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CLUB NEWS

THE BBS IN PRINT

BOB BOTTINI

Bob is the BBS Sysop

ON USING THE SPARC BBS

Starting with first things first, to contact our bulletin board which is named "SPARC" (Stanford/Palo Alto Resource Centre) we need a computer with a modem. Then we need a communications software program that will allow the modem to call the bulletin board. ProComm, Version 2.4.3, is an excellent Shareware program for our purpose. It is simple to use and has many attractive features. (ProComm will be demonstrated at our March 27th, Club meeting). We use our communications software (like ProComm), to dial the bulletin board. It will do so automatically.

We activate our communications software which dials our BBS. The first thing that will appear on our screen is the BBS greeting screen. It will be the graphically enhanced name of our bulletin board "SPARC". Just below the graphics you will be asked for your name. If you have pre-registered with us, and given us your password, you will have easy going.

After giving your name the program will turn on color (if you have color) and ask for your password. If this is your first time on, the BBS will ask you to verify your birthday and your phone number as a security check. Thereafter, on every 15th call to the BBS you will be asked to verify your birthday and phone number.

We have now completed the preliminaries and the next thing you will see is the

TIM SHORT PhD.

Tim our ASSU student representative and treasurer, has just received his PhD from Stanford. Tim's doctorate is in Biology and he will be doing post doctoral research at Berkeley.

Congratulations Tim

Bulletin Menu. Each bulletin is named and numbered. If you wish to read a bulletin you enter the number and you can read it, or better yet, download it to read it at your leisure. This is a good idea because, at the present time, our BBS is connected to only one incoming line, and downloading would take less time on line. Thus allowing a greater number of people to access the BBS in a given time period.

Besides the Bulletin Menu, we have the Main Menu, the Message Menu and the File Menu. The menu that flashes on the screen after you are done with the Bulletin Menu is the Main Menu. From here you will access all the other menus and files.

Say you wish to see what program files we have in our library, you press the letter "F" and the Files Menu will flash on to the screen. One of the very nice features of our BBS is the use of "Hot Keys". As you become familiar with using the BBS, the ease of getting around that the "Hot Keys" allow will be very satisfying. Another pleasing feature of our BBS is color. This is one of the few BBS programs that includes color. We have "lots" of color.

Logging off is really easy. Get to any menu; press "G" for Goodbye. The BBS will ask if you are sure? Press Y for yes and you're off. *Have fun.* [Z]

THE WINDOWS EXPO

Chapter 1

Our participation at the Windows Expo turned out exceedingly well. Through the efforts of Jan Altman and Paul Staley, we obtained three sponsors: ProHance Technologies who shared our booth (and our expenses), The Repair Company, and Pacific Computer Supply. Schwab Computer supplied us with two computers, a 33MHz 386 and a very speedy 486. Radius let us have a 20" high definition monitor.

Jan gave a number of demos of Windows products, which attracted many interested people who would not ordinarily have come to our out-of-the-way location. This greatly increased our visibility, and turned out to be very profitable for SPAUG. We signed up 14 new members and many more expressed interest in joining at a future meeting.

Such a successful endeavor took much planning. Jan was the major organizer and her energy and enthusiasm kept the wheels in motion. Tony Allen worked many long hours for several nights preparing brochures and splendid banners for the booth. Setting up and tearing down the booth took a lot of muscle, and for that we can thank Jan, Jim Strehlow, Art Koolpe, and Jack Kahoun. The monitoring of the booth was handled by Jan, Nancy Helmy, Paul Staley, Dave Casto, Jack Kahoun, Art Koolpe and Beverly Altman. Thanks, everybody!!

Chapter 2

Jan here. Though Mom put together a much more eloquent recap of the show than I ever could (thanks!), I thought I'd add just a few thoughts of my own.

First of all, the show was just downright FUN. I was like a kid in a candy shop.

