Ottawa IBM-PC Users Group

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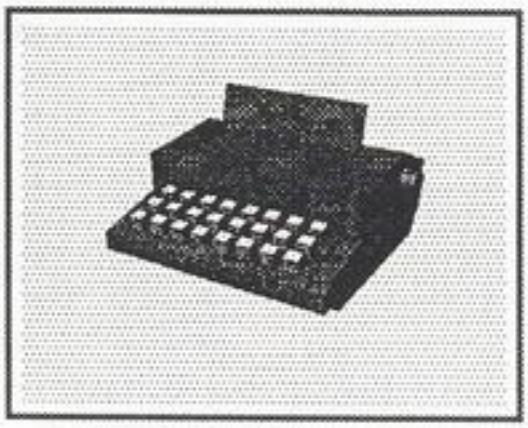
FIGHTING WORDS

WordPerfect Corporation and Microsoft Inc. have recently announced evolutionary changes to their word processors. While capable of performing the same tasks WP's WordPerfect 5.1 and MS's Word for Windows represent dramatic differences in approach.

WP Corp.'s concept provides a writer's tool that includes the ability to format and preview the results. MS's concept provides a tool that allows you to write in finished formats.

Each approach has its' own theoretical strengths. WP allows you to approach the different tasks involved in writing individually and to delegate work to others according to their personal strengths. Word for Windows' "Visual Computing" approach merges these jobs and allows you to produce a final document in one pass.



Why do you use your word processor? How do you use it? Let's step backward in time to the age of the typewriter and consider the fundamentals of written communication:

1. Ideas - You must have something to say.
2. Writing - You must be able to say it.
3. Organisation - You should be able to say it convincingly.
4. Editing - You must find the errors in it.
5. Rewrite - You must correct it.
6. Presentation - You must format it for effect.
7. Publication - You must give it to somebody.

Some of these elements recur several times in individual communications, others occur but once.

The problem with heavy duty word processors like WP 5.1 and Word is that Presentation and Publication often interfere with Writing. Also, they may interrupt or short circuit: Organisation, Editing and Rewriting. The result can be a publication that looks good, but fails to communicate.

Personally, I prefer writing in a plain ASCII test editor. I find both outlining capabilities and a thesaurus seductive at this stage. Both help me to organise and write what I have to say.

I do not want to be concerned with appearances at this time.

Editing and rewriting bring spelling checkers and grammar checkers into use to provide an impartial judge. Most of us are biased towards our own writing. We see what we think we said: not what we actually say. I still prefer an ASCII text editor for these stages. I especially do not like text squirming around and reformatting itself while I'm trying to find the right words.

My last concern is with presentation. When I reach this stage I like to be able to control all the detail of formatting without simultaneously being concerned with writing or rewriting. Here is where powerful formatting capabilities and WYSIWYG is useful to me.

Maybe the human race will evolve towards superior beings who can effectively handle all the stages of writ-

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POWER FUNCTIONS

John C. Nash

The power supply box at the right rear of your system unit case usually ensures clean electrical power for your computer. Various surge suppressors can be purchased, and many of you will use them, with paranoids having Uninterruptible Power Supplies.

All this effort to get clean power can be in vain if your software uses a flawed POWER FUNCTION. The POWER FUNCTION computes the value z which is equal to x to the power y. This is generally written:

- +B2^A1 in spreadsheets (e.g., Lotus 123)
- X**Y in Fortran
- X^Y in BASIC
- pow(x,y) in C

and not at all in Pascal, where Niklaus Wirth decided to duck the issue. Wise man!

The power function is important. Any discounted cash flow problem, which includes all loans, mortgages, bonds, etc., needs it. In Canada, "blended payment" mortgages have a special need of this function to compute accurate monthly rates from the

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Power Functions

nominal yearly interest rate. Engineers use the power function in many models of real systems. Statisticians use power transformations to discover distribution properties of their data. Although the power function arises primarily in technical situations, these arise in many fields of work.

Recently the ACM SIGNUM Newsletter (Special Interest Group on Numerical Mathematics) volume 24, nos. 1 and 2/3 has carried short items on a serious flaw in the Lotus 123 power function. This occurs when y is small and x takes on fairly "vanilla" values like .1, .5, or .9. When y is smaller than 1e-18, the Lotus software returns 0.5 for x^y instead of 1. (Note that 1 is the correct finite precision approximation of x^y for these values. When y is 0, x^y is 1, as it should be.)

