

OTTAWA



PC NEWS

The Newsletter of the Ottawa PC Users' Group (OPCUG)

Club news

Chairman's Report '95

by Harald Freise, Chairman

It has been a relatively quiet year for the club. Again, no BIG surprises! The executives steadfast determination in continuing to be a not-for-profit, vendor-independent, user-driven organisation hasn't changed. Our membership has stabilised from a 1995 peak of 900 members to just under 800 members. This was our first year under a new constitution and as an officially incorporated Not-For-Profit Organisation.

Fiscal responsibility

Fiscal responsibility has always been prime in our minds. Our healthy balance sheet, detailed elsewhere in this issue, reflects the executives' continuing commitment to be prepared for any unforeseen events. We are still expecting large increases in meeting location as 'user pay' policies reflect budget cutbacks. The June '95 meeting was held at a horrendous cost per member at the Ottawa Board of Education location. This prompted our move of the meeting date from the last to the first of the month, so a June meeting at the Carleton Board would not

conflict with exams. With the steady membership numbers the newsletter has managed save money through efficiencies of production and bulk mailing. Thanks again go to Ontario Computer Fairs who sponsored the mailing costs of two editions in return for including the \$1.00 off coupons as well as donating booth space (organiser, Bill van Dijk) at the fair.

Computers for Charity

The 'Computers for Charity' project has placed significant number of donated computers back into the hands of charitable and non-profit organisations that could make good use of them. Thanks to Cornel Bierman, John Laffoon, and Fred Francoeur, who have devoted their time and talents to make this project happen. It was decided that the project be ended as the flow of equipment that could be returned to active service was not forthcoming. Storage space for the various parts and pieces was also becoming a problem as functional hard disks and software was not forthcoming.

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Thanks to Monitor Magazine for their support.

Special interest groups

SIGs continue to provide focused support and educational opportunities to OPCUG members. Thanks to Chris Taylor (Windows), Larry Chop (Ottawa Paradox Users' Group), Andrew Ross MacNeill (Fox-Pro), and the Beginners Corner (hosted by myself). The revitalised Desktop Publishing SIG, under

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NEXT MEETING : TUESDAY, February 13, 1996 details on p. 3

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the co-ordination of Bert Schopf, and the further professional development of the Internet SIG, co-ordinated by David Curling, bode well for their continued growth and development. Laurels also to David Polich who championed a brand new SIG focusing on OS/2 of which Jocelyn Doire is now the co-ordinator.

The executive

For a variety of work reasons the executive personnel changed a few times during the year. Always someone volunteered and was able to fill in and assume the responsibilities of the position. Many thanks go to Mark Cayer, Larry Chambers, Tony Frith, Bob Herres, Doug Poulter, Jorgen Rasmussen, Chris Seal (and the newsletter team), Chris Taylor, Dave

Reeves and Bob Walker. Without these folks the OPCUG would not be.

I would be remiss in not mentioning the presenters and thanking them for the evenings they give up to present at the general meetings. Always our intent is to have a topical, up to date and informative evenings without the usual hype associated with product demonstrations. Their generosity with door prizes is both astounding and greatly appreciated.

The PUB

Thanks to everyone who asks questions and posts files and answers on our bulletin board. With 600 members making 57955 calls, downloading 56683 files, and reading 135196 files, the bulletin board continues to be a focal point of information to our members. Changes made in December up-

grading to 28,800 modems provided increased performance and shorter download times for large files like beta copies of Netscape. Thank you all for keeping our bulletin board non-commercial.

As you can see, this club is composed of volunteers that donate significant amount of time and resources to you, the membership. No one gets paid. In these days of dwindling commercial support, the club is as important as to why this club was started in the first place. Namely: the sharing of ideas, resources and providing support to one another. "Users helping users." Think about it. The knowledge base of the Ottawa PC Users' Group is huge, please share.

Thanks,

Harald Freise
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Club news

1995 Annual Financial Report

by R.A. (Tony) Frith, Treasurer

This is the first time since the group began that we have shrunk in size and our decreased surplus reflects this. Income was down, despite higher income from investors and sponsors. However, our expenses were less than last year due to economies in publishing and the cost of running the BBS. This left us in the black. Increased miscellaneous costs reflect a one time only cost of incorporating the Group. Dollar amounts are listed in the table on the right.

