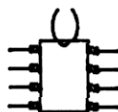


South Bay Users Group

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DYNAMIC MEMORIES

MARCH

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THIS MONTH

A REVIEW OF FIRST PUBLISHER

BEGINNING--DESQview AND THE 80386





DYNAMIC MEMORIES

SOUTHBAY USERS' GROUP

MARCH

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LOOK PAY ATTENTION ** The next SBUG meeting will be held at the Saratoga library. The meeting dates will be as follows: March 8th, April 12th and May 10th.

The time of our meetings is constant // 19:15, otherwise known as seven fifteen P.M.

COMING EVENTS: Once again the editor's '386 will be the star. If all goes well (does it ever?) we will have Desqview running to take advantage of at least some of its power.

MEMBERSHIP

If you wish to become a member of SBUG and start receiving our newsletter DYNAMIC MEMORIES then send a \$20 check or money order to the following address:

SOUTH BAY USERS' GROUP
P.O. BOX 60116
Sunnyvale, CA 94088

Or come to one of our meetings. We also perpetrate a bulletin board to which you will have access as a member of SBUG.

*****Special note: Available from Bernie Thompspon, librarian; 80MICRO
Quarterly disk--Jan., Feb., and Mar. 1988

SBUG STEERING COMMITTEE

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Chairman:	Chris Oman	OMAN	(408) 985-9460
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OTHER KEY INDIVIDUALS Cover designer: Wright Huntley

Host computer: SBUG ALL (408) 249-8259

If the need arises feel free to give anyone of us a call.
=====

THE EDITOR'S BYTES AND BITES

I have a lot of files regarding the people who have move out of the apartment house I manage. These were kept first with an ancient version of PROFILE using a Model III and TRSDOS 1.3, then with a Model 4 using NEWDOS80 and AIDS. (The program, not the disease.) Now I have them on the 80386 using PC-FILE+ under MSDOS 3.2.

Quite a hodgepodge. Once in a while I need this information. It's available in hardcopy stashed away in a storeroom appropriately dusty and cobwebbed. I also have the disks and I thought it would be nice and timesaving if I could just read the old information from these disks. The Model 4 is taking a well deserved rest in the same dusty, cobwebbed retreat (2 printers, CPU, keyboard, monitor, 2 telephones, modem, mouse, reading lamp, assortment of manuals and a 12 pound dictionary have left no room for old servitors).

So I dug out PC CROSS-ZAP. This is a program from HYPERSOFT of North Carolina who write excellent utility programs. I originally thought of ordering their PC-FOUR, a TRS-80 emulator. PC CROSS-ZAP would not read the first four TRS-80 disks I submitted to it, neither in NEWDOS80 nor in TRSDOS 1.3.

Was it the program, was it me, or was it--most probable-- that the disks are just old and have gone bad sitting there.

SBUG Financial Statement
February 24, 1988

Receipts:	February	Y-T-Date	% Used	Budget
Members dues	0.00	40.00	5.00%	800.00
Disk Library	75.00	77.00	51.33%	150.00
Load80	15.00	15.00	5.00%	300.00
Documentation	0.00	.00	.00%	25.00
Interest	3.81 *	3.81	15.24%	25.00
Miscellaneous	30.00	60.00	30.00%	200.00
<hr/>				
Total Receipts	123.81	195.81	13.05%	1500.00

Disbursements:

Phone	7.71	50.00	33.33%	150.00
Utilities	0.00	.00	.00%	120.00
Printing	0.00	.00	.00%	100.00
Postage	22.00	22.00	16.92%	130.00
P O Box	0.00	.00	.00%	29.00
Bank charges	0.00	.00	.00%	24.00
Disk Library	0.00	.00	.00%	120.00
Documentation	0.00	.00	.00%	50.00
Load80 Subscription	0.00	.00	.00%	150.00
SBUG BBS Repairs	0.00	.00	.00%	100.00
Misc. Expenses	69.00 **	69.00	55.20%	125.00
<hr/>				
Total Disbursements	98.71	141.00	12.84%	1098.00
Beginning Cash Balance	858.12	828.41	100.00%	828.41
Net Receipts	25.10	54.81	13.63%	402.00
Ending Balance	883.22	883.22	71.78%	1230.41

*This amount includes interest of \$2.17 received in 1987, but not yet recorded in financial report.

