

Slo
Bytes

Hard Copy

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San Luis Obispo PC Users Group

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What's New

• by Bob Ward

WELL IT WILL BE NICE to have George and Kathy back after their weekend journey to Las Vegas for the Electronics Show. It sounds more interesting and fun than Comdex... not as many people for one thing.

We did survive though, thanks to Phil Wagner who pretty much did the early meeting in 286. We hope he cleared up some problems about Slirp or was that Slurp, Netscape and Trumpet Winsock for SloNet. This has generated some confusion in the past for those who signed up for the service. Hopefully some of that confusion is behind us now. Speaking of Internet services I heard from one of our members that Call America is raising their prices. I guess they already have done so for those signing up after September. We "old timers" got an e-mail message last week to the effect that Call America prices are going up from \$30 per month to \$45 per month February 15th. If this seems a bit "pricey" for you, try Netcom. Remember all those packages Gus Thomasson brought to the meeting last month. That's right, they're the ones. I think their rates are about \$20 per month. Of course the most inexpensive way is still Slo Net.

Speaking of prices, I need to retract a statement made in the newsletter last month about the price of the Felix mouse. One of our members called them looking for the special quoted by me in the newsletter. Unfortunately that price was off by about \$10.00. I

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Travan-1 the All-in-One Tape Backup System

• by Douglas Depue,
SLO Bytes PCUG

MANY SLO-BYTES MEMBERS have relied on the economical and dependable QIC40/80 tape format to store their hard drive data. The QIC-40 stores up to 120MB of compressed data while QIC-80 can handle up to 250MB and the recently introduced QIC80XL tapes can hold up to 350MB. Some have used the QIC-80-WIDE tape drives which can store up to 420MB. With the introduction of Windows 95 and the programs that are designed to work with it, we are finding it necessary to upgrade our hard drives to allow for partitions of 500-600MB for C:\ drives and C:\ drive back-up.

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Calendar

- Feb. 4 — Intuit will give us a preview of Turbo Tax for Windows, 1995. Oh boy, I get to pay taxes again this year.
- Mar. 3 — Intuit: Yes, they will be back again, but this time with Richard Katz who will show Intuit's latest Windows '95 Electronic Financing. Be there and you'll be the first to see their new releases, including t's ___ll_r_ha_a_re___o_. (Sorry, that's he would tell me). Of course he'll have special deals and give-a-way's for those who attend.
- Mar. 31 — DogByte Development: Stationary Store, Sticker Store, and more.
- Apr. 7 — Easter Sunday (no meeting)
- May 5th — CBS Designs: Tele-magic Contact Management

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ASAP

Fast & Easy Presentation Software

• by Bob Ward, SLO Bytes PCUG

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO MAKE PRESENTATIONS the quick and easy way. It seems most programs that do this are made for the very bright person, or someone who makes presentations for a living and is willing to devote many many hours learning the program. Finally along comes a program that lets you put off creating those computer presentations to the very last minute. Appropriately it's called ASAP from SPC (Software Publishing Corporation). It uses a process called Intelligent Formatting; a great name for those of who are not too intelligent in creating computer presentations. The program comes on two 3.5" floppies, installs through Windows in just a minute or more and only uses 2.2 MEGS of that precious hard disk space. It creates a program group called ASAP along with 10 icons including a total of six sample presentations and a multitude of different layouts.

The manual is small (25 pages) but does more than just show you how to make a presentation. It shows you how to ask the right questions so your presentation will be appropriate to the occasion and correct audience.

ASAP uses a logical approach to creating a presentation. It starts with an outline. The main subject areas, which in a regular outline would be in Roman Numerals, become the titles of the individual slides. The subheaders under each header become the body text of the slide. After your outline is finished, which can be made in any wordprocessor and imported, you can preview the individual slides. This is the next step in creating your presentation with ASAP. This is also where the fun begins. You have a choice of several different text layouts, including organizational chart, flow chart, row table, and Pyramid, just to name a few. Click on any of these options and instantly your slide is transformed into that layout. Should the type be too small or the font incorrect this can all be changed with the click of an icon.

You can easily change between layouts, designs and color schemes. There are 13 premade layouts to choose from and 17 color schemes including textures, gradients and more. The combinations are limitless. Tables can be

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SLO
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See the latest Software
Get Answers to Your Questions
Checkout our Shareware Library
Hundreds of Files on our BBS
Special Interest Groups

Library News

• by Bob Ward

HERE'S THE NEW FILES for this month. Hope you enjoy them.

