OTTAWA IBM P.C. USERS' GROUP

NEWSLETTER

Executive:		home:	work:
President:	Anne Moxley	592 - 4933	230 - 909
Past president:	Gord Hopkins	828 - 3834	726 - 359
Treasury:	Mike Luckham	832 - 3829	592 - 6500 x 203
Secretary:	Eric Clyde	749 - 2387	993 - 3291
Membership Chairman:	Claude Jarry	521 - 3366	----------
Meeting Facilities:	Stu Moxley	592 - 4933	----------
Publicity:	Harry Gross	733 - 7989	----------
Software librarian:	Chris Taylor	723 - 1329	995 - 4987
" Assistant:	John Ings	----------	----------
Newsletter Editor:	Jacques Lemay	684 - 7754	684 - 7874

MEETING DATES

Meeting schedule:
8:00 pm, last Wednesday of every month except July and December
1987: Mar. 25, Apr. 29, May 27, June 24, Aug. 26, Sept.30 ..

Meeting location: NRC AUDITORIUM, 100 Sussex Drive
(Gothic Building opposite Ottawa City Hall - Parking in rear)

Guest speaker at the March Meeting

The March meeting will feature a talk on "Fourth Generation Languages and beyond...". The speaker will be Richard L. Benneworth who is Vice President, Product Development at Zanthe Information Inc. in Nepean.

About our Newsletter

Bob Thompson, the Editor of Bytown Bytes (the newsletter of the National Capital Atari Users' Group), writes in the February issue; "This month I have received so many articles that I had to drop some for lack of space".

This is a predicament your editor would like to be in. With an editorial staff of seven, it is published monthly (approximately twenty eight pages), sponsored by advertising and sold commercially for $2.25 a copy. It is available at a few dealers and at Prospero Computer Bookstore in town. Members may have it mailed for $5.00 a year or distributed free if they attend meetings) I will have a copy at the next meeting, and would like to get some comments on the concept of this newsletter, on the size of the editorial staff, on its commercial policy and on its distribution network, to see if we could adopt some of these ideas for our own.

J.G.L.

About our membership

Geographic distribution of members:			
Ottawa:	145	Dunrobin:	1
Nepean:	50	Hawkesbury:	1
Gloucester:	29	Kars:	1
Orleans:	10	Kingston:	1
Kanata:	9	La Pèche:	1
Hull:	7	Limoges:	1
Aylmer:	6	Montréal:	1
Gatineau:	5	Osgoode:	1
Manotick:	5	Russel:	1
Metcalfe:	3	Stitsville:	1
Almonte:	2	Touraine:	1
Buckingham:	2	Vanier:	1
Carleton Place:	2	Wakefield:	1
Embrun:	2	Winchester:	1
Greely:	2	Woodlawn:	1
Arnprior:	1		

The total membership as of February 1987 was 301 members including 4 family memberships, which means mailing 297 Newsletters. There are 174 memberships expiring at the end of this month. This could mean long line-ups at the membership table at the next meeting. In order to facilitate this process of renewing memberships and disks subscriptions, you may write a cheque put it in an envelope and submit it to a member of the membership committee. The fee is $20.00 for membership and $25.00 for disks subscriptions. If you need a receipt, include a self-addressed pre-stamped envelope and a receipt will be mailed to you. I wish to take this opportunity to thank the members who contributed to the publishing of this newsletter.

J.G.L

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Report on the PC Users' Group Meeting, 28th January, 1987   by Eric Clyde

Anne Moxley, the new President, opened the meeting, introducing Gilles Mousseau, Manager, Product Development, Domus Software. The topic was 'Financial management in a Canadian context.' He described the Lotus 1-2-3 (Release 1A) template which reasonably accurately calculates mortgage or loan payments in Canada. (The standard calculations in 1-2-3 give incorrect payments on mortgages because of the semiannual cumulation in Canada rather than monthly rate used in the U.S.). By using other financial formulae (future value, present value, net present value, and internal rate of return), he showed only too clearly the advantages to be gained by increasing monthly payments even slightly, and also one method of determining whether or not a project with a long term cash flow is economically sound.

After the break, Bruce Miller, the bulletin board sysop, briefly described the procedures for accessing the board, stating that it is for the exclusive use of PCUG members. Registration information is checked against the membership application forms -- if the info does not match, access is denied.

Mike Luckham then gave the Treasurer's report for 1986.

