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SLCC JOURNAL

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The NF's, NT's, SP's, and SJ's

by David Small

Re-printed from *Current Notes*, DEC 87/JAN 88

If you'll stick around with me through a little psychological talk, I'll tell you the single spookiest thing I know about programmers - and the thing that bodes the most ill for the computer industry. And, I will finally answer my own question from a previous column: "Why don't women like computers?"

In the 1920's, Carl Jung came up with an interesting theory: There were personality "types" which people were born with. People can no more change the "type" of person they are than change the color of their eyes. Jung also noted that the wise old Greeks "just happened" to have made some of their gods into exact profiles of a given personality type: for instance, Prometheus was the type NT. In short, the Greeks recognized the differences in people and symbolized them in their gods.

(The theories were pretty much forgotten after the 1920's, which isn't surprising given the turbulent events of the 1930's and 40's.)

In the 1950's, Jung's theories staged a comeback. Two rather bright people, Isabel Myers and Kathryn Briggs, used Jung's theories as a basis for classifying people into groups. They came up with the Myers-Briggs personality indicator. Since then, this indicator has become a leading personality type yardstick, used by many psychologists.

The type breaks down into four letters. Two of them show the basic type, the others are sort of modifiers applied to the basic type. The four types, along with the percentage of population they represent are:

NF	artist/writer/actor	iNtuitive/Feeling	10%
NT	architect/programmer	iNtuitive/Thinking	10%
SP	performer/worker	Sensory/Perceiving	40%
SJ	manager/member of structure	Sensory/Judgemental	40%

Now, Myers-Briggs never claims to describe a person exactly. You can't. However, you can gain a certain understanding of them, which can help you when dealing with a certain type of person. Let's look at the types:

The Types

Essentially, the "N" describes someone more comfortable with intuition - those thoughts that come from inside, vs. "S", which describing a person more comfortable with sensation and things that come from the outside. For instance, a poet is very intuitive; a performing rock star, very sensory.

The "F" and "T" tend to describe how you make decisions. An "F" indicates the decisions are based on feelings, emotions - the "gut feel". A "T" indicates more logical thinking, decisions based on procedures and logic. (I'll skip the "P" and "J" right now since they're not the concern of this article).

In a book called *Please Understand Me* (Prometheus Press, 1984), by David Keirsey and Marilyn Bates, these personality types are discussed at some length.

This is a fascinating book. It's probably the best book I've read in the last ten years. While I had known that people were different, I'd never read anything that indicated *how* they were different.

This book has quietly sold many, many copies. It's at most bookstores because it's a steady seller, which is quite unusual in the book business. I found it at B. Dalton's; I know it's also in other nationwide book chains and in libraries.

If you'd like to find out a lot about yourself, and a lot about other people, check it out. It's the best advice I've ever given a fair number of people, so I'll pass it on.

It helped me a great deal personally. For instance, my personality came out as "NF" (a writer) - some 90% of all writers are NF's. No big surprise there, right? But NF's have personal goals that are meaningless to the other personality types. A good example is the phrase "search for yourself"; if you're searching for yourself right now, you're probably an NF. If you think that phrase is inherently silly, you're probably not an NF. It only has meaning to the NF personality.

Remember Bill Murray's movie about "a man in search of himself"? Only 10% of the population could relate to that. It bombed, as I recall.

But, until I found out that 90% of the population didn't think the way I did, I always wondered who had the screw loose, myself or the rest of them. Now I can understand how I'm different than the majority of people and deal with it.

The two minority personalities, NT and NF, represent 10% of the population each. NF's tend to be artists, writers, actors, very creative folk.

Then there are NT's. The "T" means thinking; it means NT's make decisions based logically. NT's are fond of numbers and math, black and white portrayals of the world. Scientists are classic NT personalities. They often have very digital-seeming opinions, seeing the world as being absolutely one way or another, never in between. Robert Heinlein is a classic NT-style writer and is beloved among NT science fiction fans for it.

A classic is that software is either "a piece of crap" or "insanely great" - never anything in between ("it's so-so"). Think of your last user group meeting.... those phrases ring any bells?

