



The Toronto OS/2 User Group's News Letter

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TWO YEAR ANNIVERSARY ISSUE: Netscape and Corel team up, more **News From the 'Net**, Partition Magic Reviewed, and a hidden gem - the Applications Sampler CD, and more!

Partition Roulette: Partition Magic to the Rescue

By Noah Sumner, Toronto OS/2 User Group Member

Partition Magic is a excellent program that makes impossible tasks extremely easy to accomplish. Partition Magic is a replacement for FDISK, and includes many additional features that let you to do many difficult tasks on the fly. Partition Magic is a **dynamite** utility especially if you run more then one operating system.

First of all we will need to understand exactly what a partition is, and I'm going to steal the definition that was included in the Partition Magic 2.0 manual. Imagine you have a very large house with absolutely no internal walls - it would be very hard organize things in your house and would not be very efficient. So we put up some walls in our house (partitions), which help keep us organized thus making us more efficient. A hard drive works much the same way - we build our own partitions (walls), but like a wall in a house it is not easy to change the location of a partition.

Using partitions we can keep our operating systems, data, and applications separate. On today's bigger Hard Drives partitions are almost required especially if you use the FAT (the only option in DOS and Windows 95) file system. The FAT file system is very wasteful in comparison to HPFS with respect to how the space is allocated. If your Hard Drive is larger then 2 GB then you must have more then FAT partition. HPFS is not very wasteful, and you may have larger than 2 GB partitions, however you should still partition to organize your data. If you are using more than one operating system it is very beneficial to partition and keep the operating systems separate.

Partition Magic 3.0 from Power Quest Corporation allows us to easily convert FAT partition to HPFS, resize partitions, move partitions, and even copy a partition - all without losing our valuable data. This is a truly amazing trick, as before Partition Magic came along a lot of time and a very detailed knowledge of computers and partitioning was required to resize, or move partitions, unless you want delete all of your data - sometimes up to 6 days, so you can imagine how

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News from the Net

By Martin Moran, Editor

As announced last month, DBExpert has now been acquired by Sundial Systems. Sundial, as you know, is the ISV that produces Relish, the Personal Information Manager, and now owns a spreadsheet and word processor as well. With this announcement, the possibility that they will release a native OS/2 suite is immense. You read it here first.

FixPak 1 for Warp v4 is out as of the end of February, 1997. Get it while it's hot. My best bet for getting it: the local IBM BBS. Guaranteed connections speeds and little slowdown during transfers.

IBM has confused the world (again!). They've announced the withdrawal of several TCP/IP kits, most notably version 2.0, the last that wasn't bundled with a version of OS/2. Since this announcement, they've had to issue a more confusing press release, and if anyone can make heads or tails of it, you're a better Teamer than I. I thought I had read everything.

Remember the "Virtual Gameboy" of a few months back? Sure you do - pirate Gameboy cartridge games onto a hard disk, and run them from an emulator? Well now, someone has come up with a Spectrum 48/128k emulator for Warp. It uses DIVE, FSDIVE and DART, and emulates the Sinclair ZX Spectrum 48/128k machine. Go figure. A port from a DOS/Unix program. Available at Hobbes.