We would like to remind all members that the Group has an "open book" policy and that, on request, they may ask for any information on any financial transactions. A detailed listing of the Group's hardware, non-library software, and other inventory is similarly available.

The Group's books were scrutinized by Richard Denis and Tom Mimee who concluded that accounting was accurate and all revenues and expenditures balanced properly, but they recommended better accounting practices which will be considered for the coming year.

| Item | 1994 | 1995 |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Liquid assets | | |
| GIC (annual) | \$ 10,000 | \$ 10,000 |
| GIC (monthly) | \$ 5,000 | \$ 5,000 |
| Bank Balance | \$ 7,162 | \$ 8,036 |
| Cash accounts | \$ 420 | \$ 160 |
| Total | \$ 22,582 | \$ 23,196 |
| Income | | |
| Membership Dues | \$ 22,904 | \$ 18,805 |
| Other Income | \$ 904 | \$ 1,235 |
| Bank Profits, GIC int. | \$ 170 | \$ 883 |
| Software Library | \$ 137 | \$ 94 |
| Total | \$ 24,115 | \$ 21,017 |
| Expenses | | |
| Newsletter | \$ 9,431 | \$ 8,930 |
| BBS | \$ 8,572 | \$ 5,872 |
| Meetings | \$ 1,351 | \$ 1,367 |
| Miscellaneous | \$ 723 | \$ 1,302 |
| Membership | \$ 610 | \$ 644 |
| Telephone | \$ 510 | \$ 446 |
| Software Library | \$ 129 | \$ 107 |

The season for colds and viruses

by Julie Dustin



Have you considered getting a flu shot this winter to ward off those chills and fevers? Have you considered getting a shot for your computer as well? If yes, you will be interested in what Look Software Systems Inc. is presenting at the next OPCUG meeting on February 13. The company, based in Ottawa since 1991 has a product, Virus Alert 4.1, which has been ranked as one of the top three virus detectors in worldwide scores.

Daniel Langlois, one of Look's Senior Technologist, will be speaking on three issues. They are:

- what makes up a virus
- how to select a good anti-virus detector
- recommended anti-virus procedures

As Glenn Kohut, President and CEO of Look, says, "Two of the most common viruses these days are the Monkey and the Anti.exe viruses. The former is most troublesome for the user and the latter is like a mild headache." Yes, and by the time you have finished reading this article, another new virus pattern has been born.

Kohut adds, "A anti-virus program needs the abilities to scan and detect viruses. The higher the detection rate is, the better the program. In fact, half the game is over once a virus has been detected."

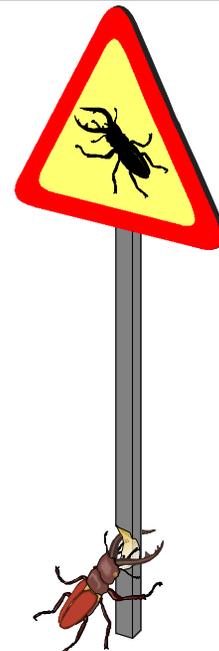
Look's product can function as a TSR (residing in memory while the PC is turned on) or as a scanner under DOS, Windows 95, Windows 3.11. It is said to work well on workstations and file servers running Novell, Lantastic, Windows for Workgroups and OS/2. Yes, you can even look inside your zipped files for those nasty bits and bytes of code. Kohut notes, "We feel that ease-of-use is very important. You can perform scans using a menu or the command line. This product even allows you to scan any drive locally or on your network."

The product is available for \$69.95 locally. Look provides updated signature files of new or changed viruses from their Web site at <http://www.look.com> or on their BBS at 613-822-2159. You can also download a demo version of the program for a 30-day evaluation from the same sources.

As well as choosing a good anti-virus program, it is equally important that you and your organization follow key procedures to avoid virus attacks, Kohut cautioned. These steps include:

- scanning every floppy diskette and CD
- knowing your source of information
- scanning zipped files

In addition to door prizes, Look will be offering special pricing for Virus Alert at the meeting.



Calendar *(subject to change)*

General Meeting Location: Sir Robert Borden HS
131 Greenbank Road

General Meeting Time: 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

| Date | Topic |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Tuesday, 13 February | See this page |
| Tuesday, 19 March* | To be announced |
| Tuesday, 30 April* | To be announced |

* Please note: Sir Robert Borden High School Auditorium was not available on the normally scheduled dates. The MARCH meeting is now scheduled to the THIRD Tuesday of the month and the APRIL meeting to the LAST Tuesday of the month.