NT's tend to be rather cool and aloof seeming people (although they certainly don't feel they're acting cool and aloof!). This perception makes other people often consider them quite arrogant. NT's also like technical documentation. They just love figuring out how things work, and telling you about it *in depth*. Finally, NT's love logic puzzles. A murder mystery is a delight to an NT - who dunnit?

Lest anyone say I'm not qualified to say what NT's are like, allow me to point out I'm married to one, and I work with two of them daily.

A Spooky Statistic

I was fascinated with this book, as I said. So, I began to bother my friends and run this profile on them from that same book. Since I travel in computer circles, this included a lot of programmers.

And, every one, *every single one*, turned out to be an NT. This is absolutely incredible; NT's are a minority in the population. You'd expect to find only one in ten persons being an NT.

This statistic has lasted for two years!

And this is the spookiest thing I know about programmers.

I happen to be the only programmer I know that's an NF; I also happen to be the only programmer I know that writes about computers.

And, I have never found a computer user that is an SJ or an SP - and those are 80% of the general population.

Folks, this means that the people writing software are NT's, with all the good and bad points of NT's. They are going to bias their software, even if they don't mean to, towards the NT personality; it will seem reasonable to them, after all.

So, you're going to see software with lots of logic puzzles. (Think of adventure games like ZORK). You're going to see the world portrayed in numbers. (Think of role playing games, where your "strength", "charisma" and such are represented by numbers). You're going to see lots of apocalyptic games, where either win or lose 100%, with no inbetween. (Think of arcade games). Spreadsheets, databases, word processors, geared towards technical applications that can be represented in numbers.

You're going to see lots of "infinite detail" sorts of things that NT's love, like the "C" language - needlessly and pointlessly complex, yet a joy to someone who likes logic puzzles. Ever see a book called *C Puzzles*? It exists. Ever seen a "C" programmer ask another, "What does this do?", to show off a particularly weird piece of code? I have... in fact, "C" approaches being unusable for me.

Any of this sound familiar?

Now, think of your technical documentation. An NF writes tech documentation like this:

1. Stick the disk into the disk drive.
2. Turn the machine on.

and so on. Generally, they talk about what the software will do for you.

An NT writes tech docs like this (remember, they want to tell you -everything-...):

1. Insert the diskette into the disk drive. The diskette is composed of ferric oxide, which can be spot magnetized. It rotates at 300 (three hundred) RPM and the data rate is 1 microsecond (.000001 second) per cell time, which is 250 (two hundred and fifty) KHz. There are 80 (eighty) tracks on the disk, and there are 10 (ten) sectors per track...

(then, about five pages later),

2. Turn on the computer. Do this by depressing the rocker switch located two inches from the top of the back cover (as measured from the top) until you feel a firm 'click'. At this point, the fan should start revolving....

Does this sound familiar? If you've read anything from IBM, TI, CDC, or HP, it surely does.. for the folks writing that technical documentation are NT's.

And this, I feel, is the reason the general populace - the other 90% of us - consider computer documentation to be uniformly ghastly. The NT people writing it are writing it for themselves, and they don't have any idea it's not what the rest of us want. In fact, that idea never even occurs to them. Why, it's not reasonable that someone wouldn't want to know everything about the computer; it's not reasonable, to an NT, that someone would want to know just enough to "make it go".

Anyone who's been around us at Data Pacific tends to hear these NT/NF terms a lot. It's become part of our private lexicon here. And it's helped us to get along. My partner's an NT, I'm an NF, and we have disagreeing views about lots of things. But understanding that the disagreement comes from a different way of looking at the world makes it all tolerable; instead of some bizarre, unexplainable behavior on the other person's part, it becomes simply part of who they are.

For instance, I might want to wax lyrical on the back of our packaging. (*would you use wax paper, David?* - ed.) So I write a little story about the Sorcerer's castle, the Magic Sac, and so on. Now my partner isn't into that. He wants NT detail back there. He wants the buyer to know all about the Magic Sac, the system hardware requirements, RAM size, disk drives, et al. Numbers

So, we compromise. I get half the page, he gets the other half. He understands I write the way I do because I'm an NF; I understand his need for detail, because he's an NT. He also tends to nitpick manuals; this would drive me absolutely crazy if I didn't know he was an NT.

