

HARD COPY

What's New

By Bob Ward

Last month was a great meeting... arn't they all! George had a Q & A session on DOS. Seems like there are more questions on this one subject than anything else. Just look what the MAC people are missing with their user friendly interface. Anyway after an hour of "Stump Dr. DOS" we broke for a short recess before our main meeting.

Bob Hunt gave a presentation on Software Carousel at the general meeting. He started with a thorough discussion on the installation of the program. It starts with 2 or 3 screens of details which must be answered to get the program up and running. From there it's all automatic and quite fascinating. You ask, what does the program do? Well, it loads up to 12 programs into either extended or expanded memory where they sit in a "ready state" just waiting to be called up and used. If you have ever sat in front of a screen waiting for Ventura, WordPerfect or any other "mega" program to load you know how frustrating that wait can be. And if you are jumping back and forth between several programs much valuable time can be lost just

in starting and stopping such programs over and over. Like I said, Software Carousel loads up to 12 programs in high memory, then with a touch of a couple keys you can bring any of those programs down into the usable 640K range already loaded and ready to run. It may take a couple minutes to load 12 programs, but you only load them once and they're always ready to use. Should your computer lock up on any program loaded under Carousel, just bring up the menu with the "hot key" and uninstall the locked program and reinstall it. It's a handy program for those computers with extra memory. The program retails for just under \$100 with a catalog price of around \$79.

Our many thanks to Bob for showing us this useful program. We hope he will come back soon and present us with another demonstration.

In September George will review some new and exciting

Continued page 3

September 1990				
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur
2	3	4	5	6
9 Meeting	10	11	12	13

Calendar

September 9th Unison World's PrintMaster Plus and "Chest Top Publishing" will be demonstrated by Lynne Boisen. George will digitize any available face with his mono chrome video camera.

October 7th Open

Continued page 4

CONTENTS

What's New	1
Calendar	1
Replacement Toner - Too Much Part II by Charlie Reis	2
Bits 'n Bytes	3

New Members	3
Ask Dr. DOS	4
SLO Bytes Library	5
Switching from Voice to Data By Bill Downall	5
A Few Words of Supposedly Good Advice By Rich Schinell	7

Will Your Backups Work? By Stephanie Nordlinger	8
Treasurer's Report	9

Club Officers

President George Campbell
Vice President Sam Powers
Treasurer Teri Sorgatz
Secretary/Editor Bob Ward

Replacement Toner Too Much ** Part II **

By Charlie Reis

Silicon Valley Computer Society
November 1989



Armed with all of the forgoing information, I can now present you with some surprising facts dealing with the toner cartridge industry. During my interviews with various scientists and executives I discovered that the United States government is losing millions of dollars in customs duty. The duty Canon pays on the laser and copy machine toner cartridges is only 2 percent! I was flabbergasted when I heard this piece of information. Not to be too quick to accept this gossip as being true, I contacted the Bureau of U.S. Customs. I inquired of them about the duty paid on toner alone and was informed that it was 28 percent. I then asked what the duty was on the Canon toner cartridges and they acknowledged it was only 2 percent. It seems that when Canon brought this new item into the U.S. for the first time, the Bureau didn't really know what it was, other than it was a piece of machinery for a laser printer. Since Customs levy a duty of only 2 percent on associated machinery, the laser and copy machine toner cartridges were classified as being that. The amount of toner inside the toner cartridge is about a half a pound and by itself should have the duty of 28 percent placed on it. It seems that the Bureau of Customs has overlooked this discrepancy in duty. I feel that what is being done isn't deliberate, but it should be corrected. If you calculate out all the millions of pounds of toner being imported under the 2% duty, it would come out to pretty big piece of change. I better not push this one too hard for if the Bureau should ever reclassify the toner cartridges, the

duty would only be passed on to the end users.