#668

AUTOWN19—Automated' Internet for Windows. Gets NEW FILES from Internet sites, downloads them, Posts Usenet messages, sends E-Mail, and obtains WWW pages fully automated!

#669

WWFW10—Weight Watch for Windows v1.0 <ASP> Record your caloric intake and resulting weight fluctuations. Unique graphing feature allows you to view/print your results over time, showing the effect your eating habits have on your weight. A necessity for the overindulgent holidays.

#670

WPIM50N—This PIM is perhaps the easiest one you will ever use. A full drag and drop interface is included with a perpetual calendar & planner to the year 9000. Store up to 30,000 entries in the Rolodex Style Phonebook. Dial, Fax Documents, Create business letters, schedule appointments, Edit, save, & print text files, Create beautiful reports of all. <ASP>

#671

SERCOM10—Serial communication between PC and drive units.

SKILLAB2—English Language Skills Development Laboratory.

ABOOL20—Searches files and directories for text.

ANAL141—Stocks, Charts, Moving Averages, Trade Signals.

UNGAME20—No Games at Work: finds and removes games.

INI100—Modify .INI files by DOS 6.X multi-boot.

MALLOC13—Check for memory leaks with MSVC1.5 aka MSC 8.00c.

ATAINF09—Display IDE HD/CD-ROM capabilities.

The Art of Removing TrueType Fonts

- by Ed Stroiwas "Blue Chip News"
Saginaw Valley Computer Associates

I DO NOT THINK I HAVE TOO MANY TRUETYPE FONTS installed on my system, but then, maybe I do. It is all a matter of opinion, need and desire as to the number of fonts one has installed on a system. I decided to prime for practice using the Windows 3.1 control panel Fonts utility to add or remove the fonts.

THE QUICK AND SIMPLE WAY TO REMOVE FONTS

1. Open File Manager to the C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory;
2. Scross through the list of files and select the .TTF files for the fonts you want to remove from your hard disk.
3. Copy the selected files to drive A:\(diskette) for safety and to re-install if desired later.
4. From Program Manager, open the Control Panel and double click on the Fonts icon.
5. Select the fonts you want to remove and click OK
6. Click an X in the 'Delete Font File From Disk" and press Enter.

They are now long gone!

THE QUICK AND SIMPLE WAY TO REPLACE FONTS

If you copied the files to diskette you can re-install them. The procedure to re-install is:

1. Go to the Control Panel
2. Double Click on the Fonts icon
3. Click on the Add Fonts button
4. Select Drive A:\ (Windows automatically looks for all the font names.) Click on Select All and then OK (Windows will automatically install all of the True Type fonts it found on the diskette.)

They're back!

That's it! You can stop reading now or follow me. I am of a curious nature so I can't stop. **WARNING:** the following may be hazardous to your thinking: Adding a True Type Font in Windows is Like Building a Fire. When you

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WANTED FOR RECYCLING:

SURPLUS COMPUTER HARDWARE, SOFTWARE (WITH MANUALS), peripherals, parts, etc. for PC's, Apples's, Mac's, Commodores, etc. In response to an article in US News and World Report a few weeks ago, Shirley Smith and her husband will deliver them to a recycling center in Mt. View. Volunteers refurbish, rebuild and deliver computers at no cost to schools.

Lighter recycables can be brought to the February meeting. For larger/heavier items call Shirley at 466-4075 to make arrangements for pick-up or delivery.

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CUT TO THE CHASE: Use FontMinder

- Lifted from the back of the FontMinder box <g> —Teri

FONTMINDER 3.0 is a must have utility for anyone with over ten fonts installed in Windows. FontMinder enables you to install and de-install your Postscript or TrueType fonts on the fly without having to restart Windows. Simply drag your font or group of fonts from the Font Library list to the Installed Fonts list, click install and your fonts are automatically installed. If you prefer to have fonts grouped according to style, client or document—create a Font Pack. Font Packs let you install predefined groups containing any number of fonts with one simple drag and drop.

Wish you had hardcopy type samples of your font library? FontMinder lets you print font summaries, character sets, font features and sample text in a variety of point sizes. Generate one type sample at a time or batch all your fonts together for printing at a convenient time.