You could watch software shoot-outs in a western corral, play Solitaire on a touchscreen, let your fingers walk through computerized Bay Area yellow pages, or pop balloons with prizes inside. There was so much to see and touch and play with. But we had the nicest-looking booth and the friendliest people. (I especially liked our sign, "PC Support From Novice to Nerd.")

The help I got from members was nothing less than outstanding. It was a *huge* project we undertook, and I was rarely at a loss for people to help. Not only did the club profit nicely, but I personally had a chance to show off my training business and meet some important people.

We couldn't have done the show at all without the help of our sponsors (see Mom's mention above), and I hope we'll have the opportunity to invite them to see us again soon. I also want to add thanks to two non-members: Bill Crowell who helped with hardware glitches, and Bruce Dean of Lotus who helped with taking down the booth.

But there are two other acknowledgments which are of utmost importance. First of all: Tony Allen. In spite of a full-time project which limited his time greatly, Tony stayed up nights and weekends to finish things for the SPAUG booth: the banners, PRinT SCreen, the application forms, the giveaway diskettes, and the booth design. As if that wasn't enough, in his spare (?) time he helped me put together promotional materials to promote my own training business at the show.

Most importantly, we owe an enormous amount of gratitude to CM Ventures, the folks who put on the show. They offered booth space to the club (normally priced at \$2400 on up) merely as a gesture of good-will. And as if they didn't already

have their hands full with *paying* companies, Steve Hollis, Lynn Coulter, and John Bourgein gave time and attention to help me with all the details of making it happen. It was due to them that the idea was first born, and through their efforts that it became financially feasible. Their contributions to the club were enormous.

A big heart-felt **THANK YOU!!** to everyone involved! -2

A BIG WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Bob Birss	Mountain View
Stuart Eckmann	Mountain View
Barden Finch	Palo Alto
Cagney France	San Carlos
Michael Gaynon	Palo Alto
Steve Habelow	Portola Valley
Wade Ju	San Jose
Matt Luecke	Palo Alto
Robert Macedo	Redwood City
Stam Mawson	Woodside
Alex McMillan	Palo Alto
Judy Olson	Morgan Hill
Jim Powell	Los Gatos
Wallace Rogers	Alameda
Murray Schofield	Santa Cruz
Toni Shinn	Santa Clara
James Strohecker	Menlo Park
Robert Tatar	San Francisco
Dennis Wilson	San Mateo

Renewals

David Baerncopf	Menlo Park
Jan Buxton	Sunnyvale
Albert Dien	Menlo Park
Gastav Haas	Redwood City
John Watson	Menlo Park
Les Weil	Menlo Park

PERKS OF THE EXPO

As you may know Lotus, feeling the lack of a Windows product (and a successful word processor), recently bought out Samna, the creators of Ami Pro. In its original form, as Ami, this was the first word processor for Windows. As Ami Pro it has been upgraded to take advantage of the Windows 3.0 environment. It's very interesting comparing it with Word for Windows; lots of similar features, and some differences, especially in the visual formatting of text, where Ami comes out well on top.

The Lotus representative very generously donated to us a number of copies of the working model of Ami Pro that will be available to members at our March meeting. This is a functional working model, lacking only the Save and Export functions (naturally) plus there is no Spell Checker or Thesaurus. Nonetheless a good portion of this PRinT SCreen was written with it (using the Cut & Paste functions to transfer it to Pagemaker). Even if you don't have Windows it comes complete with a Windows driver powerful enough to run it, however, you will need a high density drive (1.2Mb or 1.44Mb) and between 4 and 5 Mb of hard disk space for the installation. We have both 5¼" and 3½" disks complete with a pretty good 'How to Use' booklet. The supply is limited so come early!!

Also we will have a large number of Windows and OS/2 Magazines. Inside the magazine, there is a coupon for a 6 months free subscription. How can you pass up a bargain like that even if you don't need or want or like the magazine?