In June or July of 1988, Canon quietly started to change their formulation for both the toner and the photoconductor. This fact was told to me by the R&D Director of Toner Techniques. He further verified this fact by showing me several photoconductor drums which were removed from earlier and newer cartridges. There was a visible difference between the two OPC drums, especially in the color of the drum. As he explained, the sensitizing dyes and other physical features determine how well the photoconductor will play with the toner used with it. Apparently Canon started to get annoyed at the toner refillers and made the decision to modify the OPC just enough to make life miserable for this group of competitors. After all, if your competitors took a 5 percent chunk out of your multi-billion dollar share of the market wouldn't you do something about it? Double checking on several of the large refillers located across the U.S. revealed that they have been running into trouble refilling some of the newer cartridges. When they tested some of the refilled devices, they discover the background of the sample print to have become foggy. This is usually an indication that some of the electrical properties of the photoconductor has changed. Carousal Enterprises in Georgia has an entire back room filled with cartridges like this that they can not sell. Likewise, several other refillers I have spoken to have related similar experiences.

Bill Murphy has also informed me that in the U.S. most of the toner for the refilling market is made by the Xerox Corporation. Because of cross licensing and an agreement with Canon, Xerox does not sell this item directly to the public. Xerox and Canon do not wish to step on each other's toes. Xerox also does not sell this toner directly to the refillers but instead distributes it in large quantities to the IMGS Corporation. IMGS in turn puts the material

into smaller packages and sells it to most of the refillers throughout the U.S. As related to me by Bill Murphy, in recent months Xerox has been having problems in the quality controlling and the manufacture of this toner. Batches have been sold where the quality has been so poor that it had to be returned to the manufacturer. All of this does not make an easy life for the toner refillers.

Another complication has happened which as of this writing has not been totally resolved. In recent months several different vendors have been supplying after market cards for use with the Canon SX engine laser printers (Hewlett-Packard). These cards permit the printing of extended resolution images on the LaserJet. True half-toned images with 256 steps of gray can be done with these add-on cards. One company, DP-Tek, Inc. of Wichita, Kansas has been selling their system for the past six months. Their system works great except it is dependent upon the use of the standard Canon laser printer toner cartridge. Canon never intended to have their cartridge used in the manner DP-Tek employs it. The printed output from DP-Tek's Laserport GrayScale system can range from very good to not acceptable at all. The main reason for this variation is due the photoconductor, its thickness and lack of uniformity in it. Another related item is a thing called 'jitter'. Jitter shows up in pictures printed on the LaserJet using the Laserport GrayScale card. It manifests itself as a series of jittery parallel gray variations in the direction of the paper travel. It is caused by the cartridge's gear mechanism and the slop in the gear train. This slop permits the paper to travel a slight distance back and forth at right angles to direction of paper travel. If the user wishes to do extended resolution on the laser printer using this method, they must be willing to put up with the problems that I've described. Until Canon recognizes

Continued Page 4

What's New

shareware utilities that have come across his desk the past few months. I'm sure he will have a special disk available in the library with the programs he demonstrates. Of course there will be time for all your computer questions as well.

After a brief intermission, Lynne Boisen will demonstrate Unison World's Chest Top Publishing package. Actually this is nothing more than PrintMaster Plus with graphics and text that can be ironed on a tee shirt. We will use a special ribbon with an Epson FX850 to produce any creation of your choice. You may then fill in any outlined areas with special pens provided. Take the final product home and iron it on a tee shirt for a permanent display of your art work. Don't worry about things coming out "backwards". PrintMaster has thought of that by making mirror images for iron-on's if you so choose. This should be a "kick-back" meeting and a lot of fun.

Also George has just ordered a digitizing board and black & white video camera. If all goes as planned we will be digitizing faces and sending you home with a .TIF or .PCX file of your favorite person -- you!

###

Bits n' Bytes

- As many of you know, Paradise Computers has closed their doors. Out of business. All gone. It looks like survival of the fittest with both Paradise and Fisbosa closing their doors this past year. Good luck to those still remaining.
- Many thanks to Bruce Leonard who typed up many of this months articles while I was on vacation. He will be working in conjunction with John Ewing in the coming months to bring you this newsletter.

