

HARD COPY

December's Meeting

By Jim Bigelow



If you missed December's meeting, you missed it all. We had a packed house, one of the biggest and best meetings of the year. We had fun and more fun. Prizes, gifts, sodas, coffee, cookies and goodies were available to everyone. Over 80 prizes were won by those who were present. Software such as Superstore, Lottery, T shirts, disks, file cabinets, on and on. These gifts were donated by many persons, some were brought from Comdex, some off the shelves of computer stores, others out of user's private stock. Among the donors were Computerland, George Campbell, Bob Ward, Terrie Sorgatz, Julius Lieber, Dave Wilcox and Jim Bigelow. A enormous hand of applause was given to all the contributors. Thank you. George gave us a superb demonstration on command line syntax dealing with the path command. Superb enough to inspire Kenny Kenyon to write us an article about it. Thank you Kenny. See PATH.

Continued page 2

NoRad Radiation Screen

By Bob Ward
SLO Bytes PCUG

Monitor radiation has come to the attention of many computer users over the past years. I haven't seen any conclusive evidence that the electromagnetic radiation produced by a CRT causes any permanent damage although perhaps I could blame my baldness on it. Nevertheless, individuals who spend hours in front of a monitor tend to develop eye strain and other associated problems faster than those who don't use a computer. The continuous fixed focal length is the culprit here. Most ophthalmologists recommend that you give your eyes a ten minute break hourly by focusing on objects in the room at different focal lengths.

The conditions under which you view your monitor can also cause eye problems. Monitors without anti-glare glass have highly reflective surfaces. This is bothersome if you are constantly trying to dodge the reflection of that incandescent light bulb in the ceiling. Fluorescent

lights can create their own set of problems for computer users also.

I don't know if it's just another gimmick to get you to buy a specific monitor, but several companies are coming out with new lines of "low radiation" monitors which adhere to the Swedish standards for CRT radiation. (Perhaps the Swedish people don't loose their hair like me by using low radiation monitors, but then most are blonds. Wonder if there is a correlation?) Also several companies have tried to alleviate eyestrain from CRT's by making screens that fit over the monitor, thus minimizing glare.

NoRad has taken this one step further by manufacturing a patented screen with fibers made from a combination of copper and nickel with a monofilament core and a black coating. Their literature says this eliminates 99.99% of the electric radiation and 50% of the higher frequency magnetic radiation. Since I

Continued page 3

CONTENTS

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| December's Meeting | 1 | SLO Bytes Library | 5 |
| NoRad Radiation Screen | 1 | PC Insustry News | 5 |
| The DOS Path Command | 2 | Calendar | 5 |
| Files On A Disk | 2 | Bits n' Bytes | 5 |
| Editorial | 3 | Birthdays | 6 |
| &&& | 4 | Geneology of Mice | 7 |
| This is a Virus Alert | 4 | Treasurer's Report | 9 |

Club Officers

President George Campbell
Vice President Sam Powers
Treasurer Bernice Meador
Secretary Bob Ward
Editor Jim Bigelow

December

George told us what happens when you install a second hard disk drive. As a number of us have accomplished this we found it most interesting. George, not only explained what happens with the partitions, which seem to go crazy but told us what to do about it, i.e., how to re-arrange our partitions to match their original setup.

He gave us some basics on batch files, how to write them and chkdsk how to use it.

The election went without incident. All officers of 1990, George, Sam, Bob and Bernice were nominated and re-installed by acclamation.