If you really want to know how Data Pacific gets along so smoothly, read this book; the principles within work. I'll also mention briefly that I married an NT, and we didn't really get along until I read this book and could see her personality (which was most frustrating for me) described there; it fit her perfectly. (She has a Computer Science degree...)

For the first time, I could see she acted the way she did because she was born that way, and vice versa. By golly, she wasn't just being that way to irritate me.

It made a big difference.

We've just grown out of the first generation of computers, which were NT puzzle delights. IBM DOS, for instance, is one hopeless logic puzzle. And we've seen the general populace get told that computers are important. What happened? The big crash of 1984 in computers, when that same populace decided that computers weren't interesting, despite all the hype. Imagine the frustration of the NT computer designers, who couldn't see why the general populace wasn't turned on by these machines.

Just think - all those computers for just 10% of the populace.

My personal belief is that the Apple Macintosh succeeded because it was the first computer that NF's enjoyed using. Think of the people you see that classically use the Mac. Artists. Musicians. Graphics designers. These are NF's pretty much exclusively. They don't enjoy trivia games with DOS, knowing that one little unknown command that makes DOS work, and so forth. Most of them probably don't know that a disk is made out

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SAMPLE SCREEN

of ferric oxide and has 80 tracks; they do see a little painting in a little disk "window" and can "click on it".

No NT-style endless detail or puzzles; that NF's detest...

And my other belief is that no one has invented a computer that the rest of the population - some 80% - will use. (*Oh? How about the XEGS? ed.*) Oh, perhaps a worker, if forced, will use a word processor. Perhaps a manager, if forced, will use a spreadsheet to help them manage. But it's rare. And it's sure not going to be a hobbyist kind of toy for them.

So we've managed to hit 20% of the populace and left 80% cold. My parents have a computer; it's sitting in a closet right now. (They are not NT or NF people). I bet you know of people who feel the same way about computers.

The personality profile also explains a little bit about why programmers and artists are classically hard to manage. NF's/NT's and SJ are coming from two different points of view. Neither has any idea of the other's personal goals. For instance, SJ managers tend to regard NF's as "artist flakes", and NT's as "arrogant programmers". NT's have no idea why the manager wants something on time, instead of done *right* in all the details. And NF's have no idea why a manager wouldn't care that the packaging is so downright ugly, so non-artistic.

I've seen this happen at programming shop after programming shop. It's one of the big reasons that programming companies fold up.

Sadly, programmers also tend to be pretty unhappy people. They've grown up isolated; only one person in ten is anything like them. In high school they tend to be pretty lonely, regarded as "brains" and the like. Only in college do they tend to find more people like them.

So they tend to withdraw into themselves, or become chilly and arrogant towards a population they consider as irrational. Computer provide a perfect home for these people; computers are always rational, logical, and play by the rules. People don't.

At the recent HackerCon 3.0, I saw many, many unhappy NT programmers. They were happy at the conference because they were with other NT's; they could open up a little. But you could see them returning to a pretty isolated life after the conference. And yes, the words "piece of crap" and "insanely great" permeated the conference.

And I also met the (former) editor of a computer language journal, who was depressed, wondering why

computers, and the people there, had become so dull to her. I told her about this book; she ended up as an NF type personality, definitely not an NT technical writer.

How To Write A Script

TV scriptwriters have found that if you stick with a classical portrayal of a personality type for a character, you'll find people of that type will quickly relate to that character. One of the unknown things about Star Trek, one of the reasons for it's rabidly loyal viewership, is that it sticks very closely with all the types, giving each person someone to relate to. (This is a big problem with the new show, in my opinion - they broke that rule. It could have been the original Star Trek happened on this accidentally).

There's Kirk, the SJ manager, the upholder of societal institutions. There's Spock, the classic NT. There's McCoy, the NF. And there's Scotty and Sulu, the SP's.

See if this brings back any memories:

"Spock, you green blooded, inhuman Vulcan... how could you not care?": The NF, McCoy.

"Really, Doctor. (Raises one eyebrow). So illogical": The NT, Spock.

"Gentlemen, let's get back to work. Warp 9, Scotty.": The SJ manager, Kirk.

