



What's New

— By Bob Ward

Welcome to another month of SLO Bytes Newsletter. Last month we had a full house to view Visual Software's 3-D presentation software. No, we didn't wear those funky glasses, but they did have some awesome stuff to show. If you have ever seen the rotating HBO graphic on TV, you're seeing some of their work. I haven't quite got the hang of such a logo for SLO Bytes yet, give me a few more years and 8 more MEGS of RAM.

Have you noticed the prices of hardware creeping up again. Considering the value of the American dollar against the Yen, I'm surprised prices haven't gone higher. Maybe as stocks are depleted, that will happen.

Several members have asked for the address of the company that provided us with magazine discounts. I haven't received literature for them for several months. Considering some of the problems you have had with this company, I'm not sure we want to endorse them anyway. If anyone has a handle on a discount provider for magazines, either new or renewal subscriptions, let me know.

Have you got your Beta copy of Window's 95? Now really... Microsoft is the only company I know that could pull this one off. They charge you \$30 for a beta copy of software; no extra charge for the bugs. Usually beta copies are given free of charge to testers with a free copy of the finished product after it is released. So you are an official beta tester with the other 300,000 individuals. Good, but still figure on paying full price when it is released. Bill sez no special deals

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OnFile

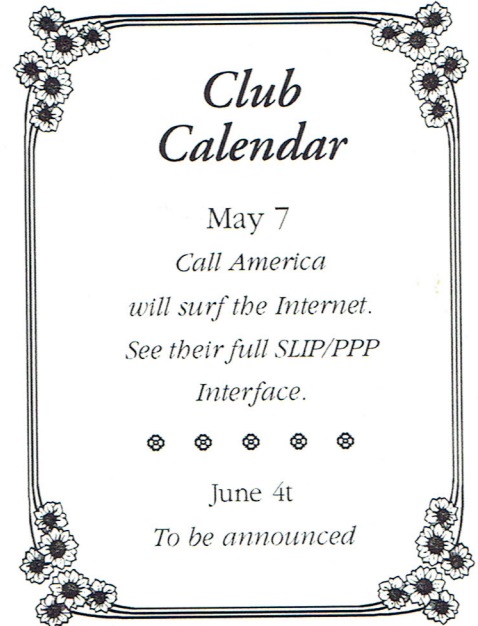
— By DT Richmond, SLO Bytes

Have you ever searched frantically in Windows File Manager trying to locate a file you need RIGHT NOW? You created this file some time ago but just don't remember what you named it or where it is. If you use OnFile to organize your files this will be less likely to happen to you. This is the claim SPC Software Publishing the people who developed and market OnFile make. Let's is how it works.

System Requirements for OnFile

- ☼ 386 or higher IBM-PC or compatible
- ☼ Microsoft Windows 3.1 or higher
- ☼ DOS 5.0 or higher
- ☼ 4 MB of RAM
- ☼ Mouse recommended
- ☼ VGA or higher display

Installing OnFile on my computer was easy, going through the steps of the tutorial, wasn't quite as easy. But



Club Calendar

May 7

Call America
will surf the Internet.
See their full SLIP/PPP
Interface.



June 4t

To be announced

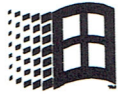
after working my way through this tutorial several times and performing some experimenting of my own, I began to get an idea of just how OnFile accomplishes this.

You use OnFile to create a file management system in Windows. This is called the "OnFile Bookshelf." Here you may have any number of BOOKS

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Help Me, I'm Flailing! Windows Help offers a quick way to find information, but many are reluctant to use the Help facility, preferring instead to have printed manuals for reference, which are seldom within arm's reach when needed. But modern Windows software often contains more information in the help files than in the manual.

You're trying to learn this new super application, you hit the F1 key or click Help for some quick answer. Whoa! Now you find yourself in yet another application with it's own windows, menus, buttons, scroll bars, and even it's own Help! You fail to quickly find the information you seek because you don't know your way around the help system.

It's in there someplace, but you're focused on your new Super-App and are not prepared to shift gears for an exploration of the help system and it's own set of controls just now. So you back out of help, perhaps never to return, flailing frantically through the manual.

Have you noticed lately that the manuals included with modern software are fewer and smaller? Software developers face several realities pertaining to printed documentation:

- ⊗ Good manuals are much more costly to produce than diskettes or CDs.
- ⊗ Inclusion of complete manuals adds considerably to the cost of packaging and distribution.
- ⊗ Version revisions render original manuals obsolete. They do not upgrade as easily as diskettes.
- ⊗ Tech Support staffs report that users reach for the phone before they do the manual!
- ⊗ Software price competition compels developers to cut costs wherever possible.
- ⊗ Commercial after-market publications are numerous for most popular applications anyway.