Paradox 7: full 32 bit DBMS for Windows 95 and Windows NT

by Larry Chop, OPUG SIG
Coordinator

At the November meeting, Steve Finner presented a sneak preview of Paradox 7, Borland's latest version of Paradox. The release is not only a conversion to 32 bits but also a significant enhancement to the product. The end-user has been beefed up with new Experts including a mail merge expert to export data for use in form letters with Word for Windows, WordPerfect and other words processors. The product has also been designed to integrate with suites sold by Microsoft (Microsoft Office) and Novell (PerfectOffice). For the developer, new commands have been added, a new improved ObjectPAL editor, and, probably the biggest change, the support of OCX which allows developers to use their favorite third party tools. At the December meeting, Glen Hupe talked about dynamic control of user pick lists using ObjectPAL and arrays to give the developer another tool to build user drop-down lists for selecting options at the December meeting.

This was followed by an active and informative discussion on various aspects of Paradox and ObjectPAL.

Paradox related web sites

The January meeting focused on the Internet. The group navigated on a global search of the Internet for Paradox related web sites. Indiana Chop has ferreted out the best news groups and web pages known to opal programmers the world over. And, thanks to Glenn Hupp's donation of access time from his Internet account, we toured many of them at the meeting. This is a great opportunity. Try our own web site at: <http://magi.com/~chopla/opug.html>.

Next meeting is on February 15

With the changing times of the meeting, it has been a bit of a struggle coordinating with the



OTTAWA PARADOX USERS GROUP

publishing date for the newsletter. However, we are now on track so the first item is to confirm that the meeting for the Ottawa Paradox Users Group is on the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 15, 1996 at 6:15 p.m. at Inly Systems, 1221A Cyrville Rd., just East of St. Laurence shopping center. The meeting is devoted to exchanging favorite techniques in Paradox for Windows — those little programs that are found useful. Admittance charge is a machine readable copy of the program. (Just kidding). However, this is a member driven meeting so its success is dependent upon people bringing in favorite utilities, etc.. We have been in touch with Borland Canada so we can expect some visits from them in the spring.



PUB stats for 1995

by Chris Taylor, BBS Sysop

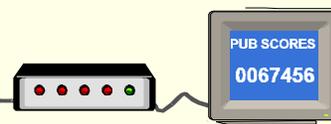
Call quantity

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Total calls | 57,955 |
| Messages Posted | 9,580 |
| Downloads | 56,683 |
| Uploads | 3,514 |
| QSO Packets downloaded | 1 2,029 |

Speeds used

| Baud | Calls | % |
|------|-------|-------|
| 300 | 155 | 0.27 |
| 1200 | 976 | 1.68 |
| 2400 | 6175 | 10.65 |

The PUB



| | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 4800 | 57 | 0.10 |
| 9600 | 4045 | 6.98 |
| 19.2k | 45273 | 78.12 |

Download protocol used:

| Protocol | Transfers | % |
|----------|-----------|-------|
| KERMIT | 330 | 0.58 |
| SEALINK | 30 | 0.05 |
| XMODEM | 1384 | 2.44 |
| YMODEM | 3911 | 6.90 |
| ZMODEM | 51028 | 90.02 |

Upload protocol used:

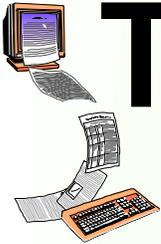
| Protocol | Transfers | % |
|----------|-----------|-------|
| KERMIT | 18 | 0.51 |
| XMODEM | 109 | 3.10 |
| YMODEM | 90 | 2.56 |
| ZMODEM | 3297 | 93.82 |

The complete PUB report, including a list of all files downloaded, is available as 95-PUB.ZIP in the Text file area.



Review for 1995

by Bert Schopf, DTP SIG
coordinator



The Desktop Publishing Special Interest Group had a spectacular year in '95 — we hosted a number of great speakers and were able to learn and share a lot of information relating to DTP.