"Aye, aye, soor.": The SP worker, Scotty.

Does this ring any bells? The scriptwriters usually did this at least once per story.

Sounds like pretty classic personality types stuff to me.

Authors use this as well. In the fourth book I did, "White Sorcerer", which wasn't good enough to publish (well, that's the breaks), I tried to pattern characters on these styles, to make them seem more realistic, because real people act the way the book says. Other authors say it better than I do, some instinctively (like John D. MacDonald, others more overtly. That's why they get published.

Conclusion

Well, there you have it, a quick introduction to Meyers-Briggs and why it's probably relevant to you. If you're reading this, here in *Current Notes* (or the *Journal* - ed.), you're probably an NT. Tempted to instantly dismiss this article as "a piece of crap"?

Bingo

I will say, in my own defense, I found it extremely difficult to condense an excellent book into this article. Yet, if it inspires you to pick up "Please Understand Me", if at least to see what I'm talking about, then you'll be way ahead for having read it. This is especially true for NT programmers wondering what on earth is wrong with other people, their boss, wife, and so forth.

Nor will I present any sort of questions that would help you determine, quickly, which type you might be. That's up to the book; it's written by better people than I. A pretty good Meyers-Briggs profile is on page 2 of the book.

And now, I'll give the "something to think about" answer to a previous article, "Why Don't Women Like Computers?"

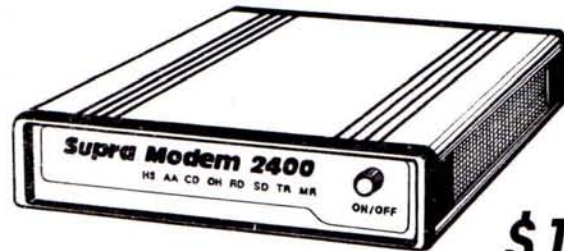
It's a trick question. Some women DO like computers. NT's But 80% of women don't, just as 80% of the men don't. If you're an NT woman, you

probably would enjoy computers. (I certainly had enough NT style letters from women telling me so, in classic black and white NT terms. "Your article was absolutely wrong... we have lots of women in our user group... etc, etc.").

Now, as for how an NF like me became a programmer.. well, that's another story. In fact, I'll get to it, just as soon as I finish "searching for myself"...



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News Bits and Commentary

By: Frank Klierer

This page was a few minutes away from completion, after a couple of hours work, and Pub. Part. bombed and of course I had not saved, so all was lost. Oh well, practice makes one, frustrated as heck. Excuse me a second while I save my work thus far...Whew, I feel better now, two saves, one to each drive. I ain't taken no chances this time!

This has been a short news month, as we have cut a week off the usual deadline in order to try a new service, that will hopefully take another step in the improvement of the looks of what you are reading. Thanks to an arrangement made with NAVARONE, by Bob Barton, we will modem this to an ST hooked up to a Linotronics typesetter for our output. Jim Hood is still in the production cycle. We couldn't do without his eagle eye, critical humor and tolerance for our last minute shenanigans. If you want more info. on this new service, let me know and I'll fill you in on the numbers.

Speaking of the JOURNAL, if any of you are interested in starting a Desktop Publishing Sig., and would be willing to produce a monthly column on a subject near and dear to your heart, like music, finance, graphics or whatever, and have your work distributed around the world, let me know as we are willing to train anyone interested in seeing some continuity to this publication. Time to save again...Ahhhhhhh!

The only news I've got on our good old friend Atari, is that they are trying to make a move on the senior education market by getting the ST into university music departments. Oh well, it's a start.

My latest discovery is a new feature in the Atari section of the Great American Dream Machine BBS. (415) 581-3019. The following is a list of the subject areas available on the International Echo Conference:

- [A]_Atari-St.....Conference
- [B]_C-Prog.....Conference
- [E]_Quik-Bas.....Conference
- [F]_Film.....Movies, TV, & Video
- [G]_For-Sale.....Buy or Sell Stuff
- [I]_Humor.....Just for Fun
- [J]_Lou-Dripkins Memorial - For Fun
- [L]_Pascal.....Programing Conference
- [M]_SFFAN.....Science Fiction, Film, TV
- [N]_Sports.....All Sports Conference
- [O]_Stock-Market.....Conference
- [P]_Technical.....Conference
- [Q]_Telecom.....Conference
- [R]_Trek.....StarTrek Files - TV
- [S]_WARNING.....Products Conference