In testing this out for myself, I couldn't get the error - I still use Lotus 1A most of the time. The error pops up in Lotus 2. It doesn't seem to be in ASEASY. The same type of test can be programmed easily in BASIC, C, or FORTRAN, but not, as indicated, in PASCAL.

The code for a power function is not trivial. Cody and Waite, in their Software Manual for the Elementary Functions (Prentice Hall, 1980) note that the power function is the most complicated of the codes they present. Many nasty special considerations exist, such as when y is an integer. The obvious way to compute x^y, such as one might be tempted to try for PASCAL, is

$$z = x^y = \exp(x \log(y))$$

but Cody and Waite show that this may have a relative error proportional to the magnitude of x log(y). We quickly find that the finite precision of floating-point numbers prevents us from using the exp/log "formula". Cody and Waite discuss how the job should be done.

I486

Intel has notified over 200 customers that the i486 has a flaw in its' floating point routines. As the chip is a beta release this is no surprise. Two versions are said to exist: with and without the flaw (later version?). Caveat Emptor. Based on original announcments that should be $200 million sales. That's surprising.

Translators and Machines

by J. Vaumoron

For a living, a translator reads a text in a "source" language, and creates, in a "target" language, a text that duplicates as closely as possible the original document. He is often considered a slow and expensive Xerox that just reproduces documents in an other language. Translators are not machines yet; they just use tools known to all PC users.

The Good Old Days

Once upon a time, translators used paper, a sharpened pencil, and an eraser, to produce text that was typed, corrected, retyped, proofread and partly re-retyped before it reached its' end users. They usually typeset it and proofread it again. Presto! A Bilingual Document! Translating tables and figures was easy: you put little numbers near each phrase on a copy of the English original, and you wrote the translation neatly next to the corresponding number on a nice wide sheet of paper; fitting the translation inside the existing space was someone else's headache!

Modern translators

Clients expect us to do all the above in about a quarter, or even a tenth of the time. It took four specialists to do the job in the old days. The computer revolution supposedly gives us all the tools necessary for this miracle. Everybody assumes that the tools are perfect and that translators have the time to get acquainted with the most sophisticated programs on the market.

Do we have these tools? Or, do we have to make do with software and hardware designed for another kind of work?

The translation process

Let's use translating a manual from English to French as an example and look at the stages where a computer might help. With minor variations, the translation procedure is as follows:

Read the text once before starting to translate (I wish I had the time.) A computer can't help much here.

Find related literature in French - Take a trip to the library: these guys know what they're doing and have terminals to access big data banks. They are not just looking at the Grolier encyclopedia in CD format, but can access all publications on any subject and any language, pretty well anywhere in the world. The only limitation is time. Finding help friday evening, for a translation you just received, due monday morning, is just not realistic. Your help will come mostly from fellow translators: if you have FAX machines, you can receive almost every document they possess.

Dictate your text and have someone type it, or type it yourself - Needed: a computer with a word processing program and (Is it so obvious?) a way to type in French: the target language. We have just reinvented the paper, pencil and eraser; but it looks a great deal neater.

Review your text on screen or on paper, correct the spelling mistakes, fix the translation errors and print! - Now we need a good search-and-replace function, a good spelling checker (both standard, my Dear Watson) and something else . . . little grey chips that remember which word was used fifteen pages back, or in a previous text, to translate this awkward word or phrase (not so standard!).

Look at the figures and tables and start rebuilding them in French (Why are these phrases so much longer in French?) *Compress the new text so that it fits on the same number of pages as the original* - Needed: a powerful Desktop Publishing program and a good training course.

The rest is just public relations, accounting, phoning and faxing, and a holiday to let off steam when you find the time.

Dictionaries

"Gee", we didn't even mention the word "dictionary." Most translators *do not* spend time looking for words in a dictionary. There are two good reasons: the word you are looking for may not be there, and it takes a lot of time! Assume that you're lucky and pick the right one out of the 15 or 20 expensive dictionaries gathering dust on your shelves. Finding one word can take you 20 seconds for an

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Know Your Connections

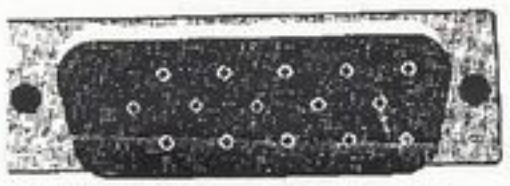
By Suzanne M. Blain

Test your knowledge. The pictures, numbered 1 through 10, represent typical connectors found on your personal computer. Match the picture with all the appropriate descriptions. Most pictures have multiple correct answers. Give yourself five dollars (points) for each correct answer and check your score with the solution provided at the end of this newsletter. The solutions may surprise you as well as provide a few words of caution. Sorry, the only prize is knowledge. Recognize techie expressions like RS232.