Remember that we told you about EmTec acquiring the Neologic

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Partition Magic

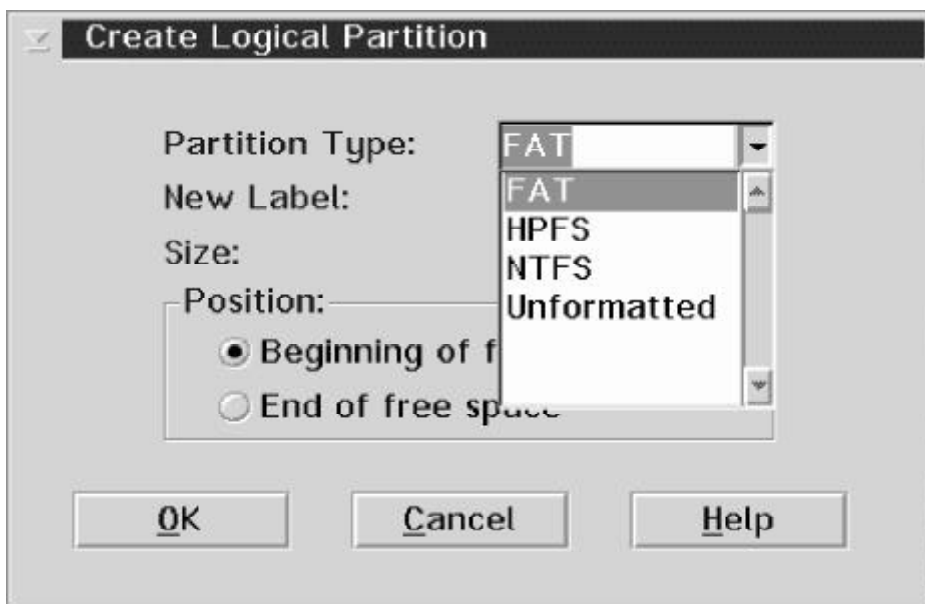
...Continued from Page 1

useful this utility really is. Partition Magic 3.0 also allows you to do all the things that FDISK allows you to do, such as create, delete, and label partitions.

When creating a partition with

bottom of the screen which provide a quick way to access features.

There is also a new copy option. This feature allows you to copy a partition to free space on any of the hard drives installed. This is done very



Partition Magic you can create a blank partition, or you can instantly choose what format you wish the partition to be. When formatting within partition Magic you have the choices of FAT, FAT32, HPFS, NTFS, and Extended. If you are using FAT then Partition Magic will help you choose how large to make your partition, and still use drive space efficiently.

Partition Magic includes a very nice graphical interface that can be used under OS/2, DOS, Windows 3.1, and Windows 95. With the graphical interface it is extremely easy to create, delete, resize, move, copy partitions. In case of an emergency there is a text mode version of partition magic which will also run under the same operating systems as the graphical interface, and it's small enough to be included on a emergency boot diskette. The interface is rather clear and very intuitive. There are a number of buttons at the

simply by simply clicking where free space is, and where you want the copy to be located. This is a great feature for a corporation that needs to set up a large number of workstations - simply set up one machine and keep on copying.

There is also a new enhanced information screen featuring pie graphs, and a whole new interface with lots of detailed information about your partition. One of the best new features is the cluster button (which only works on a fat drive), which gives you information about how much space you are wasting and make recommendations on how to conserve space.

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Partition Magic

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Partition Magic 3.0 for the first time also includes Boot Manager, a utility which allows you to choose your operating system every time you turn

If you are worried about Partition Magic causing problems with your hard drive you shouldn't be. I



on your computer. OS/2 users will be very familiar with this feature, because PowerQuest has licensed boot manager from IBM. The inclusion of Boot Manager means that when you want to add a new operating system you don't have to load up FDISK to add operating system to the Boot Manager menu but may now do so from within Partition Magic. As well for users who don't yet have boot manager installed if you have Partition Magic install boot manager for you it will automatically create a partition on which Boot Manager will reside.

There are two small features which OS/2 users will not get the benefit of. There is a utility called Drive Mapper, which will update all references for Windows when a drive letter changes, and an application mover included that also only works with Windows. They work very well, and those users that do have to use windows at times you will find these applications very useful.

have done a large amount of partitioning using Partition Magic since version 1.0 and to this day I haven't had any data loss; I can assure you that before Partition Magic 3.0 was released it went through a long and extensive Beta cycle, to eliminate any bugs. Partition Magic costs about \$90 Canadian. For more information please visit the PowerQuest web-page at <http://www.powerquest.com>.

Noah Sumner - nss@iname.com

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This Month's Agenda:

May 8, 1997 - A special look at Java.

May 22, 1997 - The Programmer's SIG is unfortunately cancelled this month.

From the Warped Mind of the Editor

By Martin Moran, Editor

Wow! I've really cut back on the size of my editorials - down to only one column, oh well.

This month past was not a happy one for me, OS/2 wise. I received a great present from Lotus - a copy of SmartSuite 96. I opened it with unbridled joy and happiness only to discover that my main-and-favourite word processor (Ami Pro for Windows) was as much of a pig in it's new OS/2 incarnation as was AmiPro for OS/2. This despite all of the assurances of Lotus.