PageMaker 6

In October, Jean Lefort of Adobe Systems Inc. came from Montreal to demonstrate PageMaker 6, a very popular page layout software application. It was an insightful peek at the software and everyone walked away from that meeting with something valuable. Anyone who would like further information on Adobe PageMaker or other products by the DTP software giant Adobe can reach them at 1-800-83FONTS or on the internet at: www.adobe.com. Check out the DTP SIG file area on the club bulletin board for details

on their faxback system (ADOBEFAX.ZIP).

Roy Chartier

In December, PC Sense E-Zine Editor Roy Chartier shared his thoughts on page layout and design strategies. Roy is the principal designer for Ubik Graphic Design and a regular contributor to Ottawa's best computer information source, Monitor Magazine.

Graphics for the Internet

The new year got off to a hot start on a cold evening — the January 2nd DTP SIG topic was Graphics for the Internet. OPCUG member Paul Blakely demonstrated L-View Pro, a shareware utility for converting graphics for the internet (check it out on the PUB in the Internet SIG file directory). Paul's presentation was appropriately prepared in html and

was extremely informative and entertaining. Paul recommends the following web sites for further exploration:

<http://cwsapps.texas.net> and <http://webcom.net/~tucows/software.html>. Paul's html presentation can be downloaded from the PUB — it is called TMPDTP.ZIP.

Also presenting that evening was David Forster of Forland Inc., who put internet graphics in perspective from a commercial point of view. David operates a web site called Capital Cuisine, which is a restaurant guide for the Ottawa area. David uses the DOS-based 'GIFTOOL' to batch convert GIFs for both interlacing and transparency. David's web site is at: <http://www.magi.com/capital/cuisine>.

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Club news

Member savings and specials

INDEX '96, hosted by Inly Systems International Ltd., is being presented at the Ottawa Congress Centre on Saturday, March 9. Normal admission costs \$30; however, Inly has made an offer allowing OPCUG members pay only \$10 per person. The keynote speech for INDEX '96 is Corel's desktop videoconferencing solution. The speakers are Mr. Arlen Bartsch, Director of Sales and Marketing,

and Mr. Ian Maclean, Videobusiness Manager, both of Corel Corporation. Tickets must be purchased before March 2. For more information, contact Inly at (613)744-8307.

Corel Magazine

Corel Magazine offers half-price advertisements, subscriptions, and subscription renewals to all user group members. For further information, please

contact Norma O'Bannon at (512)219-3134.

Corel beta testers required

For any club members interested in beta testing Corel software products, please call Corel's faxback system at (613)728-0826, extension 3080, and request document #1006.

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Meetings, meetings...

by Jean Stalker, I-SIG Publicity Coordinator

The Regional Information System (RIS), a joint project of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton (RMOC) and the Ottawa-Carleton Research Institute (OCRI), is approaching the champagne stage.

On the evening of January 11, Paul Mahood, Manager of Network Services - RMOC) and Keri Dunning (Director of Infrastructure Projects - OCRI) presented a preview of the RIS to a gathering of I-SIG members. The audience was quickly caught up in the enthusiasm of the two speakers.

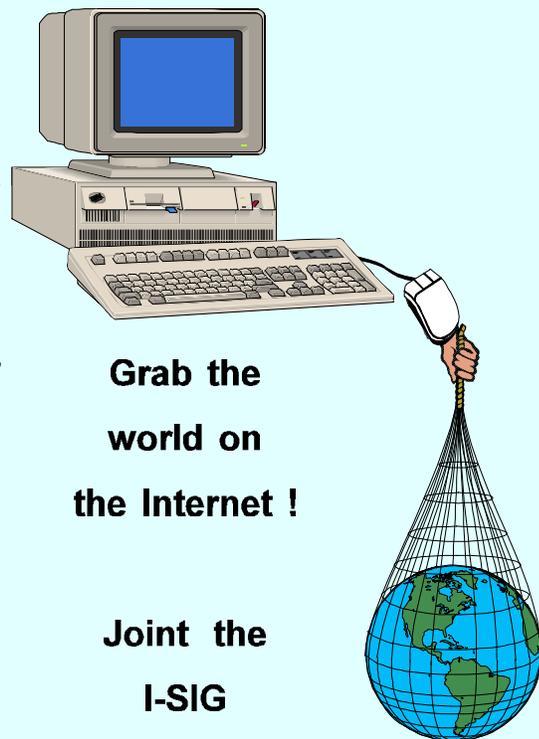
Using WWW technology, the RIS serves both internal and external clients, and will result in substantial savings, largely by keeping documents up-to-date in electronic form. The volume of paper moved about in relation to RMOC meetings is enormous. The new system will support electronic access, with a substantial reduction in cost and delivery time and will introduce some processing efficiencies, such as generation of agendas directly from reports.

