SPAUG
Stanford
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Users Group

PRinT SCreen

The Newsletter of
Stanford/Palo Alto
PC Users Group

JANUARY 1991 VOLUME 9, NUMBER 1

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W·O·R·D P·R·O·C·E·S·S·O·R W·A·R·S!

Recap November was time for SPAUG's biannual software faceoff, this time pitting word processors against each other. Members of the audience enjoyed the unique opportunity of comparing Microsoft Word for Windows, WordPerfect 5.1, and Wordstar 6.0 all in the same evening. (How often do you get a chance like that?)

Though attendance was higher than the general meetings, it was quite a bit lower than last May's *Spreadsheet Wars!* (Apparently people hold more hard-and-fast opinions about their word processors, and don't have as much interest in seeing the other guy). But those there got quite a show.

Ahead of time, I had prepared a plain ASCII file of text (excerpts from the book *Groucho and Me*, by Groucho Marx), and a list of tasks designed to transform the file into a fancy newsletter. Each participant was to follow the same list of tasks, allowing the audience to see exact keystrokes compared. Considering that the hardest thing on the list was importing a graphic, I knew this would be a piece of cake for the presenters.

Not so. They fumbled. They made mistakes. These were professional sales people who (horror of horrors) were asked to stray from their canned, polished presentations. They appeared uncomfortable doing things that I could have done with no preparation. And the audience loved it. It was true spontaneity. (Exactly what a salesperson dreads most).

In spite of this, each program showed off a feature that wowed the audience. Wordstar's page preview has a great zooming capability. WordPerfect's ability to print mathematical formulas even caught Les Weil's attention (as he corrected a quadratic equation). And Word for Windows won oohs and aahs when it linked to an Excel spreadsheet and back again.

But, as always, the hit of the evening was the drawing. Microsoft donated three of any Microsoft product, Wordstar gave away version 6.0 and sweatshirts (I'm wearing mine as I write), and WordPerfect, bound by a corporate policy of no WP giveaways, offered up two copies of Letter Perfect (their scaled-down version), along with mouse pads, a travel bag, and T-shirts. We all had a grand time, and I went home and slept for 12 hours.

So, gang, what'll it be next time? Are you ready for *Backup Wars!* ? *Database Wars!* ? Drop some ideas in the suggestion box; May's only six months away!

JAN ALTMAN

CLUB NEWS

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

January's MOM is Jan Altman and I would hazard that no one deserves the recognition more. It is Jan who gets the speakers for the monthly meetings, who persuades them to donate the prizes, who does all the organizing of the specials "Spreadsheet Wars!", "Wordprocessor Wars!" and who also runs two SIGS on the side. Yup, reckon we made the right choice. [^Z]

Don't forget you can place free personal advertisements, ***Buy/Sell/Trade*** etc. in **PRinT SCreen**. Just get the copy to me in time for the next issue.

Ed.

FLOPPY DISKS FOR SALE

XIDEX Precision disks are available from Beverly Altman. The double sided disks cost $5 per box of 10 and the high density ones, with four times the capacity, are double that. Disk of the Month will be offered at $1 per disk, or you can use the *'Goodie Coupon'* that comes with your membership card.

PLANNING MEETING

Feb 11 (2nd Monday) at 7:30pm

The location

1670 Oak Avenue, Menlo Park

Help us to make decisions about the club. All members are welcome, and you don't have to be a club officer to get your views heard.

THE BBS IN PRINT

BOB BOTTINI

You have two new departments available on the Bulletin Board System. They are: **Bulletin #7 - For Sale/Trade, and Bulletin #8 - Something of Interest.** The article "The Long PC Payoff" which is currently featured is an overview of the development and effective use of computers in our society. There is definitely a modem in our future, so for those of us who do not have one at present, we will bring you up to date as to what is happening with the BBS.

After some analysis of the options offered to us by the different BBS formats available, the **Wildcat** system, that we are currently using, presents some attractive features. First and foremost, it gives us more security than other systems. It uses a file database structure which allows BBS and non-BBS data to reside on the same hard disk, while limiting file access to sensitive data to those with the proper authorization. We also have some additional features that can be activated, such as daily 'Sayings' and 'Color'. You can expect some experimentation in the near future as we attempt the reconfiguring of the board to include the above options.