That begs the question - what the heck is out there for good productivity apps for OS/2 users anyway? I'm talking mainstream, pig out on drive space, everyone has to have them applications like word processors and spreadsheets. We all know that 1-2-3 for OS/2 shouldn't be mentioned in the halls of Lotus, as many a programmer will run away making the sign of the cross. Describe is basically dead, and we've not seen ClearLook since it was bought by Sundial Systems. StarOffice looks wonderful, but if it can get past the courts here in North America (it looks a bunch like MS Office) they likely won't market it anyway as IBM owns it and Lotus is their flagship.

Where does that leave us? It leaves us with no major office suite that can do the job we want it to do. It leaves us with an OS/2 suite that has more Windows 3.1 apps in it than it does OS/2 apps, and the OS/2 ones aren't very good. It leaves us where we've been for the last three years - **behind**. Nothing is being or will be done about this, and it looks like OS/2 is going to be a niche market product.

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Working With Warp

By Terry Hamilton, TO/2 President

One of the most overlooked part of WARP 4 is the bonus **APPLICATION SAMPLER CD**.

The CD comes in the WARP 4 box and has 80 sample applications that are either demos, timeout versions or beta versions. Even with that there are some useful tools hidden in there. Worth taking a look at if only because you can start the Catalog and browse without actually installing anything.

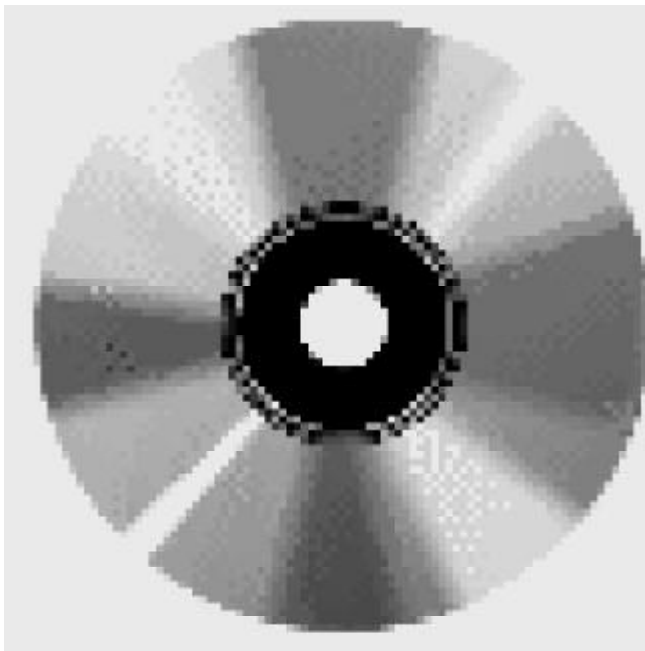
One thing to be aware of is as of now, March 1997, the contents of this CD are about 6 months out of date. Many of the BETA versions are now shipping and more current versions of the SHAREWARE can be found on websites. Some of the ones that I have tried are described below.

The AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY - CONCISE EDITION is an 80,000 word on-line dictionary. It is a dictionary not an encyclopedia so don't expect multimedia and pictures but if you prefer having this type of info on-line it is here.

Although I haven't tried it **BLUECAD for OS/2** is rumoured to be a very powerful application for CAD design. In this case you get a 30 day full function trial.

Although there are plenty of Card Games for OS/2 the version of **CFS POKER** is unique because you don't have to register the program until you

use up the \$1000 game credits. If you're really good you may get the game free forever!



One of the most useful tools on the CD and most worthy of purchase is **DESKMAN/2**. This powerful tool can be used to extend the WPS and also provides a method to backup your desktop icons for restore between versions. In fact I used the sampler to backup my desktop before installing WARP 4 and restored afterward! Well worth trying and worth purchasing!

One of the most used sampler applications is **GAMMATECH IRC**. Although it only gives you Thirty minutes of connection in IRC at a time it is well worth trying for someone just starting with IRC. More than a few members of the group use the full version of GTIRC.

For those members with access to CompuServe there is **GOLDEN COMPASS**. Although this version only gives you access to forums that

start with "IBM" or "OS/2" it is fully functional. This is now the official OS/2 solution for CompuServe!

KOPYKAT is a tool for remotely accessing your PC. It is functional although this sample version is limited. We'll be seeing a demo of this (now built-in to HyperAccess) at the March TO/2 meeting.

LOCKAROO is a sample screen saver using the OpenGL functions that are optionally installed with WARP 4. This is just a sample from IBM of what can be done with OpenGL 3D graphics. If you want to see more OpenGL there is also the IBM OpenGL Samples on the CD.