An external server will offer basic information about roles and responsibilities in regional government, meeting schedules, agendas, and minutes (searchable). Also included is information from the area municipalities, the Ottawa-Carleton Economic Development Corporation (OCEDCO), and the Ottawa-Carleton Tourism Association (OCTA): each Regional Councillor will have a

home page. There will also be provision for public consultation in news-group format. Target date for implementation of electronic agendas and minutes is early February, 1996. The external server will replace the RMOC's space in the FreeNet, but will still be accessible via a FreeNet menu.

An internal server, protected by a firewall, will handle general information, job postings, union contracts, policies, procedures, and training calendars, as well as on-line discussions and bulletin boards, both moderated and open.

The RIS originated under the umbrella of the 'Broadband Infrastructure Projects' for which OCRI secured funding from the federal and provincial governments in 1994-95. The project began with a joint OCRI/RMOC Request for Proposal (RFP). Submissions ranged from 'traditional' through to the 'bleeding edge' of technology. The system finally chosen was based on NEXTstep, a kind of object-oriented UNIX, in SPARC-20 servers: the full-text retrieval software is 'Harvest'. Documents are written and controlled in Word 6.0, using features such as annotation and revision. They are stored on a common drive, and email passes the baton along as steps are completed. Documents in Word 6.0 have an attached equivalent document in PDF



Grab the world on the Internet !

Joint the I-SIG

(Portable Document Format). (The Word document is needed as PDF files can't be edited.) A macro on the Word toolbar stands ready to make the conversion from Word to PDF whenever Word documents are updated.

Watch for the new Web site in early February. The URL will be <http://www.rmoc.on.ca>.

Members Helping Members

The second session of this forum met January 9. Once again, there was no preset agenda, only an opportunity to ask and to discuss and to learn. Peter Locke and SIG coordinator David Curling have been sharpening their IRC (Internet Relay Chat) skills by chatting with each other via a computer in Colorado! Peter also contributed an article on the subject for the January 1996 *Ottawa PC News*. David mentioned

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Meetings, meetings...
continued from page 7

that there is a hot new IRC Windows' client called Visual IRC which is quick, with powerful and easy-to-use features, including real-time audio chatting. A Winsock client of Visual IRC is available as an evaluation copy from Stroud's Consummate Winsock Applications (<http://cwsapps.texas.net>).

You can beat the printers and the postman by reading the *Ottawa PC News* electronically. The reader (Adobe Acrobat Reader) is available (no cost) on the PUB. Jean Vaumoron, Newsletter layout, sends a PDF copy of the upcoming newsletter to the PUB so that it can be downloaded and read off-line. This is usually about a week before it is received by snail mail.

In addition, just tell your WWW browser where you put Adobe Reader on your hard drive, fire up your ISP connect, and you can read the January issue of the *Ottawa PC News* on the WWW at <http://www.synapse.net/~loday/pmforum/interup.dat.htm> [Notices].

A choice site to check out is 'Stroud's Consummate Winsock Applications' at <http://cswapp.texas.net>.

Does anyone have a WIN95 script for logging into the pub post it on the PUB!

Upcoming meetings

The Members Helping Members meeting (February 13, 1996) provides an opportunity to ask any question you wish of other members of the I-SIG. This session takes place immediately after the OPCUG meeting at Sir Robert Borden School.

The topic of the February 15 meeting is Web Authoring — an update. Not long ago, creating documents for the WWW was labor-intensive and the know-how was scarce and expensive. In recent months, a bonanza of new products has made the creation of Web documents easier and more gratifying. In addition to the user-friendly HTML editors such as Hot Dog, the work of a Web author is enhanced by the on-line HTML Doctor Site which audits your HTML page and reports on programming errors! WebLint, another HTML analyser, even sends you an email message on the goofs.

Want a page hit-counter? An on-line site provides a client-side counter without having to beg your ISP for a CGI script. WebForm systematically sets

out and automatically programs FORMS used for data input or survey of users.

MapEdit and MapThis make programming a 'clickable image' a snap and GrabNet makes personal recording of useful sites a little easier. Web Whacker captures a complete site page, including images, for pre-set page levels and hypertext links.