**Computer insurance.

FIRST PUBLISHER
A REVIEW AND A LITTLE BIT MORE

I have been searching for sometime now, as has every red-blooded newsletter editor, for a way to include graphics and special fonts in DYNAMIC MEMORIES and possibly in some of the multitudinous letters I send to the tenants here.

To date my solutions have been partial, not always successful and somewhat cumbersome. By cumbersome I mean putting the heading and footing (page numbering) on a sheet of paper with the daisy wheel and WORD PERFECT, then printing an image from FONTASY on the dot matrix printer, then going to NICEPRINT to get acceptable quality printing or else switching the paper again to the daisy wheel. It can get complicated and that's the reason we had a few paragraphs of almost illegible material in last month's DYNAMIC MEMORIES.

I recently acquired a copy of FIRST PUBLISHER and there are a number of its facets that I think, indeed I am sure, make it well worth while.

I will begin with a feature called SNAPSHOT. I have several programs (FONTASY, PRINTMASTER, and INSTANT PAGES) that have graphic images. There are a lot in both FONTASY and PRINTMASTER and a few in INSTANT PAGES. SNAPSHOT will capture these images and take them over to FIRST PUBLISHER. That was the first thing that caught my attention about FP. The advertising said that SNAPSHOT would capture ~~most~~ images. You know what that means. It means that the feature you're interested in will work on every program except the ones you have.

Well, lo and behold, it works very nicely with the programs I have. After these images, art folders, art work are transported to FP there is some enhancement, erasing and changing of structure that must be done so that the images look right when they're printed, but the facilities to do this are all present in FP. It takes practice. And PRACTICE.

FIRST PUBLISHER is designed to work with a mouse. It is also graphics oriented. Yes it's a graphics program, but further it has the pull down menus and etc. we associate with the Macintosh. All of this is new to me.

Let us speak for a moment of graphics interfaces. The computer magazine writers and reviewers are generally in agreement that the graphics interface is superior and eventually will be the standard. It is obvious that it is easier to remember a trash can than F 1. When you get into complicated programs that require a large number of commands there is no way you are going to make all these commands graphics commands. At this point the graphics become as hard to remember as Shift-F 9.

There is another way to do things and that is to use mnemonics which ALLWHITE does so beautifully. Here you come to a point where it is a question of the type of mind involved. It seems that most people are graphics minded. I am not. Learning F 1, Alt-F 2, Ctrl-F 4 is drudgery for me and for almost everyone. Mnemonics is my

game probably because words are my game.

The mouse is another story. I have PC Mouse. For some reason it won't install properly on WORD PERFECT. I use a generic installation for FIRST PUBLISHER, and it seems to work. As I have repeatedly done in these pages I will be working with FP and discovering its various aspects as I write these pages. This means I make mistakes and have to backtrack, but I think it gives you the reader, a picture of what it is like to break in on a given program. Reading of the mistakes I make will help you avoid them should you purchase this, or even a similar program and probably will help you decide if you want or need such a program.

Another of the features that I am really enamored of in FIRST PUBLISHER is the printing they call 'smoothing'. I believe that it is taking advantage of the quad density feature of the Epson to produce both text and graphics. Certainly, as you can see here, the product is really very, very close to letter quality and much better than the usual NLQ of nine pin printers. As long as I can do this I really don't miss (not much anyway) they quality I could get from a 24 pin printer.

I have recently been doing a little bit of work with FONTASY and have finally acquired a certain facility (NOT) expertise with it. Shortly after I purchased FONTASY whose graphics and fonts are fine, I purchased their PUBLISHER program. It is intended to be a sort of cross between a word processor and text editor. It was written by programmers for programmers and as I am not of that ilk it doesn't do a thing for me. How could the people who wrote such a great word processor as ALLWRITE do such a thing?