The Christmas party sale brought many goodies, a lot of computer "stuff," and money changed hands. Here's a list of winners at our annual December festivities: Bob Gold, Lach MacDonald, Dave Wilcox, Ed Glembotski, Bill Vance, Dick Brandlon, Bob Cabaniss, Doug Depue, Jules Lieber, Lynne Boisen, Phill Tarda, Bernice Meador, Jim Allen, Ed Montgomery, R.S. Jones, Shirley Smith, Dick Eilerman, Ian Hughes, Harry Clark, Eric De Haan, Tom Muran, M. Morrison, Jean Hafer, Terry Scott, Bill Roch, Ed Reiten, Bob Grover, Harry Rodman, Bob Hunt, Ben Brown, Rick Steinberger, Jim Simmons, Jeff Spry, Jerry Deitz, Jim Childers, Hank Spence, Willard Osibin, L.J. Kenyon, Doug Warschauer, Bob Valpey, Don Diller, Melcena Brixey, Kip Ablin, Michele Calbert, Richard Shirley, Ron Schlotterbeck, Bill Cleatsoway, Clyde Tacker, Sam Powers, Lorraine Bautts, Steve Dison, Ed Sauer, Elizabeth Warren, Tim Bittner, Peter Sutherland, Doris Searcy, R.B. Allison, Bob Crum, Josh Richards, Tom Dougherty, John Schuster, Jim Buenrostro, Richard Sharp, John Lankes, Red Haworth, Bob Kaneen, Phill Begley, Robert Boyd, Kurt Hillmer, Craig Corwin, Joe Ferraro, Vince Salvador, Ken Dully, Jeff Brenneman, Bill Leonard, Bill Palmerston, Virginia Sawyer, Ken Jones, Marilyn Jenkins, Bob Kvalstad, John Rhode, Val Valiante, Dick Trueman, Mihran Simonian, Frank Cardoza, Art Wilson, Tom Burke, Ernest Werbel, Ken Friend, and others I may have forgotten.

The DOS Path Command

By L.J. "Kenny" Kenyon
SLO Bytes PCUG

One of the questions asked of George at the December meeting was that he explain the DOS Path command. I am writing this in the hope that it will help, not only to impress his answer on your mind but also on mine.

When a Path command is given, it tells DOS which drives, directories and sub-directories to look in when a command is issued. My DOS book says;

PATH

Purpose: sets a command search path.

Syntax:

path[drive:][path];[drive:][path]...

but that leaves a great deal to be explained. If you want to be able to start your application programs from whatever drive or directory that is active you can do so with the path command. For example, if you have DOS in C:\DOS, utilities in C:\UTIL, Wordperfect 5.1 in C:\WP51, Dbase III+ in C:\DBASE, Lotus 123 in D:\123, and Wordperfect 4.2 in D:\WP42 you could include each of these directories in a path statement in your Autoexec.bat file. The line in that file would read; "Path=C:\DOS;C:\UTIL;C:\WP51;C:\DBASE;D:\123;D:\WP42."

After booting up with this in the AUTOEXEC.BAT you could issue the appropriate application command no matter what disk or directory was active. For example if you were at the A: prompt and wanted to start Lotus 123 you could simply type 123 and enter. DOS would search A: for 123.COM, 123.EXE and 123.BAT first but if none of these were found it would go to the beginning of the path and search C: for the same three files, then C:\DOS, C:\UTIL, C:\WP51, C:\DBASE, and then C:\123 where it would find 123.EXE and start the program.

There are two problems however. First it takes a long time for the computer to search all those drives. Secondly, with

this example both Wordperfect 5.1 and Wordperfect 4.2 use WP as the startup command. If any drive or directory, other than D:\WP42 is active you can never start version 4.2 because DOS will find W[EXE] in C:\WP51 and start Wordperfect 5.1 before it ever gets to D:\WP42.

The solution to both of these problems is in batch files in a directory of their own. With such files our path could read; "Path= C:\DOS;C:\UTIL;C:\BAT". A batch file for each of the application programs would be in the Bat directory and the name of the two Wordperfect batch files would be WP51 and WP42. Each of the bat files would first change to the appropriate directory and then start the program itself. This would decrease the time needed for the path search and would enable you to start any number of programs that have the same start up command.