David Curling will give an overview of simple Web authoring tools. Most of the apps are either shareware or a free on-line service, and they will be described and demonstrated with Internet access. The presentation will be at a 'casual user level' and questions are encouraged.

Date & Time: Thursday, February 15, 1996, 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Place: RMOC Headquarters, 111 Lisgar Street, Ottawa

Information: David Curling, I-SIG Coordinator

curlingd@loday.com or 731-5381

Email list

Norman Dafoe maintains an email list of members interested in the InterNet SIG. A copy is posted on the PUB from time to time. If you want to be included in the list or to have your information updated, please contact:

Norman Dafoe, ndafoe@sirius.on.ca or 723-9345, or leave a message for him in the I-SIG area of the PUB.

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Club news

January's Disk of the month

by Jorgen Rasmussen, Software Librarian

Cultural Awareness v1.14

Educational game for testing and improving your child's cul-

tural literacy. Topics include proverbs, idioms, grammar, children's literature, mythology, music, art, the Bible, world religions, history, geography, science, and mathematics.

Euchre v1.0

A classic card game that pits you and a computer partner against two computer partners. Great graphics, sound effects and original big text font.

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Ottawa PC News

Ottawa PC News is the newsletter of the Ottawa PC Users' Group (OPCUG), and is published monthly except in July. The opinions expressed in this newsletter may not necessarily represent the views of the club or its members. Deadline for submissions is the last day of the month prior to publication.

Group Meetings

OPCUG normally meets on the second Tuesday in the month, except in July at Sir Robert Borden HS, 131 Greenbank Road, Nepean.

Meeting times are 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Fees

Membership: \$25 per year.

Disk-of-the Month: \$25 for either 5.25-in or 3.5-inch diskettes (10 diskettes).

Mailing Address

3 Thatcher St., Nepean, Ontario, K2G 1S6
Telephone answering machine 723-1329

Bulletin board—the PUB (BBS)

Up to 28.8 kbps v.34 228-0665 (6 lines)

Chairman

Harald Freise 828-3411

Treasurer

Tony Frith (819)671-0401

Secretary

David Reeves 723-9658

Membership Chairman

Mark Cayer 224-8031

Software Librarian

Jorgen (John) Rasmussen 821-3040

Judy Tomlin (assistant) 821-3040

BBS Sysop

Chris Taylor 723-1329

Newsletter

Chris Seal (editor) 831-0280

Julie Dustin (assistant editor) 823-1552

Jean Vaumoron (Mr.) (layout) 731-7847

Public Relations

Bob Herres 836-7532

Facilities

Bob Walker 489-2084

Beginners' Corner

To be announced

DTP SIG Coordinator

Bert Schopf 838-3492

Fox SIG coordinator

Andrew Ross MacNeill (voice/fax) 596-3313

Internet SIG coordinator

David Curling 731-5381

curlingd@loday.com

OS/2 SIG Coordinator

Jocelyn Doire (Mr.) Please contact via PUB

Paradox SIG coordinator

Larry Chop 236-8761 (days)

Windows SIG coordinator

Philip Baker 247-9555



January's Disk of the month *continued from page 7*

Handles mouse or keyboard input. Computer players are worthy opponents but don't cheat.

Brush Fire Sim

If you're a firefighter try this brush fire sim. You have four breakers and two air drops to contain the fire. The fun is in figuring it out.

Icon Manager

A powerful tool for working with icons in the Windows operating environment. Allows icons to be moved, copied, and organized. Icon Manager installs icons into Program Manager or Norton Desktop DIRECTLY using the wizardry of Windows' Dynamic Data Exchange.

Mailbeep v1.02

You asked for it, now here it is. Mailbeep gives an audible alarm

on incoming netmail and displays new netmail messagea on a call waiting screen (registered version). Requires PCB 15.22. Cosmetic upgrade.

Modem Workshop 2.0

This modem book on disk (DOS) describes how to choose and set up a modem and telecommunications software. Informative sections include: modem testing, BBSs, message bases, online services, e-mail, shareware jewels, how to unzip .zip files, AT commands, how to use Interlink, packet-switching networks, modem terms, emoticons, and more. (This is a terrific help for both beginners and long-time users of modems. Wish I'd had it when I started: *JBR*)

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