Do you have hundreds of fonts scattered over floppy disks and CD-ROMs? FontMinder's exclusive add/preview or print samples of the fonts without having them installed. At the click of a button FontMinder will automatically add selected fonts to your Master Font Library.

FontMinder offers many advanced features including: a copy/move/archive feature to assist in backing up files and moving font files; a font properties editor for renaming fonts and setting their family relationships; on-screen font and character set viewing; and a Postscript downloader. FontMinder automatically manages system configuration files WIN.INI and ATM.INI.

Minimum System requirements:
MS Windows 3.1 or 95, 386+ PC with 2 Mb RAM, TTF or PS fonts.

Ares Software Corp.
P.O. Box 4667, Foster City, CA 94404

TAPE DRIVE TRAGEDIES:

What They Don't Tell You to Avoid

• by George Margolin, Saginaw Valley Computer Association

DID YOU KNOW THAT the Colorado, Irwin and the new Iomega tape drives, that use the 3M type of QIC 40 and QIC 80 tapes, contain a problem waiting to happen? One day you will discover that the tape didn't stop at the end! You will find it unwound from the spool leaving you unable to do anything about it. What happens if it is your one and only backup tape?

The (Data Cartridge) DC2000 and DC2120 use tape that is not connected to the hubs. It's loosely wrapped around the hub. This is to prevent it from becoming pulled taut and stretched, which would make it prone to read/write errors. The drive manufacturers should inform their customers of a simple method to keep the tape from being stripped off the hub. But they don't. Near the ends of the tape are holes or clear spots. These clear spots let in a little

light which is reflected off a small mirror in the tape drive. The light falling on a small photo sensor signals the tape drive controller to stop the tape. Thus the tape slows down and stops, preventing the tape from being completely unwound from the hub.

The problem is that the tape coating has a tendency to flake. These little bits of metallic oxide dandruff mix with normal dust and the mirror eventually gets dirty. When the mirror is unable to reflect the light passing through the holes in the end of the tap, the sensor doesn't get the message to stop. The result is that the tape is pulled off the end of the hub and the tape can't be re-wound. If this happens, you might have success with the following:

Using a small screwdriver, carefully open the cartridge and neatly wind the tape back onto the

hub. Reassemble the cartridge, cross your fingers and hope all works perfectly.

Obviously, prevention would be a better medicine. You should develop the habit of cleaning the mirror regularly. You could purchase canned air from a camera store. Open the door of the tape drive and shine a flash light into it. When you locate the little mirror, blow air onto it to get the dust off.

Another method is to clean the mirror with foam swabs that camera stores sell. You might also be able to get them from stores that sell ladies makeup supplies. Using the foam swabs, dampened with Isopropyl alcohol, gently clean the mirror in the tape drive. (Do not use Q-tips or cotton swabs in place of the foam swabs. They leave a residue of lint and cotton fibers, creating a bigger mess.)

Cleaning should be done every two or three months, depending upon how dirty the air is in your work area. If there a smokers present, you should do it more often.

Virus Note

by Mike Richter LACS

THERE ARE PERSISTENT TALES of computer viruses spread on various services in the form of messages. That is not possible in the DOS environment. A virus is an executable program and can infect your system ONLY when a program containing it is run. The obvious executable files (.COM, .EXE) are vulnerable. So, too, are those with extensions like .386, .SYS, .BIN, .DLL and .OVL. Such programs as TruType fonts and ASCII batch and script files have not yet been known to be carriers.

Reading e-mail cannot infect your system, regardless of its content. An attached file can be dangerous, but only if you execute it. It is good practice to examine any executable with a good anti-virus program before you run it. Of course, you can also trust your vendor or your sender and accept the risks implied.

TRUETYPE FONTS

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build a fire, there are 3 ingredients needed for success. The ingredients are Fuel, Oxygen, and Heat. The same is true for True Type fonts. You need 3 ingredients: a .TTF font file, a command line in the WIN.INI file and an .FOT file. If you take away any one of the ingredients you cannot use your font. Removing Any One of Three Font Ingredients Puts Out the Fire.