Because the space at our present location is required for office expansion, we are looking for a new and permanent location for the BBS computer. We can make use of a self-storage facility for this purpose. These types of facilities are presently being used for offices by such companies as Pacific Bell, and they are fitted with phone lines and computers. *A further progress report next month.*

SOFTWARE

JAN ALTMAN

Welcome to EXCEL 3.0!

For those of you who haven't had the true pleasure of seeing Microsoft's brand-spankin' new Excel 3.0 (released January 9), I will venture to give you an introduction.

From the first glance you notice that there are differences. First and foremost is the new Toolbar, a row of icons that looks just like Word for Window's ribbon. The toolbar contains icons for formatting (bold and italics), aligning (left, right, and center), and adding borders, among others. The best new feature on the Toolbar is the Autosum button: place the cursor where the SUM function should go, click on Autosum, and the program automatically proposes the adjoining row or column and builds the formula for you.

In an effort to ultimately unify all its programs, Microsoft has added other features to Excel that Word users should recognize. You can now assign styles to cells using up to 256 fonts (accessed through the style box on the Toolbar), and even click on a button to organize your worksheet into an outline. Excel intuitively applies levels to existing data, and places collapse and expand buttons in the margins. (Come to think of it, it's easier than Word...)

The menus are the same, though more commands have been added. But you won't need to pull them down as often. You'll find more things available with a double-click. Double-click a cell and see any existing notes. Double-click a formula and see its supporting cells highlighted. Double-click a column boundary and Excel will calculate the "best fit" for the longest cell in the column. (You can even adjust margins and column widths in Print Preview.)

Charting in Excel 3 has really delivered us into the 1990's. Charts can now be embedded into the worksheet with a click on the chart tool. And as always, double-click any chart item to format it. For those still stuck in the 80's, a 2-D chart is fine, but the future is here: create a 3-D chart, and rotate it however you like. Bored with bars, lines, and pies? Import any bitmapped figure and create a customized data series.

Now let's get fancy. Select a range on your worksheet and click on the camera tool. This "picture" can now be placed as an object anywhere on the worksheet. While you're at it, a few more clicks will decorate your worksheet with lines, arrows, formatted text boxes, and clip art. Once you're satisfied, link a portion of your worksheet to a PowerPoint slide. Tomorrow, when you start up PowerPoint and realize that the numbers need adjusting, double-click the slide in PowerPoint; Excel will automatically be launched and the appropriate worksheet opened. If the numbers to be changed are on a chart, drag the chart's data point, and the underlying figures automatically adjust.

This concept of "embedding and linking" is being marketed heavily by Microsoft. Their eventual goal is to implement it in all their applications (it's currently available only with Excel and PowerPoint). Embedding and linking refers to the concept of a file including data from

various programs; double-clicking dependent data immediately launches the native application and loads the appropriate file. (For those wanting to stay in the know, I guarantee it will soon be the talk of Silicon Valley cocktail parties.)

Microsoft has bundled a few other programs with Excel, including Q+E to query databases, and the Microsoft Excel Solver for optimum value calculation. 1-2-3 users will be pleased with the greatly-enhanced transition in the Help facility.

Now what was it the Pointer Sisters said about being excited? ^Z

BATCH FILES

If you saw the September issue of PRinT SCreen you may remember the simple screen blanking batch file - OFF.BAT:

```
@echo off
cls
pause >nul
```

well here is another one which does a little more.