Files On A Disk

From "The Frugal Hacker"

A column by Bob Stephan,

Why can you put only 346 1K files on a 360K floppy disk? After the disk has been formatted, there are only 354 cluster left on the disk for data (362496 bytes divided by 1024 is 354K). But only 112 file names can be put in the root directory. In order to get more than 112 files on a 360K floppy, you must create a subdirectory as the 112th file. A subdirectory can only hold 32 file names before it has to be expanded to another cluster, so by the time the disk is full of 1K files, the subdirectory has expanded to 8K. Out of the 354K available, take away the 8K for the subdirectory, and the answer is 346 small files (try It). But remember that no matter how small a file is, it will occupy one cluster of 1024 bytes (1K on a 360K or 720K diskette).

Editorial

As newly appointed editor of "your" SLO Bytes Hard Copy I want to say a few words and express my intentions. No promises, but I do want to outline some of my goals for the group's newsletter.

I intend to continue the good work that has gone into our newsletter, and when possible improve upon it. One of my goals is to get the members more actively involved in the newsletter, actually because it is YOUR newsletter, not mine, nor the officials, but YOURS.

I have asked for contributors and now we have two new writers. We are in need of many more writers to make the newsletter OURS rather than a collection of articles from other groups. While perusing newsletters from other groups I notice that many of them fill their newsletter with articles written by their members. Then it becomes THEIR newsletter.

Articles that can be submitted are numerous and varied. They can be from simple little ideas, such as DOS helps, batch files, etc. to complex articles that require considerable research, time and possibly money from phone calls and travel. They are all rewarding, both in achievement and at times with free software, some of it being shareware and some commercial. Check with me if you want to start writing and need ideas, or assistance.

I would like to start a question and answer column, because many come to the meeting with questions and don't always get a chance to ask them. Some questions require a bit more than an on the spur of the moment answer, but some thought and perhaps research.

Our newsletters contain many answers to our questions, and often we need to be reminded just where to look and find them. Our library contains disks of all issues of Hard Copy, along with an index accessed through PC File. Those in need of answers to their problems, and reviews and evaluations of software, should acquire these disks and familiarize themselves with them. New members will find much valuable information about the operation of the group and what it has to offer.

NoRad

have no way of measuring this, I will assure their literature is correct.

The screen comes with a grounding wire that you can attach to any ground next to or on your computer. You are probably familiar with the static electricity generated by a color monitor. When you first turn on your monitor with the NoRad screen in place, you can hear the static being dissipated on the screen. This also alleviates most dust which is attracted to your screen because of the static electricity.

The NoRad screen fits on the plastic facing of your monitor and is attached by four Velcro tabs which have a two sided "sticky tape". Installation is easy and takes just a couple minutes. It is important that you order the correct size though. I first tried the 14" NoRad screen on a 13" NEC monitor. It didn't fit because the screen is inset in a plastic beveled case. Edge to edge, the plastic case on the NEC would need a 15" screen to be large enough to attach to the plastic face. On the second monitor, a 14" VGA ViewPerfect with a dot pitch of .28, the NoRad did fit, although barely. From this you can see the case size is more important than how one measures the diagonal of the monitor.

For text I have my color monitor set with yellow text on a black background. I have my monitor set at eye level so I can look directly at the center of the screen. Without the NoRad screen the text is clear and crisp. After placing the NoRad screen on the monitor I noticed some deterioration of crispness especially in the corners of the monitor. I would assume this is due to the angle of view between the holes in the fibers. Viewing directly through the screen offers the maximum space between the fibers. Viewing at an angle, such as in the corners, reduces the apparent space between the fibers. This produces an annoying moire effect depending on the distance between your eyes and the monitor surface. Because of my eyesight and lack of prescription computer glasses my normal viewing distance is about 18".

If I move my viewing distance back to about 2 1/2 feet the corner problem disappears although there is a very slight drop-off in brightness. The text was still readable when switching the monitor to either the 132X25 or 132X43 video mode.

I looked at the NoRad screen with an 18X magnifying glass and found both the pore size smaller and the fiber size larger in comparison to an "anti-glare only" screen I had on another monitor. This is understandable considering the fibers are layered metal around a monofilament core.