The TTF file (in the SYSTEM directory) is the file that contains the actual True Type font. When you add True Type fonts, Windows places a command line in the WIN.INI file to load the font into memory and creates a .FOT file in the SYSTEM directory. (The FOT file allows applications to use the font). When I placed a semi-colon ahead of the line for a specific font in WIN.INI and restarted Windows, that font was not loaded and it was not listed in the

font selection box of my word processor. If I removed the .FOT file from the WINDOWS/SYSTEM directory instead of using the semi-colon, the font would not load into memory. It also made the font choice unseen and not available for my word processor. My next attempt was to leave the WIN.INI settings and the .FOT file and then remove the .TTF file. When Windows loaded it, it placed the .TTF in memory and gave a message "Access denied" when I tried to move it. I closed Windows and moved the file to another directory using the DOSShell. Now when I started Windows by using the command, the BOOTLOG.TXT file showed the following files for the font I was working on:

```
LoadStart - LCALLIG.FOT
LoadSuccess = LCALLIG.FOT
```

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WHAT'S NEW

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believe it's \$59.00 for club members, \$10 off the list price of \$69.00. Now if we have the numbers mixed up again, we'll try again next month. I know it's less than \$100, how about that!

Our BBS is up and running with the new CD ROM's, all 4 of them for now. We have two CICA-Windows disks and two SimTel-DOS disks. Almost 18,000 files in all. I find myself going to the SLO Bytes board more than EXEC-PC or other national boards for my needs. We seem to have a better selection. If you don't have a modem and are interested in shareware software, you really need to step up to the plate and access our BBS.

My thanks to those who came through for me again this month by typing up some of the articles in other newsletters. This saves me a great deal of time. Thanks again guys and gals.

Someone called to my attention the mixup we had with a couple disks in the library last month. It appears that #665 and #666 were messing around in the disk holder and became one. #666 has been corrected and will be available at the next meeting. If you bought a precopied disk from us last month (#666) bring it back for an exchange.

Well the Internet SIG is off to a shaky start. The first month I couldn't provide a live phone line and this last month Gus's portable computer had a bad hard disk. So, the club has an extra USR 14.4 modem which I will install in our other 386 computer if we have 4 meg's of RAM in it. Don't give up on us, we will get things up and running before the Internet becomes a dinosaur.

As a favor to the treasurer please check the mailing label on your

newsletter and note the expiration date. It saves us a lot of time and trouble if you renew promptly and we don't have to send out reminders.

Our thanks to Ed Bott last month who set us straight on many rumors about Windows '95. Here I didn't think it had a 16 bit byte in the program and now I find it's a hybrid of 16 and 32 bit code. We learned much more about the beast many of us call a friend. Some lucky individuals received a copy of his book, "Using Windows '95".

I'm at a loss for any more words this month, except to say that we have a great program lined up for you this coming month. Intuit will show us Turbo Tax for Windows '95. Now I don't know if using the Win '95 version will save you any taxes, but it might save you time. Personally I like the agony of putting it off till the last minute... hmmm, like the newsletter each month.

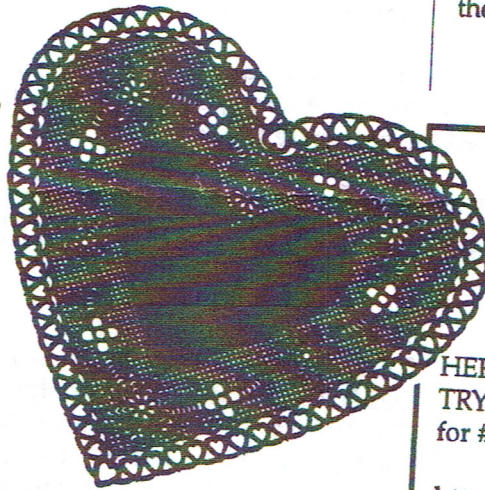
TRUETYPE FONTS

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This is the file that makes this particular font available for my applications. When I sued it in my work processor it was shown on the font list as available. But, seeing as I had removed the file LCALLIG.TTF, Windows substituted some other font instead. I had a font available, but it was not the one I was supposed to have.

IN SEARCH OF THE FONT?

It gets confusing when trying to identify a font that you are looking for in the SYSTEM directory. An example is the font LTYPEBO.TTF. That is why you also need to look in the (fonts) section of the WIN.INI file for additional help. As it turns out this font is LUCIDA SANS Typewriter Bold Oblique (TrueType). Note that some fonts may have multiple files for a single font listed as available for your application. For example, the font may have a separate font file (.TTF) for each of the following: regular (or upright), regular bold, italic, and italic bold. The font also may have separate lines for each in the WIN.INI file plus a separate .FOT file for each of the 4 fonts. You need to consider this when adding or deleting TrueType fonts. If you cannot get your application or printer to show bold or italic, look in your System directory to see if you have it installed or installed properly. Some fonts have only one TTF file but are still able to display and print italic or bold. Others that contain only one .TTF file may display and print only bold. So become acquainted with your fonts on a personal basis.