- For those of you who missed the last meeting it was decided to raise the dues to \$20.00 per year effective January 1, 1991. This money will be used to offset increase in production of the newsletter and addition of our second BBS line.
- Yes, George has not forgotten about the second BBS phone line. We are taking a different approach thinking of a second computer networked to the existing computer. We will be testing this after the coming meeting and will use one of the clubs "copy" computers. If everything comes together we will then build the second computer from scratch. We already have a power supply, a disk drive and monitor board. We are still looking for a mother board (XT will do), RAM, a monitor, dual floppy/hard disk controller, keyboard, and a box into which we can place all these parts. If you wish to make a donation please contact George Campbell.
- Please note: the meeting this month only will be postponed one week due to Labor Day weekend. Look for all our smiling faces on **Sunday, September 9th.**

###

 **New Members**

Welcome to those of you who have joined our ranks this past month.

Dale Burrious	461-1217
Jason Haines	528-0827
Lowell Hoff Jr.	528-8045
Judith Jewart	772-2913
Joe Johnson	528-2020
Roberta Silva	528-0240
Mark Taylor	542-9572

For those of you in the next list, please check your mailing label. You will notice your membership expires this month. If you wish to renew, please

remit \$18 to SLO Bytes PC User's Group and send it to the return address on this newsletter.

- Barbara Adams
- Julia Boarino
- Clifford Buttschardt
- Beverly & C.P. Cotter
- Helen Ann Cunningham
- Fernando Escarcega
- Patrick Farley
- Robert Frost
- Bob Harrison
- Dorothy Irvin
- Steve Kapa
- Steve Kenney
- Allan McKibben
- Art Perrella
- David Richards
- Gary Simms
- Donald Smith
- Darrell Thompson
- Rex Thornhill
- Wilmar Tognazzini
- Tiffany White

The people listed below will be dropped from our membership by the next meeting unless we receive your renewal. (membership expired 07/90)

- Lloyd Mathews
- Gigi Sawyer
- Frank Stoiber
- Ralph Vrana

###

**Next Meeting
Will Be
Sunday, September 9th**

Toner - Part II

the fact users can output magazine quality images on the SX engines, nothing will be done.

Users of laser printer and copy machine toner cartridges, don't despair. Relief may be just a few months away. Although you may be spending too much money for your currently available supply of new toner, a new breakthrough is close at hand. Two new companies are about to enter the market place with replaceable photoconductive drums for Canon's toner cartridges.

The first of these companies is located off-shore in Taiwan. This company is headed up by a Dr. Lui and his group is called Material Research Laboratory (MRL). Dr. Lui has worked out a deal with the Taiwanese government for backing and a tax free situation during first five years of operation. In May and June of this year, Lui and his associates visited the U.S. and brought with them pre-production samples of their photoconductors. Dr. Lui left samples with many of the large refillers so they could evaluate his product. From early reports, all of those who are testing this item are delighted not at its performance but also at its price as well. This one item should change direction of where the refilling market is headed.

According to Diamond Research and X-Solve, Lui is using an OPC which is based upon an early Xerox patent that is about to expire. Lui has stated publicly that his photoconductor drums should last longer than those of Canon. An interesting piece of information on the grapevine is that during his visit to the U.S., Lui was also attempting to pirate key personnel away from some of the American companies. Word has it, that in addition to his group manufacturing photoconductors, they would like very much to enter the market with a toner cartridge of their own design. The Lui Group would like to get primary laser printer manufacturers to use his cartridge in their new designs. Even though Canon appears to have tied up the patents on

this item, the Taiwanese seem to think they can circumvent this obstacle. I wish them good luck in this endeavor. The second company to enter the toner cartridge scene is Toner Techniques of Sunnyvale, California. This company has the technical expertise to not only develop and manufacture photoconductor, but compound matching toners as well. Their short term plans appear to be the same as the Lui Group. They are currently making available for evaluation their OPC drums. Because it is their original design and proprietary in nature, I can not give much detail. Their long term plans are to manufacture and distribute a series of colored toners for both the PC user and the commercial crowd.

Toner cartridges are a multi-billion dollar retail business and both of these new companies should do well provided the big giants don't tie them up in legal tangles. Some day real soon you should be able to go to your local supplier and purchase a toner cartridge in a color of your choice. The price should be very reasonable and the unit should last for at least 5,000 to 6,000 prints before refilling. Because these units will have the long-life OPC, you should be able to get several refillings from it before discarding. If all of the facts I've presented are truthful, then I don't think this is wishful thinking.