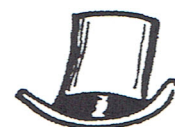
In conclusion, if you are looking for radiation protection, the purchase of a low radiation monitor is probably your best bet. If you can not afford a new monitor than this would be an good, less expensive alternative.

Prices for the NoRad screen range from \$129 to \$349 for the 19" Super Custom Mega model. I have several user group discount coupons which will save you \$20. They must be redeemed by January 31, 1992 and will be available at our January 5th meeting. At this time you will also get a chance to see the NoRad Shield in operation.

NoRad Corporation
1549 11th Street
Santa Monica, CA. 90401
(800)262-3260

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A special thanks to Gus Thomasson and Bob Hunt for my new trademark



Ed

&&&

By Jim Bigelow
SLO Bytes PCUG

Ampersand, what's that? Just last week I had need to use the "&" sign that is on my keyboard. Nothing unusual about that, but this time it jumped at me and said something like, "Who am I?" "What am I?" "What do I mean?"

Being a bit perplexed at its brashness to question me about itself after I had used the sign all of life, and not even being sure of the pronunciation, I turned to Webster for help. Sure enough I didn't know how to pronounce it. I have said, "am per sand," "amp er sand," "am pers and," and perhaps a few other mumbled utterings. Webster's lexicographer, breaks the word into three syllables and claims it is pronounced "am per sand." Ok, I'll buy that pronunciation, it sounds better than anything else I've used.

Webster goes on to say that the word is a contraction, which means that it is a shortening of a word, syllable or word group by omission of a sound or letter, or a form produced by such shortening. In this case "ampersand" is a shortening of a word group, more specifically, the latin, [am per se and]. And just what does all that mean? Webster's lexicographer gives a literal definition [(the sign or character) "&" (is the word) "and"]. Interesting! So, "&" means "and." Just what I always thought it meant. It represents the latin word "et" (and), as in the famous phrase "et tu Brute." All this for one little sign on the keyboard?

This one is meant to be read at 3: O'clock in the morning, because that is when I wrote it.

###

This is a Virus Alert!

By Park S. Gerald

PC REPORT, August '91
The Boston Computer Society

Introduction

A few weeks ago, my PC began to act strangely. Attempts to copy files from the floppy drive to the hard disk often were unsuccessful, and the screen displayed the message "Sector not found error reading drive A." At first I interpreted this as indicating that the high density floppy drive on my PS/2 was defective and made plans to replace it. Soon thereafter, an associate of mine began to experience problems with his floppy drive as well. Inasmuch as the two of us had exchanged disks, it appeared likely that our problems might instead be due to a virus. Further studies confirmed that the JOSHI virus had infected both our systems. Fortunately, this virus can be readily diagnosed and treated once its presence is suspected.

Our experience demonstrates how important it is for PC users to be aware of the symptoms caused by the JOSHI virus and of the measures available to detect and eradicate it.

The Symptoms Caused by the JOSHI Virus

The first indications of infection are the appearance of the "Sector not found" error message while copying files from the floppy drive to the hard disk, as mentioned above. Soon thereafter, the format function begins to behave abnormally. Eventually the Format command produces only 360K floppy disks (3.5 inch size) instead of the expected 1.44MB. Disks formatted on the infected machine cannot be read by other machines.

The problems with copying from the floppy drive to the hard disk could initially be circumvented by using the Norton Utilities (Version 4.5), which

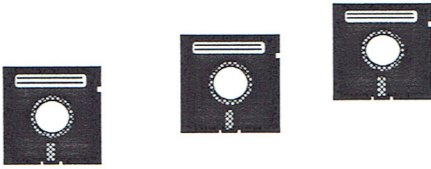
would still copy individual files. After another few days, the program reported that the disk could not be read. All this time, file operations confined to the hard disk remained unimpaired.

How do Viruses Spread?

