

OTTAWA



PC NEWS

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

### Presentation Review

## Lotus demonstrates Word Pro — Go team word processing!

by Bert Schopf

The mystery topic was revealed at the OPCUG meeting April 25 as the first North American beta\* showing of Lotus' Word Pro (the word processor formerly known as Ami Pro).

Despite technical glitches with the auditorium sound system and a somewhat unstable beta version, Lotus Corp's Jean Montminy gave an excellent presentation (great voice projection and crash recovery, Jean!).

Lotus is marketing Word Pro as a team word processor that helps individuals work together more effectively by streamlining creation, review and editing of shared documents.

Rewritten from the ground up, Lotus Word Pro claims over 1500 new features and a fast operating speed. It will be available in Windows 3.1, Windows 95 and OS/2 flavours. Feature sets will be virtually identical for each product, and will be optimized for their respective platforms.

\* Be Expecting Technical Anomoloies (crashes)

### Lotus Word Pro and team computing

Productivity will be improved by focusing on three key processes: collaboration, communication and coordination. Lotus Word Pro automates the common practice of editing and reviewing documents, enabling users to spend less time managing a team or tracking edits.

Word Pro provides a step-by-step guide for setting a document up for review through TeamReview. Authors assign access and editing rights for each individual reviewing a document, maximizing control over the editing process. Once multiple edits are made to a document, Lotus' TeamConsolidate automates the process of consolidating these edits into one final draft.

At the April 25 demonstration, changes appeared in blue italics and deletions were displayed in red. Buttons for ACCEPT or REJECT let editors make decisions interactively to render the final versions of each paragraph.

Word Pro provides document versioning technology which enables users to store multiple versions of a document in a sin-

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gle file. Lotus' new word processor stores only the changes made between versions, making it an efficient means of storage. Through versioning, users can track a document's history and access previous versions. Versioning not only maintains the integrity of each individual's contributions to a document, but makes it easier for the author to manage a document through its lifecycle.

In developing this product, Lotus stepped back and questioned the fundamental constructs of a word processor,

Continued on page 2

and built in new applications for today's computing environment. For instance, Word Pro's Divider Tabs allow you to logically house your entire project in one document. By clicking on a tab, you can link to an external file or open up an OLE embedded object such as a page of your spreadsheet.

### Smart tools

Among Word Pro's new features are SmartMasters, what Lotus calls the next generation of style sheets. SmartMasters contain "click here" blocks to guide users through the placement of information in a document.

Word Pro also introduces its next generation Spell Check, which highlights all misspelled words at once and enables users to interactively spell check a document, significantly reducing editing time. Word Pro allows users to mark text as a particular language and switch between English and foreign language dictionaries. Word Pro supports the government-familiar English/French side-by-side formatting too!

Lotus' new SmartCorrect will keep a lid on commonly misspelled words by replacing the incorrect versions as they are typed. Users can customize the SmartCorrect dictionary for their own common typing errors as well as develop nifty replacements for acronyms. SmartCaps also corrects the common mistake of holding down the shift key too long when keying in a capital (Word Pro will change HELlo to Hello).

Other neat stuff includes:

- context-sensitive toolbars and right-mouse-button-activated dialog boxes
- a "properties" dialog box
- a highlighter tool (which drew major oohs and aahs from the audience)

The Word Pro Help engine promises the biggest innovation. I was impressed with its verbally-intuitive help menu (type your help plea in plain English) and the help topic demonstrations that walk you through the solution. Best yet, the help screen stays active while you go back to the document and work through the changes!

### Integration

Word Pro claims a peaceful and symbiotic coexistence with other word processors including MS Word 6, WordPerfect 6, and DCA/RFT. Lotus Word Pro allows users to import a document from other programs, edit that document in Word Pro, and save it out as a Word or WordPerfect document without losing any data or formatting.

Word Pro also supports both SGML and HTML formats, enabling users to easily create documents to be stored on the Internet without having to learn another package.

For all you nuts n' bolts types, Word Pro features LotusScript 3.0, Lotus' cross-product object oriented BASIC scripting language and full OLE 2.0 support on Windows. Additionally, Word Pro features unique integra-

tion with Lotus Notes through Notes/FX, which facilitates the sharing of data between those products.



