

HARD COPY

Missed It?

By Bob Ward

Last month at our meeting we covered a wide variety of subjects from hardware to software to telecommunications. Our first meeting started at 1:00 with yours truly demonstrating a cordless mouse by Z-Nix. Disaster almost befell my presentation as the mouse hit the floor. With a little repair to the battery contacts, all was well and I continued on. Following the fallen mouse I demonstrated Definitions Plus, a 100,000 word TSR dictionary to be used within your wordprocessor. If you want more detail on either of these products see my review article in the HardCopy Newsletter, August, 1991. I finished up by spending a couple minutes with FLAGS91, a great shareware program displaying all the flags of the world and statistics on each country it represents.

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EasyCAD2...

An evaluation

By Jim Bigelow, SLO Bytes PCUG

I make this evaluation of EasyCAD2 as an inexperienced draftsman using it for amateur purposes. I use it to create drawings rather than use freehand sketches. Such drawings have included plans for a front deck on a mobile home, a foot bridge, and a shed. I have found that EasyCAD2 works better and faster than freehand sketches. It gives a cleaner layout, one that is uncluttered with half erased, wavy and unsure lines. It provides me with all the needed tools such as perfect boxes, lines, squares, rectangles, circles, arcs and ellipses.

Precision measurements can be typed in at the keyboard. Precise dimensions in about one dozen different forms can be quickly obtained and drawn on the layout. They include not only the

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People Say the Most Amazing Things

By Mark Lautenschlagerf
Boca Bits, June 1990

If you stick around a users group long enough, you will eventually hear some pretty amazing statements. But I heard one the other day that outdoes them all. It was reported to me, first hand and by a reliable source, that there is a member in our group who believes it is perfectly acceptable to make copies of software, as long as you pay for third-party books that tell you how to operate that software.

Sound unbelievable? When challenged, this member argued that, by endorsing such books, the software authors

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Club Officers

President George Campbell
Vice President SamPowers
Treasurer Bernice Meador
Secretary Bob Ward
Editor Bob Ward

Industry News and Abstracts

By Kathy Yakal
SLO Bytes PCUG

Here are some highlights of current industry news stories as reported by Infoworld and PC Week in August (for information on INF subscriptions, call 708-564-0694; you can reach PCwk at 609-461-2100).

- **Top-Selling WPs Perform Well**
In a review of the most recent upgrades of five DOS-based versions of word processors, Word 5.5 and WordPerfect 5.1 ranked highest in speed and intuitiveness of user interface. Other packages reviewed are Multi-Mate 4.0, DisplayWrite 5 Composer, and WordStar 6.0D. -PCwk, 7/15/91, p 85

- **Microsoft Word 2.0 Due By Year's End**
The upgrade of Microsoft's Word for Windows, 2.0, should ship by the end of 1991. Enhancements include frame-building and linking, drawing and charting modules, a drag-and-drop editing feature, more flexible mail merging, and a new, customizable icon bar. \$495. -PCwk, 7/29/91, p 1

- **WordPerfect Windows Wows Testers**
Beta testers have favorable comments about the Windows version of WordPerfect, citing as pluses its customizable button bar, enhanced onscreen tools, two graphics modes, and keyboard options. -INF, 8/12, p 1

- **PageMaker Glows Under Windows**
Aldus PageMaker for Windows 4.0 was rated highest in a review of four Windows-based DTP packages. It was cited as the best overall choice for general needs. -PCwk, 7/22/91, p 85

- **Microsoft Readies Windows DTP Applications**
Microsoft is expected to debut an entry-level DTP package for Windows at fall COMDEX. Publisher for

Windows is expected to retail for under \$200. -INF, 7/22, p 7

- **ButtonWare Puts New Face on Its PC-File Database**

PC-File 6.0 offers a new, proprietary GUI; its new macro language uses English commands rather than numeric. \$149; upgrades \$49.95. ButtonWare has also introduced a low-end PIM. -PCwk, 7/15/91, p. 29. Also, INF, 7/15, p 13: Flat-File Manager Sports DOS GUI)

- **Borland Debuts Quattro Pro/Win**
Quattro Pro for Windows debuted at the Pasadena IBM User Group meeting last week. The new version is built on a notebook metaphor, using tabs and pages to create a collection of worksheets. Worksheets can be linked, and up to 255 can be included in a notebook; the mouse is used extensively. No ship date has been announced. -INF, 7/29, p 1

- **PC Tools 7.0's Bugs, Lack of Support Irk Users**

The most recent upgrade of Central Point Software's popular utility program has met with a high volume of complaints about bugs and compatibility problems. Central Point has added support staff and placed new versions of specific routines on CompuServe. -PCwk, 7/15/91, p 10

- **Also: Disk Crashes, More Plague PC Tools 7.0**

Complaints include collisions with DOS memory managers, incompatibility with DRI's DR DOS 5.0, and disk crashes. -INF, 7/22, p 8)

- **Central Point Heeds Call for PC Tools 7.0 Bug Fix**

Bugs in PC Tools 7.0 have caused Central Point to reverse an earlier decision; the company will ship a corrected release to registered users in September. -PCwk, 7/29/91, p 1

- **Glitches in Norton Utilities 6.0 Prompt Update From Symantec**

Data corruption and file erasure are some of the most serious reported problems with version 6.0 of Norton Utilities. A maintenance release, 6.01, should be available soon to users who contact Symantec Corp. -PCwk, 7/29/91, p 8. Also: Norton Utilities 6.0 Marred by Pesky Bugs -INF, 7/22, p 8)

- **Norton Desktop Offers Windows Users Power, Ease of Use**
Symantec has release Norton Desktop for Windows, which can serve as a replacement for Windows 3.0's Program Manager. It also includes utilities like a Windows batch language and event scheduler, graphical version of familiar Norton utilities, and Norton Backup for Windows. Program is reported to be slow but powerful. \$149. -PCwk, 8/5/91, p 5