1

2

3



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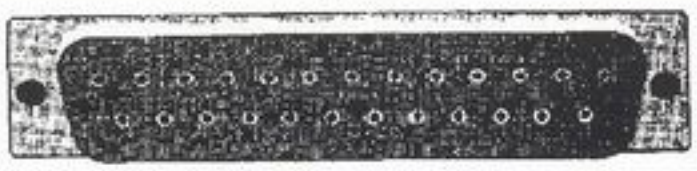

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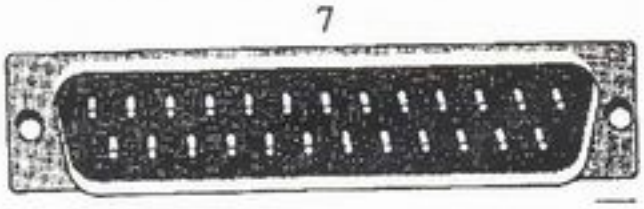

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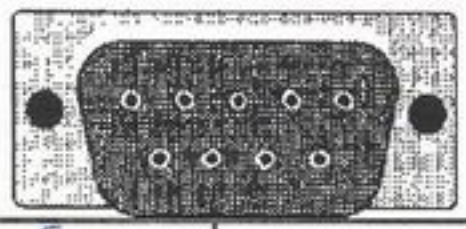

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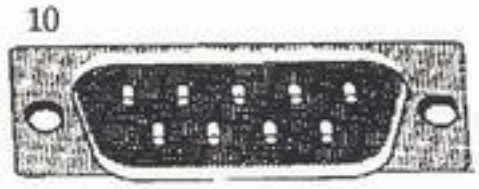

1. F	A. Composite monitor jack	K. Phone jack
2. I	B. Keyboard port	L. DIN plug
3. B G	C. Serial port XT	M. RS232
4. L	D. Analog monitor port	N. RJ11
5. H N	E. Parallel printer port	O. D Subminiature
6. J E	F. AC power output	P. RCA jack
7. M C	G. TTL monitor port	Q. Features connector
8. P	H. Phone line jack	
9. D	I. AC power input	
10. J	J. Serial port AT	

Connection Solution on page 7

ERRATA

Gremlins caused two errors in the Aug.-Sept. Newsletter.

Floppy Disk's Who's Who: there are 80 tracks and 15 sectors on the 5 1/4" 1.2Mb diskette, not 135 tracks and 9 sectors, as listed in the table. The article content is accurate.

Tidbits: The command to redirect output to NUL should read as follows: COPY COMMAND.COM D: >NUL not COPY COMMAND.COM D: NUL

We apologize for any inconvenience.

Tim's Tip

Saving Time With Printer Control Codes

Did you know that you can use the Alt key and numeric keypad to set printer features? You can change print modes, do form feeds, line feeds, and set line spacing right from your keyboard without loading any software. You can do this using the printer control codes.

Most printer manuals present printer control codes, show their ASCII display characters, and give you the Decimal and Hexadecimal equivalents. You must use Decimal equivalents with the numeric keypad. Your manual may have the codes as CTRL ? or CHR$(n), where n is the decimal equivalent. Some controls require an Escape code.

What do you need to send these control codes to the printer? You need DOS, the COPY CON PRN command, the Alt key, the numeric keypad, and the Ctrl key. Say you own an Epson or compatible printer and you want print in compressed mode. You would:

Type COPY CON PRN and press return. Then while holding down the Alt key, type in 015 on the numeric keypad. You must use the numeric keypad and not the keys above your keyboard. Now release the Alt key. An ^O symbol will appear on the screen. Next hold down the Ctrl key and press the z key. A ^Z symbol will appear, then hit return.