### *The nitty gritty*

System requirements for Lotus Word Pro are estimated at a minimum 386 IBM or compatible PC with 33MB hard disk space and 6MB RAM.

Lotus Word Pro for Windows 3.1 is scheduled to ship as early as July 1995 for an estimated retail price of \$105.

Customers who purchased Lotus Ami Pro 3.0 or SmartSuite 3.0 or 3.1 between April 24, 1995 and shipment of Lotus Word Pro can upgrade to Lotus Word Pro for Windows 3.1 for a shipping and handling charge of \$14.95.

A special price promotion for users moving from Word Pro for Windows 3.1 to Word Pro for Windows 95 or OS/2 will be forthcoming.

European English, French, Italian, German and Spanish versions of Word Pro are scheduled to be available two weeks following shipment in the U.S., with other languages to be available within approximately 60-90 days.

OPCUG members are welcome to attend Lotus Notes User Group meetings (Notes is Lotus' software for information sharing). Call the Lotus office at (613) 782-2446 for more details.

## 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, 23 May	Avery Labels
Tuesday, 27 June	To be announced
Summer Hiatus	See you in the autumn!

SIG	Date and time	Topic	Location
Internet	June 8, 7:30 pm	Absolute Beginner's Guide to the Internet	RMOC, 111 Lisgar St., Ottawa
DTP	June 13 7:00 pm / 7:30 pm	Typography shootout	Digital Paradise, Suite 200, 14 Colonnade Road, Nepean
OS/2	May 23, 10:00 pm	See page 4	Sir Robert Borden, room TBA
FOX	April 18, 7:00 pm	Visual FoxPro 3.0: preview	Jean Talon Conference Room, Jean Talon Building, Tunney's Pasture
Paradox	June 7, 7:00 pm	Application demonstration	Inly Systems store, 1221A Cyrville Road, Ottawa



## OPCUG T-shirts

*by Larry Chambers*

**A**s most of you may have seen at the last regular meeting, OPCUG executives were sporting the latest in summer fashions — the OPCUG T-shirt. The club executive felt that this was a great way to show off our new logo as well as promote our user group.

The T-shirt was designed by Mary Seal. Great job, Mary!

If anyone is interested in wearing the latest in fashionable summer apparel, the T-shirts can be bought at the next meeting for \$10.00.



## OPCUG presents the OS/2 SIG

By David Polich

**T**uesday, the 25th day of April 1995, marked an auspicious occasion... namely the inaugural meeting of the OPCUG's newest SIG. Fans and users of OS/2 Warp from IBM now have a home.

### Standing room only!

The meeting was presented to a capacity crowd of current and potential OS/2 users split approximately 70/30. Time did not permit us to go into any great depth on the merits of this powerful operating system but at times the general discussion was very lively and informative. Among the points of view presented, we learned that one does not have to be a rocket scientist to install and run WARP.

I present myself as a typical, non-technophile example. I have a 486DX33 with 8 Meg of RAM. I installed it on my own (CD-ROM version) just by reading the supplied manual. Of the two installation options, easy and advanced, I chose the advanced which involved repartitioning the hard drive and doing a full installation of DOS and Win 3.1. I should point out that my previous systems came with DOS and Windows 3.1 installed, so this was a first for me!

### Blue, red, fullpack...

Many of you seemed puzzled as to what version to get. Red box, blue box, fullpack and so on. If price is the primary factor, then your best choice is the "red box" with the phrase

"Uses your existing DOS and Windows" on the box front. This means that you supply the DOS and WINDOWS. In the Fullpack, the Windows code has been optimized for you and results in approximately a 10% performance increase in the Win-OS/2 subsystem. Except for the price, the difference ends there. See the "OS/2 STUFF" column in the May issue of *MONITOR*.

### The fine print

Can you believe the fine print you see on the box regarding ease of use, power and crash protection? You bet! For example, I still get GPF's on occasion and OS/2 allows me to exit from that app without bringing down the system.

What programs did I have to give up? Memmaker DOS 6.2, and PC Tools for Windows were two of them. I simply do not need them anymore. And what programs can I run? Virtually the gamut of the DOS and Windows Programs on the market today! In fact, I personally run one DOS based program (CANTAX T1 Plus) and have a mixture of Win3.1 database, word processing and communications applications.