FIRST PUBLISHER has a lot more power and while by no means easy I already know that a few more hours, well days if you insist, at the keyboard and I will be navigating comfortably through its shoals.

There remains the question of the M-O-U-S-E. I really need the services of Henry Schulze who is almost universally recognized as the leading mouse expert this side of the Rockies. Or maybe it was the Sierras. Was it west of Sacramento? Anyway I shall away and come back to this theme when I have done a little work with FIRST PUBLISHER and this article.

I intend to: print a page of text using the smoothing setup, use snapshot to capture graphics from FONTASY and from PRINTMASTER, running the print around the graphics. Incidentally FONTASY will do this too, but it's a lot easier with FP. I don't intend to print any columns because I just don't think that's any big deal and the way DYNAMIC MEMORIES is set up it wouldn't look good at all.

The first two pages were written using WORD PERFECT, saving the text in ASCII, then copying to FIRST PUBLISHER and then cleaning up a few small errors that occur when the copying is done. Not really much work. The hardest job has been to coordinate the pages. EP has a number of fonts as follows:

Geneva
New York
Courier
Helvetica

These are listed in a variety of type styles; bold, italic and from 9 to 36 point. There are additional fonts, but I have been unable to access them.



NEW SBUG MEMBER

FIRST PUBLISHER will flow text placed in the middle of a 2 column layout. Also as you see above and below. It will NOT flow text around an image placed in the middle of a page, that is to say on either side of the image. Centering and justifying individual lines is a bit of a chore. EP employs what it calls baselines for this. Remember when you were very young and used to draw lines across the pages? (I still do) That is what First Publisher does. This way words may be wrapped around an image as you see here. It is not easy to



OLD SBUG MEMBER

learn but like the man said, if you butt your head against the wall long enough either your head breaks or the wall does. I am writing this directly into EP. All kinds of mysterious things happen to me and the accursed cursor. It's certainly a lot easier to make up your copy in your word processor and copy it into EP than to make up copy directly in EP. You could get used to processing in WP but I don't think you're really going to like it.

All the tools are here but they're complicated, slow and hard to get used to. This is not necessarily a criticism of EP. Because of the nature of graphics the programs that exploit them tend to be complicated and clumsy to implement. The things that EP offers make it worth the effort to learn it. The snapshot feature is wonderful and quite simple. (designed for me?) The quality of the print on a 9 pin dot matrix is first class. And as I said, the tools to do what you want are here, it just takes a while to learn how to use them.

When print alone is done on EP, after first doing the copy in a word processor, there are no real problems. The problems (and the fun) come with the graphics images. Unforeseen, unforeseeable things happen. Most of these things are not covered by the manual. They can be resolved by practice and experience, only

First Publisher is by: PFS, Software Publishing Corporation
P.O. Box 7210
Mountain View, CA 94039

You can get it from Montezuma Micro for \$59.00

A couple more points on FIRST PUBLISHER. What makes it difficult at first is the protocol. You must set up a page definition which includes; the number of columns, the margins, the space between lines, the gutter (the space between columns and the space allowed for binding) and the text alignment (justification and centering). The relationship between page definition and the baselines is something you have to get used to.

When something has been done to modify the text with baselines, redoing the page definition makes a hash of everything. On the other hand I found after 10 minutes work on one document that the page definition did not now suit what I had done with the baselines. Back to the beginning.

Another feature of FP is the side tools. These are:

- text tool
- graphics text tool
- selection tool
- straight line tool
- box drawing tool
- eraser tool
- 4 different line widths for the line tool

These are all easy to access and fairly straight forward. I will be using FIRST PUBLISHER in the future I am sure. However there is something on the horizon in WORD PERFECT. WP 5.0, due out in March, will do graphics and has the snapshot feature. If the snapshot feature works as well as FP's I will really have something.

4 SALE

TRS-80 Model 3: 32K main storage (expandable to 64K),
2--175K floppy disk drives.

Daisywheel--II Printer: 43 cps, mono- or proportional-space,
1--Prestige Elite 12 print wheel,
1--Madeleine P.S. print wheel,
and 2--ribbons.