This is what your screen should look like:

```
COPY CON PRN ^O^Z
  1 File(s) copied
```

You have sent your printer a control O. Control Z is the end of file marker that tells DOS to stop here. If you want to cancel compressed mode, follow the same instructions but replace 015 with 018. You can do a form feed by replacing with 012. A line feed using 010.

To date, I have not found a way to send an Escape code (027) through the keyboard. Here's how you can create a 2 byte file containing the Escape character and send it to the printer with other control characters. You can create a similar file using a text editor that will allow you

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Translators

average word and well over 5 minutes for an obscure meaning of "to get" or "design." Have you noticed that most dictionaries only use the alphabetical order for the key words, but ignore it afterward and classify the various meanings of each word by rules that differ between dictionaries? - A computer should keep a database of translation problems and your solutions, and it should find them in less than a second.

Tools for the translator

Let's reconsider these tools, if they exist, and whether they have improved over the last few years. This month, we'll concentrate on typing in French and how programs tackle this problem. Later, we'll examine a data base specially designed for translators, and then look at problems encountered in typesetting translated text.

Typing in French

The alphabet

A to z and other symbols are on the keyboard ... if you only type in English. Try the Workbook for the French version of WordPerfect 5.0. You're in trouble. The first exercise, Lesson 1, page 9, asks you to type a single sentence. The sentence includes several "é". The "step by step" manual does not tell you which key or combination of keys produce an é on the screen. Did you guess that the answer is in the index under the title "Configuring the keyboard" rather than "accented letters?" The answer is on page 301, in words more suitable for an advanced WP user than a raw beginner.

The Selectric and like solutions

You can use one of the many programs that will transform the keyboard into a "french" keyboard: this is a big business in Quebec. The most used solution is the Selectric– keyboard, produced by IBM for its typewriters. This keyboard, which loads from any of several TSR programs, is a compromise between the classical QWERTY and the European French AZERTY. Although it keeps all the letters of the original QWERTY, it plays musical chairs with most of the signs; some, "@" for example, just disappear. Most secretaries use this keyboard and will not consider getting rid of it. A PC DOS user may not like it as much: introducing "é" to replace "/" sends "/" to "#" (shift 3), and removes the "#" altogether. My vocabulary of french swearwords is inadequate to describe my frustration when I am asked to help a secretary type DOS commands on these keyboards. Even this Selectric solution is inadequate, because it relies on the IBM ASCII set of characters. One of my pet grievances a few years ago was smug salesmen in word processor booths who patronized me saying "but of course, our machine uses accented capitals" and immediately typed a "É". My best response was to ask them how did they write "Île du Prince Édouard" which cannot decently be put in lower case without risking a provincial diplomatic incident. This deflated their ego, but didn't give me the alphabet I wanted.

A keyboard wish list

One of the best keyboard modifications is suggested by Linguatech, a Utah based firm specializing in translation databases. It accounts for these factors:

Keep the basic keyboard setup intact as much as possible, so that DOS commands can be typed without hunting for signs or having to use the Alt-xxx method.

Enlarge the keyboard capacity by using dead keys rather than Alt- or Ctrl- combinations in order to save these precious resources for macros and special commands.

Keep the whole operation intuitive, for example type ^ then e to get ê.

Did you know that the QWERTY and AZERTY layouts were designed to *slow down* swift typists who could easily jam original manual Underwoods? These layouts should be abandoned. A more modern layout for English is the Dvorak keyboard. It minimizes awkward fingering by putting keys in the most convenient position to get any letter in a minimum time. All modern keyboards should be optimised.

Use of dead keys

One way to expand keyboard capacity without losing original features is by using dead keys. A "dead" key is not actually dead. It remembers one ASCII character until the next key is pressed. If the combination of these characters has been mapped to obtain a third character, that character is inserted in the file and displayed. For example, pressing the "^" (ASCII 94) key then the "e" (ASCII 101) key produces an "ê" (ASCII 136); if this combination has been recorded in the reference file for the keyboard reconfiguration program.

The dead key's original character is not lost, it is generally obtained by pressing the key twice. Therefore we get a net gain of characters, without using long key sequences and without using Alt- and Ctrl- combinations. They are particularly useful when one key can be used with several secondary keys. For example, ^ is an obvious first key to obtain â with a, î with i, ô with o, etc. The " or even % signs are often used as first characters for ä, ë, ï, etc.; and @ is a good first character for å and Å. WordPerfect 5.0 offers a botched up version of this (À can be typed by hitting Ctrl-V, ', A); If only we could get rid of the Ctrl-V. It stresses the fact that the program's authors consider accented letters to be *abnormal* characters!