In retrospect, even a little knowledge about how viruses behave would have made it easy for me to determine if the difficulties with my floppy drive were mechanical in origin or the result of a virus. According to McAfee Associates, a company specializing in dealing with computer virus problems, viruses can be separated into two types, file viruses and boot sector viruses. File viruses invade individual files and are transferred whenever an infected file is copied to a disk or to another machine. Boot sector viruses, on the other hand, usually reside in the boot sector of a disk (These viruses can also transiently appear in RAM.) These viruses are spread from floppy disk to hard disk during the booting process, or from hard disk to floppy disk whenever a disk is formatted. For hard disk machines, which normally boot from the hard disk contamination usually occurs only if an infected floppy is present in drive A when the machine is turned on. This usually happens when a floppy disk is accidentally left in the machine after it was last used.

When the possibility that my floppy drive was defective first arose, I should have performed a simple test. I should have booted the computer with a write-protected, original (and hopefully virus-free) DOS startup disk in drive A. Formatting a floppy disk (using the A:FORMAT command to ensure that the format program came from the startup disk) would then have told the story. If the drive is defective, the formatting problem will still be present. If a virus is the cause, then formatting will proceed normally. Experiments performed after the JOSHI virus which is a boot sector virus) was identified confirmed that this test works as expected.

Continued Page 6



SLO Bytes Library

This month I'm cleaning Windows or that is adding several Windows 3.0 programs to our library. All those disks followed by a "W" are Windows 3.0 files.

#462 MSKRM311 - long overdue upgrade of Kermit communications program. This is an update moved from #316 due to increase of file size. For all you modem addicts try GOVT91 or 800NUM2. Both are self explanatory.

#463W FONTSH4 - FontShow 4.0. Show and print all your ATM fonts through Windows. ROCKFORD - Here's a chance to make business cards. Written by our Prez in Visual Basic. SCAP10 - screen capture. WINEN10 - Bench marks tests through Windows.

#464W ZM301 - Zip Manager 3.01. selectively compress/decompress ZIP, ARC-E and LHarc files. WFNPC - Patch for Corel Draw's WFNBoss. WDBWIN10 - Windbase version 1.0. Windows database. APPKT11A - Windows application kit.

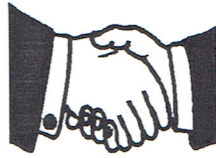
#465W Adobe TypeManager fonts.

#466W HORSE - If your Windows screen isn't cluttered enough add a running horse in the corner. KF201 - KFree - shows amount of free space on each drive. LAVA - requires a 386, Lava lamp I suppose. MAGGIE - BMP cartoon character. VBRUN100 - must accompany any Windows program written in Visual Basic. WSMOOTH - allows smooth forward and backward of text from within Windows.

Updates:

- #403 PKLTE10 to PKLTE113
- #462 Kermit updated and moved from #316 to #462 due to size increase.
- #340 FFF333 to FFF37
- #419 CLEAN & SCANV 82 to 84
- #450 DIRX103 to DIRX104

###



Welcome to the new members who joined us in December.

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Wade Brim | 528-2143 |
| Robert Cabaniss | 461-9561 |
| Rick Colglazier | 528-5480 |
| R.W. Kaneen | 595-7191 |
| Richard Sharp | 773-3419 |
| Jan Ullman | 238-9522 |

###

PC Industry News Abstracts

By Kathy Yakal

SLO Bytes PCUG

- Intuit's Quicken Now Features Windows Look Intuit Inc. has begun shipping a Windows version of its popular small business financial management software, Quicken. Quicken for Windows is aimed at small business and home PC users who want to organize their finances, pay bills, and prepare budgets and financial statements. Suggested retail price is \$69.95. -PCwk, 11/4/91, p 29

Continued page 8

Bits n' Bytes

- There are two new Bulletin Boards in SLO county. Try Jerry's BBS in Arroyo Grande by calling 473-2414 or The Nasy Old Lady BBS in Los Osos at 528-7341. New BBS's especially need local support so call them up and say hi.
- The BBS may be moved sometime after the beginning of the year. Although I have the new number I will not release it at this time barring any phone company complications. To obtain the new number after the BBS has been moved, just call the old number. Reference will be made to the new number on an opening screen.
- On Sunday mornings wake up to John Dvorak on 680 AM. He will fill your cereal bowl with bits and bytes from 10am to noon.