Software: SCRIPSIT, VISICALC, Mumford Microsystems Instant Assembler, custom editor and formatter, TROSDOS 1.3, and the XENOS game.

Tools: 1--diskette head cleaning kit and backup diskettes.

Price: \$800.00 or best offer.

Contact: Ken Gross at either (408) 463-3039 (work) or
(408) 239-1924 (home).

WORD PERFECT
and
WORD PLUPERFECT

PC Magazine of February 29th has as a lead article "PC Labs Tests 55 Word Processors". One of the word processors not included is ELECTRIC PENCIL (for MSDOS) which is one of the biggest bargains around as well as being dead easy to learn and powerful enough for most users.

PC Magazine did test such gems as PAPERBACK WRITER, LEXITYPE PLUS II, and PRACTIWORD. They also tested a number of highly specialized processors meant for specialized users such as software developers.

XYWRITE is the darling of the avant garde crowd, those who dare to be different. It has a reputation for being very, very fast and very, very hard to learn. In case you were wondering (you were, weren't you?) PC Magazine ranks the following as the top five word processors:

MICROSOFT WORD 4.0 (Stick your finger down your throat, PC Mag)
NOTA BENE 3.0
Q AND A WRITE 1.0
WORD PERFECT 4.2
XYWRITE III PLUS 3.52

They recommend Q AND A WRITE for the non-professional user. I don't know Q AND A WRITE but I'd surely like to compare it with ELECTRIC PENCIL with it's 95.000 word spelling checker.

I went through the review on WORD PERFECT and came up with the following, to which I have added my comments.

"WORD PERFECT comes up with a clean screen." Not quite. At the bottom of the screen I read:

C:\WP1\NEWSLET\TRS80ADD.SCR

Doc 1 Pg 8 Ln 38 Pos 73

All self explanatory and nothing could be handier.

"You just start typing on the blank screen --- without thinking up a file name." Right.

"No formatting codes appear on screen until you invoke the 'Reveal Codes' command." That took me some getting used to but once you understand it, it's handy.

"A three level undelete function rescues text that other programs would lose forever and the function is smart enough to know that when you delete 5 words -- you're making only one deletion instead of five." Never used this. Now that I know about it I might sometime.

"You can turn underlining off and on by simply pressing a toggle key--." Depends on your keyboard. I use Alt-U in a macro.

"You can print the current page with two keystrokes--." Not if you use cut sheets. I use Alt-P in a macro, then press G for go.

"You can link foreign characters of macros to Ctrl- or Alt-plus-alphabet-key combinations." I found those but haven't been able to make them work. I could use them and will have to study this one.

"Macros couldn't be simpler to write or use; you enter the keystrokes and let the program record them." Absolutely. WP is making me a devotee of macros. They really speed up your work and with WP it's no problem to write or use them.

"A Convert program gives clean conversions to and from IBM'S DCA format plus WORDSTAR and MULTIMATE files.--" I've never used it, but who knows what lurks in the evil heart of the future.

"The only significant inconveniences in the current version of WORD PERFECT, (4.2) involve its block copies and moves--." They are so right. ALLWRITE had the best, most complete and at the same time the easiest block moves of any word processor. WP's block handling can't quite be called a kludge but it's close to it.

"--and the difficulties you face when switching fonts." I haven't done this and probably won't unless my great grandmother gives me a laser printer for April Fools day.

"Version 4.2 includes the most intuitive and elegant of all spelling programs--" it is a handy dandy "and a copious thesaurus.--" I've used it a little. I believe the best thesaurus is a standalone from Microlyte.

"WORD PERFECT includes outlining, document summaries, non printing comments, indexing (aided by easy-to-use concordance

files), red-lining, line-numbering, tables of authorities for legal work, print preview [I always use this], easy line drawing and snaking and parallel columns." None of the above except the preview feature do me any good.

"You can search for text in any file on disk--." I prefer Gofer, it's faster, more complete and handier.

"The weakest link of WORD PERFECT is its proportional printing." This is something else I have to work with. I just read the manual and can see no reason I shouldn't get proportional printing. Right now I have a generic printer driver defined because I go back and forth so much between my 2 printers."