Alt- and/or Ctrl- combinations

These combinations only require pressing two keys *together* rather than in succession. You must weigh this advantage against the utility that a "macro" triggered by the same key combination could provide. Using the Alt- or Ctrl- combinations just for letters feels wasteful. Use them for diacritical signs that apply only to one frequently used letter, like é in French.

Reconfiguration programs

Here again, we must weigh our advantages. The more keys that can be reconfigured, the better. But reconfiguration uses precious RAM. Some programs are more efficient, but greedier than others. At one extreme, Termex (the program I am now using) is happy with 14K and provides for dead keys. At the other

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Translators

extreme sits the grandfather of them all, Smartkey, which can assign up to 60,000 characters to a single key anywhere on the keyboard including the numeric keypad. It requires anything from 28K to over 60K of RAM and does not seem to provide dead keys. Your choice depends on how much RAM your main program needs and on how well it works with the keyboard TSR program (Remember: try before you buy!). A good source of information is the manufacturer of your main program. They should be able to give you some guidance on the programs that clash and those that do not.

The other half of the alphabet

The lower case part of the alphabet is easy to configure. The other half is not as obvious. The first requirement is that the wordprocessor be able to recognise accented upper case letters as twins to their lower case counterpart. You may have problems with the sort function, the spelling checker, the change from lower case to upper case and vice-versa.

WordPerfect 5.0 (not 4.2) is a good example of a program that, in its own peculiar way, fully recognizes upper and lower case accented letters. The disadvantage is that, if you want to use a WP 5.0 text file in Ventura, you must write your own conversion program. The conversion file given by Ventura for WP 5.0 is definitely less than perfect. So far, these two programs do not seem to be able to talk to one another, and the discrepancies go far beyond the accented capitals (for example an "é" in WP5.0 turns into a ")" in Ventura, and even the degree sign has a different address in WP 4.2, in Ventura and in WP 5.0). À is [1,32] for WordPerfect, and <182> for Ventura. Île du Prince Édouard is spelled <206>le du Prince Édouard for Ventura and [1,50]le du Prince Édouard for Wordperfect.

Let's generate a text for Ventura. Type your text in the French version of WP 5.0, using the French Thesaurus and the French Spelling Checker - convert the upper case accented letters, degree signs, etc. to Ventura format (one big macro!) - export the text as a WP 4.2 file so that you can save the conversion on the lower case accented letters - read this file into the Ventura chapter. You may consider going back to WP 5.0 to run a series of search and replace operations; in this case, you must use the opposite conversion programs and then return to Ventura the same way. Are you sure you needed to Search and Replace after all?

The road to perfection

So far, I have not found a keyboard reconfiguration program that can use a simple dead key sequence. "^A" for example, to type a string of characters, be it <182> or [1,32]. I therefore type my texts in WP 4.2, add the codes for Ventura accented capitals, greek letters ° signs, etc. I lose the spelling checker for most titles.

Alphabetical order

One requirement for an alphabet is that it can be used to sort alphabetically so that words can be located in an index or a lexicon. We shall look at this problem in the next instalment.

Tidbits

Edited by Chris Taylor

Down at The PUB by your editor Chris Taylor

The PUB (short for [P]C [U]sers' Group [B]ulletin Board) has many features that can make life easier. One is to set a default download protocol. From the main menu press U to get to the User Profile menu. Then press C to change configuration. One option is D - Set File Download Protocol. Choose that option and set your default protocol to whatever you like. My preference is Y-Modem Batch. It is fast, you can download multiple files in a single command, and the filename is passed with the file, so you don't have to enter it. From then on, when you elect to download a file, you won't be prompted for a file transfer protocol.

Cursing Lost Cursors

by Michael Goddard

A poorly behaved program left a colleague without a cursor. I was asked for a utility to restore the cursor. Another colleague had trouble seeing the cursor on her laptop: how about a large cursor utility? There are a million of these, it seems. Here is another, a type-yourself version that you can modify as desired!