- **Utilities Now Have Different Approaches**

Norton Utilities 6.0 offers a number of upgraded features as well as some new additions; it provides many functions that DOS 5.0 lacks (or doesn't do as well). These include NDOS, a replacement for COMMAND.COM; an improved layout; the ability to edit the Utility menu; an Advise program, which offers explanations of common disk problems and error messages; and a new optimization method. Unfortunately, though, the program still lacks a backup utility and a TSR manager. PC Tools 7.0 incorporates many of the popular tools for organizing and maintaining your hard disk and information stored there found in earlier versions, plus some new ones; of note is the Commute utility, which lets you control a remote computer from your keyboard. (sidebar lists problems found in this new release.) -INF, 7/15, p 75

- **DOS 5.0 Teaches Users New Tricks**
Users of Microsoft DOS 5.0 are reporting problems handling the new methods required for dealing with memory and networking. -PCwk, 7/15/91, p 65

INDUSTRY NEWS

- **Borland Gives dBase New Lease on Life**

Borland International has agreed to purchase Ashton-Tate; approval of the buyout would combine the 25 percent share of the PC database market held by Paradox with the 55 percent held by dBase. Ashton-Tate is expected to see reductions in staff

Missed?

George then took over the meeting. His theme this month was "searching for text". Personally I spending most of my time searching for my keys. More specifically he spent consider-

Generally, keep your searches simple.

able time with our new locator program which he wrote for the club library. With the new locator the user can enter two words or phrases and search the library for files. George emphasized that if you don't find the programs you are looking for on the first search, modify your search words. Generally, keep your searches simple. For instance if you use the text string "Adobe Type Manager printer fonts" you would be lead to the conclusion we have nothing in the library on this subject. WRONG! You must simplify the search. By using the word "Adobe" you will find 11 fonts in our library. If you get to general by searching for "print" you will find the 11 fonts but it will be mixed with several unrelated programs. Also watch for word contractions. For instance, in creating the library locator file I might list Type-Manager as one word or Type Manager as two words. Try both, you might be surprised at the results. Since the new search program is not context sensitive you can type in CAPS or lower case, it doesn't matter. I have created a new batch file which will make it easier to load on your hard disk and will automatically update your old locator. The new locator disk will be available at the next meeting. If you have a modem why not download it from our BBS then you won't have to wait. The filename is LOCATORH.ZIP. George then continued the "locator" theme by showing two shareware programs; SIT.ZIP (#325) and FIND214.ZIP (#374).

The early meeting finished with general computer questions from the

audience. Among others, George was asked to explain the use of MOUSE.COM and MOUSE.SYS, their differences and when it is most appropriate to use each program. Another question about transferring files between two computers and two modems was asked.

After a brief intermission the general meeting was started. We had the usual business meeting with announcements by both George and myself. Then it was off to the guest speakers Max Sicher and Dave Medley. Both Max and Dave are HAM radio operators and use their computers along with radios for communication to others around the world.

The radio components are simple and relatively inexpensive. You need a radio that transmits and receives on the correct wave length, a power supply, an antenna, a (T)erminal (N)ode (C)ontroller and a computer. With this setup and a certified radio license you can use one of the many Digipeaters (digital repeaters) found on the local mountain tops to communicate to other fellow packet radio enthusiasts.

Perhaps the most important and valuable part of this hobby is the service these individuals provide in time of emergency. All the local clubs are connected to the SLO County Emergency Operations Center and work with both local and state agencies to provide a method of communication that doesn't rely on telephone lines during a disaster. Since all systems have a battery backup and are housed in earthquake proof buildings, including the mountain top digipeaters, even the lack of PG&E electricity doesn't stop this service from being effective.

After connecting to the SLO HAM radio BBS and another in Santa Maria, Dave Medley, another local radio operator spoke to us. His func-

tion as HAM operator is a little more complex as he provides the local upload and download satellite link for receiving and sending messages. Several small satellites less than a foot square circle the earth about every 90 minutes and provide a method of transferring amateur radio messages from one part in the world to another. Dave's responsibility is to track the satellite as it comes over the horizon, transmit and receive "mail" through his radio and save it on his computer which is then sent to the local radio BBS in San Luis Obispo. No he doesn't have to get out his binoculars every hour and one half and point his antenna accordingly. Luckily most of the instruments he uses make it a 'hands free' operation. There is still some manual labor involved but you don't see him on the roof pointing the antenna at the satellite.

The whole topic was very fascinating and we thank both Max and Dave for educating us on the subject. We applaud the time and effort they spend in the SLO Emergency Operations Center and hope it will always be just for practice. We're glad to have them backing us up in case it isn't.

Next month I'm going to demonstrate a couple commercial software packages. I will briefly show you AutoMap at the early meeting. I'm not going to say much about this program except it is one of the most fascinating and comprehensive programs I've ever put on my hard disk. I'll review it more formally next month in the newsletter. George will follow up with Q & A on DOS and other computer subjects.

At the general meeting which starts at 2:30 you'll see my bright and smiling face once more. I will show you MenuWorks Advanced. Do your homework in advance and read my review in this newsletter.

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BBS Talk... Watch Those Phone Bills

To: Bob Ward From: Doug Depue
Subject: Prodigy Charges

Hello Bob,

I connected to the PRODIGY service a few weeks ago. I contacted the "phone company" to ascertain what additional charges might be incurred due to the SLO Prodigy connection being a long distance call from Cambria. I was assured that there would be no additional charge for the connection by the girl from ATT, not Pacific Bell. I dialed ATT's 800 number instead of 811-2988 for Pac Bell. Charges for the SLO Prodigy connection for 16.3 hours was \$130.15. This time I called Pacific Bell and discussed a more reasonable solution to the Service Area 10 Calls charges.