UPLOADING TO THE SPARC BBS

NANCY HELMY

The newly-sited bulletin board is now available, so I have recently begun uploading the shareware and public domain disks we receive in the SPAUG mailbox. Here's what I do.

The set-up is PKZIP in a Utility directory, the Utility directory in the Path, and ProComm in a directory, with a subdirectory for Uploads. In an empty PROCOMMNUPL subdirectory, I copy all the files from the A drive. Next, I ZIP the files that were copied into the Upload subdirectory. The command PKZIP defaults to all files, so the command PKZIP MRLABEL creates one zipped file named MRLABEL.ZIP containing all the files in the Upload subdirectory.

Now I initialize ProComm, sign onto the BBS, and request the File menu. Selecting Upload, then XModem, I enter the name MRLABEL.ZIP. Using the PgUp key, I again select XModem and when asked for a file name, enter C:\UPL\MRLABEL.ZIP.

After uploading, I give a one- or two-line description of the file and scam off the board. Last, I delete all files in the subdirectory, and am ready for the next disk. My uploaded file is now contained on the BBS in Recently Uploaded Files.

Although the files in this section are available for downloading, they have not yet been virus-checked by the Sysop. Therefore, I've been virus-checking the disks on drive A before copying to my hard disk, and before zipping and uploading. However, I have not been decompressing files received in compressed form, so those files remain unchecked at uploading.

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

TONY ALLEN - CHAP OF THE MONTH

(Tony, though this Member-of-the-Month space is normally written as a notice to club members, I would like to direct it to you personally.)

When you joined the club last summer, you became one of our most active members from day one. The ink was barely dry on your application form when you volunteered to become editor of PRinT SCreen. As a graphics designer, you knew exactly what it needed, and took over the whole project single-handedly. We felt it was a dream come true. I think we tend to take for granted (and shouldn't!) the fact that it always gets out on time, and its content and layout are definitely top-notch.

Aside from PRinT SCreen, your other contributions are numerous. It seems whenever we're sitting around a planning meeting looking for a volunteer to do this or that, your voice pops up most often. Not only do we appreciate your time and effort, but it's a comforting feeling to know it'll get done right.

Well, mon ami, though you talk funny, it's been fun being a friend and teaching you to drive on the right side of the street. (At least now I know where "fortnight" came from!) I can think of no one more deserving of this honor.

Jan Altman

PLANNING MEETING

April 8 (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.

BATCH FILES

TONY ALLEN

THE HELP CONNECTION

Help screens, which come with many new commercial programs these days, can be pretty useful things to have. With a little effort you can create one of your own. It will pop up a screen or two of information to remind you of those obscure parameters for DOS commands and utility programs. These often have a somewhat obscure format and numerous function switches which you can easily forget. Finding the documentation, if there is any, can be a real pain. Plus, when you want them, you generally want them in a hurry.

The method is to create a short (usually a screenful) ASCII doc for each program which contains, in an easily readable format, just enough to remind you of the commands. Then all these documents are combined in an archive, using one of the Public Domain or Shareware compression programs. A batch file is used to extract the relevant doc and display it on the screen.

I built up my help file bit by bit, as I acquired new utilities. It now contains

55 docs, only three of which occupy more than one screen. The average response time is in the order of 2 seconds (on a 386 25Mhz machine).

Use any format for the doc that you find convenient. Because my help file is sometimes used by others I have found it best to use a standard screen layout (Fig. 1). Once the archive file is created all the archiving programs will allow you to make changes and additions.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

The basic requirements are, the help documents, an archiving/unarchiving program, a file lister, and a batch file. The batch files below use the PKARC/PKXARC combination though, by making the relevant changes, any of the other archiving programs will work.

Having created all the help docs and put them in a directory, which accessible via the path, now you archive them. The command for doing this is `pkarc a help *.doc`. The resulting file will be `help.arc` containing all the doc files in compressed form. Now we need the batch file which will display the relevant information when we want it. The command will be `help filename`, so the batch file will be `help.bat`.