Windows applications now embed more of the documentation within the software itself. Users can access it using the application's help system. This task is greatly simplified for Windows programmers because Microsoft Windows provides the Help "engine", an executable file named WINHELP.EXE, located in your windows directory.

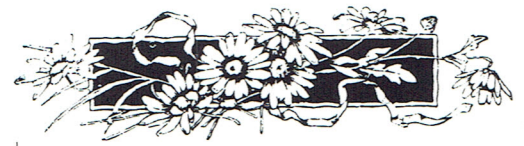
Help files provided for each application have the .HLP filename extension. Several are provided with Windows itself, including Windows own help file WINHELP.HLP, and one for each Windows "Applette" (except Clock), such as PROGMAN.HLP, for Program Manager, WINFILE.HLP for File Manager, SOL.HLP for Solitaire, and so forth.

The Windows Help engine is the program, which "runs" the help files for all Windows programs. Windows application developers need only to format their documentation in "hypertext", a form of text file with code embedded such that "jumps" can be made from keywords to definitions or clarifications, or to related subjects located elsewhere in the text file. Programmers developing Windows applications provide their own hypertext help files, usually installed to the program's directory.

Help can be accessed several ways, the most common is clicking Help on the menu bar or pressing the F1 key within an application. Often there's a question mark icon in an application's group window. A double-click on this icon starts WINHELP and opens the associated help file. Double-click on any filename with the .HLP extension from with the Windows File Manager. An "association" is defined for the .HLP extension to WINHELP.EXE, that opens the help file even if the program itself isn't running. This method allows you to preview, in a way, a program before you even load it!

Better than a book ! Once in Help, imagine you've opened a technical book in search of some specific information. We are naturally comfortable with the

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Library News

— By Bob Ward

Feeding you software is like feed piranhas. I throw it out there and you consume it. Zap, it's gone. Hope the following disks hold your appetite for at least a month.

#635 RRR33 - Exit, restart & reboot Windows your way. GC221 - Recipe & grocery manager for Windows. FAX_V315 - adds a FAX button to all Windows programs

636 GCRAZY11 - Graph Crazy V 1.1, 11 different graphs from your data. MEDPCX - medical clipart. ART_SM1 - more clipart. CLIPCA14 - clipboard capture for DOS. ISHOW10 - GIF slide show viewer. POSTER15 - create large banners, posters and more. SCRAZY30 - school crazy: 5 different school activities for kids 6-13. GUNS31 - Keep track of your guns, ammo and reloads.

637 DINOSAVE - Dinosaur screen saver for Windows

638 MOONIC11 - MoonIcon, displays the current phase of the moon as a Win icon. QFF63 - Quick File find. WINTER10 - Winsock client lister. SWMOUSE - allow mouse button to be double click. TODIR22 - go to any directory on any disk instantly. TRNFS11A - use to interface Winsock with Sun Micro system.

MOLWT23 - find molecular weights of compounds and solutions.

MMWWWPC2 - how to distribute interactive programs on the internet.

FINGER30 - Windows socket finger client. DCLOCK - morphing digital clock for Windows. MTW0100 - mathematical toolkit for windows.

Remember these programs are shareware. The authors of these programs have put in thousands of hours of programming to provide you with their creations. Support them by registering your Shareware.



AddressMate for Windows version 2.0

—By Pete Madle, SLO Bytes

Praise the authors - AddressMate uninstalls as easily as it installs, BUT, - YOU WILL NOT WANT TO DO THAT - AddressMate is TOO USEFUL - IT IS A KEEPER.

AddressMate is designed to be used as a Data Base for storing addresses from, and for inserting them into, word processor documents. However, as discussed below, it could be used to handle a much wider range of data. It can also print envelopes, mailing labels, business cards, name-tags, file folder labels, and Rolodex-style cards, or dial any of the phone numbers listed in the addresses. It is simple to retrieve an address from the list and paste it into a document. If, for example, Bill Smith is already on file then just type Bill or Smith, place the cursor in the name, and select Retrieve from the Amate menu. Voila, the complete address appears in place of the name. Alternatively, once a new address is typed into a document, it can be added to the data file for later use by highlighting it and then selecting Save Address from the Amate menu. Of course, if you desire, the address can just be printed as is. AddressMate may be used by itself or with other WPs, but is especially useful when installed to work seamlessly inside the three leading WPs, AmiPro, Word for Windows, or WordPerfect for Windows. When installed this way, an Amate icon appears directly on the WP toolbar, allowing AddressMate to be accessed directly from within the WP. In the past, this reviewer has made extensive use of the Envelopes and Labels feature of Word for Windows. It works very well, but AddressMate will now be used instead.