Calendar

J
A
N

5th

- January 5th Marty U'ren will show the Laser Master line of printer hardware.
- February 2nd Borland International with John Montague will demonstrate Paradox
- March '92 Instant Office by David Dilworth

###

The Sines of the Zerodiac Your Technical Horoscope©

By Al Gorithm

Reproduced by permission of the author... The infamous and humorous Saint \$ilicon*

December 22 to January 19 Sign = Capacitor

You are a Capacitor and you know your own limits. Architecture is very important to you. You are deep, prudent, firm and cautious. Often unnoticed or appreciated, you still are persevering and relentless. Your do or diode attitude seldom switches. You cling to life with great TENacity. Capacitors work well alone but can be overbearing. Since your power is often low, you must learn to conserve energy and use it wisely.

A happy birthday to the following members of SLO Bytes. May you always be 29!

Dick Brandlon 01/01
Art Day 01/10
David Wilcox Jr. 01/11
Marty U'Ren 01/11
Rick Colglazier 01/15
Lynne Boisen 01/18
John Schuster 01/22
Joe & Elaine Johnson 01/25
Roger Vore 01/26
Verne Moore 01/29
Bob Fisher 01/30
Earle Mayfield 01/31
Gary & Phyllis Simms 01/31

* ASCIIstrology comes from Jeffrey Armstrong's book, The Binary Bible, King Job's Perversion. If you want over 200 pages of laughter, all computer related, this book may be purchased for \$16.95 (includes shipping).

Saint \$ilicon
1803 Mission Street., #174
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(408)458-0213

###

Virus

Detecting and Identifying a Virus

Once you are concerned that your machine might be infected with a virus, your next step is to find a tool which will detect its presence. A number of "antivirus" programs are now on the market, but can they detect all the known viruses? Since new viruses are constantly appearing, how often are these programs being updated? Constantly updated virus detection and identification programs are available on an electronic bulletin board that is devoted to computer viruses. This bulletin board is variously identified as managed either by the Computer Virus Industry Association (CVIA) or by McAfee associates. This confusion originates from the fact that John McAfee, president of McAfee Associate, is also chairman of CVIA.

The bulletin board can be accessed 24 hours a day [call (408)988- 4004, 1200 or 2400 baud, and 8N1 line settings]. The programs on this board are ShareWare, for home use, and must not be used by commercial firms or government agencies unless they purchase a license. Currently available programs include a scanning program which can detect any of the 243 presently known viruses and their variants (the total including variants is now 5051).

Another of the programs available is one which will remove from a computer most of the viruses that can be identified. These tools enabled me to identify and remove the JOSHI virus from my computer. The programs I used were Scan88 and Clean88. These programs can also be downloaded from the IBMPC User's Group Bulletin Board. The telephone numbers for this BBS are listed on page 4 of PC REPORT. Since the JOSHI virus infects and alters the boot sector of floppy disks, removal of the virus from a floppy makes it difficult or impossible to subsequently recover the files. It is thus necessary first to transfer the files from the infected floppy to another disk

before eradicating the virus. As noted previously, this can be done to the less severely affected disks by using the NORTON UTILITIES. Presumably other utility programs could also be used.

Where Did the Virus Come From?

According to McAfee Associate, the JOSHI virus was first detected in India in June 1990. Since then, it has been reported from many different parts of the world. An average of six calls per week is received by McAfee Associate regarding the JOSHI virus. This suggests that a significant proportion of PCs are currently infected. The gradually progressive nature of the infection increases the chance that an infected computer will serve as an infecting focus before its infected state is recognized and the virus can be eradicated.

Where did my computer "catch" the virus?

So far, I have not been able to trace the path of the infection, but several facts are interesting. My associate, whose computer became infected during the same time period, mentioned that he had sent his computer to a repair shop shortly before the infection became evident. Steve Gibson, in his column in INFOWORLD (May 13, 1991), described the appearance of the JOSHI virus in a company's computers after a computer had been repaired. Although the repair shop can not be definitely incriminated in either case, repair shops are nonetheless likely sources of viral infection.

