

HARD COPY

What's New

By John Ewing

Well, in case you haven't noticed, Hard Copy is a little late this month. All I can say is that I have been very, very busy and time got away from me. Anyway, I hope you received this before the May 5th meeting.

I recieved some disturbing news today. As you may know, George Campbell is on vacation this month. We received a call from Palm Springs that George fell ill and was hospitalized. Details are still sketchy and not much else is known. Hopefully we will hear some good news soon. I'm sure you will all join me in wishing George a speedy recovery.

During April's new users meeting, George shared with us his "shocking" experience with our recent thunder storm. You may recall last month's news release that Goerge's computer equipment was destroyed by a lightning strike. George had two suggestions for us. One - unplug you

computer equipment during a storm and two - check your insurance carrier to make sure your homeowner's policy will protect your investment.

Due to the lightning strike, George was in dire need of a computer so he could meet his deadlines (he writes for several computer magazines). He had been curious about the low-end laptops advertised in the computer magazines so this was a great opportunity to try one out. He purchased a Sharp 8088 for \$499.00. The computer has 640k memory, 2- 720k floppies, a supertwist LCD backlit screen, and it supports EGA graphics. As it turned out, George is very pleased with his purchase. It isn't a 80286, but for text on the road, it works well.

George finished up the new user meeting with a question & answer session on Windows 3.0.

Jim Bigelow dazzled the audience of the general meeting with a

demonstration of GeoWorks Ensemble. This is a multi-tasking program that works on all IBM-PC's and compatibles (8088, 80286, etc). The program is packed with text, graphics, communications, and desktop features. Jim is a member of SLO Bytes PCUG. He frequently provides articles and reviews for Hard Copy. Thanks go to Jim for his outstanding presentation and support of our newsletter.

Los Cerros Computers donated the prizes for this month's drawing. The winners were Frank Gurney (Clarion Personal Developer), Elizabeth Warren (Lotus Magellan), Shirley Smith (AMI), and Bob Valpres (Ensemble). The prizes are very much appreciated. Thank you Los Cerros.

The feature of the May 5th general meeting will be a presentation of P11 Animation Software by Russell Hoffman, the program's creator.

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President	George Campbell
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A Case for Mistaken Identity . . . Who's Privacy was Really Invaded?

by Jim Bigelow

SLO Bytes PCUG

According to the San Luis Obispo County (California) Telegram-Tribune, dated Saturday, March 23, 1991, the San Luis Obispo Police raided the homes of two Cal Poly students and two other residents including one in Santa Margarita for alleged computer crimes, "hacking." The suspects had, through their computer modems, unknowingly tried to access a computer owned by a group of local dermatologists. That same number had previously belonged to a popular local bulletin board, Cygnus XI. The police were alerted by the dermatologists and their computer technician who was afraid someone was trying to access their patient records. The police put a phone tap on the computer line for 10 days which showed over 200 calls placed to that number in one 24 hour period.

Armed with a search warrant, police went to the house of the first suspect. Later the suspect said he only called that number 3 times in a 24 hour period (I wonder who made the other 197 calls?). Unfortunately he was not home... this cost him two broken doors as the police had to enter the house some way. All computer equipment, disks and computer related equipment was "seized" and taken to police headquarters. Follow-up articles reveal that the individual had not committed local crimes, that no charges would be filed and that the computers would be returned. Disks which were determined to contain illegally copied commercial software were to be turned over to Federal authorities.

Like most personal home computer users I have interviewed, I didn't think much of this matter at first, but I am now becoming alarmed. I am a 64 year old senior citizen, perhaps a paranoid senior. I think most seniors are a bit paranoid. I am a strong supporter of law enforcement, an ex-peace officer, a retired parole agent, and as a senior I want law enforcement protection. In this situation, according to the Tribune report, the police "had legitimate concern. But, apparently they didn't know what they were doing as the officer in charge stated "We are learning as we go."

Accessing a modem is not easy. I, with five years of computer experience, find it difficult and frustrating to set up a computer and keep it operating, to understand a manual well enough to get the software to operate, to set the switches and jumpers on a modem, and then contact a BBS, and in the midst of their endless questions, coupled with my excitability and fumbling, answer them and get on line. I have many times tried to connect to computer bulletin boards only to be disconnected because I typed my name or code incorrectly. I have dialed wrong numbers and gotten a private phone.