Something for everybody. Believe me, 30 minutes goes by fast when you've joined one of these conferences. Below is a sample of some of the chatter:

Msg#:10632 *Atari-St Echo* 05/20/88 23:51:00 From: NEVIN SHALIT To: MIKE CANE Subj: REPLY TO MSG# 9714 (RE: NEODESK) Neodesk is GREAT, but it takes up 140K. Since I have 2.5 megs, that is okay by me. But if I had a 1040? Not so sure. Anyway, the best thing about Neodesk I think is the ability to put icons on the desktop, outside of all windows. I have icons for WordPerfect, Interlink, Pub Parnter, PC Ditto, Magic Sac and SwiftCalc all on my desktop, lined up in a row. I never have to open all those disks and folders, I just double click on the icon. But this works best with a hard drive, of course.

There are other nice things about Neodesk, but I am too tired to explain it all. If you can deal with losing 140K, it is DEFINITELY worth the price.

--Nevin --- TBBS v2.0 * Origin: LINKS_II MIDI_INN Multi-User TBBS - NYC, NY (107/111)

Msg#: 9639 *StarTrek Echo* 05/21/88 01:02:00 From: DARRYL SHELDON To: DEF LEPPARD Subj: REPLY TO MSG# 9638 (RE: TASHA) Def, The "Natasha Yar" character was killed off because the actress who uh, filled out her uniform (Denise Crosby) wanted out of the series. The granddaughter of Bing Crosby and star of the *hit film "The Eliminators," felt that her character was underdeveloped. Most of the people on this base will give sworn testimony that the late Lt. Yar was in no way underdeveloped. Please, let her character rest in peace. (And send Weasely, uh, Wesley Crusher to join her!) -Darryl Sheldon

P.S. I thought that Wil Wheaton was annoying in Stand By Me, both the movie and the music video! This was long before ST:TNG so I think we can dismiss the "jealousy" theory. P.P.S. Okay, okay. So I started the "jealousy" theory! Big deal! I still think that he is an obnoxious toad with no finesse or even sanity around girls. (See "Justice" for confirmation!) P.P.P.S. I know, another 1 am message. It looks like it, too!

Origin: The Byte Bucket - Huntsville, AL

A few last notes before the final save...Timeworks will be at the ST Sig., where a copy of their new desktop publishing program will be auctioned off. The guest for the Main Meeting is still a mystery, hopefully one with a little Stephen King flavor.

END



Mark your calendar
For October 15-16

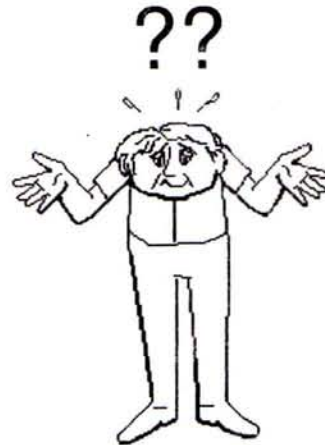
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Ask Mr. Programmer

(Or how Stephen Everman fakes a column)



Below is the first in a hopefwhich color we want to check, in our case "X", Questions and Answers on GFA BASIC. I always wondered how magazines started their Q & A sections, without any questions. Now I know, they fake it. So, in the tradition of great magazines around the world, I offer these trumped up questions:

Q: Steve, I have a friend who is starting a column in a magazine, and wants to know how to get GFA files into a word processor, and word processor files into GFA. -Frank Klier-

A: Frank, That's a wonderful question. To get a GFA file into a word processor first block the code with BLK START, and BLK END then click on BLOCK and select WRITE as the option. The file will be automatically saved to the disk in ASCII format. Getting ASCII files into the word processor is different for each word processor, and I'll leave that up to you. To get a file created on a word processor into GFA it must be in ASCII format, then simply MERGE, (not load) it in. If it's real and proper GFA code it will run as written. I guess the bottom line is, that the only way of communicating with GFA from the outside is by using ASCII. GFA files are not normally saved in ASCII, instead GFA uses it's own strange format that includes all of the variable names, and other assorted non-ASCII information.