First you will need to have the DOS file ANSI.SYS in your CONFIG.SYS file (which you should have anyway). The blanking batch file uses the ANSI command '**Esc[8m**' that, in monochrome, sets the foreground and background to the same color (note that the '**m**' must be lower case).

```
BLANK.BAT
@echo off
prompt $e[8m
@echo on
cls
```

To restore the screen you run another batch file. This uses the ANSI command '**Esc[0m**' which sets the screen to normal (white on black). This file you can call anything you want, which gives it an element of privacy.

```
PASSWORD.BAT
prompt $e[0m$p$g
cls
```

As mentioned, the above Escape codes are for monochrome. On a color system the ANSI codes are 30-37, foreground and 40-47, background. So **prompt $e[34;44m** will give blue text on a blue background. Same result as '**Esc[8m**' on a mono system. To restore the screen use **prompt $e[37;44m** to get white characters on a blue background.

As an aside, if you would like to play about with the ANSI commands (and there are a lot of them) by using Esc[instead of the prompt command try the following. which sends the Escape command to a file.

```
cls > escape.doc
```

You can use the result in a WP and, by keeping the <—[and changing the 2J, try different combinations. You do this by echoing the escape command, e.g.

```
@echo off
echo <—[7m
```

turns the screen into reversed video:

```
@echo off
echo <—[0m
```

turns it back again.

The ANSI commands cover cursor movement and placement, keyboard key and string reassignment, mode setting, character wrap as well as screen graphics in color and monochrome. *Have fun.*

TECHNICAL TOPICS

BIOSs and Hard Disks

As an adjunct to the CMOS article in November's PRinT SCreen, I'm showing details of the disk type parameters of the four main BIOS makers, IBM, AMI, Award, and Phoenix.

IBM

	Cyls	Heads	Sectors Track	Capacity (MBytes)	Write Precomp.	Landing Zone
1	306	4	17	10	128	305
2	615	4	17	21	300	616
3	615	6	17	32	300	615
4	940	8	17	65	512	940
5	940	6	17	49	512	940
6	615	4	17	21	none	615
7	462	8	17	32	256	511
8	733	5	17	31	none	733
9	900	15	17	117	none	901
10	820	3	17	21	none	820
11	855	5	17	37	none	855
12	855	7	17	52	none	855
13	306	8	17	21	128	319
14	733	7	17	44	none	733
15	Reserved					
16	612	4	17	21	all	663
17	977	5	17	42	300	977
18	977	7	17	59	none	977
19	1024	7	17	62	512	1023
20	733	5	17	31	300	732
21	733	7	17	44	300	732
22	733	5	17	31	300	733
23	306	4	17	10	all	336
24	612	4	17	21	305	663
25	306	4	17	10	none	340
26	612	4	17	21	none	670
27	698	7	17	42	300	732
28	976	5	17	42	488	977
29	306	4	17	10	all	340
30	611	4	17	21	306	663
31	732	7	17	44	300	732
32	1023	5	17	44	none	1023
33	614	4	25	31	none	663
34	775	2	27	21	none	900
35	921	2	33	31	none	1000
36	402	4	26	21	none	460
37	580	6	26	46	none	640

Note that the capacity is shown in megabytes and these have been rounded down from the actual byte capacity (cylinders x heads x sectors per track x 512). So, for example where the actual formatted capacity is 55,931,904 bytes (AMI type 30) it is shown as 55MB. As I mentioned last month, when letting the BIOS know about a new disk, it is not the capacity that is important but the number of cylinders and heads. Always make sure that the number of cylinders of your bard disk is equal to or less than the BIOS parameters that you select - ***never*** more.

Some of the larger independent computer companies, ALR is one, have

AMI

	Cyls	Heads	Sectors Track	Capacity (MBytes)	Write Precomp.	Landing Zone
1 - 23	Same as IBM					
24	925	7	17	56	all	925
25	925	9	17	72	none	925
26	754	7	17	45	754	754
27	754	11	17	72	none	754
28	699	7	17	42	256	699
29	823	10	17	71	none	823
30	918	7	17	55	918	918
31	1024	11	17	98	none	1024
32	1024	15	17	133	none	1024
33	1024	5	17	44	1024	1024
34	612	2	17	10	128	612
35	1024	9	17	80	none	1024
36	1024	8	17	71	512	1024
37	615	8	17	42	128	615
38	987	3	17	25	987	987
39	987	7	17	60	987	987
40	828	6	17	42	820	820
41	977	5	17	42	977	977
42	981	5	17	42	981	981
43	830	7	17	50	512	830
44	830	10	17	72	none	830
45	917	15	17	119	none	918
46	1224	15	17	159	none	1223
47	All parameters are user defined					

the BIOS makers (in this instance Phoenix) code in their own disk parameters, usually to enable them to make use of larger capacity drives. So don't worry if you don't find your disk on the lists.