The solution is to establish an "Optional Calling Measured service" which consists of paying nine dollars per month for one hour of calls from Cambria to San Luis Obispo. If I should exceed one hour a month for the peak hours of 8:00 am thru 8:00pm M-F, I will be billed as usual for those calls. I then have unlimited use of the line from 8:00 pm through 8:00 am M-F and 24 hours a day for Saturday and Sunday included in the nine dollar service. If I pay for two years of Prodigy, the monthly amount is \$8.33, plus the \$9.00 service charge totaling \$17.33 a month, which is a much more reasonable rate. This option should be called to the attention of the members who might not consider Prodigy for fear of an experience similar to mine.

Boug Depue

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EasyCad2

horizontal, vertical, parallel, but angular, regular and note radius and diameter, and ordinate dimensionality. Editing commands are extensive, uncomplicated and as with all other commands, accompanied by full instructions. I use an IBM-compatible 286, 16mhz computer without a math co-processor, a NEC Multi-Sync 3D monitor and a Hewlett Packard IIP printer. I found that EasyCAD2 runs fast and efficiently, plenty enough to suit my home needs. It is designed to run on low end computers.

Installation was uncomplicated, and moved as quickly as I could make choices of the many selections of my computer's facilities, such as adapter boards, monitor, printer, mouse, etc. The program comes on two 360kb floppies or one 720kb disk and is accompanied with a professionally done manual that is easily followed by a beginner. EasyCAD2, which has been rated #1 in the PC Week Corporate User Satisfaction Poll for the past two years, sells for \$199.00.

The program is operated by "clicking" on its pull down menus and then making selections from the dialogue boxes. I found access and usage of colors was easy due to its 16-color icon box. After installing EasyCAD2 I explored it for awhile without the manual and found it easy to understand and operate. Its on line help is very handy, but I found I needed to refer to the manual for instructions on some individual geometric items known as entities. It pays, I find, to use the tutorial that contains 11 lessons in a total of 206 pages. I spent about one week work-

ing my way through it. It is very well done and gives me the feeling that I am an accomplished EasyCAD2 user. Actually the tutorial doesn't make me a professional CAD user, but it does provide me with enough background in its operations so that I can proceed easily with my projects.

The finished drawing can then be printed in its entirety, layer by layer or any chosen view by zooming in on a detailed section. A good selection of printer and plotter drivers are included. One section of the manual explains macro programming for those

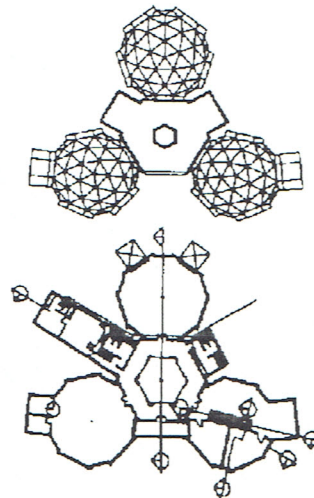
who get serious with their work. If you want a "bonus disk," free of charge, containing 101 specialized macros, then register your copy of EasyCAD2.

Much has been added to all functions of EasyCAD2, far more than the normal that one would expect. To explain all its capabilities would require a book. Professionally finished drawings can be accomplished within its

resources. Should one want to give EasyCAD2 a try with little investment he can purchase an abridged version in a bookstore for \$39.95. You receive a well done manual, which includes a tutorial, and two disks. The package is titled "Learn CAD Now" and is published by Microsoft Press. (Cal Poly Book Store in San Luis Obispo sells the package for \$35.95.)

Now that I have finished my study of EasyCAD2 I am accomplished at another skill, that of drawing architecturally and mechanically without being a professional at either.

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Abstracts

and facilities as a result. -PCwk, 7/15/91, p 1. Also, INF, 7/15, p 1: Borland Makes Bid to Be King of the Database Hill)

• Novell to Buy DRI in Bid for OS Claim

Novell, Inc. has agreed to buy Digital Research, makers of DR DOS 5.0. -PCwk, 7/22/91, p 1

• Also: Novell, DRI Plan Network-Based DOS

Novell and DRI hope to provide users with more easily networkable desktop systems that will also provide simple access to mainframe and minicomputer data. -INF, 7/22, p 1

• Microsoft Basks in Glow of Record Earnings

Microsoft has sold a million units of DOS 5.0 and over four million of Windows 3.0. Sales for the fiscal year ending June 30 (\$1.8 billion) were up 56 percent over 1990. -PCwk, 7/29/91, p 12

• Cloners Best PC Giants for Customer Satisfaction

As reported by Dataquest, inc, CompuAdd Corp. provides the best customer satisfaction. Dell Computer Corp. was second, and IBM and Compaq finished eighth and ninth, respectively. -PCwk, 7/29/91, p 115

• Slow Sales Fuel PC Industry Price War

Hardware prices are being driven down by a slow economy, unthinkable alliances, growing inventories, and market-share wars. -INF, 7/29, p 1

Get yourself in print.
Write an article for the newsletter. Just submit a computer related article before the 15th of each month. We'll even check the punctuation and spelling!

SLO Bytes Library

By Bob Ward, Librarian

Here is the list of disks being added to our ever growing library. Remember if you want only the disks added to the library each month, they are available the month they are added, from the treasurer for 90 cents each. Avoid the congestion in the library and have us copy the disks for you.

#447 **BIGTIMER** - put a very large digital timer on your screen.

DOPIER - drawing program for QuickBasic programmers. **REFONT** - converts MAC Adobe type 1 fonts to IBM Adobe type 1 fonts. **SECHO** - makes some enhancements to batch files by substituting the ECHO command. **SPIRO2** - spirographs on your screen. **VPIC44** - displays multiple graphic formats.

#448 **RSE Utilities**: A multitude of utilities including file managers, games, screen capture, note reminders, etc.

#449W **Windows Programs**: **FIRE54** - turn your screen into fireworks with this screen blanker. **UC-20C** - communications program for Windows. **WINSAVER** - remembers last screen in Windows before exit and returns you to that point. **COIN & COMICS** are both databases for collectors accessed through Windows Toolbox.