###

Calendar

November 4th Unison World's Avagio, desktop publishing software will be shown by Paul Doell, sales manager.

December 2nd Come see the Poquet computer. It's so small it will fit in your shirt pocket.

###

Ask Dr. DOS

South Mountain User's Group, May 1990

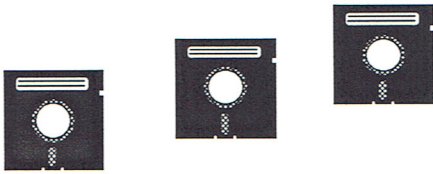
Q. I know my computer has both serial and parallel ports. What's the difference between them?

A. These ports are the means for your computer to send and receive information to other devices including printers, modems and mice. In parallel data transmission eight wires are used to output data. In serial transmission one wire is used for data. To send a single letter (like A) the computer send eight bits of data all at the same time. Each bit gets it own wire since there are 8 wires. In serial transmission the eight bits are sent one after another or serially. Parallel ports should be considered to be one-way with very little information coming back to the computer from the device the parallel port is connected to. Serial ports, by contrast, are fully two directions. This is necessary for use of a modem or a mouse.

Q. After it crashed from a memory parity error, my XT clone gives the following message from CHKDSK: "Probable non-DOS disk. Continue (y/n)?" I responded with "Y" and CHKDSK finishes off as normal. What's going on?

A. The first suggestion was that the boot sector and FAT on the hard disk were corrupted. However, the questioner has been able to startup the machine and boot from that disk, so those must be okay. Another suggestion was that the CHKDSK program (CHKDSK.COM) was corrupted. Try reloading CHKDSK from the DOS floppy disk. Someone also suggested that the partition table on the hard disk might be bad, which will confuse CHKDSK.

Next Page Please



SLO Bytes Library

Well we hope you enjoy some of the files we are adding to our library this month. Because so many excellent graphic games have hit the shareware market lately I find it hard to resist adding them to our collection. So try these programs on for size.

#023 High Res Games: CRIB-EGA - as it says, run cribbage on your EGA monitor. **MAHJNG33** - Wow, if you like Mahjongg get this one. The graphics are terrific, and you can create your own tile sets. This game was written by the same person who brings us Bass Tour. **STARBLAS** - a space game coupled to solving math problems. Good for the young'ns (Runs in CGA). **VGABOMB** - runs only in VGA. Play with a partner and figure the correct trajectory to bomb your opponents fort.

#024 More good games: KLONDYKE - for those of you without Windows 3.0, here is a solitaire game you can play from DOS. **PTOMB-V2** - Explore the tombs of Egypt. Pick up everything you need to find the lost treasure. **SFLY10** - flies, flies, flies. Can't get rid of them. Hit'em and they just multiply. Run with **MOUSEMOD** (also on the disk) if you wish to use your mouse instead of the keyboard. **FRAC** - If you like Tetris, try it in 3 dimension. I dooooo like this one. **QUATRIS** - another Tetris clone with a numerical twist.

#025 CPLUS2 - Contact Plus - this program keeps track of important business contacts. It provides a detailed calendar, history of phone calls, correspondence, and notes.

#032W Windows Programs: CHECKERS and **PUZZLE** - games to play under Windows. **CP-70E** - Command Post 7.0. **MS20** - a screen blanker running under Windows. **ORG110** - Organize - a personal information manager. Looks and works like a diary including the turning pages.

#035W Windows Programs: ALM095 - A great almanac with all American and Canadian holidays. **ICONLIB** - You want Window's Icons? Well try ALL these for size. A couple hundred at least. **LANDER** - A lunar lander program. You can master this one in 5 minutes. **TAIPEI** - Mahjongg under windows. **ZIPMAN** - here's a ZIP manager for all those squeezed files.