MESA/2 is a native OS/2 spreadsheet and this version is limited to a 32x32 spreadsheet. A good trial version and useful for those quick and dirty calculations (like around tax time!).

UNIMAIN is a read-only version of the Softouch Systems INI file editor, Program un-installer, Desktop backup application. It can be useful if you want to examine the contents of your INI files and it gives you a good idea of all the huge amounts of function the full program provides.

TD-GAMMON is a game from IBM that has been available from many sources. It is fully functional and a good game if you are a Backgammon player.

VisualAge for Basic is a *BETA version* (now officially available) of the IBM Basic development

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Working With Warp

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environment. Allows you to "compile" basic programs into EXE files and gives you a lot of programming function for something as "simple" as the Basic language. Worth trying if you are thinking of buying the full package.

VOICETYPE SOLITAIRE. If VoiceType dictation has already bored you now you can play Solitaire by voice alone. Need I say more?

The two tools on the Application Sampler that I have used the most and found the most useful were both BETA versions:

Lotus WORDPRO is an impressive BETA (but SLOW!) version of the now available WORDPRO 96. No nasty crippling and, for me, no crashing but you have to learn to put up with the slow speed.

STAROFFICE is a beta version of an entire SUITE of products from a company in Germany. Although the word processor in this (StarWriter) has crashed on me on occasion it is a very full function package. I really wish this would come out as a full product in North America as it is one I would buy.



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Coming Soon:

NOTES/Domino

Visualage for Java

OS/2 Games Night



Presenting your newly elected 1997-1998 executive committee:

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What's in the May Shareware Disk!

By Kevin Linfield, Shareware Disk Editor

bmtmicro.zip	BMT Micro OS/2 Shareware Catalog for April 1997
lxl118.zip	A freeware OS/2 LX executables packer
pmbrowse.zip	PM-based 'more' util
quake2.zip	Native OS/2 Version of Quake (requires DOS Quake files from the registered version.)
sfutils.zip	Startup Folder Utilities for OS/2
sshell18.zip	Graphical interface for OS2SCAN from McAfee v1.8
sysb091d.zip	A benchmarking program for OS/2
tbox3_08.zip	A W*nd*ws'95-like taskbar and start menu for OS/2
trapstat.zip	Trap stats from POPUPLOG.OS2
xwp-ic.zip	Icons from Xena the Warrior Princess.

Contacting TO/2

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Node 2: 416- 422-4599

E- Mail: to2@to2.org

Mailing List: to2ug-l@to2.org

Meetings are the second Thursday of every month at:

IBM Canada
Main Auditorium
3600 Steeles Avenue East
Markham, Ontario

Meetings begin at 7:00pm

News from the 'Net

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Network Suite? Well, they've released it under their own name now, available from www.emtec.com.

IBM has now devoted over \$150 Million US towards R&D for OS/2 for 1997, a number that would "remain flat year over year". Spending on marketing will remain the same, and the release hinted at an early-98 release of the next version.

Stardock Systems has pulled its rights to Master of the Empire, a joint project between Stardock and a small developer named Trillion Software Products. The fate of this game is now unknown.

Note this site:

<http://www.software.ibm.com/os/warp/html3/index.htm>

It has the first mention of OS/2's approaching 10th birthday.

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Tip!

By Paul Leduc, Secretary

If you are connected to a LAN with IBM's lan requester, and are tired of having your workstation clock reset to the value of the server's clock, you can prevent this by changing bit 36 of the wrkheuristics variable to 0 in the IBMLAN.INI file. After changing this, you will need to stop and restart the lan requester.

In my case, this was particularly annoying since the servers clock was always running about 5 minutes slow.. and made me late for meetings since I was relying on my workstation clock.

Tip!

By Paul Leduc, Secretary

In Netscape, there are some functions to organize your bookmarks. One of them, is to add folders; you can then drag and drop your bookmarks into the appropriate folders. (If the bookmark is far down your list, you might be better off using Cut/Paste instead of Drag/Drop; unfortunately drag/drop works better in Win95!)

One thing I found is that if you choose to SORT your bookmarks, both the bookmarks AND folders get sorted. This can be good or bad.. bad if you like to have your folders all together at the beginning of the list. One way around this, is to insert a space as the first character when naming your folders.. this will force all the folders to be sorted to the top of the list.

TIP!