The club has 230 members, and 45 disk subscriptions and 718 individual disks were sold. At the beginning of the year, cash in hand was $3,187; at the end, $7,670. There was no intention of making money from the sale of disks, the cost of which has dropped considerably. So it has been decided that next year's disk subscription will be $25 and the price of a disk will be $3. Other plans being discussed by the executive including upgrading of the newsletter, purchase of a Sayette projection unit, funding of the bulletin board, and the possibility of having to pay for the hall.

Chris Taylor, software librarian, corrected the phone number appearing on the Newsletter. It is 723-1329. The disk drive analyzer program has been found and can be borrowed for a month with a deposit of $20. Next month, there will be some tutorial disks available in the speciality disks -- on DOS, on Turbo Pascal, and on C.

Terry Mahoney announced that disk prices have decreased -- to $7 per box, or $13 for two if paid in advance. Epson ribbon prices have also gone down. He requested that members produce a wish list of items which they would like to see in a bulk purchase.

SIG Groups

-- Eric Clyde reported that the SIG on Packages is not really working very well and stated that it should be split up into several SIGs with sharper focus. He will be contacting all the SIG members for their input.

-- Terry Gow stated that the Enable group had its first meeting on February 11th and was quite successful. The next meeting will be on February 11th at 493 Richmond Road at 7:30.

-- Gord Hopkins asked for someone to help organize meetings of the AT group, since he has been out of town so much lately.

-- a request was received from the floor that a SIG on Laptop Computers and later, on CAD, be started. The executive will discuss this at their meeting. If in the meantime someone is willing to act as convenor, let any member of the executive know.

Sandy Shaw then talked about the cable TV show, The Whole Bit. It appears on the third Tuesday of each month from 10:00 to 11:00. The format is some news, some features, and then a phone-in session. It is being supported by a loose conglomeration of the various user groups in the city. Assistance in the preparation of features will e welcomed. The next show will be on February 17th.

Some possible topics for future meetings were given, and additional suggestions requested.

The meeting closed with a question and answer session. There were over 200 members present.

This report submitted by Eric Clyde

Report on the PC Users' Group Meeting, 25th February, 1987   by Eric Clyde

In the absence of the President, Gord Hopkins opened the meeting.

The next AT SIG meeting is to be on March 11th at 7:30 at PC Nova, 493 Richmond Road.

E. Clyde reported that the only responses he had had to his proposal for splitting up the SIG on Packages indicated that it was the only group where technical discussions of a general nature were held. Accordingly he announced that the next meeting would be on March 12th at NRC Sussex Drive. The two topics would be an introduction to programming using dBASE III, and macros in 123.

Tom Mimee reported that the ranks of SIG on the PC Junior are swelling, but so are the problems, especially with expanding the machines and installing dual drives. The last meeting dealt with subdirectories. There will be a meeting in March, but the time and place have not been set.

Bruce Miller stated that the bulletin board is getting about 30 calls per day, from about 90 registered users. If anyone has a problem getting on, he would like to hear about it.

The program for the evening was given by John Good and Ian .... from Epson Canada. The new Equity III using the 80286 chip and the LQ1500 24-pin printer were demonstrated using the Microtype software. This is a full typesetting package with page formatting and macros. It has 15 fonts, each in a wide range of point sizes. The package looked easy to use, but it is not suitable for 9-pin printers. The cost is $295.

During questions, a warning against using MX/FX ribbons on the LQ printers was given. The LQ ribbons are much denser and won't shred as easily under the onslaught of the 24-pins.

The meeting closed with a question and answer session. There were over 150 members present.

This report submitted by Eric Clyde

New WordStar for the Die-hards

MicroPro announces a new version of WordStar, WordStar Professional 4.0 has approximately 130 new features, which include an on-line 220,000-word thesaurus, line and box drawing capability, programmable macros and function keys, and file locking for local area network support. A local area network file-server version and a LAN node version are available as well. It is reported that the program can be installed to be completely or partially RAM-resident. It comes with an 87,000-word dictionary for CorrectStar which is included. Also available for US$25.00 each:

    6,000-word legal   dictionary
    68,000-word medical   "
    8,500-word financial   "

Source: BYTE March 1987

Color Card for all Standards

The 557 Gold Card from Taxan U.S.A. is designed for total compatibility with all software designed for use with color. The board automatically adjusts itself tp accomodate the software you're using and switches among CGA, EGA and T(axan)GA mode with a resolution of 640 by 400 pixels. Although it is matched to Taxan's line of high resolution monitors, it will operate in EGA and TGA on any monitor with a 25-kHz scan rate.