###

Dr. DOS

Q. Can problems arise if you are running a release of MS-DOS different from the version used to format the hard disk?

A. Yes. DOS is composed of three files, two hidden files and **COMMAND.COM**. When a disk is formatted as a system disk, the two hidden files are loaded onto it. **COMMAND.COM** is then copied onto the disk. If the versions of these files are different, the system will display error messages. Even trying to **FORMAT** or **CHKDSK** from one DOS on a system running under another DOS will display an error (I know, I tried it!). More difficulties can occur when the DOS version is specific to a machine, like the Zenith DOS. Finally, using **BACKUP** with one DOS and **RESTORE** with another DOS is not recommended.

###

Switching a Phone Call From Voice to Data

By Bill Downall

Indy PC News, June 1989

I ran into a minor problem with a previous **INDY PC NEWS** article. I wanted to submit the file containing the article to the editor over the phone. When I called Kevin at work and a person answered at the switchboard. He had to transfer me to Kevin's extension.

We discussed what I would be sending him, and what our modem settings were. When we agreed that we were both ready to transmit or receive the file, I said, "Set your modem to answer mode, and I'll have my modem call you back." He reminded me that wouldn't work because of the receptionist. So I set my modem to answer, and Kevin's modem dialed my number. We typed a few more words to each other, and then I uploaded and he downloaded the article.

But what would we have done if we both had receptionists and extensions? How can two people-carrying on a conversation on the phone-switch the call over to their modems, to continue with computer operations?

COMMUNICATIONS SOFTWARE

For the purpose of this article, I'll describe the steps with Hayes commands. Your own communications software may have easier ways than the AT commands below to do some of the steps described.

I use ProComm Plus as my communications software. It handles communication to and from the modem, from the keyboard, to the screen, and to and from the remote computer. In order to dial another computer, I can choose **DIAL** from a menu, then choose a phone number from a menu, then

Voice to Data

press ENTER. ProComm Plus sends commands to the modem and watches for results. The modem takes the phone "off the hook", hears if there's a dial tone, dials the number, hears if there's a ring, hears if a modem answers at the other end, and exchanges information with that modem to get things started. Then data from the other computer can start appearing on my screen, and vice versa.

You might not have ProComm Plus, but you probably have another program that helps you control your modem. What modems usually have in common is the Hayes command set. When the characters "AT" come into the modem through your computer's serial port, the modem knows a command is next. To tell a "Hayes compatible" modem to dial Indianapolis Computer Society bulletin board, you or your modem could software could send the command: ATDT862-5966 through the COM port to which the modem is connected. "AT" is the "attention" part of the command, to tell the modem a command is coming next. "D" means dial, and is followed by a phone number, including other characters and punctuation. The "T" at the beginning of the phone number means use "Tone" dialing. A "P" would have meant "Pulse"- the clicking type of dialing from older phone systems. A carriage return ends the command.

Depending on other settings and capabilities of your modem, the modem can dial the number, redial if it is busy, and connect with the other computer through a modem, all from that one command.

When we use ProComm Plus, or any other communications software, we seldom have to type the ATD command directly. ProComm Plus sends ATDT and the phone number through the COM port whenever I chose a phone number from the Dialer menu. But since I don't know what software you may use, this article will describe things with Hayes AT commands.

Your software probably has a way for you to send these Hayes commands directly to the modem.

A SAMPLE PHONE CALL

Here, we will walk through steps two people could use. We'll name the people Carl Caller and Colleen Callee. Actually, it doesn't matter which is the caller and which is the callee. What matters is that ONE of them sets her modem to originate a connection, while the other sets his modem to answer.

1. Carl and Colleen have already made a voice connection, and want to switch their conversation from voice to data. Each is on a phone line that has a modem attached to it. Each modem is attached to a computer, and communications software is running on each computer. Each modem's speaker is turned up loud enough that carrier tones are audible.

2. While still talking, Carl and Colleen agree on the settings for baud rates and line settings. These include the number of data bits, parity, and number of stop bits. They each do the commands needed to be sure their modem is set properly.