CURSOR.SCR

```
A 100
CS:
MOV SI,[0080]
ADD SI,0080
AND SI,00FF
CS:
MOV CH,[SI]
CMP CH,30
JZ 011D
NOT CH
ADD CH,38
JMP 011F
NOP
MOV CH,20
MOV CL,07
MOV AH,01
INT 10
MOV AX,4C00
INT 21

RCX
2A
NCURSOR.COM
W
Q
```

The attached DEBUG script will create CURSOR.COM. Use an editor like TED to create an ASCII file (say, for example CURSOR.SCR) and then redirect the file to debug by typing DEBUG < CURSOR.SCR. [If you use a word processor, be sure to use it's option for writing DOS text or plain ASCII files. Also be sure to include the blank line after INT 21 - CJT]

Type CURSOR 0 if you want to turn off the cursor, or use a number from 1 to 7 for progressively larger cursors. CURSOR 7 will give you the largest possible. Several laptop owners have found it handy to include a "CURSOR 7" in AUTOEXEC.BAT.

I wrote the utility for CGA, MCGA, EGA and VGA systems. Replace the MOV CL,7 instruction with MOV CL,0D and the ADD CH,38 instruction with ADD CH,3E for a monochrome version. [I've not been able to test this yet. I wrote it following technical manual type information only ...caveat emptor!]

Dear Bonnie:

Please help me. Last night I used WordPerfect 5.0 to type a secret letter. I heard my mother coming towards my bedroom and quickly tried to save the letter and clear the screen.

I pressed <F10> and a prompt "Document to be saved:" appeared at the bottom of the screen. I typed "DEARJOHN.LTR" and pressed <ENTER>. A message "Saving C:\DEARJOHN.LTR" appeared, but it did not clear the screen, so I pressed <F10> again. This time "Document to be saved: DEARJOHN.LTR" appeared. I was getting frustrated. I pressed <ENTER> a third time and got another prompt: "Replace DEARJOHN? (Y/N) NO". I didn't want to replace my letter, so I pressed "N" and found myself back at the message "Document to be saved: DEARJOHN.LTR" again!

Out of frustration, I pressed the <F7> key. Again WP asked if I wanted to replace the document. I answered "No" and found myself caught up in another endless circle of messages. As my mother entered my room, I quickly shut off the computer.

How can I avoid getting caught in this predicament again?

Signed, Vicious Circle

Dear Vicious Circle:

The keys <F7> and <F10> have confused many WordPerfect users. However, once you understand the purpose of these two keys, your vicious circles will end.

The <F10> (SAVE) key saves a document and keeps it on the screen.

After pressing <F10>, WP prompts you for a filename. After Typing one in, press <ENTER>. "Saving C:\DEARJOHN.LTR" tells you that the document is being saved.

By pressing <F10> again (as you did), the prompt "Document to be saved: DEARJOHN.LTR" will appear. The purpose for this prompt is to allow you to change the document name if you wish. Press <ENTER> to confirm that you wish to save this particular document name. To change the name of the file, type a new filename over the existing one.

Press <ENTER> again and you will see the prompt "Replace DEARJOHN.LTR (Y/N) No?". Whether you made changes to the file or not, press "Y". The purpose of pressing <ENTER> is to allow you to change the filename again.

The <F7> (EXIT) key saves a document and clears the screen.

After pressing <F7>, you will see the prompt "Save document? (Y/N) Yes". Type "Y" to save it. The prompt "Document to be saved:" will appear. Type in a filename and press <ENTER>. Either a Yes or No answer to the prompt "Exit WP (Y/N) No" will clear the screen.

If you save a document with <F10> (as you did) and then press <F7>, "Save Document? (Y/N) Yes" appear. **Look at the lower right side of your screen.** If you see the words "(text was not modified)", WordPerfect is telling you that no modifications (changes) have been made to the document since you last saved it. You did not modify the file, so press "N" (No). If, however, it is blank, it means that you made changes to the document after saving it, so press <ENTER> to save the modifications.

"Document to be saved: C:\DEARJOHN.LTR" will appear. This message serves the same purpose that it did with <F10>. Press <ENTER>. The prompt "Replace DEARJOHN? (Y/N) No" enables you to save any changes made to the document and also allows you to change the filename. Press <ENTER> to change the filename. Press "Y" to save the current one.

Bonnie

P.S. Another way to clear the screen temporarily is to hold down the <SHIFT> key and press <F3>. To return to the document, simply press these two keys again.

Hello everyone!