FF2 (File Find 2)

- Purpose:** Searches for specified file(s) through all of the drives on the system, hard disks (including any partitions), floppy disks, and RAM disks, plus and networked drives to the maximum of 26 assigned drives (A-Z). FF2 matches files with their appropriate directories and sub-directories, and includes time, date & size of the file.
- Format:** [d:][path]FF2 filename.ext
- Remarks:** It uses normal DOS filename specifications to locate files, including wild cards. The command `FF2 *.*` will list all files on your system. This could be redirected to a file or to the printer to give an archival record of the system, i.e.
- `FF2 *.* > DIR.DOC` or `FF2 *.* > PRN`
- Note:** If it finds a drive that it can't access (a floppy without a disk or an uninitialized RAM drive) it returns the DOS 'Abort, Retry, Fail?' message. Just press F for Fail and it will carry on to the next drive.

Fig. 1 Example of Help Screen

A simplified version, which shows the sequence of events, can be seen in Fig. 2. This uses the internal DOS command TYPE which makes it portable but has its own limitations. To have an even simpler version, replace lines 2 and 3 with **pkxarc -c help %1.doc |more**. This lets PKXARC do all the work.

Fig. 3 shows a more elaborate version with branches to its own help. I've added

REMARKs because I always find them useful as memory joggers, if I need to make changes in the future. (continued)

```
@echo off
pkxarc help.arc %1.doc >nul
type %1.doc |more
pause
del %1.doc >nul
cls
```

Fig. 2 Basic Help Batch File

```
@Echo off
REM: This batch file uses PKXARC to extract the requested DOC from the archive.
REM: Then it displays it using LIST62.COM.
REM: By using the "-c" switch, PKARC lets you add brief (33 chars) comments to describe
REM: the utility, and I've used the "-vc" switch to show these in the INFO branch.
REM: One could use PKXARC with the -c switch to display the DOC
REM: on the screen (with MORE) but LIST62 allows backward scrolling etc.
REM: This batch file pre-supposes that the following files
REM: PKARC.COM, PKXARC.COM, HELP.ARC and LIST62.COM
REM: are in a directory and that this directory is on the path.

if "%1"==" " goto INFO
if "%1"=="?" goto INFO
pkxarc help.arc %1.doc >nul
REM: This extracts the DOC file from the archive
if errorlevel 1 goto HELP
REM: If PKXARC cannot find the requested file in the archive it returns error code 1
LIST62 %1.doc
REM: LIST the DOC
del %1.doc
REM: DELETE the extracted DOC (naturally it remains in the archive)
cls
goto END
:HELP
echo The requested file could not be found in HELP.ARC
pause
:INFO
echo.
echo Usage is: Help topic [with no extension]
echo Example: Help if2
echo.
echo Help is available on the following topics
pause
pkarc -vc help.arc |MORE
REM: This lists the DOCs in the archive with a brief note
REM: of what each documented utility does.
:END
```

Fig. 3 HELP.BAT

In Phil Katz PKZIP V1.1 (the renamed and revised PKARC) I find the comment screen disturbingly cluttered, however, it is very fast and does a better job of compression than either of the other two utilities. Figure 4 shows a stripped down batch file for PKZIP/PKUNZIP.

If you use Yoshizaki's LHARC you will know that it has a nice facility for displaying to the screen without using a file lister or a TYPE command. And, unlike PKARC and PKZIP, it comes with the compression and extraction facilities complete in one program (together with a self-extracting facility).