3. Carl turns on "blind" dialing. Most modems usually do "smart" dialing. The modem takes the phone "off hook", but doesn't transmit the tones for the phone number to be dialed until they hear a dial tone. His command to turn on blind dialing is XO. Carl's software lets him type Hayes commands directly. He types the command immediately after the "AT" for "attention:" ATXO and presses the the [ENTER] key. (Your command to turn on blind dialing may be different. Check your modem manual. On a MultiTech 224, for example, the command to turn on blind dialing is BO, the command to wait for a dial tone is B1.)

4. Colleen sets her modem to "Answer". She can use the Hayes com-

mand "A", again after an "AT". She types ATA and presses [Enter]. Her modem immediately "picks up the phone", starts transmitting its answering carrier tone, and waits for a modem to connect. (Your modem manual explains how to set the length of time the modem will wait. This is typically set at 30 seconds.)

Please note that this 'answer' command is NOT the same as setting your modem for Automatic Answering. Your modem probably can be set to answer when it detects a ring. In this case there will be no rings.

5. Carl "dials" a blank number with the command ATD and the [Enter] key.

6. Once each person hears his or her modem sending a carrier tone, he or she hangs up the receiver. If one of them is not sure whether the tone is coming from his or her own modem, she can wait until she hears two tones, then hang up.

7. Carl and Colleen start typing messages to each other, and begin the upload or download procedures.

8. When they're finished, Carl resets his modem for 'smart' dialing. One way to do this is with the modem command "ATX1" on some modems. With some modems, another way is to turn the power off to the modem, so that the default dialing after getting a dial tone will be in effect when it is turned back on.

If something goes wrong, try to test first to make sure that you can make a good connection when your modem places or receives the call. Double-check baud and line settings. Then check settings and registers on your modem that will affect blind vs. dial-tone dialing or the Carrier Detect method.

Continued Page 7

Voice to Data

Summary Easy Steps for Switching a Call from Voice to Data

1. Make the voice connection, communication software running, modem ready.
2. Set the baud rates and line settings.
3. First person turns on "Blind" dialing: ATXO
4. Other person sets modem to "Answer": ATA
5. First person "dials" a blank number: ATD
6. When carriers are heard, hang up receivers.
7. Communicate by keyboard.
8. When finished, person one resets his modem: ATX1

Check your own modem manual to find the command to turn on and off blind dialing.

Bill Downall is a database and spreadsheet consultant. He also trains people in the use of ProComm Plus.

###

A Few Words of Supposedly Good Advice

By Rich Schinnell
Monitor, January 1989

As an Information Center technical support person for a large corporation, I receive many calls from users with "Serious Problems". For example, some have re-formatted their hard disks while experimenting with the FORMAT command. DOS versions lower than 3.2 give you only one op-

portunity to abort a hard disk format. But this DOS 3.2 (and greater), you get two chances to abort the format of your hard drive, provided the hard disk has a Volume label identification. This is a strong reason for using the /V option to format a hard disk. DOS 3.2 (and greater) prompt you to enter the VOLUME ID of the non-removable hard disk that you are about to format. You must enter it exactly as labeled, or it won't format. This is one of the great reasons to upgrade DOS to at least 3.2.

To get on with some of the other problems I have to help with each day, the old "DEL *.*" sure puts a damper on re-booting hard disks. That's because "DEL *.*" erases all files in the default directory of any disk. DOS always asks, "Are You Sure Y/N?". Answer Y, and the directory is cleaned slick. If you're in the root directory, your COMMAND.COM, AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS files are gone. But not to worry; there are a couple things you can do. First, re-copy the correct version of COMMAND.COM back into the root directory. Then you can re-boot off the hard disk. Next, re-create your CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files. Problem solved.

However, with DOS 3.2 (and greater) there's a better way to prevent deleting files that you just can't do without. Use the DOS file called ATTRIB.EXE on your DOS disk to save your bananas at times like this. This file can change the attribute byte for a file in your directory from normal to READ-ONLY. The syntax for doing this is:

```
ATTRIB +R COMMAND.COM.
```

This will change COMMAND.COM to a read-only file, and you cannot delete it unless you change the attributes back to normal. The syntax for doing this is:

```
ATTRIB -R COMMAND.COM.
```

Of course, you can specify any file name instead of COMMAND.COM.

