



★ Graph Magic with Chart Manager! ★
Plus DOS Designer, AppleMouse and More!

*Monthly Macintosh
Section!
See page 105*

nibble[®]

THE REFERENCE FOR APPLE COMPUTING

JUNE 1985
VOL. 6/NO. 6
U.S.A. \$3.25
CANADA \$4.25

- 
- Exterminate the Killer Ants!
 - A New ProDOS Command
 - DOS Without a Disk
 - More Pascal, Block Shape Animation

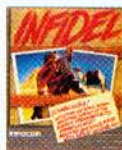


JONATHAN GRAVES

WE UNLEASH THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL GRAPHICS TECHNOLOGY.

To look at Infocom stories, you'd say they're all prose. No graphics. Ah, but there's more than meets your eyes.

We draw our graphics from the limitless imagery of your imagination—a technology so powerful, it makes computer screen pictures look like



graffiti by comparison. And no one knows how to unleash your imagination like Infocom. With thrilling plots. Unpredictable situations. And original puzzles calculated to drive you out of your skull.

Step up to Infocom. All words. No graffiti. The secret reaches of your imagination are beckoning.

It's time to open your mind's eye.



INFOCOMTM
INTERACTIVE FICTION SOFTWARE

Infocom's interactive fiction is available for a wide variety of personal computers.



nibble®

Volume 6/Number 6
June 1985



cover art by Jonathan Graves

page 14

**NIBBLE BUSINESS AND
EDITORIAL OFFICES:
(617) 371-1660**

NIBBLE Magazine (ISSN 0734-3795) is published monthly for \$3.25 per issue, \$26.95 for a one-year subscription (Canada surface \$34.95, outside U.S. and Canada surface \$39.95) by MicroSPARC, Inc., 45 Winthrop Street, Concord, MA 01742. Second-Class postage paid at Concord, MA and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NIBBLE Magazine, 45 Winthrop St., Concord, MA 01742.

Entire contents copyright (c) 1985 by MicroSPARC, Inc.

Address all editorial, advertising and subscription inquiries to Nibble's Concord offices. Return postage must accompany all manuscripts, drawings and photographs submitted if they are to be returned, and no responsibility can be assumed for unsolicited materials. All letters sent to NIBBLE will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication and copyright purposes and as subject to NIBBLE's right to edit and comment editorially. All rights reserved. Nothing may be reprinted in part or in whole without written permission from the publisher. The editorial board assumes no liability or responsibility for the products advertised in this magazine.

NIBBLE will replace lost copies for 60 days following the publication date. Beyond 60 days, we cannot be responsible for mail loss.

In Germany, dealer inquiries should be directed to: Pandasoft, Uhländstr 195, 1000 Berlin 12, Germany. Tel: (030) 310 423



A Welcome to New Nibble Readers 12

Feature Article

- CHART MANAGER by *Mark Jeske* 14
Transform your numeric data into sophisticated graphics presentations. This versatile program creates Hi-Res scatter plots, bar graphs and pie charts from data you can key in or read from disk. Features include easy input and editing, as well as statistical analysis.

Second Feature

- DOS DESIGNER by *James Patridge* 40
Customize DOS 3.3 to suit your individual programming needs with this system of Applesoft programs. Change DOS commands, create your own error messages, rewrite the disk volumes heading, and more.

Tips 'n Techniques

- DOS WITHOUT A DISK by *Dayon Kane* 60
Don't retype your files just because you forgot to boot DOS. With a tape version of DOS 3.3, you can load it after the fact to save your files.
- THE VALUE OF VAL by *Kenn Chapman* 63
Use Applesoft's VAL and MID\$ functions to help avoid input errors. Short sample programs show you how it's done.
- VIGILANT FID by *Donald W. Miller* 126
Move FID to the RAM card area of memory and access it with a simple command for speedy file manipulation under DOS 3.3.

Featured Game

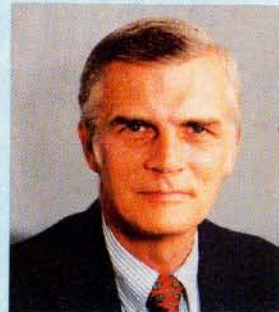
- ANTS by *Colin French* 64
Gigantic ants are invading your backyard — and you're the exterminator! Use your electro-sonic disruptor to zap the mutant ants in this Hi-Res action game.

Graphics Workshop

- BLOCK SHAPE ANIMATION X by *Robert R. Devine* 78
Add an ampersand command interpreter to the block shape driver in this concluding article of the series. Use easy-to-read commands instead of POKEs and CALLs to drive your animation.