#450 **SEARCHER** - entire program w/ QuickBasic source code of our new club library locator program. **SIN25E** - searches for given string in a file across subdirectories. **DIRMAGIC** - file and subdirectory menuing program - works with DOS 5.0. **SOUND21** - add sounds, beeps and bells to your batch files. **DIRX** - directory of executables within squeezed files. **BOOT127** - bootup menus for selective boot configurations.

Calendar

October 6	MenuWorks by Bob Ward
November 3	Legacy, a desktop publisher for Windows by Chuck Buelow
December 1	Our annual Christmas party and give-a-way. Semi-annual swap meet. Election of officers.
March '92	Instant Office by David Dilworth (tentative)

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FLOPPY DISKS 4-SALE at the meeting

Dysan DSDD 360K
Unformatted Floppy Disks
with labels, tabs, and sleeves
60 Cents Each
or
\$5.50 / box

Generic High Density Disks
5.25" X 1.2 MEG.
75 Cents Each

Generic 3.5" X 720K
Unformatted Floppy Disks
85 Cents Each

New Library Disks
90 Cents Each

All Disks fully guaranteed
against defects.

Amazing

are telling you that they "have made their money off the program, and it's OK to make copies now, as long as you buy these books..., because they make money off the books, too."

When I first heard this, I was speechless. (I know it's hard to believe that I could ever be speechless, but it's true.) Then I became angry. How could someone be so wrong? Finally, I became determined. How many others in our membership feel the same way? How many feel this way simply because no one has ever told them differently?

Well, you're being told differently now.

MYTH #1: It's OK to copy software. It is never acceptable to copy software unless granted permission by the copyright holder. I cannot remember how long I've been hearing the statement, "Software companies don't care if you copy their programs, and they even expect piracy." This is patently untrue. Software companies do care if you make copies of their programs. While they may accept piracy as a fact of life, that does not mean that they believe it is an acceptable practice.

Copying software without the permission of the copyright holder is against the law. As a matter of fact, it is a violation of federal law.

Now, the plain fact of the matter is that you are not likely to get caught. And even if you were caught red-handed, the software company is not likely to do anything about it. But is the rightness or wrongness of an issue decided by the likelihood of your being caught? That's like saying it's OK to run over pedestrians in your car, as long as you do it on a deserted road and no one catches you.

"Of course not!" you say.

Why?

"Because it's just not right to hurt someone else," is the response.

My point exactly. If it's against the law to copy software, it's against the law. Whether or not you are caught, you must be honest with yourself and admit that you are breaking federal copyright law.

MYTH #2: Software companies are making money off these "how-to" books. This is simply not true. These books are published by independent publishing companies, and software companies do not receive royalties on their sale. There are certain notable exceptions, such as Peter Norton's series of books. He does receive a royalty on their sale, But simply because you bought a copy of "Inside the IBM PC", that does not mean it's OK for you to steal a copy of the Norton Utilities.

Why are these books published? In most cases, they fill gaps in the program's documentation. In some instances, the documentation is not as complete as the books are. In others, the documentation is complete but confusing, and the books attempt to explain how to use the program more clearly.

I'll give you an example. I own WordPerfect. (Sometimes I wonder why I own it, but I do.) I have the documentation for version 4.2, version 5.0, and version 5.1, yet I also have the Que book "Using WordPerfect". Why? Because the Que book explains topics more thoroughly and simply than the WordPerfect manuals do. I have often learned to use some feature of the program only after consulting the Que book.

These books are not published as replacements for the original documentation, and no one at the companies producing these books would ever tell you that they are.

How should you handle it when someone you know offers you a copy of a program? You should say, "No, thank you." Will you? I have no idea. But, after reading this article, it is my sincere hope that you will not be under the false impression that it is

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Bits n' Bytes

Club Trivia By Bob Ward, et. al.

- » Many of us have subscribed or renewed our computer magazines through Family Publications. They have changed their name. They are now called Information Journals, 570 Riverside Drive, Suite 9365, New York, NY 10031. We should have subscription packets by the next meeting.
- » It has been several months since I have received a survey sheet which is found in the back of the new member manual. If we are to help each other with our computer needs it is important that we know each other's fields of expertise. If you have not done so, please fill out the information and return it to me (Bob Ward) at the next meeting or mail it to the return address on your newsletter.

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Library

#451 From CTRLALT Associates:
SK3_BU1 - STACKY 3.0 - automatically place keystrokes in your keyboard buffer. BATUTIL 1.0 - give your batch files powerful enhancements and control of the DOS environment.

Updates

#447 VPIC44 upgraded from VPIC25 on disk #367 and moved to #447 due to increase in size.

#433 SYSMON21 from ver 2.0 to 2.1

Demo Disks

#198 TitusDOS BBS Demo ver 2.10 by Titus Communications

#199 Ko-Pilot by Insight Resources

#200 PC USA 3.0 by Softdisk Publishing

#201 LEGACY DTP for Windows by NBI

MenuWorks

By Bob Ward
SLO Bytes PCUG

PC Dynamics created and markets a program called MenuWorks Advanced. With this program you can custom create your own menuing system which is fully integrated with their built-in hard disk management software. It's almost like having Direct Access (a popular menuing system) combined with X-tree (a hard disk manager) all in one package.

Installation is painless. Insert the first of three 360K disks in drive A: and type "INSTALL". You have a choice of disk drives and subdirectory names or you can settle for C:\MENUWORK. The program takes up a little more than one-half megabyte and can be automatically installed in your AUTOEXEC.BAT file so MenuWorks comes up on your opening screen.

As installation is completed the program searches your whole hard disk and all partitions for programs it might recognize. These programs are categorized and built into a menu. As you wait for the menu to be built some interesting information is presented on the screen. It shows the number of categories created (17), total programs recognized (58), the total number of files searched (5931), and the number of non-executable files versus executable files. The number in parenthesis were from my home computer. The search and menu creation took less than one minute! If you do not trust the judgment of MenuWorks to make categories and place files within, you can suspend or abort this part of the installation at any time or edit it later.