However, at least in version 1.13, it has no facility for adding comments. Figure 5 shows the batch file adapted to use the display facility. However, LHARC doesn't seem to return an error code, if it is unable to find the requested help.doc in the archive, and as yet I have found no way of incorporating the :HELP facility in the batch file, without it appearing even when the file is found. If anyone knows of a way to do this I'd appreciate the information.

```
@Echo off
if %1==. goto INFO
pkunzip -cm help.zip %1.doc
REM: The -cm switch displays with MORE.
if errorlevel 1 goto HELP
cls
goto END
:HELP
echo The requested file could not be found
pause
:INFO
echo.
echo Usage is: help [topic]
echo.
echo Help is available on the following topics
pause
pkzip -vbc help.zip |MORE
REM: The -vbc switch = brief display of ZIP
file with comments.
:END
```

Fig. 4. HELP.BAT using PKZIP/PKUNZIP

WINDOWS Q & A

JAN ALTMAN

Q *Our company has adopted Windows 3 as the standard, and I'm trying to learn to do everything from Program Manager instead of the DOS prompt. So far, it's going pretty well, but my only problem is that I miss some of the wonderful little DOS utilities I had collected. One of the utilities in particular searched my entire hard drive for all BAK files and deleted them. Can I do that easily from Windows?*

Windows has a way. Launch the File Manager (it's within the Main program group), and make sure the icon for your hard drive is highlighted. Next, choose *File Search*. Enter *.bak in the "Search For" box, and turn on "Search Entire Disk." (Since you'll be searching the entire disk, the contents of the current directory field doesn't matter). OK the dialog box.

A Search Results window will pop up on the screen, showing every BAK file

```
@Echo off
if "%1"==. goto INFO
lharc p help.lzh %1.doc |more
REM: The switch "p" 'prints' to the screen.
goto END
:INFO
echo.
echo Usage is: help [topic]
echo.
echo Help is available on the following
topics
pause
lharc l help.lzh |MORE
:END
```

FIG. 5 HELP.BAT using LHARC.COM

found on your drive. To delete them all, you need merely select them with **CTRL/slash** (this selects every file in the current window - same as *File Select All*), and press **Delete**. Then simply **OK** the confirmation message(s) that appear. (If you want to reduce the number of confirmation messages, turn off the "Confirm on Delete" box under *Options Confirmation*).

By the way, most of your DOS utilities can be made easily accessible from Windows. I suggest you create a program group called "DOS Utilities," and then add an icon for each DOS utility you want to use. (Refer to pages 87-92 of the Windows manual for information on adding programs groups and icons).

Q *We will soon be converting to Word for Windows (I now use Word 5). I'm an avid mouse user, and I frequently use mouse shortcuts for things like copying and moving text. Does Windows have these features, and if so, will there be much for me to relearn when I switch?*

Word for Windows does indeed take full advantage of the mouse, and there are many convenient shortcuts. These shortcuts are slightly different from Word 5, so there is some relearning (but it's minimal).

In Word 5, to move text with the mouse, you first select it, then point to the new location and **Ctrl/click left** (hold down **CTRL** while you click the left mouse button). To copy, select the text, point to the new location, and **Shift/click left**.

In Word for Windows, it's very similar. To move text, select it, point to the new location, and **Ctrl/click right**. To

copy, select and point, and **Ctrl/Shift/right**. (Word for Windows takes it one step further: it also allows you to use the mouse to copy character and paragraph formatting).

Q *I'm frustrated that my co-worker always gets a better score in Windows Solitaire than I do. Is there anything I can do to tip the scales in my favor?*

I actually did discover a little trick to earn some extra points ... I'd be glad to pass it on to you.

First of all, set your Options to Standard Scoring. (And keep Timed Game off - it burns up too many points while you're thinking!) Standard Scoring awards points as follows: 5 points for uncovering a card on the table, 5 points for bringing a card from the deck to the table, and 10 points for moving a card to the suit piles.

The trick is very simple. Let's say an Ace of Hearts appears on the deck. Most people would immediately move it to the suit piles for an easy 10 points. I, however, first move it to a black 2 on the table, and then up to the suit piles, earning me 15 points. (In the beginning of the game, I often keep a few extra 2's and 3's uncovered on the table for just such occasions.) Points can really add up quickly, if you play your cards right.