Favorite Net Sites

• by Bob Ward

HERE'S A COUPLE NETSITES TO TRY OUT. Thanks to Phil Wagner for #2 and Teri Sorgatz for #4.

<http://www.realaudio.com/> - Real Audio. Listen to the radio, live broadcasts and more. Download the software here.

<http://asiatravel.com/index.html> - Thinking of going to the orient. Learn about where you're going before you get there.

<http://www.c2.org:80/remail/by-www.html> - Send anonymous mail (I haven't tested this one to see if it works.)

<http://206.85.20.22/project.html> - a documentary on CyberSpace, how it has and will affect us in the future.

The Future of Computer Users' Groups

• by Jim Taunt, South Mountain Users Group, July, 1995

I RECENTLY FOUND MYSELF WONDERING just how long our club would last. Why do people join and why do they stay? Then I began to think about individuals in the club. I came up with 8 reasons for being in the club:

1.) Just bought a computer and want to learn about it; 2.) don't fully understand what they have; 3.) having some problems and need a little help; 4.) wonder if there is better software; 5.) have a little spare time and are looking for something else; 6.) would like to share their experiences; 7.) get a kick out of talking to fellow sufferers; and 8.) like to expound on what they know. I'm sure there are other reasons, but these 8 probably cover most of the group.

Being the age I am, I sometimes think that we are still in the "mechanic's age" of computers. What I mean by this is best explained by the history of the car.

When autos were first introduced, one had to be a mechanic to drive one. The gear shifts, the spark control and the carburation were so marginal that you had to understand the innards of the beast in order to drive it. Indeed, nobody took a ride into the country without a tool kit. One never knew what would go wrong before returning. You had to be a mechanic to drive, just as you have to be a computer nut to install or use some of our computer programs.

In the early days of the car, there were many auto clubs. These clubs did very much what our User Groups (UGs) do. They exchanged ideas on how to make the car work better or determined the best route to Silver Lake. They

evaluated the latest gismos designed to make the horseless carriage the best. Then these clubs merged and disappeared. The triple A is a residue of these clubs and it is mostly an insurance company now.

I believe this is what will happen to UGs. Reread the reasons for being in a UG, and note the number that will disappear with reliable, fully functional and well described software. UGs will gradually die out as computers and software get more reliable and people can concentrate their attention on what they want to do rather than how they have to do it. The parallel between auto clubs and UGs is not perfect. Cars have mostly mechanical problems. The radiator wouldn't radiate, the choke wouldn't choke, and the pistons wouldn't... You get the idea. But, there are parallels also. For example, I can't get the thing to do what I want it to do; no one seems to know what caused the problem; I want to change the way it is working.

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TRAVAN-1: THE ALL-IN-ONE TAPE BACKUP SYSTEM

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Although the aforementioned tapes can be used in multiples to hold such large amounts of information, the need to use two or three tapes of the established variety to back up a single partitioned drive tends to urge one to seek a tape drive with a greater storage capacity. But what to do with the old tapes? The QIC40/80's used to cost up to \$20.00 and even now are around \$12.00 from a mail-order wholesaler. Rather than throw away your investment in the older tapes which are probably still perfectly good and should be for some time to come why not consider the new TRAVAN T-1000 now available from Hewlett Packard-Colorado Memory Systems and soon from other manufacturers as well.

The QIC-80 Travan-1 tapes can store up to 800MB of compressed data and cost around \$25.00 each from a mail-order firm. The remarkable thing about the T-1000 is that it

can also read and write QIC-80 (DC2120), QIC-80XL (DC2120XL), and QIC-80WIDE and will read (only) QIC-40 formatted tapes. If your 250/350 tape drive is a Colorado model, you are probably wearing ear plugs to escape from the singing and whining put out by the hardware. The Travan T-1000 is mercifully quiet although you can still make out enough sound to at least know it is working. The Travan comes in internal (Around \$180.00) and external models (around \$200.00 + FC20 controller card at around \$60.00) and is simple to install. The manufacturer has announced that it is working on a new software upgrade that will allow for use of the TR-2 and TR-3 tapes which would double and triple the TR-1 capacity but evidently only read the QIC-80 format. You could probably get around the QIC-80 read only obstacle by maintaining two Colorado Back-

up programs on your hard drive and using either as needed.