I do not want to be considered an enemy of law enforcement merely because I own a computer. I do not like to be called a "hacker," and especially because I contacted a computer bulletin board 3 times. The word, "hacker" originally applied to a computer user, now has become a dirty word. It implies criminality, a spy, double agents, espionage, stealing government secrets, stealing business codes, etc. Certainly, not that of a law abiding and law supporting, voting senior citizen, who has found a new hobby, a toy and a tool to occupy his mind. Computers are educational and can and do assist in providing community functions. I hope that the name "personal computer user" doesn't become a dirty word.

The "hacker" problem seems to be viewed by law enforcement as one in which "we learn as we go." This is an extremely costly method as we blunder into a completely new era, that of computerization. It causes conflicts between citizens and law enforcement. It is costly to citizens in that it causes great distress to us, to find ourselves possible enemies of the law, the loss of our computers and equipment, telephones and reputation by being publicly called hackers and criminals. It causes more problems when we attempt to regain our reputation and losses by suing the very agencies we have been so diligently supporting, for false arrest, confiscation of our most coveted possession and uninvited and forced entrance into our homes, causing great emotional disturbances (and older people are easily upset).

I have a legal question I would like answered. Who is obligated in this incident: the owners and operators of Cygnus XI for failure to make a public announcement of the discontinuance of their services? or the phone company for issuing the number to a private corporation with a modem? the police for not knowing what they are doing? the computer user? It is not a problem of being more cautious, ethical, moral, lawabiding. It is a matter of citizen .

The "hacker" problem now applies not only to code breakers, secret and document stealers, but to me, even in my first attempts to connect with a bulletin board. Had I tried to call Cygnus XI, now a phone number assigned to a doctors office computer, my attempts would have put me under suspicion of the police and made me liable for arrest, confiscation of my computer, equipment, disks, and subsequent prosecution. I am more than a little bewildered.

And, am I becoming a paranoid senior citizen, not only because of criminals, but of the police also? Am

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P11 Animation Software . . . A Review

by Bob Ward

SLO Bytes PCUG

Animation software has always fascinated me. I think it gives great visual impact on a computer screen and is something the viewer seldom forgets after seeing it. P11 software is just the tool to create those images. P11 comes in 4 color CGA or MCGA in 256 colors (which I can't see) on my system.

Installation

P11, version 6.0, comes with eight 360K floppy disks and will create 14 subdirectories requiring about 2.2 megs of hard disk space if you include the demonstrations which I highly suggest. It can also be run from a floppy disk. Installation was simple but not without problems. Although all files necessary to run P11 were transferred to the hard disk the message "Unable to create subdirectory" kept flashing on the screen. This is because the installation program didn't look to see if the subdirectory had already been created before sending files to it. Since the subdirectory was already present the error message appeared. Simple error trapping would solve such an annoyance.

I would like to see a front-end menu system which would give the user a choice of what they wanted to install. Something simple as seen in PC-Tools would do the trick here.

Beginners Tutorial

What better way to start learning about a program but through the tutorial. I loaded the tutorial of the little house and thought I'd crank out my first animation in just a couple minutes. I found quickly, one must pay attention to details. The paint program works interactively with

both the mouse and the keyboard. Since I reviewed this in CGA (this format should be outlawed from the computer industry) things weren't sharp and crisp as I'm used to seeing with other paint programs. I expected the drawing editor to be similar to most paint programs I have used in the past. This was not the case when using P11.

The drawing editor has a tool box on the left side of the screen. Unfortunately, other than a picture of the toolbox in the manual, there is no explanation of what the different tools do for the user. One tool that I thought made straight lines gave me a diagonal line which persisted from the mouse cursor and slanted in an upward direction for about 3". It didn't matter where I moved the cursor, the line followed like mouse after cheese! Another "tool" gave me an ellipse which wouldn't leave the screen until I rebooted the computer. From there I didn't venture far from creating straight lines with keyboard control. I retired my mouse for the rest of the tutorial until I made "smoke" come out of the chimney with the airbrush tool. My intuition told me the box with a sprinkling of dots was an airbrush tool, and I was right.