Now comes the heart of the artichoke. "WORD PERFECT 5.0 due for release around March is expected to add some spectacular new features to this already powerful program--without making it more complicated to use. Page formats will be simpler to manage than ever, and laser printing with multiple fonts and sizes is virtually effortless. [Stop lasering me, you know I haven't got the money.] The program even supports color printing. [That's a possibility.] Graphic files can be inserted anywhere into a text file and rotated or resized. A screen-capture utility lets you add graphics from nearly any other application. A fast and intuitive graphics-based preview mode displays every detail of the printed page, including color graphics, and lets you examine facing pages on the same screen. A set of more than a thousand characters will free users from the limits of IBM's character set."

I know you don't have the slightest difficulty in believing that I'll be sending for WP 5.0 as soon as it's available.

DESQVIEW AND THE 80386

I have DESQVIEW with the QUARTERDECK expanded memory manager installed on my hard disk. First of all I just don't like the QUARTERDECK expanded memory manager as well as I like 386-to-the-MAX. To begin with MAX gives you 704K to work with in the first meg of memories. MAX has several options that QUARTERDECK doesn't.

All of this may not mean much because what I am really after is the exploitation of the 80386 chip. This is what I bought DESQVIEW for.

So far I have spent a total of 1 hour on DESQVIEW. My genius is not quite great enough to dominate a program in that length of time. I don't think that it's going to be that difficult. For

the time being I will quote from the manual to give you an idea of what DESQVIEW is all about.

"DESQview gives you the time-saving advantage of fast access to your programs. You get fast access because DESQview enhances your PC's disk operating system (DOS). It lets you have several programs running at the same time--and lets you switch between them instantly. So, when you need quick access to information in another program, you can put the program you're using "on hold" while you get this information. You no longer need to save your files and close your program before accessing information in another program.

"Without DESQview, your display screen is devoted to one program--which uses the entire screen. With DESQview you can view information from several programs at the same time--through "windows" (viewing areas). Since you control the size and location of these windows, you can view this information the way you like it.

"DESQview is also multitasking. This means that you can have programs working for you in background while you continue working in another program. For example, while you're writing a report with your word processor, DESQview could be in background-sorting a database, printing or communicating to a mainframe computer.

"But that's not all of DESQview's power. DESQview has virtual memory. This means that you can have more programs open than will fit in your computer's memory. When a program won't fit, DESQview swaps a program you're not using out to your PC's hard disk, RAM disk, or even expanded memory.

"DESQview now supports both text and graphics programs. It even lets you view graphs in windows! At your option DESQview will display a graph in a window or even scale the graph so it fits the window size of your choice.

"With DESQview you can transfer information from one program to another-- even if the two programs know nothing about each other. This means you won't have to retype information when you need it included in a report or spreadsheet. You can even reformat information as you transfer it--for example stripping dollar signs or commas out of numbers so your spreadsheet will accept them."

Is the saliva dribbling down your chin onto your pristine shirt front? How many of those things have you longed to do? Today, for example, I had a letter containing graphics printing at the

same time I wanted to make a 'phone call. Graphics printing takes a little more time than text. I could have used DESQview then. As soon as I get this newsletter written, I'll get at it.

DV comes with a telephone dialer that will dial from any database you may have--with a proviso. You have to have a "T" adapter on your 'phone, or so they say. I don't see any "T" adapter on my Alexander Graham Bell, but the connections are the same. I am interested in this and I'll let you know when I find out. How many times have you been working on your computer (or playing, it's all the same) when you suddenly remembered that you had a phone call to make?

With DESQview just leave your program in stasis, go to your database (where you have all your phone numbers listed don't you?) and make that call without losing a character or number on what you were working on.

Until I've worked on it for a while DESQview presents several puzzles. Chris Oman did me the favor of coming to chez Lee and installing DV. We were getting a "not enough memory" response. Not enough memory with 2 meg.? I have found the solution to that. A certain amount of memory must be manually assigned to certain programs. The puzzle is that under "virtual" memory when programs occupy too much memory they are supposed to be swapped to disk. It turns out they have to be marked as swappable.