If you can find an envelope size or design that is not already covered, you can easily add it to the available list as a custom design, but, I suspect that this will be an unlikely event. AddressMate already covers 13 different envelopes, 45 Avery labels, 9 CoStar labels, 21 NEBS labels, 2 types of business cards, 5 styles of flyers, and, 2 sizes of plain paper as well as

various nametag designs and regular- and rotary-file-card labels. All customization of envelopes, labels, cards, or anything else, is performed in the Design Mode, a completely What-You-See-Is-What-You-Get (WYSIWYG) operation. A built-in counter can be used to create individually numbered raffle tickets, serial number tags, or other numbered items. Many different types of clip-art graphic logos can be placed wherever required provided the form has sufficient space. They can be accompanied by text, and can be rotated in 90 degree increments. AddressMate supports PCX graphic files (106 are provided) in addition to those in the BMP, TIFF, WMF, GIF, TGA, and WPG formats. Company logos, Handle-With-Care signs, and the like, are a snap.

Each entry in the address file is divided into ten fields plus an eleventh for notes. The ten fields are, Last/First, Company, City, State, ZIP, Country, Phone 1, Phone 2, FAX, and Title/Prof. The user has great flexibility in the final printed product since the file can be sorted using any of these ten fields and the placement of each field on the printed form or envelope can be fully customized. For example, bulk mail labels can be sorted by ZIP code, address labels can have phone numbers present or not, etc., as desired.

Four of the ten fields, Phone 1, Phone 2, FAX, and Title/Prof., can be renamed, and still be used as search fields, therefore, clever users can think up additional, non-obvious, uses for AddressMate. There is no limit to the number of different data base files that can be created - each of which can contain up to 8000 different entries. So, different data files can be created for special purposes. Business inventory lists could be created by, for example, renaming the four changeable fields to be Item, Size, Quantity, and Location. This flexibility can be extended, by a creative individual, by using alternate meanings for some of the other fields, for example using the Company field

to mean Supplier, etc. Club membership lists could include details on special elements such as, who has paid dues this year, or, who has what equipment other members can borrow. Endangered Species lists could detail who specializes in which species, which local region is a habitat for what species, how many individuals have been counted, when the last census was taken, etc.

The great advantage of a flexible data base is the ability to sort the lists in many ways without having to re-type any of the information. Experience has shown that even the best of typists make occasional mistakes. Re-typing lists is not only boring - it is often unnecessary. Sorting a single file in many different ways can fill several needs without requiring the data to be re-typed. AddressMate claims to be able to import or merge-print files originally in Paradox, dBase, Comma-delineated ASCII, and plain ASCII formats and to be able to export files in Paradox or comma-delineated ASCII formats, I have no reason to disbelieve this but did not test these features.

This reviewer is as cynical (cautious is a nicer word) as most of you so, at first, I installed AddressMate on a backup computer (which normally runs a packet radio receiver) to avoid possible disruption of my main machines. However, once I had

Continued on page 5



Welcome to the following individuals who decided to invest in our group. We hope we can answer all your computer questions, or at least provide you with someone who can.

Syd Alvers 239-4286

L.L. Bissell

Andrea Robert 783-1812

book format because it is familiar, while Windows Help seems complex and intimidating.

Seldom does one read a technical book from start to finish as you would a novel. You may browse briefly through the Table Of Contents, commonly two or three pages of topic headings with page numbers along the right margin. I'll hold my place in the Table Of Contents with one finger while leafing to the page numbers so I can quickly get back to see other page numbers to check if necessary.

Windows Help has an easier Table Of Contents, there's no need for page numbers, simply click a title and instantly jump to the topic. Within a Help topic, there may be one or more jumps, which you can click (or press Tab, Tab, Tab and ENTER) to drill deeper. No matter how deep you drill, there is always the Contents button right there to click you back instantly to the Table Of Contents.

A book has the customary index in the back which requires searching alphabetically, then page hunting numerically, fingers are soon fanned out into several bookmarks and more page ruffling while your Pentium is driving a screen saver at 100 megahertz.