Demonstrations

P11 comes with a number of demonstrations, all of which look great on the screen, despite CGA graphics. This tells me P11 can do wonders for animation if you spend a lot of time learning the program. The learning curve is slow; very slow considering you have over 70 different commands to learn which fit into an "animation language" to run the program. The Beginners Tutorial lists all the programming language for the demonstrations that come with the program. This is a great help in seeing just how to put an animation sequence together.

How P11 Works...

P11 can show a lot of animation within a relative small computer file.

Many animation programs use the same principal that Walt Disney uses when creating a cartoon. Each page is called a cell and to create animation you duplicate the whole cell, just changing the position of those things you want to move by a small increment. This much I know about animation as my dad worked for Disney as a cartoonist in the 1940's.

P11 looks at animation a little different. Instead of changing the whole cell, they start with a base page; let's say, a house as the tutorial shows. Then you, the animator, define only that area that is going to change. Define it on the X and Y axis and make the small change in that area. This means you are working with a smaller frame, thus a smaller total file size. All animated frames are saved within the one "PIC" file which is very small.

P11's programming language tells where to place the image, how fast to display it, and for how long. Although the pictures comprising the animation may be simple and small in size, the text file which accompanies the animation and makes it work can be long. For instance, a short animation with four separate pictures or slides took 163 separate lines of programming language and text. This isn't something you would knock out in 5 minutes.

Documentation

P11 comes with two spiral bound manuals; a beginners tutorial and a user's manual. I found very early in my review this isn't a program that you just jump into. Manuals should be read and re-read until the fundamentals of this software are thoroughly understood. The tutorial guides you through a simple animation of smoke coming out of a chimney in a little house. The back of the manual has printouts of the demo files. The user's manual, 200 pages in length, gives a more detailed explanation of the program language and the commands.

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Keeping Up

by Jim Bigelow

SLO Bytes PCUG

I recently overheard a legal secretary say they were using Word-Perfect 4.2 to do all their text work. I was somewhat curious how a law firm could present itself as an up-to-date knowledgeable legal representative of clients and yet use equipment and software from the stoneages. I examined several of their documents only to find that the documents, though produced on a computer and printed on a laser printer, still had the appearance they had been beat out on an old typewriter of the Will Rogers era. And once reproduced on their copier the documents looked even worse. I know from experience that a good copier can enhance the appearance of a laser printer production.

Why? For one thing, in using an older word processor like Word-Perfect 4.2 they cannot preview their documents, and once printed, the time element disallows the continuous and laborious time consuming process required to produce a good document. Also the office has not bothered to install other fonts, like times roman that would help to change the appearance of their documents from a typewriter style to one that appears to have been produced in a print shop by a typesetter.

All the above is a combination of ignorance and busy-ness. They are too busy to learn and use the products they possess to their best, much less bother to become literate about newer products and their ability to produce even better documents.

Operating a computerized word processor is far more than typewriting. It is typesetting. It is wordprocessing. It is computerization. Similarly to wagon masters and bull whackers, typists are creatures of the past.

I find that many school teachers are computer illiterate. They operate small computers set up for kids and think they are computer literate, while in fact they have yet to own a computer or to use and understand computers or even the vocabulary.

There are many computerized accessories available to enhance word-processing, such as spelling checkers, thesauruses, dictionaries, encyclopedias, and proof readers containing grammar and punctuation checkers. Thus far, I have not mentioned the many desktop accessories, such as calendars and planners, calculators, and clocks. This is a new age, an age of entirely new products, new concepts of thought. This world is entirely and radically different from yesterday, even a decade ago, and changing so rapidly, that if you are up-to-date with the very latest, you are still a decade behind. Be reminded, that useful personal home computers, other than toys, such as Apples, Macs, Commodores, and Timexs, have been in existence for about 5 years. And they have come a long way in that time, and largely because of the fierce competition among businesses in the IBM compatible world. It doesn't require much to be a leader, an authority, a specialist in your field these days, and gain the Ahs and Ohs and respect of others when you use computer programs and accessories, to assist you, but it does require an up-to-date knowledge of the latest of computerized tools and the motivation to use them to their fullest.

One of my first requisites in choosing a lawyer or the services of anyone these days would be a chance to view one of their documents, (the final product that reveals the content of their thinking abilities, knowledge and experience); its appearance as well as content would tell me much I would want know about them, perhaps all I would want to know.