### OS/2 BBS's

In the Ottawa region there are several local BBSs available for OS/2 users. Beyond the nation's capital we have, for example, Compuserve, Freenet, and numerous Internet sites.

### Books and magazines

Many excellent third party books exist such as *Mastering OS/2 Warp* (Sybex), *OS/2 Warp Unleashed*, and *Teach Yourself OS/2 in 7 Days*. More and more news stands are starting to carry *OS/2 Magazine*, *OS/2 Professional* and other magazine titles.

### Software and seminars

An increasing number of retailers are carrying OS/2 WARP and native OS/2 programs. You need only look in the newspapers, *Monitor* and the *Computer Paper* to find them. I urge you to frequent these retailers and request such things as more choice, a separate display area etc. It wouldn't hurt to mention in passing that you are a member of the OPCUG as well. Market demand determines what choices and services we receive!

### On the move!

The OS/2 SIG had a great first meeting, but now the real fun and challenge is to keep the momentum going. The SIG will need your help and ideas to determine its structure and direction. Please forward your suggestions, and offers of help, to David Polich on the PUB (we now have our own SIG area).

At our next general meeting, May 30th, we will cover:

- Future Growth
- Q and A
- Resources Sharing and more...

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## Disk of the month #114

by John Rasmussen

### WELCOME TO BACTERIA WAR!

Bacteria War is a game of microscopic warfare between two competing strains of bacteria. The game board is a grid of cells in healthy tissue, and the bacteria work to capture as much of the healthy tissue as possible. The strain that captures the most territory wins.

### CLYDE'S ADVENTURE FROM MOONLITE SOFTWARE

Help Clyde on his quest for lost treasure through 16 deadly castles. Game play features four way smooth scrolling, animation, traps, puzzles, twists and hilarious surprises at every turn. Challenging and amazingly addictive! This game requires EGA/VGA graphics and a 286 processor or better. Supports the Adlib music card. Digitized voices and sound effects for Sound Blaster — don't miss this game!

### JEOPARDY DETECTOR, v 1.01

A diagnostic program which monitors disk caches for periods when the disk structure is in jeopardy. Many disk caches produce periods when directories point to files which have not yet been allocated in the File Allocation Table on the disk. If a crash occurs during these jeopardy periods, cross-linked files can result.

### SHAREWARE NEVERLOCK SPRING 95

Unprotects over 400 games. All unlocks tested. Registered unlocks Everlock & SmartCAM.

### SYSWITCH 2 .04

SySwitch is designed to make it easy to switch between up to five alternative SYSTEM.INI file configurations. You might, for instance, have alternative SYSTEM.X files for use with different screen drivers or different Windows shells.

## Bulletin board software upgrade

by Chris Taylor, SYSOP

The new version of the software for The PUB has arrived and has been installed. TBBS v2.3 offers some minor improvements, a really major one, and only a few little annoyances. First the goodies...

A full screen file area interface allows tagging and downloading of batches, moving freely between file areas, tagging of the results of a search, seeing estimates of the length of time a download will take and much more. It is a very sophisticated and intuitive full screen file interface. You can even leave the file areas completely before downloading tagged files. If you try to log off and have not yet downloaded your tagged files, you are given the opportunity to do so at that time.

When downloading, you are prompted if you want to log off when the download finishes. You also have a 10 second warning after the download is done, during which you can abort the log off.

In messaging, mixed case (upper and lower) is now supported in names and subject. If you are enclosing a file with a message, dropping carrier or timing out after uploading the enclosure will now save the message automatically. This means if you are enclosing large files, you can write your message, start the upload of the file enclosure and then go away. TBBS will save your message and log you off automatically 5 minutes after your upload has finished.

There have been lots of enhancements to the internals and "behind the scenes" parts of TBBS. DTR is lowered in the interrupt routine on loss of carrier, making it impossible for another caller to enter on the current session no matter what sort of software failure has occurred. This also assures that "hung" systems will not answer the phone for callers which cannot be serviced, but will enter a "ring, no answer" mode.

Enhanced memory management allows more code and data to be placed in EMS. Option modules can use 33% more data memory than they could under TBBS 2.2, which means that future versions of QSO will be able to handle PKZIP 2.x packets. Please don't hold your breath though. eSoft has not yet announced a new version of QSO.