Good luck!

(c) Copyright 1990 Jan Altman/The Express Train
Send your questions on Microsoft and Windows products to :

The Express Train at the following station:
3655 Pruneridge Avenue, No. 135, Santa Clara,
95051, 408/243-5955.

TECHNICAL TOPICS

OF MICE AND ...

The hardware interface between the mouse and the computer comes in two versions - serial and bus.

SERIAL

The serial mouse interfaces via the COM1 or COM2 port using a 9 pin (DB-9) plug. A 9 to 25 pin adapter can be used if the serial card uses a 25 pin connector. The advantage being that it makes it easy to move between one computer and another, simply unplug from one and plug into another. Disadvantages are that it ties up one of the serial ports, and, as serial devices transmit data one bit at a time, the speed of data transmission is limited to that of the mouse software (generally 1200 bits per second).

BUS

The bus mouse comes with its own 8 bit card that plugs into a socket on the motherboard. Thus becoming non-portable and tying up an expansion slot. It transmits data in parallel (8 bits at a time) and the speed of transmission is that of the clock rate of the computer. In practice this additional speed makes no difference, because you are unlikely to bump up against even the serial port 1200 bps limit.

Occasionally you may see the term InPort mouse. This is, essentially, a bus mouse that plugs into a separate expansion card

The mouse was first developed in 1963 by Doug Englebart at the Stanford Research Institute

which is not a bus mouse card, but which includes the bus mouse circuitry.

On PS/2 machines there is a built in 6 pin bus connector adjacent to the keyboard socket. If necessary you can use a DB-9 to PS/2 adapter to connect a serial mouse to this port.

As far as software is concerned there are two ways of installing the mouse; by using either **MOUSE.SYS** or **MOUSE.COM**. In essence the only functional difference between them is that **MOUSE.COM** is a program.

This means that you can load, and remove, any mouse programming simply by typing **mouse** or **mouse off** at the command line (not forgetting the necessary path instructions). Normally, however, the instructions to load the mouse are included in your **autoexec.bat**, in a form such as **c:\mouse1\mouse**.

MOUSE.SYS is a device driver that is loaded in your **config.sys** and installs the mouse driver in memory when the system is booted. This is done by including a line isuch as **device=c:\mouse1\mouse.sys**.

SPEED CONTROL

The speed of the mouse pointer on the screen can be changed in by issuing commands in one of two ways.

1. The Control Panel

This normally resides, as **CPANEL.COM**, in the same directory as **mouse.com** and **mouse.sys**. It loads into memory as a Terminate and Stay Resident (TSR) program and is used to adjust the speed of the mouse pointer. Holding down the Ctrl and Alt keys together and pressing

a mouse button will pop up the control panel onto the screen.

The Control Panel uses 33K of memory and, while it can be uninstalled it with the command **cpanel off**, unless it was the last TSR loaded its memory will not be reclaimable. Also, Control Panel must first be uninstalled if you want to uninstall the mouse.

2. THE DOS COMMAND LINE

This is a more powerful way of controlling the mouse pointer because it allows you to control the vertical and horizontal speeds separately. By issuing the following commands:

```
MOUSE /Snnn  
or  MOUSE /Hnnn  
and  MOUSE /Vnnn  
      MOUSE /Dnnn
```

where S=speed, H=horizontal, V=vertical, D=double-speed threshold, and nnn=a number from 0 to 100, the pointer speed can be controlled very precisely. Just try the combination of **mouse /v20/h80** to see the difference! The /D switch makes it easier to move the cursor to widely separated screen images.

Other switches that specify the type and location of the mouse are:

```
MOUSE /B for Bus mouse  
MOUSE /I1 or I2 for InPort mouse  
MOUSE /C1 or C2 for Serial mouse on  
COM1 or COM2
```

These can be useful for directing the mouse driver to the correct port if your system has an unusual configuration. The mouse driver, at installation, searches all ports for a device it recognizes as a mouse. Telling

it where it can be found, by having the line **device=c:\mouse1\mouse.sys /c2** in your **config.sys**, can save a lot of confusion (that is until you switch the mouse to COM1!).