Menus & Drop Down Windows

After installation the fun begins exploring all the things you can do with MenuWorks. The opening menu screen is clean and non cluttered. Time and date is shown in the corners with a Function Key Menu on the left and the Menu of your hard disk on the right. The window will show up to 13 categories at one time. Other categories can be seen by using the down arrow key or the mouse and scroll bar. MenuWorks is completely mouse driven or can be used without a mouse at all. Function keys and arrow keys achieve the same results and may be faster considering you have to take your hands off the keyboard to run the mouse.

The automatic menu builder gave some interesting results. Although accurate in some respects it would be a toss-up for me whether I used this feature or created my categories and entered the programs manually. I was impressed with the fact that under the Desktop Publishing Category I could run Gem's Ventura Publisher considering how notorious it is for gobbling memory. MenuWorks' DOS shell uses only about 5.4K. My cookbook program seemed to confuse MenuWorks. It was categorized a "General Utility" while under "Maintenance and Inspection" the cookbook appeared again. Perhaps MenuWorks doesn't run too well on an empty stomach! Other general utilities such as Optune, Checkit, Norton Utilities, etc. were categorized correctly and worked flawlessly. After exiting each program the screen came back to MenuWorks. I think my biggest surprise came under "Training and Education". Besides finding most of the commercial programs I purchased for my children, (Reader Rabbit, etc.) many of the shareware programs I have on my hard disk were also categorized correctly by MenuWorks.

More Bits

- » If you have not been on the BBS since the Wildcat upgrade, try it out. Many new features, including full screen editor for messages and an improved method for selecting files for downloading. There has been some problem with people having to log on as NEW. Perhaps some of the user names were not properly converted to the new user base. If this is the case, just re-log with your name and password.
- » Speaking of the BBS... one problem that annoys the ole' SYSOP and can cause problems with the board is dropping carrier without properly logging off. The board can "hang up" and must be reset under certain instances when a person does this. Since Wildcat keeps a very accurate log of user activity, users continuing to do this will be expelled from the BBS. (I'm speaking mostly of non-members who use the board)
- » Speaking of the BBS for the last time... I have put several announcements under section 6 (Member Announcements). This message section can be viewed only by club members so I feel it is a good place to put messages that pertain to our club membership and exclude non members. Here you will find discounts from vendors, announcements about conferences, etc. So when you scan the message section for new messages, make sure select (A)ll sections which should include Member Announcements.
- » Don't forget our Christmas give-away in December. We hope to have several software packages and many other "goodies" for this annual event. Also if you have anything you would like to donate toward this we will be happy to receive all contributions. Contact me anytime. This is also the time to vote out the old and vote in the new during club elections.
- » We are looking into creating a non-profit corporation for SLO Bytes. I have also contacted a couple inde-

About Our New File Locator...



This month I have updated the Library File Locator disk to include George's new search program. I have also vastly improved the LOAD.BAT file. Now you can install or update the File Locator Disk from any floppy drive or hard disk partition (with exception of a partition called LOCATOR). If you try and UPDATE your locator to a partition where it has NOT previously been INSTALLED it will tell you to use the INSTALL command instead of the UPDATE command. If you have the old search routine (i.e. old locator) that used a batch file and the FIND and MORE DOS commands it will automatically update the locator sub-directory to the new and improved search program.

Highlights

Briefly here are the highlights of the new search program. You can search two words or short phrases at one time with either the AND parameter or OR parameter. The words or phrases are no longer case sensitive so the whole line will be searched irrespective of whether it is a filename or description. The F1 key will bring up "help" which lists all the categories in which the files are placed. The F3 key sets up the AND/OR situation for the words to be entered. F7 turns the printer on if you want to print the list of selections. F10 removes you from the program.

Bob...

Amazing

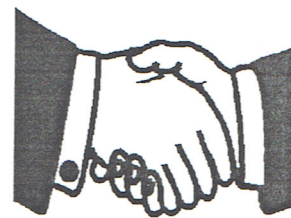
acceptable to make copies of copyrighted software, even if you hustle down and buy some book that tells you how to install and use it.

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Last of the Bits...

pendent insurance agents to see what it would cost to protect the club from liability claims. Guess it's time to face reality.

- » Adobe Systems is having a free Postscript conference in Santa Clara on Tuesday, October 15th. If you are interested contact me ASAP as seating is limited. I will send you a registration application. I will also have the applications at the meeting.
- » Please check the mailing label on your newsletter. If something is misspelled or is not current and correct, the newsletter may be returned to me by the post office with 72 cents postage due, plus you will get a late newsletter or none at all for that month. Also notice the expiration date for your membership. Save me the time and club expense of sending out reminders for overdue notices. Please pay on time. Your grace time for payment is the 20th of the month following the month of expiration. Then as the old umpire said; "your outa there!"
- » Many thanks to Kathy and George for supplying us with coffee and cookies at the meetings. The goodies are free although there is a cup for donations to keep this on a "expense free" basis to them and the club. We go through about 2.5 gallons of coffee a meeting. I'm happy to observe, this has vastly improved the attentiveness of the audience during presentations. I'm a little more ruthless. If you want sodas, we have them for 45 cents each on a cart next to the treasurer's table in the hall.
- » For those of you using Internet and Tymenet through Cal Poly Campus, you will notice you can't log on without a password. The phone lines were so heavily impacted that they now require an account and this is limited to campus students, staff and faculty.
- » Only a few individuals take advantage of the many free magazines found on the table in



New Members

Welcome new members. We're happy you joined us in September and hope you enjoy SLO Bytes and find it informative.