When a computer behaves abnormally, it is often sent to a computer repair shop. Since the abnormal behavior will at least sometimes be due to virus infection, the repair shop is a likely place for viruses to reside. Shouldn't computer users therefore require repair shops to specify the measures they take to prevent viral contamination? Shouldn't computer consultants who prepare your programs also specify

Continued next page

Virus

their preventive measures? Don't make the same mistake I did. Don't assume that viral infections only happen to other people. Don't wait until your computer is infected and you are in danger of losing much time and valuable data before taking preventive steps.

Summary

Computer virus infections are probably much more common than most of us realize. It only takes one infection to jar you out of your complacency. Why not take steps to prevent the problem, especially since the preventive steps are rather simple? If you would like to learn more about computer viruses, read *COMPUTER VIRUSES, WORMS, DATA DIDLERS, KILLER PROGRAMS, and OTHER THREATS TO YOUR SYSTEM*, By John McAfee and Colin Haynes (ST. MARTIN'S PRESS, 1989, \$16.05, paperback).

Acknowledgments

Thanks are owed to the staff of McAfee Associates (423 Cheeny Street, Santa Clara, CA 95054-0253, telephone (408) 988-3832), especially Martha Schramm, for their patience and courtesy in answering my questions. Special thanks are owed to John McAfee for establishing the Computer Virus Industry Association and their valuable bulletin board. Author Park Gerald is president of PM Associates, a personal computer consulting company specializing in solving laser printing problems.

####

Want to sell your old computer or computer peripherals. Advertise in the *HardCopy*. No charge to current members.

Genealogy of Mice

By David T. Martin

The PC Register, August, 1991
East Tennessee PCUG

...And if elected I promise a chicken in every pot and a mouse on every desk! Isn't that how it went? Ten years ago we set traps for mice and now there's one on almost every desktop. If you use a Macintosh, you can get by without your keyboard sometimes, but if you lose your mouse you might as well go home early. Since the release of Windows 3.0, there has been a veritable mouse invasion! Who are these mice, where did they come from, and what do they want?

Doug Englebart built the first one in 1963 while at Stanford Research Institute to be used with a computer called an Augment. The original mouse was a wooden boxy affair with a single pushbutton in the wrong corner and the tail coming out the other way. Here is what Doug Englebart says about the aboriginal mouse:

We were experimenting with lots of types of devices at the time. Once the mouse proved itself to us, we tested it against several other devices, and it clearly won. I felt that until something better came along, the mouse would definitely remain the best pointing device for computer users.

This first mouse was extremely similar to Radio Shack's Color Computer Mouse. It was a resistive device with two variable potentiometers operating at right angles to each other. I have used the CoCo mouse briefly. It was functionally the same as a joystick and did in fact use the joystick port. It lent itself very well to BASIC programmers because the interrupts it used were built in to the STRIG and JOYSTK commands in GW-BASIC.

The first digital mouse did not arrive until the early seventies when Jack S.

Hawley built one for Xerox. This one was similar to the aboriginal mouse and fewer than a hundred were sold. As a parallel interest, rabbits are not indigenous to Australia. They were originally imported from England and there were only 16 of them at the time. In this same country I understand that now there are thousand-mile-long fences to keep the rabbits at least regulated. Is there a moral to all this?

The first MicroSoft Mouse was built in the early 80s by David Strong in Seattle. This mouse measured 2.5" x 4" x 1.25" and had two push buttons on its sloped front where the cord attached. Kay Nishi, MicroSoft V.P. and Raleigh Roark took the clay and thumbtack prototype to Japan to get the first real-live serial mouse built. If you have an occasion to dissect a broken mouse some time, notice the two slotted wheels and the general way it is constructed. It really was a piece of work to get the encoders down that small.