*Submitted by Paul Leduc,
Secretary*

I have often wondered how people get all that trap information recorded in newsgroups and conferences. After hand writing it a few times, I figured there has got to be a better way, like capturing it directly to a file. Well, here is! There's a secret CONFIG.SYS incantation to log trap information to a file:

SUPPRESSPOPUPS=c:

This puts all trap info in a file called \POPUPLOG.OS2 on the drive specified. This works for applications that trap, I'm not sure how early in the boot process it starts working (e.g. BASEDEV time, whenever).

HELP SUPPRESSPOPUPS

at any OS/2 prompt will give you more info.

Some people that give lots of demos may like to leave the statement in the config.sys file all the time, so that if an app crashes, it does not announce it to the audience <grin>.

Tip!

By Paul Leduc, Secretary

When working in an OS2 windowed session, you can change the number of lines to be displayed by using the MODE command. You can make this change permanent for a session, by changing the settings or properties of the OS/2 window session object: Set the parameters to:

% /k mode co80,45

this will set the max lines to 45. (experiment with different values; I think the max you can go to is co150,50)

You will need to change the font to a smaller size to see the whole window without scroll bars.. for 45 lines, I use font size 16x8 for a nice looking font (when using 1024x768 resolution). Some of the smaller fonts are not the greatest.

Another thing you can set for the session is the starting drive or directory when you open an OS/2 window session.. just put the drive or directory in the working directory field of the settings or properties.

The Best of the Tips and Tricks

Compiled by Martin Moran, Editor

Formatting a Disk without Prompting

You can use the DETACH command for any OS/2 command that doesn't require user interaction.

Detach is similar to START in that it lets you begin a batch process. For example, the following command can be used to format a diskette in the background:

detach format a: /once /v:MyLabel

What makes this work is that no user interaction is required once the correct parameters are supplied to the format function. The combination of "/once" so you do not get prompted to format another and "/v:MyLabel" so you do not get prompted for a label name.

Limitation: Detach can not be used to start a PM application.

Saving Space on the Desktop

To save space on your desktop, use small icons. Open your desktop settings by clicking the second mouse button while on a blank spot on the desktop. Then select settings, then for all three pages of view select small. This way, you can fit more icons on your desktop saving yourself valuable room.

Using "DIRCMD"

Normally the DIR command displays files in the order the files appear in the directory. You can change the default behaviour by using the environment variable

DIRCMD. If you put the changes in CONFIG.SYS, every OS/2 command line session will use the new defaults. Of course you can also change the

settings for session will use the new defaults. Of course you can also change the settings for individual command-line sessions.

The following are a few examples (you can use any combination of the valid parameters for the DIR command):

SET DIRCMD=/ON /P

To produce a directory sorted by file name and pause after each screen

SET DIRCMD=/N

To produce a directory in HPFS format (for FAT drives).

SET DIRCMD=/a-d

To produce a directory of files only (without any directories in the

resulting output) *- also has a side affect of displaying hidden files.

When you first install OS/2, Undelete is not enabled. You have to enable it by changing the line in CONFIG.SYS that contains the string SET DELDIR. By default, there is a REM in front of the line, which you have to remove in order to enable Undelete. The line specifies a directory for storing deleted files and a size for that directory. There should be an Undelete directory for each drive on the system (except for removable media drives). If the size of all the deleted files add up to more than the specified size of the directory (SET DELDIR), files are removed in a First-In-First-Out (FIFO) order to make room for the next deleted file. Although they are in a hidden directory, the files that are available for recovery are counted when used bytes are counted.

Tip!

By Paul Leduc, Secretary

A neat way to determine how many bytes are in a directory (including all the sub-directories) is with the following command:

DIR /A:-D /S | FIND /V "-"

Now, if you are wondering what this does, check out the help for the DIR command and the FIND command. This will display the totals for each directory, and the grand total for all directories at the end.

Note: if you have set the pause switch (/P) on for your DIRCMD environment variable, first turn it off by entering SET DIRCMD="" before running this, otherwise, it will appear as if your system is hung, when in reality it is paused (but since there may be nothing on the screen, you will never know it!).

If you missed a previous tip here, you can customize the way your DIR command works by setting a statement in your CONFIG.SYS.. for example, SET DIRCMD= /O-D /P will always sort your directory list by date, most recent first, and pause when the screen is full.

HPFS

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