The 386 will eliminate TSR's (memory resident programs). Everything will be memory resident, that is to say, everything that one is working on at a given minute. Of course even this is limited by the amount of memory available. A quick calculation says that for the typical office user 4 megabytes is sufficient. I suppose that the power users with their monstrous spreadsheets will need 15 megabytes. Don't forget though that graphics chew up memory too and that now graphics are so available in so many packages at affordable prices, many people like me, and maybe you, who never thought of graphics before will be using them. There go your 4 meg.

There is just no doubt that most of you will join me as users of the 386 within a year. Intel has been very shrewd in making the 386 so that it can be placed in existing XT's and AT's. Intel is currently selling such a board for \$995-- with one meg of memory. Of course you have to have a minimum of 2 meg before you really get anything out of the 386.

When you do get your 386 I want to anticipate one of your disappointments. It doesn't seem to run much faster than a turbo XT. The reason is the video ROM. It's slow, and however

quickly your CPU may have run a program it's not going to appear on the screen any faster than the video ROM can put it there. When you run a CPU based function, such as a long and complicated bat file, then you can appreciate the speed. Graphics programs will run faster but you won't get the most out of them unless you use a ram disk. I have found that Mace's EEM ram disk really makes my programs hustle, most noticeably when loading WORD PERFECT with a bat file.

GLEANINGS FROM PC MAGAZINE

From John Dvorak's column: Virus wars. They used to call them worms. The difference is that the virus is passed from one computer to another. The "virus" destroys everything on the hard disk including the FAT. I sometimes wonder about this. It's something like those severed head stories. Everybody's heard about it, but do you know anyone who has experienced it? The virus I mean, not having their head severed.

This little gem also appeared on television. Anything that appears on television news shows about computers is the purest sensationalism. The term hacker is used in a pejorative sense. It also appears that if you're over 20 you can't be a hacker. To most of us in the microcomputer world, hacker is a term of esteem. It was the hackers who were the backbone of the microcomputer movement in it's infancy and pubescence.

More from Dvorak. The laser printer market is heating up and we may see low end lasers at \$500 by November. I love that low end. Just overheard two matrons in the supermarket discussing purchases. One of them told the other that she never bought expensive canned goods, that she always buys the low end goods. I still say cheap, cheaper, cheapest.

Looming (loomingest) on the horizon, the EVGA (Extended Video Graphics Adapter). 16 million (not a misprint) colors and 480 by 640 resolution. I have the same trouble with the concept of 16 million colors as I do with 10 million light years. I wouldn't mind an EGA coming into my life but I wouldn't know what to do with a thousand colors. What does anyone do with 16 million. Are there 16 million colors?

From Jim Seymour's column in PC MAGAZINE. He gives credit for the following to Robert Hummel.

Law 1. The difficulty of using a program is proportional to its usefulness, inversely proportional to the speed, size and ease of learning, and is a constant.

Corollaries

1. Any application program that is fast enough to be usable will be too difficult for the average user to learn.
2. Any application that is small enough to run comfortably on the average system will lack essential features.
3. Any application that is easy to learn will be too slow for the average user.
4. Any application that has all essential features will be too slow, too big and impossible to learn.

FOR SALE

TRS80 Model III

48 K two SSDD 5 1/4" Disk drives

Radio Shack Line Printer II (Centronics)

Radio Shack CTR 80A Cassette Recorder

Disk Software: PROFILE Radio Shack Cat. no. 26-1562

Disk System (RS) Cat. no. 26-2111

Series-I Edit. Asbl Cat. no. 26-2013

QUICKPRO+II ICR - FutureSoft

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HARDPRICED SOFTWARE

One constant cry in our milieu is for cheaper software. (There are some shouts for cheaper food too, but that of course is another story) I have just ordered MONEY COUNTS from Parsons Technology, Dept. DM, 373 Collins Rd. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402. This is a "Complete Money Management Accounting System..." \$16.00 I'll have more to say on this one.

South Bay TRS-80 Users Group
P.O. Box 60116
Sunnyvale, Ca 94088

FIRST CLASS MAIL