Write Precomposition Track

The closer one gets to the hub of the disk, the smaller the diameter of the track. Therefore the smaller the size of the sector. Each sector must still be able to take 512 bytes of data. In order to improve the read/write performance in these smaller sectors, a *write precomposition* circuit increases the write current when data is written to the inner tracks. The track at which this current boost starts is called the *write precomposition track* .

AWARD

	Cyls	Heads	Sectors Track	Capacity (MBytes)	Write Precomp.	Landing Zone
1 - 23	Same as IBM					
24	977	5	17	42	none	976
25	1024	9	17	80	none	1023
26	1224	7	17	74	none	1223
27	1224	11	17	117	none	1223
28	1224	15	17	159	none	1223
29	1024	8	17	71	none	1023
30	1024	11	17	98	none	1023
31	918	11	17	87	none	1023
32	925	9	17	72	none	926
33	1024	10	17	89	none	1023
34	1024	12	17	106	none	1023
35	1024	13	17	115	none	1023
36	1024	14	17	124	none	1023
37	1024	2	17	17	none	1023
38	1024	16	17	142	none	1023
39	918	15	17	119	none	1023
40	820	6	17	42	none	820
41	1024	5	17	44	none	1023
42	1024	5	26	68	none	1023
43	809	6	17	42	none	808
44	820	6	26	65	none	819
45	776	8	33	104	none	775
46	All parameters are user defined					
47	All parameters are user defined					

PHOENIX

	Cyls	Heads	Sectors Track	Capacity (MBytes)	Write Precomp.	Landing Zone
1 - 4	Same as IBM					
5	940	6	17	46	512	940
6	615	4	17	20	none	615
7	462	8	17	347	256	511
8	733	5	17	30	none	733
9	900	15	17	112	none	901
10	820	3	17	20	none	820
11	855	5	17	35	none	855
12	855	7	17	49	none	855
13	306	8	17	20	128	319
14	733	7	17	42	none	733
15	Reserved					
16	612	4	17	20	none	663
17	977	5	17	40	300	977
18	977	7	17	56	none	977
19	1024	7	17	59	512	1023
20	733	5	17	30	300	732
21	733	7	17	42	300	732
22	733	5	17	30	300	733
23	306	4	17	10	none	336
24	1024	7	17	124	none	1024
25	615	4	17	20	none	615
26	1024	4	17	35	none	1024
27	1024	5	17	44	none	1024
28	1024	8	17	71	none	1024
29	512	8	17	32	256	512
30	615	2	17	10	615	615
31	989	5	17	43	none	989
32	1020	15	17	133	none	1024
33	Reserved					
34	Reserved					
35	1024	9	17	80	1024	1024
36	1024	5	17	44	512	1024
37	830	10	17	140	none	830
38	823	10	17	67	256	824
39	615	4	17	20	128	664
40	615	8	17	40	128	664
41	917	15	17	114	none	918
42	1023	15	17	127	none	1024
43	823	10	17	83	512	823
44	820	6	17	40	none	820
45	Reserved					
46	925	9	17	86	none	925
47	699	7	17	62	256	700
48	All parameters are user defined					

WORD Q & A

JAN ALTMAN

Is there a way in Word 5 to calculate the total number of pages of my document? I would like to use a header that reads "Page 1 of 5," "Page 2 of 5," etc., but I'm not sure how to set it up automatically. (Setting the page number itself is a snap...)

Though Word doesn't provide a built-in way to calculate total pages, you can set this up easily yourself using the bookmark and cross-referencing features.