TBBS 2.3 code executes 50% faster on the same power CPU as did TBBS 2.2, resulting in snappier operation. I don't think we have suffered from performance problems since we are only running six lines. It will probably mean though, that we will not have to upgrade from the current 386/40 when we upgrade all the modems to v.34 (28.8Kbps), currently slated for late summer or early fall.

*Continued on page 7*

## FoxPro goes “extremely” visual

by Mark Cayer

**M**icrosoft is in the final beta testing phases of an all-new release of Fox Pro (hope this doesn't take as long as Windows 95... couldn't resist).

FoxPro 3.0 (code-named Visual FoxPro or VFP for short) continues along the development path that Microsoft has started for its database products. Microsoft is taking the best of its Visual Basic, Access and FoxPro products to produce a common database engine with an object oriented graphical interface and the ability for developers to add custom programming code in the language of their choice. VFP enhancements include NULL support, a built-in database dictionary, a visual database design tool, and true object orientation in a true Windows-style interface.

The FoxPro Special Interest Group (SIG) was lucky to have their SIG Coordinator, leader of the Ottawa FoxPro Users Group, Andrew Ross

MacNeill, present VFP (using the February beta release) to the group at its meeting on April 18th.

Andrew did a fantastic job showing us the new visual database designer, object property sheets, form designer (that's screens for us old Fox-ers), as well as an introduction to the new customized grid control (browse in days of old). It was quite a feat to show all this and answer a battery of questions while occasionally rebooting his system. Beta test software — don't you just love it? NOT!

I attended the Microsoft FoxPro International Developers Conference for four hectic days last January. The entire focus was on VFP and the conference motto was “FoxPro... Going to the Extreme!”.

I was impressed with how much Andrew could get into his 3-hour presentation. Many attendees came away from the evening feeling as I did back in January — “May I be excused... my brain is full!”

We did, however, manage to keep to a minimum the use of the terms polymorphism, inheritance, and encapsulation. That's for another day I guess.

Microsoft has not yet announced a release date for VFP, although attendees on hand for the demonstration mentioned that local vendors are already quoting prices for both new purchases and/or upgrades.

For further information on VFP, read the Microsoft press release MSNEWS22.ZIP and/or the review of the product which was originally posted on the Internet VFOX-PRO.ZIP. Both files are available on the PUB in the FoxPro SIG file area.

The next meeting of the Ottawa FoxPro Users Group (OFUG??) is tentatively planned for June 13 at 7:00 pm in the lobby conference room of the John Talon Building, Tunney's Pasture Complex (Scott Street at Holland Avenue) in Ottawa. Watch the PUB for further developments.

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## Desktop publishing SIG notes

by Bert Schopf

**S**ince the inaugural reboot of the Desktop Publishing special interest group in March, the SIG has drawn a steady group of interested people — from novices to power users.

The April meeting featured Corel's Michael Bellefeuille who filled the group in on the goings-on at Ottawa's high-

profile software giant. Rhonda McIntyre Logie (Corel's service bureau representative) gave some revealing tips on working with Corel's colour engine and how to prepare files for a service bureau. They brought a ton of prizes too!

The May 9 meeting focused on image editing. Members got to play with pixels in everything from PC Paint to PhotoPaint and PhotoShop.

Our last meeting before the summer break will be held on June 13. The novice session starts at 7:00 and the regular meeting begins at 7:30.

The June meeting will focus on typography and everyone is invited to participate.

Check out the lively discussion on the PUB concerning font usage last month — everyone's got an opinion!

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## Bulletin board software upgrade

*Continued from page 5*

Now for the gotchas...

The new full screen file area interface requires that your communications program support ANSI. This is not the ANSYSYS you load in your CONFIG.SYS file it is a type of support that must be built into your communications software. If it does not support ANSI, you cannot use the new interface and you will get the old-style listing of files. When I first installed v2.3, you did not have to have ANSI turned on in your PUB configuration. TBBS can normally tell if you are "ANSI capable".