Alone, I am not so hot, but with my word processor, spelling checker,

thesaurus, grammar checkers, and proof reader, as well as other computerized aids and accessories, I find myself being a bit above the lukewarm side. Besides being fun, it's good for the ego.

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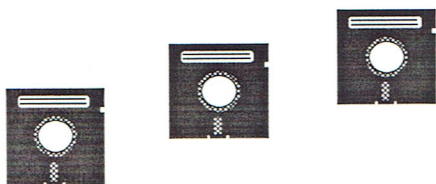
DOS Tips

Author Unknown

A question often asked is what is the difference between serial and parallel ports. 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) in parallel transmission, the computer sends eight bits of data all at the same time. Each bit gets its own wire since there are 8 wires. In serial transmission, the eight bits are sent one after another, or serially, along one wire.

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 directional. This is necessary for use of a modem or a mouse.



SLO Bytes Library

Well, I'm taking it easy this month and only adding four disks to the library. After last month's demonstration of Geoworks' Ensemble I'm going to unload some great graphics for you to use with this program. Considering the speed with which the discount cards were gobbled up, just about every member in the club should be a proud owner of Ensemble.

#420 - GEOCLP#1 - Here is the first 423K of clipart you can use in Geoworks' Ensemble. **FASTART** - Great learning program for kids ages 3-9... count'em, match'em or just add the figures up.

#421 - GEOCLP#2 - Another 796K of high quality clipart for Ensemble. Wow!

#422 - Windows Programs - WIN-RES, may be used to maximize resolution on some monitors. **WIN-GIF10** - View GIF and PCX files from within Windows. **PSHAPE10** - Proshape drawing program. **PS131** - PaintShop for PCX, IMG and BMP graphic files. **WHISKERS** - Program your mouse button. **ZM301** - Zip manager.

#423 - MATHCMP - Animated Math for youngsters. By far one of the best educational programs I have seen. I registered for all 4 of the author's programs the same day! Program un-squeezes to 1.1 MEG and runs on EGA monitors. Play the math game through once to access a hidden bonus.

Demo's

#193 Geoworks Ensemble (1.2 meg floppy)

Virus Alert!

Two disks found in our library have been harboring the Stoned virus for several months. They are one of the two Locator Disks and the early meeting disk dated September 1990. If you have either of these disks, check both the floppies and your hard disk with McAfee's virus scanning program. Since the early meeting disk was an original we can assume this virus has been hanging around since at least September 1990. The Stoned virus resides in the boot sector of a disk. Chances are slim that the virus could be transferred to your hard disk since only the boot sector of the floppy disks was affected. None of the files on either floppy were infected. I will make sure this doesn't happen again as all disks will be scanned.

For several months I have scanned every program that goes into our library for viruses. Therefore I have confidence that the library itself is virus free.

###

New Members



Welcome to the two individuals below who joined our club this past month. We hope we can be of service to you.

Francis Bowes	238-4976
Vince Salvador	461-3030

\$\$\$ - 4 -Sale - \$\$\$ - 4 -Sale - \$\$\$

Xerox FormBase Version 1.1 New, registerable	\$350.00
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1 box greenbar wide carriage paper	\$20.00
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Call Jim Bigelow @ 238-6335

Bits n' Bytes

- » For those of you who didn't get a Geoworks Ensemble discount card, I now have about 20 more cards. If you were AT THE MEETING and didn't get a card give Bob Ward a call at 528-0121 before April 28th so you can get a card. The offer expires April 30th.
- » It would save me time and the club money and time if you renew your dues before they expire. Check the front of your mailing label and see the date of expiration. You will not receive a newsletter the month beyond the expiration date.
- » Because of George's illness we may make arrangements to temporarily set up the BBS at Bob Ward's house. The number will be 528-4212. The BBS will not be activated until at lease May 6th.
- » Each month, Cuesta Systems of San Luis Obispo (they make uninterruptible power supplies) gives us all their old computer magazines. You will find these in the Library. You are welcome to take as many as you can read in a month. Their free!
- » There has been a change in the discounts Witco Computers gives our members. Look on page 9 of this newsletter for the new discount schedule.