Once your document is finished, move the highlight to the last character (the one before the end mark). Set a bookmark here with the Format bookmarK command. Give it any name you like (no spaces allowed); "last_page" would be an appropriate one. (A bookmark is used to mark a particular place in the document. Once set, you can jump to it with the Jump bookmarK command.)

Using the cross-referencing feature, you can now refer to it from elsewhere in the document. The following steps will set up your header:

1) Create a new paragraph at the top of the document and place the highlight inside.
2) Type the word **Page** and a space.
3) Now type **page** and immediately press **F3**. It will appear on your screen like this: *(page)*. This is the supplied glossary entry that prints the current page.
4) Type <space>**of**<space>.
5) Enter **page:last_page** (or whatever bookmark name you used) and immediately hit **F3**. It will appear on your screen like this: *(page:last_page)*. This is a cross-reference; it tells Word to print the page number of the bookmark "last_page."

Since this bookmark was set on the last character of the document, its page number will always be the last one. Now when you print, the last page number will be calculated automatically.

Caveat: if you modify the end of your document, make sure your bookmark still resides on the last character.

I'm creating a very large document in Word 5, which includes many long footnotes. As the document grows, so does my frustration at locating the different footnote markers. Will the Search command find them for me?

No, but Jump Footnote will. This command does three different things for you:

1) To jump to the next footnote reference mark from anywhere in your text, merely choose Jump Footnote.
2) Once you've found the mark and selected it, choose Jump Footnote to jump to the associated footnote text. (All footnote text is located below the end mark of your document.)
3) When you're done with the footnote text, place the highlight inside it and choose Jump Footnote to return to the associated mark in your document.

Basically, as long as you're touching a mark or footnote text, Jump Footnote will move you between them. If the highlight is sitting on plain document text, the command will move you to the next footnote mark.

(P.S. Window Split Footnote is a handy way to scroll through your document and see any associated footnote text.)

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Jan Altman is the founder of the Express Train, a training and consulting company that specializes in Microsoft products. The Express Train is found at the following station: 3655 Pruneridge Avenue, No. 135, Santa Clara, 95051, 408/243-5955.

From the Rumor Mill

DOS 5.0 improvements based on beta test releases

Amongst other things it seems that the new version will incorporate some of the elements that have made Norton Utilities, PC Tools and Mace Utilities so popular.

A safe FORMAT which creates a hidden restore file on the disk called UNFORMAT.DAT. FORMAT also will format the new 2.88Mb 3½" disks – if you have a suitable drive. EDLIN is to be superceeded by EDIT which is a full screen editor, for creating ASCII files, that accepts MS Word and Wordstar keystroke combinations. New utilities include:

MIRROR

A TSR that tracks all erasure commands i.e DEL *.bak. It writes information about the deleted files to file (PCTRACKR.DEL). Every time the system is booted a copy of the FAT and the root directory is saved to MIRORSAV.FIL. MIRROR will also save disk partition infomation to a floppy (PARTNSAV.FIL) for subsequent use by....

REBUILD

Restores a disk that has been FORMATted as well as rebuilding a corrupted partition table.

UNDELETE

Will get back erased files as long as its space on the disk has not been overwritten.

DIR

Has some new parameters which allow you to display files:

1. By their attributes (including those that have not been backed up recently)
2. Any one of ten sorted orders
3. Searched by subdirectory.

You can also preset the parameters so that DIR will automatically display the directory as you want it.

LOADHIGH

Makes use of an improved HIMEM.SYS to load most of the operating system as well as TSRs into the high memory area of extended memory (286/386/486 systems only)

DOSKEY

Creates a circular buffer of recent DOS commands that can be recalled by the arrow or page–up/page–down keys.

HELP

Gives a brief on-screen summary of any DOS command.

UNFORMAT

Uses MIRROR to recover from an accidental reformatting.