Windows Help has a wonderful index but you may not recognize it as such. Click the Search button and up pops the index starting at the As! Type a letter or a word and you're instantly in that part of the index, click on Show Topics or Go To and shazzam you're there! Or you can scroll through the list if you don't remember the correct terminology. Some Windows applications, such as Word 6 provide a button named Index in it's own help that presents a superior full-screen index with alphabetic buttons, indents, and pop-up definitions.

While surfing around Help, you can set "Bookmarks" at places you wish to return to later (Sure beats the finger-fan). Click Bookmark, Define and type in something meaningful to yourself or accept what is already

highlighted, and a list of "Bookmarks" will be kept for you. Click on any line on that list to instantly return to that defined bookmark.

A "history" or list of where you go while surfing around Help is automatically created and will pop up if you click the History button. Then click any line in that list and you'll be instantly returned to that page, whether or not you've set any bookmarks.

Scattered throughout the help screens you'll find words or phrases, usually in green with a dashed underline. Click on any of these and a brief definition window pops up. You can move, resize, maximize, or minimize the Help window, just like any other window. And you can set the help window to remain in sight by checking "Always On Top" in the Help menu.

If you hate reading more than a few lines from the screen, Help provides a Print Topic selection under the File menu, but instead, try Edit, Copy, which pops the text up in a box where you can select just the portion of the text you want to print. Then copy it to the clipboard and paste it into Windows Write where the font size and typeface can be changed, and reformat the page to your preferences before sending it to the printer.

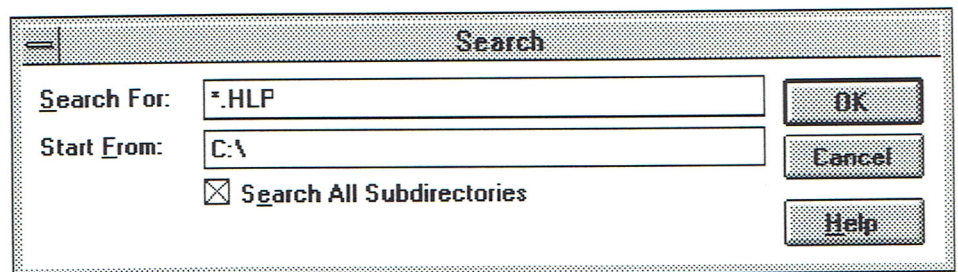
Having trouble reading the small screen typeface in Help? Use the above method to momentarily increase the screen typeface to any size or font you like! Paste into your favorite word processor instead of Write and you can even change the text color!

You can even do some personal editing, add your own comments and terminology to a Help topic using Annotate on the Edit menu. When you annotate a Help topic, Help places a paper-clip icon to the left of the topic title to remind you that you have added text to this topic. You can thereafter view, edit, or delete an annotation by clicking the paper-clip icon.

I found it confusing at first and begrudged the time I had to devote to learning Help. However, it is pretty wonderful stuff once you get accustomed to hypertext, and I strongly urge everyone to become familiar with its behavior.

TIP OF THE MONTH

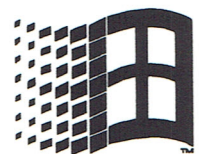
Use the Windows File Manager to see how many Windows Help files you have. Select File, Search, and type *.HLP in the Search For box, C:\ (or D, E, etc.) in the Start From box, check the Search All Subdirectories box:



Try double-clicking any of the names on the resulting list.

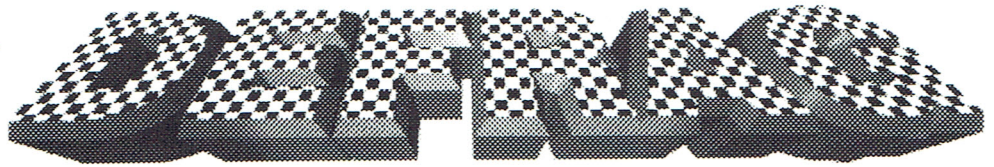
See you next month.

Robert C. Hunt



To Defrag or Not To...

— By Mathias Hattinger,
reprinted from Bits & PC's



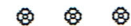
To 'defrag' or not to 'defrag', that is the question. Answer, 'defrag by all means, but, as they say, "what means this?" Defrag is short for defragment, which in the present context, refers to the reordering of your hard disk to increase the read/write efficiency.