Calendar

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| May 5th | Russell Hoffman, creator of P11 Animation Software will present his product. |
| June 2nd | Gus Thomasson, ole' sage of San Luis, will show us a new and exciting product that will do wonders for the speed of your computer...
PC-Quick |

Mistaken Identity

I running a clandestine operation by merely owning a computer and a modem, or am I a solid senior citizen, which may well imply that I don't own "one of those computers?" Frankly, I don't know. Even though my computer is returned, and I am not arrested or prosecuted, I wonder what condition it now is in after all the rough handling. (Police who break down doors do not seem to be overly gentle, and computers and their hard disk drives are very fragile instruments). Just who and how many have scrutinized my computer? its contents? and why? my personal home business transactions? and perhaps I supplement my income with the aid of my computer (I am a writer)? my daily journal? my most private and innermost thoughts? my letters? my daily activities? (This is exactly why personal computers and their programs were designed, for personal use. My personal computer is an extension of my self, my mind, and my personal affairs.)

Can the police confiscate all my software claiming it is stolen, merely because they don't find the originals? (I, at the suggestion of the software companies, make backup copies of the original disks, and then place the originals elsewhere for safekeeping.) Do I need to keep all receipts to "prove" to the police that I am innocent of holding bootleg software? Is there a new twist in the laws that applies to personal computer users?

Also any encoding of my documents or safeguarding them with a password, such as my daily journal, my diary, I have read in other cases, is viewed by law enforcement as an attempt to evade prosecution and virtually incriminates me. ("If it wasn't criminal why did the "suspect" encode it?")

This recent incident arouses complex emotions for me. What will the fu-

ture bring for the home and personal computer user? I do not care to fear the police. I do not want to have to register my computer with the government. Will it come to that in our country? I do not want to have to maintain an impeccable record of all of my computer usages and activities, imports and exports, or to be connected to a state police monitoring facility, that at all times monitors my computer usage. The year "1984" is behind us. Let's keep it that way.

This matter is a most serious problem and demands the attention of all citizens. As for myself, I wasn't the one involved, but I find it disturbing enough to cause me to learn of it and do something about it.

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Birthday Wishes!!

It just dawned on me that we have to list the birthdays in advance by one month to make sure everyone gets a really BIG "Happy Birthday" from SLO Bytes. Forgot the newsletter comes out toward the end of the month we're celebrating.

April

George Henderson	04/12
Henry Spence	04/13
Eric Wright	04/14
Lachlan MacDonald	04/21
Frankie L. Cardoza	04/23
Harry Clark	04/24

May

Bruce Leonard	05/04
Bob Ward	05/04
Mark King	05/04
Julius Lieber	05/06
Byron Smith	05/14
John Danyi	05/17
Robert Crum	05/21
Keith Gummere	05/24

Animation Software

The Engine of Life

Along with the review package came the results of many hard hours of programming... The Engine of Life, a human heart tutorial. Without this to view I might think P11 is just another mediocre program trying to make it in the big times. But this program shows the powerful capabilities of P11. Here is an excellent tutorial, accurate for the layman, which should be in any doctors office and used when a patient wants to know the fundamentals of how their heart works and what is happening when it isn't working properly.

Conclusion

I found the "editors toolbox" and drawing editor primitive compared to other paint programs. On line help is found on the F1 key but tells little other than what other function keys to press to get around in the program. Context sensitive help should be a must with a program this complex.

P11 animation software can produce some excellent results if you are willing to take the time to learn the program. I would like to have seen the EGA version as I was constantly fighting the poor CGA graphic capabilities. Although P11 has a CGA version (as I know well), I'm not sure it is appropriate for good animation graphics. Since VGA has become the standard color resolution, you can't do justice to a good program showing it with such poor resolution.

We look forward to watching Russell Hoffman, creator of P11 animation software show us the full capabilities of his product at our next meeting.

P11 Enterprises
P.O. Box 480057
Los Angeles, CA. 90048
213-934-2066
\$129.95 + shipping & handling

Printing Mailing Labels With Ventura Publisher

by Jim Bigelow

SLO Bytes PCUG

A new experience of mine is that of printing labels in the Windows 3.0 version of Ventura Publisher. I use PC-File to set up the database and a Hewlett Packard IIP Laser printer for the printout. Printing labels with Ventura Publisher allows several advantages, the most interesting being that of a variety of types and sizes of fonts.