I was fortunate enough to be given computer instruction by Mr. Richard Cimek, the best instructor I have ever had. His excellent instruction and enthusiasm for PCs led me to the purchase of a computer and deeply into the computer world.

Each month I will share with you general computing tips and shortcuts. Questions that require a quick response may be sent to me through the PUB.Happy computing!

Bonnie Carter

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Printer Control Codes

to save your text as pure ASCII, without carriage returns and line feeds.

I used Wordperfect 5.0 to create my file. I entered Alt 027 and saved it as a DOS ASCII file using the (Ctrl-F5) text out keys and named it ESCAPE. If you use another editor check to be sure that the file is no more than 2 Bytes long.

After exiting from WordPerfect you then create another file containing the rest of the control code to reset your printer. Type COPY CON TEMP then return. Then enter Alt 064 and Ctrl z, return. This gave me @^Z, the rest of the command to reset your printer and saved it to a file called TEMP. I then concatenated the ESCAPE file and TEMP file to a new file called RESET by typing COPY ESCAPE + TEMP RESET and return.

This creates a file that will now reset the printer every time I type COPY RESET PRN. I have also created a file called ESCAPE that contains the escape character I need for any other printer code commands that start with an escape. I could have typed both characters in WP, but I wanted to leave you with a separate ESCAPE file that you can use from DOS to create other control sequences. You can even set up a series of little printer control files to be available anytime. Try adding a batch file to copy them to your printer.

Timothy Mahoney

Meetings:

Meetings of the Ottawa IBM-PC Users Group are held on the last Wednesday of the month except in July and December. The meetings are at the National Research Council Auditorium, 100 Sussex Drive (Gothic Building facing King Edward Avenue). Club functions including memberships, library disks, new members and bulk purchasing are available at 7:30 pm with the regular meeting starting at 8 pm. Free parking is available at the rear of the Gothic Building.

Next meeting November 29. Topic to be announced. Elections.

Ottawa IBM PC Users Group - 1989 PC Club Executive

President	Stu Moxley	592-4933
Past President	Harry Gross	733-7989
Treasurer	Tony Frith	728-7597 Weekdays
		671-0401 Weekends
Secretary	Eric Clyde	749-2387
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Meeting Facilities	Stu Moxley	529-4933
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Enable	Bob Laidlaw	995-3708
PC/AT	Gord Hopkins	828-3834
Packages	Eric Clyde	749-2387
Whole Bit TV Show	Sandy Shaw	733-5088

Connection Solution

1.	F
2.	I
3.	D, O
4.	B, L
5.	B, H, K, N
6.	E, O
7.	C, M, O
8.	A, P, Q
9.	G, O
10.	J, M, O

So how did you do?

Any connection has at least two components. You plug (1) into a socket (2). We use the term MALE to describe plugs and FEMALE to describe sockets. The female plug has holes whereas the male plug has prongs or pins. Occasionally, each side of a connection has both holes and pins.

The "DB" in "male DB25 parallel printer port" refers to a type of plug: it is short for D subminiature. Pictures 3, 6, 7, 9 and 10 are all D subminiature plugs. The "25" in the example refers to the number of pins the plug can accommodate. The actual number of pins used may be less and on some plugs only those pins in use are installed. So, a plug may be called a DB15 but only have 14 holes (or pins). It sounds confusing, but isn't as bad in practice. The "DB15" actually identifies a form factor and each pin or hole is numbered.

Caution:

Some clones have reversed connectors, for example a "female DB25 parallel printer port." Refer to your technical documentation to be sure. To complicate matters, the same pins are not always used for the same things. This normally occurs with brand name products to try to tie you into buying (their) overpriced peripheral equipment. There is a saying that "the only thing standard about the RS232 standard is the name." Here are a few words of caution about the connectors in the quiz:

#5 A female RJ11 jack used mostly for phone and phone line connections. It is also used for some keyboards (Olivetti's for example) and even LAN connections. Connecting the wrong device can damage components. Modems often have two RJ11 jacks on them. One is for a telephone; the other is for the line that runs between the modem and the wall.

#6 A female DB25 parallel printer port is the norm: occasionally it is a male on some clones. Some modem's may be damaged if connected to parallel ports.

#7 A male DB25 serial port for an XT is the norm: occasionally it is a female on some clones. Secondary serial ports on XT's are often DB9s.

#9 A DB9 female TTL monitor port is the norm: occasionally used for other purposes on clones.