Q: Steve, I'm dying to know how to restore the original colors back when my programs end. -Jennie Klier-

A: Jennie, I don't know how you people keep coming up with them, but that's another wonderful question. Below is the code for doing the aforementioned. It should be straight forward except the "Xbios(7,X,-1) And &Hfff" command, which is really the heart of the matter. You may or may not know that the Xbios commands are really just small pre-written routines, waiting in the computer for us to use, but that's what they really are. And fortunately for us the seventh Xbios command checks screen colors. The three pieces of information(7,X,-1) inside the brackets of the Xbios command are, in order; One- the number of the command we want, namely 7, Two-

and Three- are we reading or writing information (-1). Xbios 7 is capable of changing a color or reading the last color. If the value is positive, color "X" would change to that value. If the value is negative one, the old value is read.

Now all we have to do is loop through all 16 colors using the Xbios 7 command, to store the information in an array. Then we can use this information to reset the colors when our program is finished. There is one slight problem though, the information "Xbios 7" is returning to us is too large, so we have to remove some of it. Which is where the "And &HFFF" comes from. &HFFF is simply the number 16515072 written in Hexadecimal format. The word "And" is really a command that compares numbers on the bit level. But for our purposes it is easiest to think of "And &HFFF" as subtracting the number &HFFF from the result of the Xbios command. You could replace "And &HFFF" with "-16515072" the routine would work just as well. But the first is more professional, and explains to the programmer, in more precise terms, what is really happening.

```

Dim In_colors(15)
@Get_colors
YOUR PROGRAM GOES HERE
@Reset_colors
End
-----
Procedure Get_colors
For X=0 To 15
In_colors(X)=Xbios(7,X,-1) And &HFFF
Next X
Return
-----
Procedure Reset_in_colors
For X=0 To 15
Setcolor X,In_colors(X)
Next X
Return

```

If you have any GFA questions, or comments please leave a private message on Stu's place, or drop a note to Stephen Everman in care of the SLCC JOURNAL P.O. Box 1506, San Leandro, CA

Review:

Supra Modem 2400

Supra Corp.
1133 Commercial Way
Albany, OR 97321
Orders : (503) 967-9075
Suggested List: \$179.95

Reprinted from **The Atari JOURNAL**
Written by: **Jack Durre**

What's smaller than a breadbox, faster than a flying bullet, and able to leap long distances at the drop of a keystroke? The Supra 2400 modem, that's what!

I originally purchased one of these little jewels from the pre-production batch of 50 or so, while Mark and Willy, the principals of Supra Corp. were cornered at last November's COMDEX show in Las Vegas. That proved to be a mixed blessing. It allowed me to move up to a faster modem, which is important to me, given the number of hours that I spend on-line. The other side of the coin was that some "teething problems" were lurking inside its sleek aluminum covering...

Aluminum, yes, with a faceplate that is somewhat reminiscent of my old Hayes 300, except this one has a push-button power switch on the front. It also has the same familiar eight LED indicators, just as a Hayes, or my ADC 1200 modem. More striking, however, than the colors, or indicators, is the *SIZE*...This thing is tiny! At 4 5/8" x 6 1/2" x 1 1/4", it's about half the size of my other modems, and takes up little space on my shelf.

OK, that's the outside...what's it got inside? Well, as I understand it, the chipset is produced by Intel, and probably accounts for Supra's ability to make this unit for such a low price (I've already seen them discounted for less than \$160.) It's fully compatible with the Hayes-based "AT" commands (well, except for one rather obscure one that I like to use..."S11=40", which allows for "speed-dialing"), operates asynchronously at 300/1200/2400 bps, is compatible with Bell 103/212A, CCITT V.22, and CCITT V.22bis protocols. It also has the ability to auto answer and to automatically dial in either tone or pulse modes. Additionally, it used non volatile RAM to store certain user-set data. All switch setting and volume control (for the built-in speaker!) are software selectable, and two telephone jacks are included for "loop-thru" connection to the telephone system, allowing you to connect a normal telephone on the "other side" of the modem.