The ATTRIB.EXE file will take wild cards and such, as do most other DOS programs. This is another great reason for upgrading to at least DOS 3.21. If you have by chance deleted or overwritten your two hidden system files, IBMBIO.COM and IBMDOS.COM, they can be re-installed with your original DOS diskette and the SYS command. Re-boot your system in the A drive with an original DOS diskette, and then type SYS C:. This will transfer the two hidden system files from your A drive to the C drive. Then you can copy COMMAND.COM to the C drive.

I also get lots of phone calls regarding files that have been lost. I always tell them "Don't worry, just restore your last backup". Of course, many times I get the reply, "What Back-up?". Just like the real estate business, where the 3 things that make good real estate investments are LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION. The three things that make for good reliable computer operations are BACK-UP, BACK-UP, and BACK-UP. With the price of 360K diskettes around 25-45 cents each anyone without backups is, like driving on bald tires, an accident waiting to happen.

Now, you might never get into the position that you need it, but darn, when you need it you need it now. Sometimes you can recover your data with one of the great utility packages like Norton, Mace Utilities or PC-TOOLS. I recommend all three because they will frequently recover your data. However, it is much easier to just restore a file from your backup. I use a Maynard Maynstream 60 Megabyte tape backup for my 80 Megabyte drives. I used to use DSBACKUP from Design software, but the tape is a lot faster and I find that I backup more often than I ever did when it was floppy shuffle time. In a business environment, if you do not backup often, you are putting your valuable files in jeopardy. I like the Maynard Maynstream tape backup unit because

Continued Page 8

Will Your Backups Work?

by Stephanie Nordlinger
UCLA PCUG
February, 1990

We've all heard about hard disk crashes. Many of us back up our data more or less regularly. But have you ever checked the quality of your backup disks? I recently bought a new computer and wanted to transfer the old data and to configure programs to the new. A club member/consultant suggested that I use my backup disks for this. I had made occasional backups since 1987.

My hard disk had never crashed, so I had little or no reason to use my backups before.

When I tried to restore the data, the program couldn't read my disks! None of them! It complained about garbled data on the track containing the index information. I had not separately copied the index file on my computer via DOS, so it was somewhere in the backup disks and totally inaccessible. If it was also on Disk #1, the program could not read it. (This is one argument for DOS-compatible backup programs where any file can be found and restore without a disk containing an index of the backup disks.)

My hard disk had never crashed, so I had had little or no reason to use my backups before. The one time I had tried, the diskette was very old and I attributed the failure to the diskette and not to the software. I had assumed that my backup disks would work when needed. Fortunately, my hard disk had not crashed and almost all my files other than program configura-

tions were also in program formats on floppies for particular subjects.

You might want to test your backup program and backup disks before your hard disk crashes. Since mine did not crash, I could have recovered my data via a data transfer program such as FastLynx or Laplink - if I had not mislaid my old computer's power cord!

I installed my new Colorado Memory Systems Jumbo+ tape backup system in the old computer, backed up the drive, moved the tape backup system to the new computer and restored the data there. The first installation (of just the drive into and XT compatible) was very easy. The second installation (of the drive and the interface card) took a long time and three calls to the manufacturer. They were polite, patient and helpful. The documentation is adequate for an experienced person. Eventually I got the board seated properly and all the cables connected correctly. I look forward to using the tape backup system and to having a few small tapes around instead of dozens of disks.

This internal 40-120 Mb system sells for \$269 plus (if needed) an AB10 interface card (\$55) plus tapes (\$16) and tax. If you buy extra long tapes and run the system in data compression mode, you get about 120 Mb on a tape. With accessories, the same drive will work on anything from a PC to PS/2 (models 50, 60, 70 and 80), and can be either an internal unit. It is fully compatible with several major networks. The menu-driven software was easy to install and use. It supports selective backups, selective restores and permits a change in directory when you restore, etc.

###

Good Advice

it is so easy and the spare cards can be purchased for around \$110 each. A quick disconnect cable permits moving the portable tape drive to another machine. You can even plug and unplug the cable with your computer running. The software for backing up is menu driven with image or file by file backup possible. I usually backup by directory or by archive bit on a daily basis. It has saved my bacon on a couple occasions when I deleted a file that I really wanted.