#10 A male DB9 serial port for an AT: some AT's use DB25s, others both DB9s and DB25s.

continued from page 1

Fighting Words

ten communication at once. I'm not one of them. Are you? Or do you ever find yourself sitting down with pen and paper to get that idea down? Power tools do not make the carpenter: for many jobs, simple tools are best.

WordPerfect appears to be harder to learn and simpler to use. Word appears to be simpler to learn and harder to use. I will not abandon my text editor, which I found simple to learn and find simple to use. I can't say I find the programs I use for formatting either simple to learn or simple to use. They do have the merits of providing reusable formats.

Choose software that is comfortable for you. Your personal productivity will be higher. The productivity increase may more than pay any additional cost for more powerful software later.

Terance P. Mahoney

"Know Your Club"

by Mike Luckham

Editor's Note: Know Your Club began in a previous issue of the newsletter. It covered the club history, information about meetings and some general information for new or prospective members.

Memberships:

The Membership Chairman accepts membership applications and renewals at every general meeting. To register, complete our membership form, with your name, home and office telephone numbers, and a mailing address. Also, we request a tidbit of information about you: where you can help with club activities, the type of computer equipment you use and what you hope to gain from membership with the club. This information helps us identify potential volunteers, topics for speakers, and club members with similar interests.

The OPCUG does not accept corporate memberships, only individual memberships. A single membership can cover a family.

Membership dues for a full year will be $25.00 commencing in 1990. The membership year ends after the March meeting. New members joining at or after the September meeting pay $15 for a half year membership until 1990 when they will be asked to pay $30 to cover their membership through March 1991. New members joining at the March 1990 meeting or later will be assessed normal full year dues of $25.

You need your membership card to make purchases from the Software Library and the Bulk Purchasers.

Each new membership entitles you to a free copy of the Software Library "index disk." The index disk contains a complete listing of our public-domain Software Library, plus a copy of the club constitution. For a small fee, you can exchange the index disk for an updated version at any time during the year.

Diskettes from the Software Library cost $3.00 each. With a Disk Subscription for $25.00, you receive a copy of each disk-of-the-month for the current membership year (10 diskettes) - and you avoid the crowd around the Library table!

You will receive your first newsletter when the next one is published.

You will have full privileges on the BBS within one week of becoming a member.

Newsletter:

The club publishes its newsletter monthly and mails it to members' homes.

The Newsletter Editor always requires manpower and articles to publish. If you feel you have something to offer, an idea for an article, or want to help with the newsletter, please get in touch with the Newsletter Editor.

We publish enough copies of the newsletter to mail to members and to publicity sources. We do not distribute copies at general meetings, nor do we supply back copies.

Our entire newsletter is in the public domain, and may be freely copied provided you mention the author and source of the material.

About Our Mailing List:

The club keeps its membership list confidential. We use the list strictly for OPCUG purposes such as newsletter mailings and club correspondence. Please call the Membership Chairman, if you want to verify or change your membership information.

THE OTTAWA IBM PC USERS' GROUP

Membership Application (please print)

Last Name:	Are you: A new member?
First Name:	Renewing your membership?
Mailing Address:	Can you help in group activities?
(include postal code)	Check any activities that apply:
Telephone: Home- Office-	Programming language instruction
Profession:	Newsletter input
Business Name:	Newsletter Editor
	Memberships
Period covered: 89-90 90-91 89-91 (circle)	Software library
Disk of the Month Yes No 3 1/2"	Promotion / Publicity
Amount Enclosed: From rate schedule $	Nominations
How did you find out about the group?	Hardware Techniques
What in particular interests you in the group?	Meeting Locations
What hardware/software do you own and/or use?	Agendas & Speakers
	Advertising
Comments and suggestions:	Bulletin Board
	Other

FEE SCHEDULE

From	To	New Members	Renewals
09/27/89	01/30/90 *	$15	
01/31/90	02/28/90 ***	$30	
03/01/90***		$25	
09/27/89	12/31/89 **		$20
01/01/90***			$25

DISK OF THE MONTH

One year subscription 5 1/4" (10 DOMs)	$25
One year subscription 3 1/2" (10 DOMs)	$45
Individual 3 1/2" diskette surcharge	$ 2

* Membership ends March 31, 1990

** By mail or in an envelope at Meetings.

Membership ends March 31, 1991

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