Most of my labels are of the 3 abreast type, especially designed for a laser printer. The manual for Ventura Publisher describes a method for setting up a database file to be used for mailing labels. It requires the use of soft returns at the end of lines as well as other and somewhat extensive maneuvering.

I have found that if one enters the data into the database and then prints it to file, that the file will then be configured properly for importing into Ventura Publisher. Six lines to a label, which means one label to an inch.

In Ventura Publisher I set my column widths at 2.64 inches and gutters at 0.13 inches. Margins I set at top 0.7, bottom 0.3, left 0.15, right 0.18 inches. These settings will print labels 10 down and 3 wide. I indented the text 0.2 inches from the left margin. I found that Helvetica 11 Point fonts fit my labels better and gave bolder and larger type than others that were available to me. (The U.S. Post Service requires a minimum of 8 points.) Only on two labels out of 743 did I find a line too long for the 3 wide labels. I corrected this problem by making the errant label a four liner. I used reduced view to ascertain that

all labels formatted properly -- in line both horizontal and vertical.

Next, I printed the label setup on scrap paper and compared it to the sheet of gummed labels. Since they didn't match up properly, (ok on the top label but high on the bottom label) I used Ventura's paragraph settings and chose the following space settings: above .047, below .047, interline .12 inches. I rechecked in reduced view and then upon printing another page of labels found they matched perfectly with the gummed labels. I saved the style sheet using a name "labels.sty" for future use.

To make sure that each of the 25 pages of labels were accurate I switched page by page in reduced view to the end page. I found one misalignment and that was on the last page, and easily corrected. Ah Ha. I cautiously printed one page at a time for several pages and then set the printer to "GO." It was the easiest way I've found to print sheet labels and have a choice of fonts, styles, and sizes.

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.
75 Cents Each

3.5" 720K
Unformatted Floppy Disks
90 Cents Each

New Library Disks
90 Cents Each

Technology Today New Chip Technology

by Robert C. Sanborn

Indy PC News, August 1990

FRAM (Ferroelectric Random Access Memory)

A FRAM is a chip made from ferroelectric ceramics and conventional semiconductor materials. The FRAMs store electricity more efficiently and can also contain more capacitors in a circuit. FRAMs can retain data for up to 10 years without power.

The current problems with these chips is the ability to switch electrons at high speed thus making them impractical for today's computers. The world's first truly nonvolatile read/write memory chips available from Ramtron Corp (Colorado Springs). They expect to begin manufacturing 1K and 16K bit chips still this year, 256K bit chips in 1991 and up to 16M bit chips during 1992.

At capacities of 16M bits per chip, this type of memory could easily replace hard disks in many applications. Consider the solid state DASD now available. One downside to solid state dasd is the risk of losing data in the event of a power failure. With these chips, there is no risk.

"We're suggesting that in the future, computers will have FRAMs on-line and optical discs for storage and nothing in between." says David Bondurant, Ramtron's director of business development. Again the negative side is the high cost of storage as the cost per megabyte is higher than for traditional fixed disks.

Scientists at Sony have predicted that FRAMs could easily replace compact disks for music. That also assumes that we are looking to much larger memory chips than the projected 16M bits of 1992. Shall we predict the 1024M bit chips by 1994??

Follow That Loan

by Jim McCollum

[Reprinted from LILYPAD, FROG Computer Society, November 1990]

Back when I first got into computers, one of the things I felt that I needed for my real estate practice-- almost as much as a word processor-- was a program to do loan amortization schedules. Look as I may, I was unable to find one. In desperation (the mother of invention) I decided to write such a program. With the help of Dick Comegys and my son Angus, I put together a pretty fair program, written in MBASIC; and made it available to the FROG library. Since this time, however, a number of these loan amortization programs have appeared on the market, both as shareware and as commercial offerings.

One such program is the "Loan Amortization Program" by Arlyn Anderson of Antelope Systems, most recently

selling for \$49.95 at your local store. Antelope is now distributing the program as shareware with a registration fee of only \$30.00. As of this writing, you can find it in our library and on our part time BBS, the Frog Pond (see President's Corner) under the name of AMORTAS.ZIP.