Before we proceed to defrag, let us consider some aspects of the hard disk and how DOS handles files. Your computer hard disk is made up of a stacked group of coated thin disks that revolve approximately four thousand revolutions per minute. Small read/write 'heads' can move back and forth over the surface of the disk to magnetically read from or write information to the disk. When the hard disk is first made, the magnetic surface coating is uniform and useless until it is later magnetically altered for use in the PC, i.e., formatted. The formatting process produces a number of concentric magnetic rings called tracks which are divided into sectors much like a pie which is cut into slices. These sectors, in groups called clusters (or allocation units), store the hard disk files. The FILE ALLOCATION TABLE (FAT) keeps a record of where each file is stored and where space is available on the disk. Consider first the outermost track and the first sector which contains the boot record, a short program that begins the process of starting up DOS. Following the boot record is the File Allocation Table which DOS considers so important that it is followed by a second identical FAT. DOS occasionally compares the two to ensure that they remain identical. Following the second FAT is our familiar root directory. The root directory, of fixed size for each disk format, stores, in 32 bytes each, the file name, extension, size, date, time, attribute, and CLUSTER number. Following the root directory is the data entry area where the file data is actually stored. The File Allocation Table is a numbered sequence of storage areas where each area is related to the location of a

group of sectors called a CLUSTER. The cluster, in turn, will contain a complete file if the file is smaller than the cluster size, or only a portion of it if a larger file. Because each area of the FAT is located with a two byte number (16 bits), there are 64K areas (actually 2 raised to the 16th power=65,536). Consider a 128 M hard drive, each cluster is 2K in size because 2K times 64K = 128 M. note that 2K represents 4 sectors in which to store your file or a portion thereof. To illustrate both storage and fragmentation, assume our hard disk is the one above and we have written a 7539 byte file. Dividing 7539 by 2048 we obtain 3,681 so the file will be stored in the first four available cluster, perhaps, 7,8,9,10. Suppose that after writing another file which uses clusters 11 and 12, more is added to the first file to take up clusters 13 & 14. The first file is now fragmented and must be totally located using the information stored in the FAT. When we bring up a file in the root directory, DOS reads the cluster number so it knows where to start in the FAT and also where to find the beginning of the file. While the magnetic read head is scooting to cluster 7, DOS is looking in the cluster 7 area of the FAT where it

finds the number of the next cluster area, cluster 8. This process is repeated through clusters 9,10, and 13. In cluster 14 is stored a special symbol (hex FFFF) to indicate the end of the file. If the second file is deleted, the FAT entries 11 and 12 are replaced by zeros to indicate that these clusters are available for the next file. To return to "What means this?" defrag. Defrag obviously is short for defragment and with reference to the hard disk it means put all those broken files together, eliminate the holes created by file deletion, and make the information stored one contiguous whole. Considering a hard disk with dozens of files and holes, it is evident that the read heads must spend a good deal of time looking for the next cluster.

In short, your computer appears to be slowing down. It is definitely time to 'defrag' your hard disk with any of a number of commercial programs, e.g., Norton Utilities has SPEEDDISK, PCTools, COMPRESS, DOS 6, DEFRAG, etc. Rather than wait for a noticeable change in speed it is recommended that hard disk defragmentation be scheduled on a regular basis depending on your use of the computer.



AddressMate for Win

Continued from page 3

sampled the principle features of AddressMate, had found no obvious problems, and had checked-out the convenient uninstall features (the very presence of which I view as a sign of thoroughness and care in design), it took little time for me to decide to install AddressMate on my other machine!

AddressMate requires MS Windows 3.1, or later, and works with any Windows supported printer. The box states that it requires less than 2 Mb of free hard disk space, however, even when performing the Full

Installation, which includes the software for all three WPs as well as the 107 different clipart pictures provided, I needed less than 1650 kilobytes during installation and only 1025 Kb after the installation was completed. The default installation creates an AMATE directory with 606 Kb, and up to four (depending on how much one installs) sub-directories; AMIPRO with 35 Kb, ART with 214 Kb, WINWORD with 30 Kb, and WPERF with 140 Kb.

AddressMate for Windows 2.0
CoStar Corporation
100 Field Point Rd., Greenwich, CT 06830
203-661-9700

Trade Rag Watch: Tips & Tricks

— By Jan Fagerholm, PCC Trickster PCC News, July, 1994

Recently, PCC News published a Windows tip of particular usefulness from Brian Livingston, author of the well-known "Windows 3.1 Secrets" book. That single tip generate a lot of feedback from you, the reader, about more tips of this kind. Speaking for myself, I get asked about items of this nature, directly or indirectly, more than any other topic. ("Why does Windows crash when I ...")

So why can't we have some of these tips? No reason why not. I read a lot of trade rags and am turned into just this sort of thing. I thought it might be useful to pass on some of those that are most useful, those that 1. make Windows work better, 2. make Windows more usable, and 3. even those that make Windows more fun.