I have two HP/Colorado TRAVAN T-1000's working in my 486's and I can attest to their reliability. It is reassuring to have the large storage capacity for the drive partitions that require it and still be able to go on using the many DC2000, DC2120 and DC2120XL tapes that I have already invested in.

You can read about the TRAVAN drives in most mail-order catalogs and the HP/Colorado web page has complete specs posted on the Internet at: <http://www.hp.com/igsupport/index.html>.

Call HP/Colorado Product Information at:

1-800-810-0133 (long wait)
or 1-970-635-1550 (busy)
or faxback at 1-800-368-9673.

THE FUTURE OF USERS' GROUPS

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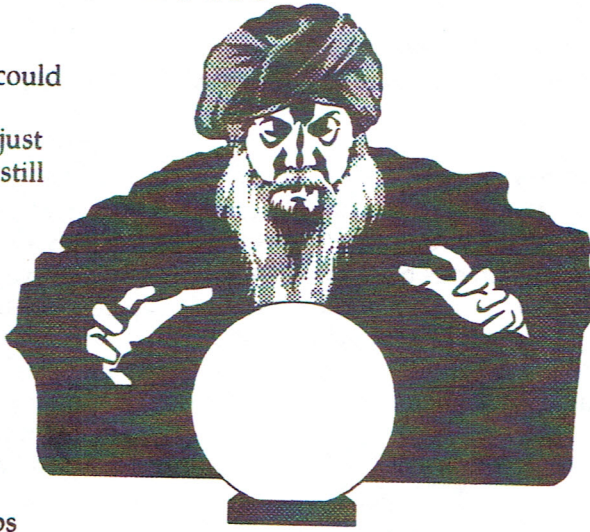
Notice that those comments could apply to cars or computers.

Some of the people were just crazy about the car itself. We still have Hot Rod magazine. People spend their life painting and decorating their cars. We also have antique auto clubs. But the vast majority of people use the car as a tool to get from here to there. The car is so reliable and useful that one doesn't need a club to get the best out of a car. The auto clubs disappeared because the reason for them disappeared. People could spend their time thinking about where they wanted to travel rather than how to get the car to operate.

Before this comes to pass, the software has to get a lot better. The hardware, although not organized in the best way, is reliable. It is the software that is a pain in the keyster. Today's software says, "Not enough memory, Abort." Tomorrow's software will say, "Memory limits, choose options: 1.) Put part of the program on disk and run slower? 2.) Put part of the data on disk, for a slower execution? 3.) Enlarge the heap area? 4.) Supply more details of limit? 5.) Store for further analysis? 6.) Abort?" We need software that finds and offers solutions to obstacles.

Another limit of today's programs is that you know what you want to do, and you know the system can do it, but you cannot convey that to the software. For example I may want to "List all the programs I haven't used in the last six months; write those programs to the B drive, one program to each disk or group of disks; print labels." I don't know how I can do this automatically now. Tomorrow's software will take general instructions, in English, and execute.

One of the things we need is a Consumer's Union of software. I read many UG magazines that come in from around the country. It is obvious that all groups have the



same problems. Most of the magazines are rating the same software as everyone else. How much more efficient it would be to have one organization rate one package really well and a second group rate another package. Then they could exchange information. This concentration of reviews would be sharper and deeper. Eventually some organization will get the message and we will have a "UGSR" or Users Group Software Report.

What will happen to the UGs if my analysis is correct?

When the software problems are under control, UGs will gradually disappear. People will be able to use computers to solve their problems, without worrying about the process or consulting with friends to find out what the process is. I will guess this will happen gradually in ten years. Recruiting will become harder and harder for the clubs. Special clubs, SIGs will hold on longer. Maybe some of the larger clubs will start to review the software with a more national outlook. Club magazines will spend less time on internal problems and more on the needs of the readers. Clubs will merge and disappear.

You must admit that both the auto clubs and the computer clubs are a lot of fun. Maybe progress isn't always so great, but we can't stop it. People have a delightful way of finding reasons to associate. I think it is called gregariousness, or, love one another.

