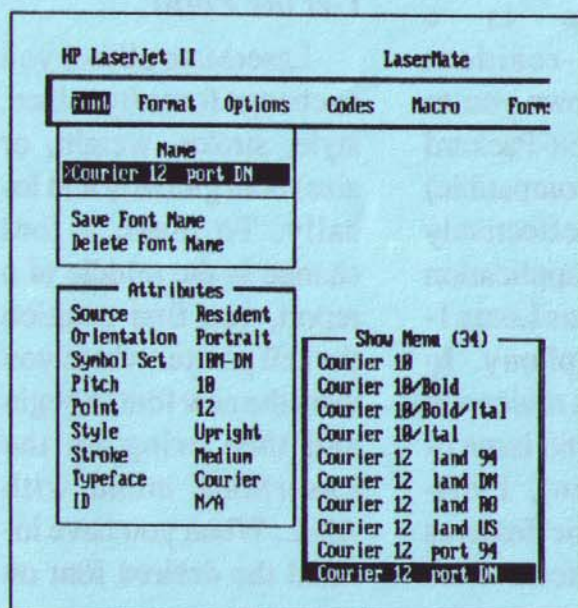

Figure 1

Graphics

One of the LaserMate features I have

```
A11: [W13]

        A           B           C           D
1   'PC14'I'b
2   '<8188LAST   '<8218FIRST  '<8318STREET      '<8448CI:
3   '<8188'PC18'1
4   Bridges     Becky       123 Main St.     Los Altos
5   Snith       Bill        321 State St.    Palo Alta
6   Jones       John        567 University   Menlo Pai
7   Johnson     Peter       345 First St.    Los Ange
8   Thomas      Betsy       988 El Camino    Mtn. Viet
9   Thompson    Mary        12 Second St.    Palo Alta
18
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
```

Figure 2

enjoyed most is its box drawing capability, called "forms". Forms consist of lines and boxes of varying thicknesses and shades. You first specify the layout of the form: the height and width of the box, line thickness, shading density, and pattern. Then you give the form a macro code name and save the form. When you want to use the form, you insert the code into your spreadsheet or document, and a box will print with the form specifications. Oftentimes you will need to specify a horizontal or vertical offset so that the box will not overtype any text. For example, a horizontal offset of -.25 will print the box a quarter inch to the left of the cell in which the code was inserted.

LaserMate is not a desktop publishing program, however. You do not see the box on the screen. Consequently, it takes some trial and error until you get the form just right. But you have fun in the process!

LaserMate also enables you to do graphics screen dumps. Normally, if you do a Shift-PrtSc of a screen containing graphics characters (e.g., lines), you will get something closer to a garbage dump

than a screen dump. If you have Laser-Mate, though, you just change the font to any fixed pitch font with the IBM-DN symbol set (LaserMate gives you this information as you scroll through the font list. See the Attribute box in figure 1). Then whenever you do a Shift-PrtSc, you will get a nice-looking screen dump.

In Conclusion

LaserMate's documentation is sketchy and it consequently takes quite a bit of time to master the program. Though it has an appendix entitled *LaserMate and Spreadsheets*, the section doesn't include any specific, practical information. Hopefully, all the detail in this article will save you some of the trial-and-error time that I had to go through. The on-line help screens are good, though, and I use them a lot.

Despite making you do an occasional cartwheel and backflip to get around its limitations, LaserMate is an all-around good printer control program for laser printers. ¶

LaserMate System Requirements:
Computer: IBM PC, XT, AT, PS/2 family, and compatibles
Hewlett-Packard LaserJet, LaserJet+, LaserJet 500+, LaserJet Series II, and compatibles

Memory:
49-65K
MicroLogic Software
6400 Hollis Street, Suite 9
Emeryville, CA 94608
(415) 652-5464
Price: $99.95

New Norton Utilities

Peter Norton Computing has announced version 4.5 of his popular Norton Utilities. With the new version you have the following features available to you:

Safe Format: Use this instead of the DOS FORMAT program. It won't let you lose data when you accidentally format a disk and is twice as fast as DOS' FORMAT program.

Trouble-shooter: Use this comprehensive manual to diagnose and fix computer-related problems.

Batch Enhancer: Includes a number of convenient and powerful new commands for writing batch files.

The Norton Utilities cost $100 for the Standard Edition or $150 for the Advanced Edition. An upgrade costs $25 (Standard Edition) or $39 (Advanced Edition).

The company also released a new version of the Norton Commander, a DOS shell program that offers split-screen directory viewing, file editing, copying and the full compliment of file management tools. Perhaps the most exciting feature is direct viewing of Lotus worksheets without running 1-2-3. Watch for Rick Altman's review in early 1989.

New LaserJet

The new HP LaserJet IID prints on both sides of a piece of paper and comes with an envelope tray which holds 50 envelopes.

Upcoming Computer Shows

The following shows are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Alameda (10-4). Admission is $5.00. For further information call 340-9113.

Cow Palace	12/03/88
Alameda County Fairgrounds	12/10/88
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds	12/17/88
Oakland Convention Center	01/14/89
Cow Palace	01/21/89
Alameda County Fairgrounds	01/28/89

S.F. Christmas Computer Show, Dec. 9-11, Moscone Center, $4.00 admission. Call 863-6351.

East West Computer Marketplace Show, Dec. 10-11, Oakland Coliseum. Call 388-8893.

East West Computer Show, Dec. 18, Hall of Flowers, S.F. Call 388-8893.

Cocoon

The November 15th issue of Computer Currents ("Pick a Utility To Suit" by Owen Linderholm) reviewed an interesting utility called Cocoon. Cocoon will record every keystroke you type during your computer session so that in case of power failure you can recover the work you did. It records the keystrokes on your hard disk, but so quickly it doesn't slow you down at all. You can play back an entire session or parts of it.

Cocoon, $99.95
Daybreak Technologies, Inc.
21311 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 300
Torrance, CA 90503
213/542-5888 ¶

The SPAUG Resource Center

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Vice President	Richard Orser	325-8441
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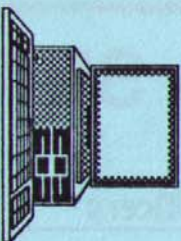
The Stanford / Palo Alto
PC Users' Group

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Club Information

Membership   Louise Greer Bolitho
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$25/year fee (Students $10)

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