In 1983, MicroSoft released the MicroSoft Bus Mouse for the IBM-PC. This was a two-button mechanical mouse with quite a bit of on-board electronics. The first true RS232 connected mouse appeared a year later. This was the first-generation mouse. The second-generation mouse featured 200 ppi (points per inch) sensitivity. Mouse driver versions had reached 5.0. Ever notice that things don't seem to really shine until the version number of software can't be counted on one hand? MicroSoft Mouse version 6.0 was released in September, 1986 and was a major overhaul of mouse software. It featured, amongst other things, a control panel so the sensitivity could be adjusted by the user whenever he wanted, and an optional international version of the mouse driver generated messages in any of nine foreign languages. At present, the MicroSoft Mouse drivers are up to version 7.04.

We are presently in the Third Generation of mice. The genuine MicroSoft Mouse is a sleeker, kinder, gentler

Continued next page

Mice

mouse. It has a front-mounted ball, two pushbuttons, and is shiny! In the summer of 1988, MicroSoft celebrated the sale of its one millionth mouse. This figure presumably does not include any of the Logitech mice, Radio Shack mice, Commodore Amiga mice, or Apple Macintosh mice. Here is what Cary Lu, author of The Apple Macintosh Book, has to say about mice:

...There is probably a mouse in your future.

If you are thoroughly captivated by mouse history and cannot wait for the next installment in the mouse saga, there is an entirely excellent book available from MicroSoft Press, MicroSoft Mouse Programmer's Reference, 325 pages and includes two 5 1/4" diskettes, and everything you ever wanted to know about mouse history and programming. The cost is about \$30, and there is a toll-free ordering number: 800-638-3030. And the best part is, Windows is not required!

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Abstracts

- Gateway 2000 Cuts PC Prices Direct-mail firm Gateway has cut prices on several 286-, 386-, and 486-based systems; the company's fully configured 33MHz 486-based PC is now \$2,955, a cut of \$400. -PCwk, 11/4/91, p 21
- LapLink Pro Offers 'Smart' PC File Transfers Traveling Software's LapLink Pro is a 'smart' file transfer program for laptop PCs that simplifies modem connections for user unfamiliar with telecommunications terminology. Cost is \$149.95 through December 31, and \$169.95 thereafter. -INF, 10/14/91, p 42
- GeoWorks Pro, Personal Office Products to Debut GeoWorks will soon introduce the Personal Office Series for its graphic environment Ensemble, which includes a word processor, graphic designer, and desktop manager; each is \$69.99.. Another new product, GeoWorks Pro, lets users view and launch different applications and files from within Ensemble; it also adds an intermediate user level to the existing novice and expert levels. The product will be bundled with Borland's Quattro Pro SE. Shipping by the end of November, it's expected to list for \$199.99. -INF, 10/21/91, p 15
- AllType for DOS, Windows Converts and Customizes Fonts Across Formats AllType for DOSTM converts fonts across formats, letting users preserve their investment in a specific font format when they move to software or hardware that requires a different one. AllType supports formats including TrueType, Bitstream Fontware, Nimbus Q, and FastFont. List price is \$79.95. -INF, 10/21/91, p 16
- Rival DOS Versions Square Off A head-to-head look at DR DOS 6.0 and MS-DOS 5.0. DR DOS scored higher in quality of features, enhancements, and hard-disk management, while MS-DOS' strong points were ease of installation and software compatibility and stability. -PCwk, 10/21/91, p 131
- Paradox SE is a Little Less Filling Than Paradox 3.0 Paradox SE is a stripped-down version of Paradox; several of the programming tools have been removed. \$99.95. -INF, 10/28/91, p 83
- Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Batch Files Most people don't take advantage of the power of batch files because writing them resembles programming too closely. This articles explores the processes of creating, naming, and running batch files, and includes a list of downloadable batch file tools. Part one. -PCC, 11/91, p 172

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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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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.

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

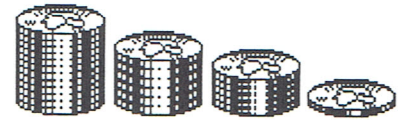
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December, 1991

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