ASAP

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imported from Microsoft Excel or Microsoft Word. Objects and graphics created by many different programs can be imported into ASAP. You can add remarks above or below the titles, leadin's, Logos, headers and footers, and more. It even installs an ASAP icon in Word for Windows so any outlines created in Word will import directly into ASAP with the click of an icon. Should you be the product of a public school where speling was your wurst subject, have no fear it comes with a built-in spelling checker.

Placement of text and graphics is limited to the preset locations for subtitles, headers, footers, etc. You can change the sequence of, let's say, a list in linear order by highlighting a line and moving it to a different position in the sequence. But you can not take a single line and move it anywhere you want on the screen. It still has to conform to one of the preset formats.

Finally after all your cells or slides are complete, just change to the Present button to start your presentation. It's as simple as that.

I created a slide presentation for our club. My main thought was to create a base slide then add one bullet to each subsequent slide. So each time you brought up a new slide it would look like you added one line to the bottom of the list. Unfortunately, each time you add a line it changes the spacing of the lines above it slightly. So when you change from one slide to another it doesn't look like you are adding just one line but redrawing a totally new slide.

Keep in mind this is version 1.0 of the program, an admirable job for a totally new program. Of course I'm always looking for the things that it doesn't have as well. Two major items come to mind. I'd like to see a timer so slides would change automatically at specific time intervals. Better yet, be able to place a time on each slide. Perhaps you want slide 1 to stay on the screen 10 seconds, but

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Battery Tip

- by Dennis Schulman, Tampa Bay Computer Society
Reprinted from LACS User Friendly Los Angeles Computer Society,
June 1995

DID YOU KNOW THAT EVERY COMPUTER has a battery connected to the motherboard? It's true. Some of these batteries are rechargeable and last for as long as 3 years. They look a like little blue barrels and are soldered directly to the motherboard. When these batteries fail, strange things happen when you boot up your machine. If your original motherboard battery has already died and was replaced by a rechargeable battery, your system is probably good for another 3-5 years. If the replacement, however, was an alkaline 4-battery pack, you need to replace these batteries every year.

THE BAD NEWS

Batteries leak—even good ones. If the battery leaks on the motherboard, you will have an expensive and potentially complicated series of problems. If the replacement battery or battery pack is mounted inside the computer, the leak could drip down on the motherboard. If the 4-battery pack is mounted, using a relatively low-cost battery holder, the plastic on the holder will eventually fail—even if the batteries are still good.



WORSE NEWS

The purpose of the battery is to provide sufficient power to the motherboard to maintain the memory information in the CMOS when you turn your computer off or unplug it from a power source. The CMOS information keeps track of the date, time, memory, optional preferences (NUM-LOCK OFF AT BOOT), hard drive specifications, and floppy drive information. If your battery fails for any reason and the CMOS loses the system information, you may be unable to boot up to your hard drive until you re-enter the information. That is why it is imperative to save the CMOS information on paper or on a floppy and to learn how to set the CMOS when it must be updated. When you replace a failed battery with an alkaline pack, you will have to replace it every year, but you can feel confident that it will last for the whole year. When you replace a failed battery with a rechargeable battery, you should not feel as confident. Rechargeable batteries do not last as long as the alkaline ones. Generally, they last 2-3 months. Normally, they are in a recharge mode every time you turn your computer on. If you need to leave the computer turned off for an extended period of time, however, the rechargeable batteries can become discharged and the CMOS will lose its system information. My preference is to use replaceable alkaline batteries in a sturdy holder that is mounted on the outside of a desk top computer (most likely in the back near the bottom). The wires that connect the pack to the motherboard are usually long enough to pass through the opening for the keyboard connection. I generally mount the battery pack inside of a tower unit on the base, since there is virtually no chance of leakage causing a problem unless the battery explodes.

THE GOOD NEWS

If you use reasonable maintenance judgment on replacing your battery, you will have at least 10-15 minutes to change it without losing the CMOS information. But, just to be safe—record the CMOS information first—for peace of mind.

ASAP

Continued from page 7.

2 remain for one minute. Right now you have to hit the enter key on your keyboard or click the mouse button to change from one slide to another. Secondly, any program like this needs a runtime module. Something where you can take your whole presentation and put it on a disk as an executable file without having to install ASAP on every machine from which you present. For the money you can beat ASAP as a fast and easy way to generate computer presentations. Except for a few little problems which will probably disappear with the next version, I'd highly recommend it for anyone who needs to create a professional presentation. To see ASAP in action (perhaps a new version by then) look for SPC's presentation to our club June 2nd, 1996.