All these switches are those supplied by Microsoft for their current MK3 mouse. Though, as all mouse manufacturers try to ensure that their products emulate the Microsoft standard, these switches will be pretty well standard.

I also have an Imsi mouse which is an excellent Taiwanese copy of the Microsoft one with the same feel - at half the price. This has the same switches, with the exception of not having /B or /I (as it is a serial mouse) and instead of /C1 or /C2 it is simply /1 or /2 and you can use /3 or /4 to assign it to COM3 or COM4 if you have these ports (mainly available on PS/2 machines).

As far as compatibility with Windows is concerned I find that I have had no problems with the following setup. I load the mouse driver at boot-up from my **config.sys** file, with the line **device=c:\mouse1\mouse.sys /s80**. I use no location switch as it is a bus mouse, and I have no conflicting cards. The **mouse.sys** that I use is the latest one (Version 7.05) that came with my copy of Windows 3.0 (as a general rule, it's good practice to replace the existing drivers with the latest versions when they come with a new or upgraded program).

This setup works fine in my machines both with Windows and the non-Windows programs, graphic and text based, that can make use of a mouse.



PC-KWIK POWER PAK V2.0

PAUL STALEY

My basic machine is just too slow. Long have I lusted for one of those sexy 386's that move almost as fast as my fingers on the keyboard. Well, actually they're considerably faster than that. And since I train others to use software on their own (much faster) machines, I've gotten spoiled. So, what to do to satisfy this speed lust? I can't afford a new machine just yet, so I've worked on speeding up my machine as much as possible.

I started with the basics - I optimize my hard disks regularly. It is truly amazing to me how quickly my drives become fragmented. I currently use Norton Speed Disk to do this. I use it because I have it (that makes the price right), and because it's very simple and direct. It's hard to calibrate this, but there is a noticeable difference to me in disk access time. I'm, also, always on the look-out for errant files, sub-directories and even whole programs that I can get rid of. I love deleting old files, back-up files and especially those mysterious files that suddenly appear one day out of the blue. I can't identify them, can't read them, can't gather up the moxie to just cut them away. Finally, after many months of coming across them again and again, I bite the bullet and delete them. All in the name of good housekeeping and a faster access time.

Far and away the best thing I've done so far, though, is to install PC-Kwik Power Pak. It consists of a memory manager (EMS

and XMS), a disk cache, a screen accelerator, a keyboard accelerator and a print spooler. These are all connected together by virtue of the fact that they all share whatever memory is available, returning it to the memory pool when done. The whole system works very well and invisibly. Once you finish the simple and semi-automatic installation procedure, you never really have to think about it again. The program reads how your computer is set up and sets itself up in the optimum configuration.

Of course, if you're like me, or you're simply a glutton for punishment, you won't be able to leave well enough alone. You just have to get in there and mess around with it. The program offers an abundance of parameters that you can tweak and twiddle to your hearts content. I did just that. After their knowledgeable and patient tech support folks helped me get my computer running again, I decided to leave well enough alone. Most of the parameters deal in some way or another with memory management. The manual makes an attempt to explain how this involved and confusing process works. Memory management to me, however, is not so much a science as an art form akin to the black arts. You can fear and respect it, but just don't try to understand how it works.

Since the program is divided into modules that are inter-related, you can decide which of the modules you want to use. Your set-up can be run automatically from your `autoexec.bat` file or started any time you need it. On my system I

have the entire program load at boot-up. This uses 38K of conventional memory. If your memory is configured as expanded memory (mine isn't), Power Pak automatically loads itself into high memory, freeing up most of the 38K for your other applications. This hasn't been a real problem for me so far, even though some of my applications are memory hogs.