Starting with the serious stuff, here are some tips that cure common Windows problems.

⊗ **Note**— for the stuff that requires changes in the SYSTEM.INI or WIN.INI file, I am going to assume that you know about SYSEDIT. If you don't, here is your first tip: from Program Manager, open the Accessories group, then pull down the File menu. Select New, and see that the dialog box shows Program Item, then click OK. When the new dialog box opens, select Browse, then navigate to the \WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory. Find SYSEDIT.EXE and double-click on the filename. Back at the dialog box, click OK. You will now find a new icon, Sysedit. Double-click on that icon and it will open up with all the computer's system files ready for editing. Remember, when you finish editing the system file, it is necessary to exit and restart Windows for the changes to take affect. Remember to make copies of your original system files before modifying them. (Objects In Mirror Are Smaller Than They Appear. Your Mileage May Vary.)

⊗ Not to be redundundundant, but I would like to repeat the tip offered here in PCC News a few issues ago: Increase the BreakPoints setting in the SYSTEM.INI file. In the [386Enh] section, insert the following line: **MaxBPs=768**

Windows 3.11 now lists this parameter in the SYSINI.WRI file, but fails to tell you what the limits are, apart from the default 200. The parameters are 200 to 768, and using the maximum setting will only use about 1.5 KB of memory. This setting will certainly be necessary to prevent mysterious GP faults with virtually all the software that uses OLE 2.0, as its use of the breakpoint stack seems to be much greater than last generation software.

⊗ Along the same lines, look for an item in the [386Enh] section named VirtualHDIrq. If you have an IDE hard disk, it may have fooled Windows at install time that into thinking it isn't a "standard" hard disk. If the setting is "VirtualHDIrq=OFF", try changing it to ON. It will speed up hard disk accesses noticeably. the more that Windows talks to the swap file, the more important it is.

⊗ OK, one for you DOS diehards who only use Windows for DOS multi-tasking. If you installed Windows without a mouse driver installed (for DOS applications), go to the [NonWindowsApps] section of SYSTEM.INI and look for the MouseInDosBox entry. If it is set to 0, this will explain why you cannot get a mouse while in a DOS window. Change the setting to MouseInDosBox=1. Oh, yes, make sure that you are loading a mouse driver in CONFIG.SYS or AUTOEXEC.BAT, otherwise none of this will work.

⊗ Moving on to some of the fun stuff, here's one you may enjoy. You may have found out that you can change the name of any icon by selecting it with

the mouse and pressing Alt-Enter. (Or, menu method, File/properties.) If you have tried in vain to change the dreary tile of Program Manager, you may have been disappointed to find out that the trick doesn't work. Well, try this — Open the Startup group from Program Manager, then do File/New. When the dialog box opens up, select Browse and navigate to the Windows directory, if necessary. Find PROGMAN.EXE and double-click on the filename. Back at the dialog box, click OK. You will now have a

Progman icon in the startup

group. Now to the good part:

click on the icon to select it,

the press Alt-Enter to open the Properties dialog box.

Edit the title in the De-

scription box to name it

whatever you like, then click OK. You

will now find the Program Manager

icon in the Startup group with the

name that you gave it. If you exit

Windows and restart it, you will find

your new name in the title bar,

instead of the dreary title of Program

Manager.

⊗ Apart from the fact that Notepad is a pretty lame editor, there is so much software that expects to find it for READMEs and the like, you are still forced to use it from time to time. If however, you are particularly tired of its insistence on displaying *.TXT files when it starts up, you can do something about it.

From File Manager, copy NOTEPAD.EXE to NOTEPAD.BAK or some similar duplicate, then launch Windows Write. Open NOTEPAD.EXE (yes, it will do it), and select No Conversion before opening. Select Find, type TXT, and press Enter. Write will highlight the first occurrence of TXT. Click twice on Find Next to skip past the third occurrence of the TXT text, then click Cancel to stop the search. TXT should be highlighted. Type an asterisk (*) followed by two spaces. Save and Exit. Now try launching Notepad, and selecting File/Open. It should show *.* in the selection box, and display all files in the directory in the Files window.

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OnFile

Continued from page 1

made up of any number of CHAPTERS. To create a BOOK, enter the OnFile Bookshelf window, choose New Book. In this next screen you are presented with a graphic image that looks similar to a loose-leaf notebook. Here is where you will do most of the work assembling your book. Here you add chapters, change file descriptions, reorganize files, and have the ability to E-Mail files to other locations. In this screen you give your book its title which may contain up to 100 characters. This allows the use of more descriptive titles for your files.