###

FLOPPY DISKS 4-SALE at the meeting

Royale Grey DSDD 360K
Unformatted Floppy Disks
with labels, tabs, and sleeves
70 Cents Each

MEI DSDD 360K
Unformatted Floppy Disks
with labels, tabs, and sleeves
50 Cents Each

High Density Disks 1.2 MEG.
90 Cents Each

Sony 3.5" 720K
Unformatted Floppy Disks
90 Cents Each

New Library Disks
90 Cents Each

All Disks fully guaranteed against defects.

Club Information

The SLO BYTES Newsletter is a monthly publication of SLO BYTES PC User's Group located in San Luis Obispo, California. Information in this Newsletter is derived from both our own membership and other PC User Group Newsletters. The purpose of this publication is to inform our members of meetings and provide information related to the use of IBM PC's and compatible computers.

Membership: Dues are \$18 per year. Newsletter only is \$10 per year. Full membership entitles you to our monthly newsletter, full use of the public domain software library and discounts at local computer stores.

Article Submission: Deadline for submission of articles is the 15th of each month. Articles should be provided in ASCII format without any type of formatting from your wordprocessor including tabs, indents, extra spaces, or highlighting. We prefer articles on disk but will accept hardcopies if necessary.

Disclaimer: Neither SLO BYTES PC User's Group, its officers, editor, or contributors to this newsletter assume liability for damages arising out of this publication of any article, including but not limited to the listing of programming code, batch files and other helpful hints.

Reprinting of this Newsletter: Articles from this newsletter may be reprinted by other user groups if credit is given to both the author and newsletter from which it was taken. Reproduction of articles with a specific © Copyright notice is prohibited without prior permission from the original author.

Advertising: Commercial advertisers, request ad packet from Bob Ward. Members may advertise personal computer equipment or software for free. Submit your ad to Bob Ward.

Direct all correspondence to Bob Ward, 2100 Andre Ave., Los Osos, CA. 93402. Call (805)756-2164 M-F 7:30am - 5pm and (805)528-0121 all other times.

Treasurer: Teri Sorgatz, 832 S. 7th Street, Grover City, CA. 93433 Phone 489-2516

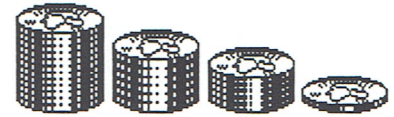
Meeting Times

General meetings are held the 1st Sunday of every month, unless noted otherwise in the newsletter calendar, at 2:30 pm in the Cal Poly University Biology Department, Fisher Hall 286. Special Interest Groups (SIGS) meet at 1:30 - 2:15 pm.

New User's SIG - F.H. 286

Our Public Domain Library is in Fisher Hall 292. Hours 12 Noon till closing.

SLO BYTES BULLETIN BOARD
 (805) 528-3753 2400/8/N/1
PC Files & Message Section
SYSOP: George Campbell
All Welcome - 24 Hours



Treasurer's Report

July, 1990

Beginning Balance:	\$1402.76
Expenses:	
Newsletter 7/23/90	-113.22
Floppy Drive	-30.00
Printer Ribbons	-23.94
Deposit 8/6/90	+307.10
Balance 8/20/90	\$1542.70



DISCOUNTS

Star Computers 855 Morro Bay Blvd. Morro Bay 772-7827	5%	Any software in stock.
Computer Logic 973 Foothill Blvd. #4 San Luis Obispo 544-8347	10%	Paper, ribbons, cables, and other supplies.
WITCO Computers 3563 Sueldo, Bld. B San Luis Obsipo 549-0811	10%	Off list - all computers, software, computer peripherals, and products. Contact Bruce, Paul or Dave for discount.
	10%	Off complete systems, peripherals, supplies but not including software.
	5%	Off computers alone.



Ziff-Davis User Group Magazine Discounts

PC-Magazine - \$24.97
 PC-Computing - \$14.97
 Have your mailing label handy for renewals
 Call 1-800-777-2547 and ask for your user group discount