Apple Utilities

- PROGRAMMING THE APPLEMOUSE II by *Sandy Mossberg* 94
The mouse and MousePaint offer the benefits of pull-down menus, icons and sophisticated graphics on the Apple II. Sandy's sample programs will get you started in both Applesoft and machine language.
- ProDOS TYPE COMMAND by *John R. Vokey* 139
Add the convenience of the TYPE command to ProDOS BASIC.SYSTEM. Use it to dump an ASCII version of any file to any output device in both immediate and deferred modes.



THE NIBBLE READER Vocal, Influential — Unique!

The response to our 1984-85 Reader Survey was overwhelming, and we want to thank you for taking the time to complete and return the surveys. Frankly, we weren't prepared for the avalanche of personal letters that accompanied the surveys. It proves once again that, as *Nibble* readers, you are unique, active, and vocal about what you like and what you want.

WE'RE LISTENING

The primary goal of the survey was to help us to better serve you. On the strength of the surveys, you asked for and we have added:

- A new Assembly Language Made Simple series.
- A significant new monthly section on the Macintosh.
- Re-balancing of the programs to give more weight to AppleSoft.
- Intensified program testing that has substantially reduced the number of new errata and corrections to programs.
- A new bulletin board type Hotline to give you instant computer access to the latest enhancements and bug fixes (when they occur).

We're particularly pleased to announce the Hotline. It will be on-line and operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. No longer will you have to wait for the next issue to get the latest news from *Nibble*.

In short, you've spoken clearly and well — and we're listening.

WHO IS THE NIBBLE READER?

The collection of questions we used to find out more about you confirmed some strong convictions and revealed a few big surprises:

91% of the people answering the questionnaire were men, although 41% have spouses who regularly use the Apple (and read *Nibble*).

You are up-scale professionals. More than a third of you earn in excess of \$45,000 per year, and more than 95% of you own an Apple.

42% of you are in business, engineering, and science.

21% of you are in education, law, and medicine.

15% of you are students!

These statistics confirmed our experience from past years, with the exception that your incomes are increasing sharply. Congratulations!

APPLICATIONS AND HARDWARE

In our current survey, we asked a number of questions to learn more about how you use your Apple and *Nibble*. There has been a strong shift to business uses, with business ranking in the top three applications, together with home finance and entertainment. All three applications were marked by more than 50% of the survey responses. Education continued as a strong application as well, with 40% responses.

Here's an important new trend: your answers indicate that 27% of you own more than one computer. The dominant systems continue to be of the Apple II family, with growing numbers of Macintoshes and IBM PC's joining the fold.

ENTHUSIASM

One of the most striking definitions of the Apple enthusiast centers on the facts that:

- The average *Nibble* reader spends 10.15 hours a week with the Apple; that's 40.6 hours a month!
- On the average, each of you spends more than 5 hours a month with *Nibble*, and more than 20% of you spend over 7 hours a month with *Nibble*.
- No one throws *Nibble* away. Only 1% of you give *Nibble* away after using it, and 6 percent of you clip and save specific articles. An incredible 91% of you retain the entire magazine in a permanent library — to be referred to in months (and even years) to come.

This was not too surprising, however, since 62% of you indicated that you regularly type *Nibble* programs into your Apple, regardless of their size. Another 24% of you type in programs if they're relatively short.

INFLUENCE

With the image and substance of an up-scale professional, the *Nibble* reader also influences the buying decisions of a great many other people. Nearly 85% of you rated your knowledge of the Apple in the intermediate to expert range.

More than one third of you are members of Apple user groups — the perfect forum for exchanging ideas and learning/advising on new applications and products. Here was a startling revelation:

On average each of you makes hardware buying recommendations to 4.2 people and software buying recommendations to 3.7 people during the course of a year.

With more than 150,000 of you who currently read *Nibble*, that adds up to approximately 600,000 buying decisions that you directly affect each year. That's impressive!

You're well informed, with more than 76% of you who read more than 50% of the advertisements that appear in the magazine.

THE NIBBLE READER IS UNIQUE!

To summarize, you are an impressive group of people. We are sometimes accused of appealing to the "hackers" in the Apple world. Frankly, I've never liked the term to begin with and the results of the current survey blow that myth to pieces. We prefer the term "enthusiast" — you are enthusiastic, serious, influential Apple owners. The large number of long letters that you attached to your surveys strengthens that conviction.

Thank you again for taking the time to tell us about you, what you do, and what you want. We're here to serve your interests and needs. You've helped... a lot!

Mike Harvey
Publisher/Editor