Michele Calbert	544-5141
Carter Houston	489-5418
Wayne Mc Caughan	544-3518
Milford Noe	528-3431
Harry Rodman	544-6546
Peter Sutherland	

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BIRTHDAY

William Avery 10/20
 Tim Bittner 10/23
 Melcena Brixey 10/10
 Clifford Buttschardt 10/05
 Charles Comey 10/12
 Thomas Conroy 10/06
 Mike Farrell 10/10
 Orville Haworth 10/27
 Marilyn Jenkins 10/11
 Robert Mc Cay 10/22
 Arleigh Nave 10/11
 Ed Reiten 10/16
 John Rohde 10/10
 Dave Zingg 10/07

the Library at the club meetings. Please look over the magazines and take a few home for self enrichment. Those left over end up in the dumpster. This is a waste of good computer information.

- » I have seven free passes to Fall Comdex in Las Vegas. First come first serve. Please ask for one only if you have made arrangements for a place to stay. Most hotels have been booked solid for at least a month.
- » Check out the new BBS in San Luis Obispo. It's called the SLO Programmers Guild and emphasizes just that... programming. The number is 545-7855.

Menu Works Continues

Function Keys

The options are almost too numerous to mention. F2 is the Maintenance key. Under this option are 6 drop-down menus: 1. Configuration 2. Security 3. Menus 4. Design 5. Utilities 6. Tutorials and 7. Exit.

Configuration

Briefly MenuWorks has left-handed mouse support, 43/50 line video support, an adjustable screen blanker, and the ability to execute a DOS command at exit.

Security

This program has security at every level. You can setup passwords for maintenance, DOS shell, LogOn, and specific user ID's (99). You can create menu passwords, application passwords and security clearance codes. And the passwords are encrypted so they can't be bypassed by peaking into MenuWorks through a file editor.

Menus

Under User Menu Maintenance, you can add, edit or delete categories or category names for user display. Under Menu Selection Maintenance one can add, delete, copy, edit or change individual programs under the category. Here is where you would do most of your work if MenuWorks didn't automatically setup the programs in your menu. Under Autoletter you create hotkeys for each category. If you ever get "stuck" just hit the F1 key and up comes context sensitive help.

Design

From Screen Design, you can edit existing screens or create new ones from a blank screen using a built-in paint program. Also take any default screen MenuWorks makes and use the editor program to make changes in color, and frame size and location. It's all there and easy to use.

Utilities

MenuWorks has several useful utilities. The DOS shell is a must if you want to leave the menuing system but have the option of popping back into it after running a DOS command. Since the shell uses only 5K, there is plenty of lower memory left to do anything in DOS. Should you need to find a file on your hard disk, MenuWorks has a file locator that will search for any filename or combination name and wildcard across all subdirectories and hard disks. With the built-in editor you can also load an ASCII file and edit it from within MenuWorks.

The Disk Manager presents the tree structure of the existing hard disk partition with the files on the bottom half of the screen. Size of the partition, free space, total number of files and number of subdirectories on that partition are shown. The disk manager will act on files in several ways including edit, execute, copy, move, rename, tag, sort and view.

Tutorials

MenuWorks comes with a tutorial although I found it lacking in depth for such a powerful program. I would suggest reading the manual or using the F1 Help key as you explore the many selections offered by MenuWorks.

How It Compares

The program came with a Product Comparison Checklist which I would find very helpful if I was trying to decide between MenuWorks and the other popular menuing program, Direct Access. I have used both now and would say they both have their place in the computer world as menuing systems.

Direct Access is less powerful but quite adequate for simple personal needs. For an office situation where many people would be using the same computer, MenuWorks would be my choice. With its many addition-

al features it ranks as one of the best menuing programs for the money.

MenuWorks Advanced
PC Dynamics
31332 Via Colinas #102
Weslake Village, CA. 91362
800-888-1741

I will be demonstrating MenuWorks during our general meeting on Sunday, October 6th. Come see in in action.

###

Librarian Asks for Help

I am looking for a club member to help me with our shareware library on a monthly basis. You would be taking over part of the responsibilities of creating and maintaining the monthly disks in our library. It would require about 6 hours a month. The individual needs the following qualifications.

- Good typist with communication skills. Must be able to spell or have a spelling checker for your wordprocessor (I use one!).
- Good knowledge of wordprocessing including block moves, search & replace, file import, etc. Your wordprocessor must be able to save the files you create in a pure ASCII format.
- Test, scan for viruses, compile, and collate shareware programs into our monthly shareware disks. I would supply a large number of files from which you could make the selections. I will continue to take care of "updates" to new versions.
- Construct "README" statements for each disk and make "directories" from which I will re-compile and update the "locator disk".

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After Dark

By Bob Ward
SLO Bytes PCUG

The first monitors to come out for personal computers several years ago were made with phosphors which were slow to dissipate once excited. If you walked away from your computer for a short period of time with any high intensity, non moving text or graphic on the screen, you risked the chance of having the image permanently burned into the screen. You can find these monitors in swap meets and stores carrying 2nd hand computer equipment. It isn't too difficult to read the screens and see what text or graphic was burned in.

Soon afterward screen blanking software was introduced to turn off the monitor screen or modify its appearance after a designated time of keyboard inactivity. As monitor screens became more sophisticated and phosphors more quick to react the need for screen blankers didn't appear as much a necessity.

Today screen blanking software has to give the user more than just a blank screen to survive the competitive market. AfterDark for Windows 3.0 is such a piece of software. Berkeley Systems program is one of the fastest selling, most widely used Windows software packages on the market. It comes with 35 different displays, and even more if you consider your bitmapped slide show.

--- Installation ---

Installation of After Dark is accomplished through Window's File Manager. You have the option of modifying the Windows "INI" file so After Dark is preloaded before starting a Windows application. By choosing the DOS option, After Dark will also blank the screen when running any program from DOS. Unfortunately

ly from DOS all you get is a darkened screen. All the other wild and wonderful graphics are not available except when blanking a Windows application. The program will also run from a shared volume on a network.