Each BOOK will include:

- ⊗ A table of contents which lists the CHAPTERS in the BOOK.
- ⊗ Tabs for each CHAPTER in the BOOK. * CHAPTERS that are divided into logical sections.
- ⊗ TOPICS, which identify each file in a CHAPTER. Each TOPIC refers to a specific file on your hard disk.
- ⊗ You may add Thumbnails, which are visual representations of the file.

These BOOKS can be made up of any type of file you wish. Lets say you want to make presentation, you need text, graphic, spreadsheet as well as a sound track. As OnFile operates in the Windows environment as you create these BOOKS you can use the "Drag and Drop" method to select files. You may also search all the directories on your computer.

When you create a chapter it can contain any number of files. In my test of OnFile I used an ongoing writing project that I have been working on for several years and with several different computers. As I have always used WordPerfect and moved the text files to each new computer, it was only a matter of arranging the files in the order I wish them to be presented. OnFile made this task a relatively painless procedure. Had I been dealing with more than one wordprocessor, a spreadsheet or a database program as well as a graphic image presentation, and perhaps a

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sound recording bit, the task would have been only a bit more complicated.

OnFile Features include:

- ⊗ **File Viewers:** With OnFile, users can look at files without having to open the actual application, or even have it loaded on the computer.
- ⊗ **Text Search:** Lets the user search a file and find a specific word or phrase.
- ⊗ **File Finder:** The user can also search a book to find a certain file. The File Finder searches not only the long file name, but also the summary description and eight character filename.
- ⊗ **Tool Bar with Tool Tips:** OnFile's Tool Bar lets the user quickly access common tasks. Descriptive boxes appear when the mouse arrow passes over an icon. A status bar at the bottom of the screen also provides more in-depth information. Right Button Mouse Menus: Click the right mouse button anywhere in the product and a menu will appear with the options on what to do next.
- ⊗ **Context-Sensitive Help:** Offers help every step of the way. Working with other applications
- ⊗ **OLE 2.0 Support:** OnFile is designed to compliment users' existing applications, not replace them. With the use of object linking and embedding 2.0 users can drag and drop files and applications directly into their books.
- ⊗ **File Viewers:** OnFile supports more than fifty file viewers for most popular applications, including DOS and/or Windows word processors, database, and graphic programs.

Conclusion

OnFile could prove to be a useful addition to your program library, particularly if your computer tasks include writing or presentation preparation. One fault I found: The printed material in the evaluation package of OnFile I worked from had a lot more instructional material than the shrink wrapped OnFile program.

Without this material OnFile would have a much steeper learning curve.

SPC Software Publishing is making a special User Group Offer of \$25. until 6/30/95 To order call 1-800-336-8360

OnFile SPC Software Publishing
3165 Kifer Road • P.O. Box 54983
Santa Clara, CA 95056-0983
(408) 986-8000
Suggested Price \$49.

What's New

Continued from page 1

for those that help test the finished product for him. You should feel privileged to be part of the team... I guess.

We are trying to get Microsoft to demonstrate at one of our coming meetings before the official release date of Windows 95. Perhaps we will have a date before the next meeting. Remind forgetful me to give you an update of future presentations.

George Campbell has been tinkering with Windows 95. He's even bringing in a computer to give you a short look-see at the early meeting in Fisher 286 at 1 pm. He's not giving it all away though, as we want to save something for Microsoft should they show up to give us a presentation. Bob Hunt will continue with his regular Window's SIG and Gus Thomasson will be starting a new 3-month Neophyte SIG in an adjoining room. If none of those SIGS interest you, try copying shareware in the museum or talking binary to Bill McNamara, our treasurer. He'll shake his head even if he doesn't understand a word you say.

You've all heard of the Information Highway. During the next meeting you'll be able to drive along it with Johanne Mercier, representative of Call America, our local internet provider. She will be demonstrating the full Windows graphical interface, Netscape, along with Eudora E-mail, and Pinot, their non-graphical selection. The only requirement you need to get on the "highway" is a 14,400

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Windows Tips

— By Blinkin Cursor, Milwaukee Area IBM PCUG, February 1995

The following are some tips from various authors/PC User Groups across the country.

Using SYSEDIT.EXE Use SYSEDIT.EXE for configuration changes to your AUTOEXEC.BAT, CONFIG.SYS, WIN.INI and SYSTEM.INI files. This utility will make a backup copy of the configuration files (with a .syd extension). You won't have to remember to make a copy of these files before altering.