ASAP (\$99.00)
Software Publishing Corp.
3165 Kifer Road
P.O. Box 54983
Santa Clara, CA 95056-0983
408-986-8000



New Members

WELCOME to our new members. We are happy you have joined our group!

Ken Cardoza	438-4337
Gaylord Chized	541-1439
Barrie Hafler	466-4299
Edward Perry	772-8050

Club Information

HARD COPY 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 \$25 per year. Newsletter only is \$16 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, editors, 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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2100 Andre Ave.
Los Osos, CA. 93402
(805) 756-2164

Meeting Times

GENERAL MEETINGS are held the 1st Sunday of every month, unless noted otherwise in the newsletter calendar, at 2:45 pm in the Cal Poly University Biology Department, Fisher Hall 286.

Special Interest Groups (SIGS) meet at 1:00 to 2:30 pm.

General Information SIG:

Fisher Hall 286

Internet SIG:

Fisher Hall 289

Windows SIG:

Fisher Hall 287

Slo Bytes Officers

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Treasurer's Report



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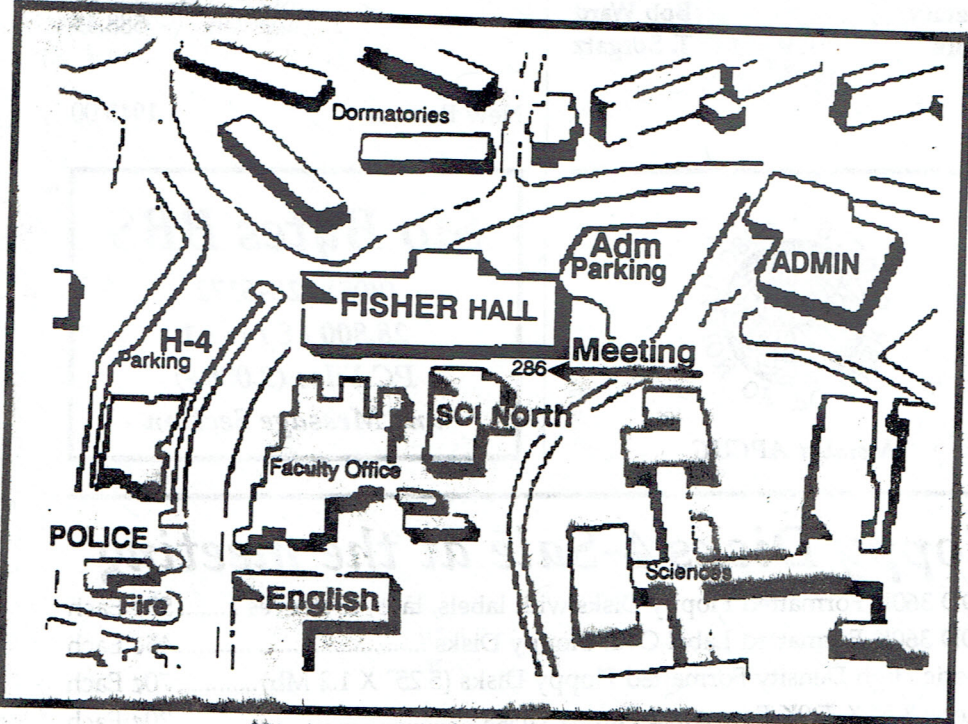
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To Grand Avenue →

GRAND AVE. - Enter campus via Grand Avenue. Proceed until the street dead-ends on campus. Turn right. Continue past the Administration building, and Fisher Science located to your left. Turn right just beyond Fisher Hall into the H-4 Faculty-staff parking lot. Walk across the street through Fisher Science. The meeting is on the opposite end of the building. Refer to the map for meeting locations.

Hwy 1 / Highland Ave. - Enter campus via Highland Ave. Proceed under the railroad bridge and bear to the right at the fork in the road. Drive past the Library which should be on your right. Continue on North Perimeter road through 2 stop signs. Take the 2nd left turn beyond the Fire Station into the H-4 Faculty/Staff parking lot. Walk across the street through Fisher Science. The meeting is on the opposite end of the building. Refer to the map for meeting locations.