As mentioned above, all this comes from the beta versions, so nothing is guaranteed to appear in the final version, but it would seem to indicate that DOS 5.0 is going to be a major improvement. Certainly it sounds more likely to persuade those of us still using DOS 3.3 to upgrade than version 4.0 ever did. ~z

WANTED

We are looking for a place to keep the BBS. We need a clean space with electricity (naturally), access and security. A small office or a secure storage area is what we have in mind. If anyone has knowledge of a potentially suitable place, at a reasonable rental, please get in touch with Don Baird, Jan Altman or Bob Bottini.¶

THE SPAUG RESOURCE CENTER

OFFICERS		
President	Don Baird	(415) 365-6822
Vice President	Jan Altman	(408) 243-5955
ASSU Representative	Tim Short	(415) 854-2732
MANAGERS		
Bulletin Board (SPARC BBS)	Bob Bottini	(415) 369-2086
Financial Manager	Beverly Altman	(415) 329-8252
Librarian - Public Domain Software	Les Weil	(415) 321-5541
Newsletter Editor	Tony Allen	(408) 739-2953
SOFTWARE		
Accounting	Larry Mehl	(415) 329-6037
Foxbase	Marie Hooper	(415) 325-1206
Microsoft Products	Jan Altman	(408) 243-5955
R:Base	Larry Mehl	(415) 326-6037
Lotus 1-2-3	Larry Mehl	(415) 326-6037
Symphony	Sally See	(415) 941-1378
LANGUAGES		
C	John Watson	(415) 325-7632
Fortran	John Watson	(415) 325-7632
Pascal	John Watson	(415) 325-7632
Smalltalk	John Watson	(415) 325-7632
QuickBasic	Don Baird	(415) 365-6822

STOP BIT

As mentioned in the last issue, Bob Bottini was passing out copies of Pro-Comm at the November meeting. Bundled with the disk was a very interesting article on using your modem to invest in the stock market.

The article compared the on-line services offered by Compuserv, PC-Link, Dow Jones News/Retrieval, & Prodigy. It gave details of the connect time cost, the facilities that each service offered, plus the transaction charges of the various brokerage firms operating an on-line service.

This showed that there are considerable savings to be made by using the PC to tap into these services.

Thank's Bob - may all your dividends be large ones!

CLUB CALENDAR - February 1991

SPAUG
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UsersGroup

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

February 6
7:30 PM
First Wednesday - **Novice SIG**
"DOS and Batch Files"
Don Baird, 3785 Farm Hill Blvd. Redwood City (415) 365-6822

February 11
7:30 PM
Second Monday - **Planning Meeting**
Beverly Altman, (415) 329-8252/Don Baird, (415) 365-6822

February 13
7:30 PM
Second Wednesday - **Word for Windows/Windows SIG**
"Anniversary Party and Wish List Fantasy!!"
On Wednesday, February 13, we will celebrate the group's first birthday party (and my thirty-somethingth) with a pot-luck. Last names A-M bring something to eat, last names N-Z bring something to drink. Bring a list of your favorite fantasies for Word for Windows 2.0. We will compile the list and send it to Microsoft.
TechMart, 5201 Great America Parkway, Suite 254, Santa Clara
Jan Altman, (408) 243-5955

February 19
7:30 PM
Third Tuesday - **Investment Software SIG**
Bob Mitchell, 1516 Whipple Road, Redwood City (415) 368-9530

February 25
7:30 PM
Fourth Monday - **Word 5 SIG**
"A Discussion on the Group's Future"
TechMart, 5201 Great America Parkway, Suite 254, Santa Clara
Jan Altman, (408) 243-5955

February 27
7:30 PM
Last Wednesday - **GENERAL MEETING**
"Profit & Loss"
Sensible Software will show their program for small businesses and consultants.
Turing Auditorium, Polya Hall, Stanford University

JANUARY MEETING

Last Wednesday: January 30th, 7.30pm at Turing Auditorium

***"TurboTax,* by Chipsoft (new for '90 taxes) + *Quicken,* by Intuit"**

The Stanford/Palo Alto PC Users Group

P.O. Box 3738,
Stanford, CA 94309

Club Information

Meetings	Don Baird
	(415) 365-6822
Membership	Beverly Altman
	(415) 329-8252
	$25/year (Students $10)
Bulletin Board	(415) 424-0812
Newsletter	Tony Allen
	(408) 739 2953