And it really works! On my 12MHz 286 I've noticed a real, measurable improvement in speed, especially with those programs that frequently access the hard disk. Since Power Pak saves copies of all recent disk accesses in its disk cache, it can dramatically speed up your applications simply by reducing the number of times that the application needs to go to the disk for information. A print spooler should be standard equipment on all computers right from the factory, and this one works very well, with a pop-up window that lets you control the flow of data to your printer. The screen accelerator speeds up screen refreshes and scrolling, even allowing you to scroll backwards to look at info that's already off the screen. The keyboard accelerator allows you to change the repeat rate and speed of one key or all the keys, as well as offering a pop-up window with a reusable list of all the DOS commands that you've used.

This version is advertised as being completely compatible with Windows 3.0. I'm not so sure about this. A few memory problems with several DOS programs running under Win3 was what originally drove me to try my luck with reconfiguring the program parameters in the first

place. Power Pak replaces `smartdrv.sys` in Win3 with its own memory driver. DOS programs that used to work fine, although slowly, under Win3, now seem to run out of memory much faster. I fear I'll have to gird my loins and leap back into the memory management fray in order to straighten this all out. Wish me luck!

All in all, I highly recommend this program. All of the modules offer real improvements and enhancements to any machine. It didn't turn my 286 into a 386; but, at a street price of \$75.00 (mail order), you get a lot of bang for your buck.

Now, if I could just get my hands on a 386, put Power Pak on it, and maybe try the M+ parameter instead of M-, hmmm.....

~2

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For the April issue send camera ready artwork to the Editor to arrive no later than 12 April. If needed the ad. can be designed by us for a small fee.

*The Editor, PRinT SCreen
1351 Floyd Avenue,
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THE SPAUG RESOURCE CENTER

The following list is of club members who have volunteered their services. If anyone would like their name added to this list, please get in touch with Don Baird or Jan Altman.

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dBase

Gus Haas is interested in starting up a SIG for Ashton-Tate's dBase program. Those who find this idea attractive please contact Gus on:

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CLUB CALENDAR - April 1991

SPAUG
Stanford
Palo Alto
Users Group

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	29	30				

- April 3 First Wednesday - Novice SIG**
 7:30 PM Topic: **DOS COMMANDS and USAGE**
 Bring your user problems to "guest expert" Tony Allen
 Larry Weinberg's, 255 So. Rengstorff, #23, Mt. View (415) 969-2292
- April 8 Second Monday - Planning Meeting**
 7:30 PM Beverly Altman, (415) 329-8252 or Don Baird, (415) 365-6822
- April 10 Second Wednesday - Word for Windows/Windows SIG**
 7:30 PM **"WinWord's Outlining Feature"**
 TechMart, 5201 Great America Parkway, Suite 254, Santa Clara
 Jan Altman, (408) 243-5955
- April 16 Third Tuesday - Investment Software SIG**
 7:30 PM Demos: Charles Pack, **STOCK CHARTING SYSTEM**
 Nancy Helmy, **OPTIONS CALENDAR & CALL WORKSHEET**
 Bob Mitchell's, 1516 Whipple Ave, Redwood City (415) 368-9530
- April 22 Fourth Monday - Word for DOS SIG**
 7:30 PM **"Style Sheets in Word 5"**
 TechMart, 5201 Great America Parkway, Suite 254, Santa Clara
 Jan Altman, (408) 243-5955 or Harold (HB) Santos, (415) 573-8786
- April 24 Last Wednesday - GENERAL MEETING**
 7:30 PM Turing Auditorium, Polya Hall, Stanford University

MARCH MEETING

Last Wednesday: March 27th, 7.30pm at Turing Auditorium

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The Stanford/Palo Alto PC Users Group



P.O. Box 3738,
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Bulletin Board	(415) 321-4497
Newsletter	Tony Allen (408) 739-2953