--- Choosing Your Screen ---

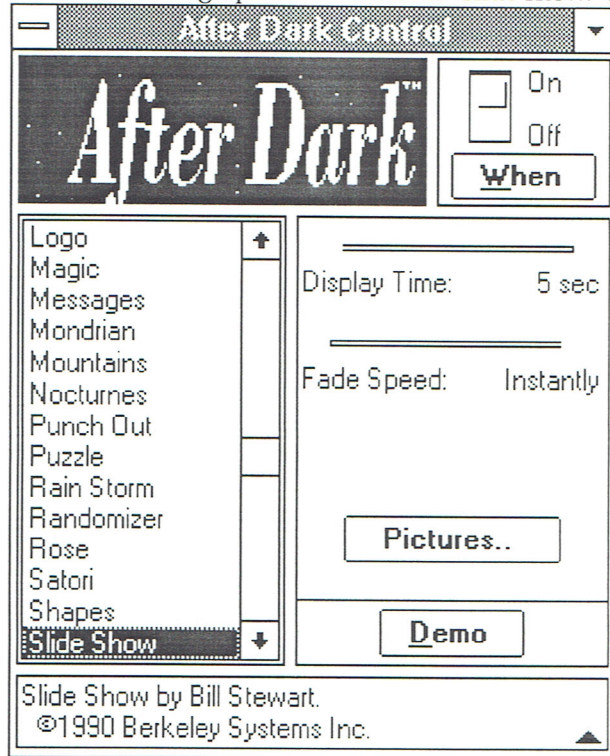
While in Windows just double click on the After Dark Icon to bring up

the Control Panel. Here you can choose from a myriad of graphic displays. You can usually choose the number of repeating graphics and the speed with which react on the screen. To describe all 35 is beyond the bounds of this article, but let me mention a few of the

more interesting ones. Perhaps the most bizarre graphic is "Flying Toasters". You heard me, toasters with "wings" fly across the screen in blazing colors. You can choose one toaster to eleven and even lighten or darken the color of the toast! Other more reasonable screens include a Can of Worms that multiply over the top of your Windows menus, Lasers, a spinning Globe, building mountains, Punchout where holes appear in your Windows display, Stained Glass and Vertigo, just to mention a few. You can also "Randomize" your screen blanker by choosing several graphics, clicking on randomize and let After Dark choose what will appear on the screen. Several of the graphics also come with sound if you so choose.

The manual doesn't come with a list of how the graphics will appear on

the screen. I found the easiest way to pick my favorites was to use the demo mode. Highlight your choice and click on demo to look at the graphic. The control box remains on the screen so you can speed up or slow down the graphic, brown your toast, or add and subtract sounds. My favorite and most useful graphic choice is "slide show." Here you can



created BMP (bit mapped) files of a graphic, text, or combination through Windows Paint, and save each creation to a different file name. Place all of them in a separate subdirectory in the order you want them to appear and chose

that subdirectory for your slide show. Then sit back and watch each graphic files you created flash across the screen for a selected interval of time.

I found it annoying having to set up the BMP's in this way. In future versions of After Dark it would be more practical to have the option of randomly selecting specific BMP files in any order to make a slide show presentation.

---Other Controls ---

By clicking on the "When" box several other control options appear. You can choose the number of minutes After Dark "sleeps" before activating. During sleep, After Dark monitors for keyboard or mouse activity. If none occurs during the designated sleep period up comes the blanker. The operator also has options to set control corners. Move the

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Fonter for Windows

By Jim Bigelow
SLO Bytes PCUG

I did it again. I am very capable of making plans, perfect and in detail, for Ga vacation, check list and all, only to find myself at the airport without my ticket. That is exactly what I did with Windows and my desk top publishing .project. I had everything I needed, a word processor, drawing program, spelling checker, thesaurus, style book, grammar checker, fonts galore, tons .of fonts, on and on. BUT, I missed Fonter, FONTER for Windows, a program that Windows missed, like so many others they missed. This gap in Windows was filled by a creator of shareware programs, without whom our computers would be greatly crippled.

George Campbell saw that need and filled it with Fonter. With Fonter, I have direct control over my fonts, I can find in a moment that font I need for a special heading or article. I can look at the font on the screen without first having to find a book and then look it up. Fonter lets me view all my fonts and in sizes from 6 point to 36 points by giving me a sample of each. It also will display the characters in ASCII and extended ASCII that saves considerable time searching through books for the tables. And especially with extended character sets changing between the font creating companies.

When I first obtained Fonter and loaded it in Windows, which was very easily done, I of course had to view my fonts, first each kind and then in size. I found the large sizes convenient for viewing the fonts in detail. After excitedly exploring my fonts arsenal, I moved on to Fonter's second capability, that of printing. I expected this to be a project, like load-

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After Dark Cont...

mouse to a (+) control corner and After Dark immediately blanks the screen. A (-) control corner means you can walk away from your Windows screen and After Dark will never activate. You can also pick your Hot Key combination to activate After Dark.

The Desktop Icon can be hidden during Window's "minimize". After Dark also monitors the computer's system activity. If system activity rises because a program is working in the background, After Dark will not engage, thus allowing maximum processing time to those background tasks. This is most notably used during file transfers, backups or mathematical processing where it might be highly undesirable to have the screen show "flying toasters" when in the middle of one of these tasks.

After Dark can be used to password protect entry into Microsoft Windows through the Shutter Lock box. If you choose to boot up in Windows it's a good idea to remember your password. This protection even works when trying to circumvent Windows by rebooting. If you forget your password, you will have to reboot with a floppy, delete the AD_PREFS.INI file and reinstall After Dark from a floppy disk.

By using the 'PrintScreen' key on the computer, After Dark will take screen shots, save them to Windows Clipboard where they can then be imported into Windows Paint for viewing and manipulation. The screen capture was used to create the figure in this article.

Manual

The manual is small (28 pages) and fairly complete. A fold out of all the color graphics was lacking though. I would have expected a list of the graphics and accompanying pictures since this is the backbone of the pro-

gram. Toward the end of the manual there is an "Advanced Features" section for programmers and technophiles. Although interesting to peruse, it was beyond my limited knowledge of programming.