Whew! That's quite a list of specs, eh? Yep. And it works like a champ! When I first brought my 'little

humdinger' home, I anxiously hooked it up, and set to work using it, with an eye towards getting an early review done on it. For awhile all appeared to work quite well and I was very pleased. However, as I would attempt to move files from an individual's computer to mine, via modem, I began to experience some small difficulties. At first, I noticed that I couldn't get it to go on-line by using the "ATA/ATD" commands. Being that I frequently talk to the other parties by voice, before switching to the modem, this was awkward, at best. Then I began to notice that its ability to auto-answer seemed unreliable.

Hmmm...Worse, the speaker volume, which had been acceptable in the beginning, now seemed a bit too loud.. Nothing disastrous, you understand...just irksome.

Finally, after a frustrating time of trying to get into auto-answer, so that I might download the latest beta version of a program that I was involved with, I yanked it out of the circuit, packed it up and shipped it back to Supra, with a rather cursory note about it "not working RIGHT", or some such! (Actually, my ire was more in relation to the fact that a 'tool' had to be given up for a 'lesser one'!)

I "struggled" along at 1200 bps for almost 2 weeks, when UPS showed up on my doorstep with a box from Supra! HOORAY!... Maybe it's fixed? Upon opening, I found that the unit had been REPLACED with a newer unit! Seems that there WERE a few bugs still waiting in those pre-production models and this must have been one of them! Well sir, no faulting these Supra folks for THAT! (HMMM...ISN'T INTEL CONNECTED TO IBM? <GRIN>)

Plugged it back into the system, booted it up and guess what? Not a single problem in over a month and a half of SOLID use! In fact, I have the power for the unit connected to my main power switch, so that it's on at any time that my CPU is powered, which generally amounts to 16-18 hours a day! It hasn't missed a lick, and the line noise filtering appears to be quite good, as I log into several small boards across long distance lines which are known to be plagued with noise, and am generally successful in getting through.

What more can I say about this unit or its manufacturer? The modem does EXACTLY what I expected of it, I'm happy with it, both form performance and appearance's sake, and I'm pleased with the quick treatment that I received from Supra Corp. While there are a few other 2400 bps modems now available in the same price range, this one is still the lowest priced, to my knowledge, and does its job quite reliably. If you've given any thought to buying a modem recently, by all means, give this one a close look...IT'S A BARGAIN!



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Now That The Wrapper Is Off

by Peter Corona

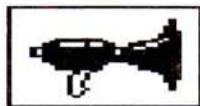
This short article is dedicated to Jim Moran, which without his help (pushing), this article is released before it's time. I was the lucky winner of Word Perfect, the cadillac of word processors, at the special raffle held during the April SLCC general meeting.

It came with 6 disks and a 562 page manual, not counting the Appendix and Index. It also had a function Key template and a Quick reference foldout folder of the commands (nice).

The manual is divided into 6 sections: Getting Started, Learning, Reference, Installation, Appendix, and Glossary-Index. Installation Setup was a breeze with no problems encountered. I have a 2 Meg 1040 so I installed the Spell and Thesaurus in a 800K ram disk. Works real fast. You don't have to read the whole manual before you can use Word Perfect. Just don't try to get too fancy until you go through the Learning section which I am still reading. I am impressed by the all the commands of this WP even though I will not be using most of them all of the time.

This is the first impression of Word Perfect by a non-writer. I like Word Perfect and the price was sure right for me.

END



Announcing:

A Special Package Deal for SLCC Club members:

Charles Cherry will teach a six to eight week course on CAD 3D and the related Cyber series. Starting time to be announced in the next few weeks.

Cost to enroll will be \$20. But, hold on... You will get \$10 back for completing the course.

(Course completion will consist of having your original design of a Space Transport Vehicle accepted and finally used by NASA on a successful trip to Mars).

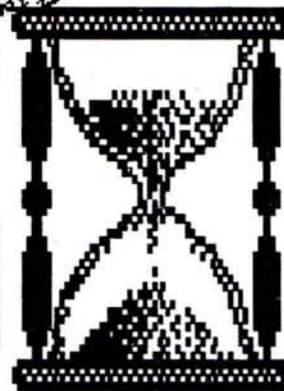
The course will run about two hours one day a week. There will also be a special purchase price on the various elements of the Cyber series for those enrolled in the class. So, sign-up at your first opportunity to make sure you make it on board this once in a life time experience!!!