This program has some very good features, among which is the fact that you do NOT have to read the manual (included in the Zip file) to use the program. It is very simple to use-- fast, accurate and quite versatile. There are no complicated installation procedures, even. Merely sweep the files from the distribution disk onto your hard drive or a working disk, depending on the configuration of your computer.

The only suggestions that I would have for the program-- two of them being relatively minor in nature-- are as follows: (1) The single loan description input field is too short. My recommendation would be to supply two such fields of 60 charac-

ters each instead of one at 47 characters. (2) It would be nice to have the option to enter the number of years the loan should run instead of having to calculate the number of payments. This, of course, is minor. (3) The program automatically enters 3 line feeds before printing starts. If you are using single sheets, as I do, this gives you an inordinately large top margin, since the top margin already is set by the fact that the tip of the paper has to fit underneath the bail of my printer. If, of course, you are using form feed paper, this should not be a problem.

All in all, I find this to be an excellent program and highly recommend it. The \$30.00 registration fee is definitely a bargain!

Antelope Systems 3190 NW Nyssa Court Beaverton, Oregon 97006
Phone: 503-645-9327

Note: This program is available through SLO Bytes library, disk # 158.

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PC Globe & PC USA Software Review

by Hugh Bayless

Monterey Bay PCUG, December 1990

PC Globe Inc., of Tempe, Arizona, has come out with one of the most delightful new programs we have seen in a long, long time. PC Globe 3.0 is a computerized atlas that profiles 177 countries around the world, in color or monochrome. It works equally well with mouse or keyboard, offering maps of areas and nations with overlays showing principal cities, geographical features, and elevations. Accompanying the

maps are charts and tables offering a wide variety of socio-economic and cultural information, including mileage between the cities you select. PC USA offers the same thing for the 50 states and Puerto Rico.

While these two programs are designed as resource tools for educators, travelers and businesses, anyone who has any interest at all in our nation or our world today will be captivated.

Do you sometimes wonder about the ever-changing African nations, where they are and who their neighbors are? PC Globe can show you in seconds, and there are annual updates to keep up with the changing world. Do you have a child or grandchild who ought to know more about our world than the schools

seem to be teaching? PC Globe and PC USA are the perfect way to painlessly introduce a young person to a lifelong interest in geography. Are you planning a trip for yourself? What better way to learn about the states or nations you will be visiting. These are superb educational tools, with the result that they are fun for everyone to use, young or old.

You can run both of these programs on any PC compatible with 512K RAM, hard or floppy drives, and DOS 2.0 or later. Each program is \$69.95, plus 4.00 shipping, from PC Globe, Inc. 4700 S. McClintock, Tempe, AZ 85282-9692. There is also a Demo disk available for \$3.00 postpaid, if you want to see what they look like before buying.

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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 \$20 per year. Newsletter only is \$12 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.

Editor: John Ewing, 1710 15th Street, Los Osos, Ca. 93402. Phone 528-7196.

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.

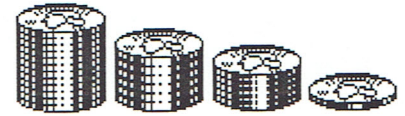
New User's SIG - F.H. 286

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

SLO BYTES BULLETIN BOARD

(805) 528-4212 2400/8/N/1

This Board will be temporarily at this number after May 6th until George recovers from his illness. We will go back to the old number after his recovery



Treasurer's Report

SLO Bytes PCUG Expenditures April, 1991

Beginning Balance:..	+636.61
Expenses:	
Newsletter 03/27/91.	-95.38
Bulk Mail.	-150.00
	=====
	- 245.38
Deposit 03/28/91	+200.00
Deposit 04/09/91	+245.00
	=====
	+445.00
Balance 04/09/91	+ 836.23

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, Blvd. B San Luis Obsipo 549-0811	10%	Off list - all computers, software, computer peripherals, and products. Contact Bruce, Paul or Dave for discount.
Los Cerros Computers 11545 Los Osos Val. Rd #A3 San Luis Obsipo 544-6399	15%	Off regular prices on Whitaker computers
	10%	Off service
		Meet nearly any advertised price on same or similar computers. Bring ad to store.
	20%	Above cost on computers and computer peripherals.
		Above cost on software & supplies (Cost includes shipping & handling)

Ziff-Davis User Group Magazine Discounts

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