Price US$495 from Taxan USA Corp.
18005 Cortney Ct.,
City of Industry, CA 91748

Source: BYTE March 1987

PCED 1.01a: A DOS essential

Every time you type a DOS command you use a text editor, but it is so primitive that you might never notice it. The DOS command editor doesn't do much. You can delete backwards and you press either F3 or the right cursor key to retrieve your last command, but that's about all. Users have tolerated this because they didn't know they had an alternative. The alternative is PCED - the professional command editor. PCED is to the DOS command editor what Wordperfect is to Edlin.

It's also a model of intelligent design. You don't need the manual to make the program do useful work. You simply run it. Because PCED isn't a clunky DOS shell, the command line looks the

same as ever - but it is now responsive rather than recalcitrant. The cursor keys cycle through your earlier commands, which you can modify or reuse, and the editing keys act the way you expect them to.

But that's just the beginning. Read the manual and you can use PCED to create macrolike "synonyms" for complex series of commands, complete with variables and parameters. PCED's synonyms, unlike batch files, stay in memory, so they work instantly whenever you're in DOS, and they can be revised or replaced on the fly. If you want to save a set of synonyms for daily use, they occupy a single ASCII configuration file that doesn't hog disk space.

PCED can memorize the parameters you use with a command or program, so that everytime you enter "format" it will add "b:\s". PCED synonyms can also include replaceable parameters that stand or the current disk drive, path, date, time, and much else. This lets a one letter synonym automatically tell a program like "Jet" or DOS's XCOPY to back up all files that have today's date. You can even train a PCED synonym to record the date in the configuration file after doing a backup, so that you can use the same synonym later, and it will back up any files created since the last day you used it.

The package includes programs that work with PCED to create resident commands that any self-respecting DOS would have included long ago. One command provides a customizable directory, another changes file attributes, one recalls text that scrolled off-screen, another feeds keystrokes into applications, while yet another lets you invoke "SideKick" within PCED synonyms.

Since PCED does its work only in DOS, it won't gum up your applications. There is one exception to this DOS-only rule. With certain programs, notably with DEBUG, PCED provides a seperate set of "users synonyms" that can help programmers keep their sanity while they suffer through a night of repetitive tasks.

PCED is crashproof, doesn't care when it is loaded, and never gets in the way. At 16K bytes, in its smallest configuration, it's compact enough to use with a floppy disk. Everything it does can be modified, suspended or suppressed. It does have one disadvantage. If you use someone else's PC after you've installed PCED on yours, you'll feel as if you're driving a gas-guzzling old wreck.
Price US$35.00 The Cove Software Group P.O. Box 1072 Columbia. MD 21044 (301)992-9371

Source: Edward Mendelson PC Magazine Vol. 6 # 5

The Enable SIG has had 2 very successful meetings and our plans call for them to continue approximately every 2 months. We have received tremendous support from PC Nova the manufacturers representatives based right here in Ottawa. They have generously provided us with meeting facilities, equipment, have made presentations to the group and have been available to answer any questions on the use of Enable. For all of us who have experienced the frustrations of trying to get software support from other manufacturers software I just can't say enough about the level of support for Enable.

Thus far we have had user presentations on application systems, had a sneak preview of Enable 2.0 (which is now released), seen the Perspectives Graphics package which is to be integrated with Enable, have had a number of question and answer sessions with Enable representatives, and discussed ideas for future meetings such as hands on sessions and focusing on specific Enable software areas i.e. word processing, data-base, etc.

Enables' capabilities have always set them above the other integrated packages and they have had the reviews to support them! Now, Enable version 2.0 offers over 100 enhancements and includes the power of 3D graphics to make it even better.

What does Enable have to offer?

For the User:

- Ease of use (common structure and commands across modules).
- Menu or command operation.
- One learning curve.

For the System Developer:

- The power of integrated application development.
- Windows (8).
- Menu generation system.
- Macros.
- Programming language.
- Host language interface to C, Pascal, or Basic.

For the Information Centre and Management:

- One package to purchase.
- Only one package to support.

For Everyone:

- Word processing: mail merge, column functions.
- Database: relational, programmable, screen painting forms design.
- Spreadsheet: Lotus compatible (both versions)
- Graphics: business and presentation 2D and 3D graphics.
- Communications: terminal emulation, programmable script language.
- Compatibility with most other software.

The next meeting is to be held Wednesday April 8th 1987. Come on out and find out more about Enable and how it can improve your productivity. See you there!

This article submitted by Bob Laidlaw

CLASSIFIED:

FOR SALE: PRINTER: Radio Shack DWP 20, 15 inch, 5 months old, including manuals, packed in original carton. List $799, will sell for $500.
Larry Drew, Home 825-2490, work 729-3094.