---Just kidding about the Mars thing---



Minutes

From May Meeting



General Meeting - May 3, 1988

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 PM by President Barton. Roll Call of Officers: Present: Barton & Moran. Excused: Hansen & Sawley.

President Barton reported on the Atari and Amiga show held at the Fashion Island Mall in San Mateo. There were a number of people interested in joining the club and the club sold enough Public Domain disks to offset expenses. For the first time in this type of show there were two commercial companies selling Public Domain disks. Due to the cutthroat practices of these two companies the disk sales of the User Groups was not what it should have been.

The Eight bit Floppy of the month was demonstrated by our software co-chairmen. This month's floppy contains an assortment of programs including, Galleons, Baseball, Labrynth, Prompter, Maximilian B Graphdem, Playdem, Beerbash, Castle and more.

Program Chairman Bob Rasmussen introduced a representative from Rainbird Software who told the club a bit about the company and demonstrated a late game release for the ST called Carrier Command. We were also told of two other releases, U.M.S. a wargame and Starglider II. The programs Rainbird Software is currently selling through Activision are mostly brought to this country from Europe.

The second speaker of the night was Gary from Tolin Corporation, manufacturer of Hard disk drives. Gary gave a short history of the Corporation and showed their latest hard drives products for the ATARI. Shown were 33 Megabyte and 51 megabyte units. These drives are sold in a number of ways from partially assembled kits to fully assembled drives that are ready to plug in and use.

Next order of business called by the President was Nomination of Officers for the 88/89 year. The following were nominated:

President - Bob Barton Vice President - Terry Abbott & Mike Sawley Treasurer - Jim Hood - Richard Stiehl - Dick Scott Secretary - Jim Moran President Barton advised the membership that additional nominations may be made at the June regular meeting prior to the election which will be held during that meeting.

An election committee comprised of Peter Norman, Kieth Sammons & Don Safer was appointed. Last but not least David and Lisa Beckemeyer from Beckemeyer Development demonstrated and explained the three

hard disk utilities that they currently have available for the Atari. Their Hard Disk Accelerator is a caching program that speeds up hard disk access. Their second utility is a hard disk backup program that offers a number of different ways to backup your drive to floppy disks. This backup program tells you exactly how many floppies you need before you start the actual backup. Their newest utility is Hard Disk Sentry which checks your hard drive, files and tables for problems and corrects them when possible.

President Barton adjourned the meeting at 10:18 PM with reminders of the June elections and the Atari swap meet at the Oakland Coliseum on May 21 & 22.

Respectfully Submitted - Jim Moran - Secretary

END

Take part in the club's direction

Vote for club officers
at

The next main meeting

Tuesday, June 7th

Right after you vote in the California Primary you can come and cast a vote that will really make an impact.

Remember, Tuesday, June 7th 1988
The day you get to vote twice!

JUNE 1988

SLCC Calendar of Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 MAIN MEETING 8PM San Leandro Public Library	8 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING	9	10	11
12	13 ST SIG 8PM San Leandro Public Library	14	15 ST SOFTWARE SIG 8 PM	16	17	18
19	20 Music SIG 7:30 PM	21 BEGINNER'S SIG 7:30PM TELECOMM SIG 8 PM	22 ST Beginner's SIG 7:30 PM	23	24 JOURNAL DEADLINE	25
26	27	28 PASCAL SIG 7 PM BUSINESS SIG 8 PM	29	30		

Now That It's Plugged In...

The SLCC has a Beginners SIG for those who own Atari 8-bit or ST computers and consider themselves a novice or beginner. We discuss Basic, DOS, operations, system set-up, keyboard functions, and other introductory material. SIG meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM (8-bit) or the fourth Wednesday at 7:30 (ST).

Call the appropriate SIG Leader for information and directions.

See you there...

SIG (special interest group) leaders and their phone numbers are located on the Table of contents page at the front of the Journal. Please call them for more details or directions.



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Next Meeting:

JUNE 7, 1988 • 8 pm

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