This utility is used by selecting the program group where you want the icon to be located. Select File, New, Program item, OK. Then type SysEdit under description, tab to command line and type SYSEDIT.EXE. Choose OK. You should now have an icon labeled SysEdit.

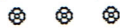
If Not Using Expanded Memory Set ReservePageFrame=Off in the [386Enh] section of the SYSTEM.INI file if you don't use expanded memory for any of your DOS applications.

Basic Way to Uninstall Windows Software by Robert Lauriston, PACUG Newsletter [I like this tip because until now I've never been sure exactly which files held Windows configuration information.] Before installing new applications or hardware, it's a good idea to back up your Windows configuration files so you can easily switch back if something goes wrong. Here's a series of commands you can use to back-up all the configuration files to a subdirectory. You might want to stick the following commands into a batch file:

```
C: CD C:\WINDOWS MD BAK COPY *.INI BAK COPY *.GRP BAK COPY *.PIF BAK COPY *.DAT BAK COPY *.CFG BAK COPY WIN.COM BAK
```

If, after you install a new application, you find it has messed up your system, exit Windows to the DOS prompt and enter this command: COPY C:\WINDOWS\BAK C:\WINDOWS /Y. This command copies all files in the BAK directory (*.*) is not needed in 6.0 MS-DOS) to the WINDOWS directory and overwrites files with the same name without prompting for a yes/no response (/y).

Courtesy of North Orange County Computer Club, California.



What's New

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baud modem unless you choose the non-graphical interface, then you can squeeze by with a 2400 baud modem. If you live outside the local toll-free area then they will provide you with your own personal 800 number. Sign-up for SLO Bytes members will be provided at the meeting along with the software you will need to get started. Your set-up charge will be waved.

Are you looking for something special in Shareware? Let me know and I'll see if I can find it. Although we have many magabytes of software both on the BBS and in the library, there are more megabytes out there ready for me to download for you. Just jot down your request with your name and I'll do some hunting. Last

month someone asked for a CAD program. I hadn't heard of a decent one for Windows but came upon one just the other day. It's best if you have a modem otherwise you may have to wait for several months as it moves its way to the top of the waiting list for the club library.

Please look at your mailing labels. Your membership expiration date is listed in the upper right corner. If you renew at one of the meetings or before the due date, then I can save some time and money by not mailing you a reminder. We do not send membership cards by return mail but if you ask Bill McNamara at the meeting (treasurer's table) he will be happy provide you with one. Just explain that you mailed in your renewal. He will have a current list of paid members.



An Escape Hatch for Windows

— By Sid Bala, Hard-Copy, Journal of the Chicago Computer Society, 2/95

The Challenge You have probably noticed that occasionally you have to shut down a misbehaving Microsoft Windows 3.1 application. This can be a problem if Windows itself doesn't think the application is hung, because the keystrokes, (Ctrl)-(Alt)-(Del) will not work.

There is, however, an undocumented SYSTEM.INI switch for Windows 3.1 that lets you close down an application with (Ctrl)-(Alt)-(Del), whether or not Windows thinks the program is hung up.

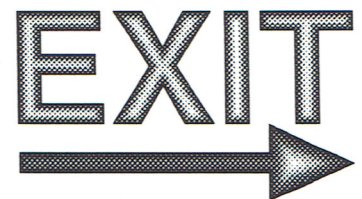
The Solution In the (386Enh) section of your SYSTEM.INI file, place the following switch:

DebugLocalReboot=TRUE

Now if your system beeps when you press (Ctrl)-(Alt)-(Del), it means Windows thinks that the application is not hung up—but you're able to terminate the program anyway!

Windows uses cooperative multitasking, not preemptive multitasking. That means a single ill-behaved application can bring Windows down to a halt. Without the .INI file switch, your only recourse may be to power down the system, losing all unsaved data in all open applications.

Note that if you break out of a program that Windows thinks is working fine, you'll still get a message saying "This Windows application has stopped responding to the system." But you will have the option of exiting from the program. You may lose any unsaved data in the ill-behaved program.



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.

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HARDCOPY ☉ April 1995

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

NEW COMPUTER USER SIG:

Fisher Hall 289

WINDOWS SIG:

Fisher Hall 287



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EDITORS: Bob Ward & Teri Sorgatz



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SLO Bytes PCUG Expenditures April 1995

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Expenses:		
Newsletter 03/95	-	150.75
BBS Phone Bill 4/95	-	10.63
Long Dist. Chgs.	-	48.97
Dividend 3/31/95	+	7.99
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