Well, that was fine. Except that there is another requirement for proper operation of the full screen interface to the file areas. It is vitally important that the screen length that TBBS thinks you have be correct. It turns out that some people had set their page length to 80 lines. TBBS believed them and tried to send them full screen operation set to that value. It made for some confusing looking screens!

I was also somewhat concerned about forcing this new interface on everyone who was using ANSI capable software, even if they had said no to ANSI in the User Profile menu. So I decided to take advantage of an option switch that tells TBBS not to enable any of the ANSI related features if they have ANSI set to no in User Profile.

This means that anyone who has ANSI set to no in User Profile will not see the new interface to the file areas. They will simply get the old-style list of files. It also means they cannot use the full screen editor for messaging. Sigh...

To set yourself up to use the full screen file area interface, go to the User Profile menu on The PUB. Choose the option to change configuration. From the menu that comes up, choose A (for ANSI codes) and answer Y to the prompt asking if your terminal can display ANSI codes. Press Enter to return to the User Profile menu. If you see the menu choices in red, then your software can handle ANSI codes. If you see lots of "garbage" characters like 31;44m and 1;37;44m then your software does not support ANSI. In this case, press C (for configuration), A (for ANSI), and answer N to the prompt. This will return you to non-ANSI mode.

If the menu looked fine, go back into changing your configuration, select P (for Page Pause) and answer Y to the prompt asking if you want a pause. You will then be asked for the number of lines per display page. Set this to the number of lines normally visible on-screen in your communications software (this is normally 23 or 24 lines).

You really should try out the new interface to the file areas. There are help prompts at the bottom of the screen to make sure you can easily use the features. It truly is a powerful new way of working with the file areas. See you on The PUB!

At the May 23rd General Meeting, I will be bringing my machine with a mock-up of The PUB. I will be available during the SIG section to demo the new features, answer any questions and address complaints to the best of my ability.

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*May 23  
meeting*

## Label me, Avery

*by Julie Dustin*

**D**espite the incredible improvements in software and hardware, printing is still a challenge on paper and labels. Who, besides myself, still holds onto that old typewriter "just in case".

On Tuesday, May 23, Avery-Dennison Office Products Canada, will be talking about their new products and the challenges involved with labels. Products can be used in tractor feed, laser or ink jet printers.

Avery-Dennison will be represented by Andrew Mascarenhas (who may spell his name totally different than I just did!). His presentation will cover the company's current products including a demonstration of the Avery Label-Pro software.

This may be your only chance to voice your questions about how to use only one label on a sheet at a time... and then feeding the sheet through later without losing the label inside the printer!

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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 last 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 both 5.25 in. and 3.5 in. diskettes (10 diskettes)

### Mailing Address

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

### Bulletin board—the PUB (BBS)

Up to 14.4 kbps v.32bis 228-0665 (6 lines)

### Chairman

Harald Freise 828-3411

### Treasurer

Tony Frith 995-4727

### Secretary

David Reeves 723-9658

### Membership Chairman

Mark Cayer 224-8031

### Software Librarian

Jorgen Rasmussen 821-3040

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Bert Schopf 838-3492

### Fox SIG Coordinator

Andrew Ross MacNeill (voice/fax) 596-3313

### Internet SIG Coordinator

David Curling 731-5381

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### Paradox SIG Coordinator

Larry Chop 236-8761 (days)

### Windows SIG Coordinator

Philip Baker 247-9555

### OS/2 SIG Coordinator

David Polich 739-7967



## Club news

# Prize winners from April 25 meeting

### OPCUG T-shirt

Herb Strain

Many thanks to Lotus Corp.  
for the following:

### Grand Prize Winner —

### Lotus Smart Suite software

Richard Morrisson

### Lotus mousepads

Rod Shepherd (one of our brand  
new members - welcome to  
OPCUG!)

David Clark

Raymond Doiron

Jean-Jacques Dromard

Rene Goyette

John Ladds

### Lotus baseball caps

Arthur Bowker

Keith Campbell

Pieter Dal

Bob Gowan

Cliff Hayes

Gerry Henri

Donald Kemp

Francis Lee

Ed Phaneuf

Christopher Porter

### Correction to last month's prize rundup:

The prize list showed that Richard  
Renaud won a prize, but it was in  
fact rightfully won by his son Mi-  
chael. Sorry about that. Maybe  
now Dad will let him keep it!