Conclusion

This is a Windows program with which you can have fun. Besides the colorful graphics there are some practical applications. I especially like the slide show feature and found it useful at our computer club meetings to show agendas and coming events.

After Dark
Berkeley Systems
1700 Shattuck Ave.
Berkeley, CA. 94709
415-540-5535
\$49.95

You'll get a chance to see After Dark in action during the beginning of the 1:00 pm meeting.

###

Library Help cont...

- Copy 40 to 50 disks per month - 360K X 5.25" format.
- Work within a specific timetable.
- Come to a majority of the meetings.

I would prefer someone who lives in Los Osos although as long as we could meet for about one hour each month to exchange disks, it would not be a necessity. I will need someone who is conscientious, totally dependable and can fill ALL the above qualifications. Dependability is the name of the game. 250 members would be depending on both of us. If you can do the job and want the satisfaction of contributing to your club contact me at 756-2164 (work) or 528-0121 (home).

Bob Ward

Computers & Wives

Is it Possible to reconcile them?

Author unknown (probably by choice)
Indy PC News, March 1990

If you've owned your computer for over a year and not gotten divorced, yours is a very stable marriage. No doubt, you've already passed through the stage where your wife resented your staying up until one in the morning trying to figure out the simple one page documentation with the program you can't get to run properly to her alleging you love "that thing" more than her and you muttered a little too loudly you did.

After a week of warmed-over rice and tuna casserole, you decided the answer is really very simple. All

you need to do is introduce your wife to the joys of computing and she'll be passing away the hours debugging programs with you. Right? How is your attorney anyway? Do you get to visit the kids every weekend?

Maybe it isn't a cultural myth, women may very well not be suited to operating electronic devices. First off, you have to convince her she has a need to know how to operate it. "Leather Goddesses of Phobos" didn't seem to interest her much. Same for "Earl Weaver Baseball." Word processing must be the answer. She spends hours typing and retyping stuff on that old Royal she had in college. She'll love you for it. You might not even want to stay up until one after this is all over.

Remember the first time your kid asked you why it rains? After exhausting the obvious things like clouds, evaporation, and condensa-

tion you shout "because, just because, that's why." You are greeted with a storm of teardrops. Maybe you missed the point of the question. If you know the feeling, then you probably have an inkling of what the process of teaching a wife to operate a computer goes like. At each point you are greeted with the loaded "why?" as you gleefully embark on explanations of disk operating systems, data storage devices, and ram, you are told you are confusing her with facts. All she wants to know is why you have to put that stupid disk back in there anyway?

After countless protests that she'd rather do it the old fashioned way, you have her loading the word processor on her own and typing her graduate thesis. She's doing pretty

well really. If you could just get her to save her work to disk and then merge the

documents, the chances of disaster would be greatly reduced. You've curled up with a good book for the afternoon, something you haven't done since you bought the computer. The hours pass by uneventfully. You decide to stroll by the study and see how she's doing. Yes, she's still there pecking away at the keys. You say, "how's it going dear?" "Okay. But this thing better work right, I've retyped my whole paper."

There on the status bar you see she's on page 37. She must have a half a meg of text in ram! "Nothing to worry about dear. As long as you're saving every couple of pages not a thing can be lost." She retorts, "No way. I'm not going to risk messing something up." You enter into a heated and futile debate about the real risks. It's no use. You slouch against the wall in resignation. The wall with the switch that goes to the plug where the computer is plugged. Everything goes black then red.

It's not so bad being a bachelor again really. You kind of get used to those little microwave dinners. But, they could at least have given you custody of the computer.

Please ladies, take this article tongue-in-cheek. Next month I'll retype it and do a search and replace: husband for wife. *Bob*

###

Fonter

ing up a set of fonts, printing them and then moving on to the next set. But again I was wrong. I followed George's instructions, pressed a few buttons, and soon found my Hewlett Packard IIP laser printer running off a full page of my fonts. Each set of fonts contained a generous sample, enough for me to know what I am doing with my newsletter. I reran the printing process to try out a different size, 18 points, and found it working just like George said it would. Finally, I ran the third phase of Fonter, and used it as a "character set printer." For a first run, I set it up to print a page of keyboard characters. This gave me ASCII numbers 33 through 127. The line for each character contained the ASCII code number, its keyboard equivalent, plus the selected character. George emphasized this would be especially helpful when printing symbols and dingbats. I gave that a try, too. I found it easy to switch out of Ventura Publisher, click on the minimized Fonter icon, locate the dingbat I wanted, switch back to Ventura and type in the dingbat. After a few moments of printing, I created a notebook containing my fonts and their extended characters. I finally found my ticket and caught the plane. Or rather, George found it for me.

###

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 1:00 - 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

SLO Bytes PCUG Expenditures August, 1991	
Beginning Balance:	+1304.59
Expenses:	
Newsletter 08/19/91	- 111.49
Postage 08/21/91	- 200.00
Wildcat 3.0 BBS	- 57.63
<hr/>	
Deposits:	
Deposit 09/03/91	<u>+431.00</u>
Balance 09/04/91	<u>+1366.47</u>



DISCOUNTS

Star Computers 855 Morro Bay Blvd. Morro Bay 772-7827	5%	Any software in stock.
	10%	Paper, ribbons, cables, and other supplies.
Computer Logic 973 Foothill Blvd. #4 San Luis Obispo 544-8347	10%	Off list - all computers, software, computer peripherals, and products. Contact Bruce, Paul or Dave for discount.
WITCO Computers 3563 Sueldo, Blvd. B San Luis Obsipo 549-0811	\$100 10%	Off regular prices on Whitaker computers Off service Meet nearly any advertised price on same or similar computers. Bring ad to store.
Los Cerros Computers 466-4402	15% 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
 Have your mailing label handy for renewals
 Call 1-800-777-2547 and ask for your
 user group discount

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.

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