TIPS for WS: When you have to edit a long document, with the title being for instance Policy on SMOKING, I found it a time and space saver to label the disquette SMOKING, and then to name all the pages (files) S.1, S.2, ..S.99 making all files completely autonomous as far as page number and length. This way you will only create one

(.BAK file) and if you have to correct something on page 57, it is very easy and quick to edit file P.57. When the document is completed and is ready for print then you create a long file called S.ODD and using ^KR read in all the odd pages ensuring that the length coincides with page breaks using ".PA" when necessary (to be continued next issue)

Note Small items such as adds FOR SALE, FOR TRADE or WANTED, also tips, problems and questions will be included in this section and are free and restricted to members only.

UPCOMING SIGS MEETINGS

ENABLE USER GROUP

Next meeting: Wednesday April 8th 1987

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Place: Amtek building (next to Ottawa cablevision)
                           493 Richmond Road

AGENDA: Focus on word processing.

- Word processing features.

- Enable import/export capabilities.
     Enable reads and writes multiple word processing formats.

- Word processing hands on sessions. Bring in your diskettes!

- Suggestions for improvements.

- Question and answer session.
     Open to all Enable modules and features.

Anyone interested in the use of Enable is welcome to attend. For further
information please contact Bob Laidlaw or Tony Gow at (613) 9953708, or
Darlene Murphy at (613) 7281831.

dB/SS/WP GROUP

Next meeting: Wednesday April 8th 1987

Time: 7:30 TO 10:00 P.M.

Place: Main Sreet Community Centre.
                           88 Main Street, Room 19

AGENDA: 1 - Word Processing Utilities
                           2 - System Development Methodology

- Multi keyboard configurations

- Dictionaries, spellers, thesaurus, conjugators...etc

- Key enhancers and windowing

- Customizing word processors

- Printing utilities

AT USER GROUP: To be announced at the next meeting

JUNIOR USER GROUP: To be announced at the next meeting

To everyone who purchased a copy of the TAXES 86 specialty disk,
I must appologize. The Lotus 1-2-3 program for doing your taxes
was more of a teaser than a working program.   To say the least,
it was less than complete.   BUT....I have found another.   I am
going to give it a better 'once-over' than I gave to the previous
program.   It is a single Lotus 1-2-3 file.   At first glance, it
includes T1 General, Schedules 1,2,4,7,9,10,11, and the Ontario
Tax Credits.   There is built in help screens and a print
function.

Anyone who presents their ORIGINAL 'Taxes 86' disk, can swap it for
free for a 'Taxes 82 Ver.2' disk.

Other news...

We have 2 new demo disks, Microsoft CodeView (for C programmers) and
Microsoft QuickBASIC.

In the Specialty Library, there is just one - FORTH 87/FORTH 88

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*      Ottawa IBM PC Users'     *
*            Group              *
*   Disk #39        March 1987  *
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ACHTUNG   COM   1024 (***) Displays a funny little message. Related
                          file - ACHTUNG.DOC

ALT-8   COM   256 (***) Great utility which redefines Shift-8 to *.*
                          Related file - ALT-8.DOC

ASC   COM   1280 (***) Memory resident utility to display an ASCII
                          table anytime you need one. Related files -
                          ASC.ASM, ASC.DOC

BACKTALK COM   12288 (***) Your computer gets sassy at you! Related
                          file - BACKTALK.DOC

BBS_NUMS TXT   4023 (***) A recent list of bulletin board numbers in
                          the Ottawa area.

COPYSAFE COM   1280 (***) Memory res:en utility to prevent accidental
                          overwrites of files when using the DOS command
                          COPY. Related files - COPYSAFE.ASM, COPYSAFE.DOC

IM   EXE   51072 (C**) Icon Maker. Create designs and save them as
                          an ASCII file that may be inserted into the data
                          segment of your Assembler programs to display the
                          graphics you created. Related file - IM.DOC

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JOKE       TXT      201 (***) Chuckle-of-the-Month

NINJA      COM    25818 (C**) You are the Ninja warrior out to take the
                         fortress.  Related files NINJA.DAT, NINJA.DOC

PACKDISK        <DIR>    (***) A set of utilities for keeping a hard disk
                         running smoothly.  De-fragment files, delete sub-
                         directories and their files, park the heads and
                         more.

PAIRS      EXE    10688 (***) Checks a WordStar file for balanced pairs of
                         printing control characters.  Related files -
                         PAIRS.C, PAIRS.DOC, PAIRS.N

PARINT     COM      451 (***) A utility for trapping parity errors without
                         crashing the computer.  Related files PARINT.ASM,
                         PARINT.DOC
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