

## What's Coming on SIGNET?

# Windows for Workgroups Soon to be Installed

The Information Systems Bureau (STD) has a commitment to update equipment and software to ensure the on-going stability and reliability of SIGNET. An objective of the SIGNET Stability Project is to have ready for implementation as soon as possible an upgraded version of the Windows software that is on your workstation. This upgrade is Microsoft's **Windows for Workgroups product 3.1.1**. (not to be confused with Windows 95, Microsoft's newest operating environment).

The key advantage of Windows for Workgroups is its **superior memory handling capabilities**. Simply put, the software makes better use of the memory available. This improved memory handling capability will significantly reduce the incidence of applications freezing because of General Protection Faults. You will be pleased to know that training for Windows for Workgroups will not be required, as there is no change to the user interface.

Windows for Workgroups will be installed on the C drive of each SIGNET workstation. This will be the first major upgrade to SIGNET workstations that will not require system administrators to visit each workstation. Such visits, if necessary, will be the exception and not the rule. In order to install the software on *your* C drive, we need your cooperation to ensure that the drive has sufficient hard disk space. Technically, this means having 20MB of available space. That's the bottom line. Only when it's available, can STD proceed with the installation.

Here's how to find out if *your* C drive has the essential free space:

- In Program Manager, click on Program Group Main/Principal.
- Double click on Main.
- Double click on File Manager. Across the top, it will show a list of floppy diskette drives and hard drives, click on box labelled C.

Click on letter C with folder beside it (e.g., at bottom of screen in C: 164,464 KB free shows that there is 164MB of available free space. If this number reads less than 20,000 KB free, some files will have to be removed (either by deleting or archiving them).

We will all benefit from this clean-up. As partners in SIGNET, we are therefore asking you to **delete all non-essential files on your C drive**, including WP backup files (i.e., files with a .bk extension). If, however, you need copies of these files, archive them onto diskettes (see "Good Practices" on page 7).

We appreciate that this clean-up may not be a simple, straightforward exercise. At Headquarters, SIGNET Tower Support is there to provide you with on-going assistance. At missions, the SIGNET system administrator can help you.

## AfterDark Screen Saver

It's pretty, fun and popular — but problematic. The AfterDark Screen Saver (AD) can create problems with other applications. Error messages will sometimes contain a reference to AD. AfterDark is prone to corrupting the win.ini file, as well as preventing some applications from opening. The Speller, for example, will give missing file errors and even generate a General Protection Fault. It is strongly recommended, therefore, that you delete **AfterDark** and any reference to it in the win.ini and system.ini files. Windows has a built-in screen saver. Please use it instead.

## Individuals Who Make a Difference

It's always gratifying to hear about how one person's efforts have contributed to the success of a mission's adaptation to SIGNET. Maria Ahmed, SIGNET Support in Addis Ababa, a Small Mission SIGNET site, has been praised by the staff in Addis for her hard work and dedication. "Maria's talent and initiative and unfailing good humour have made the transition to SIGNET so much more pleasant for mission staff," says MAO Wilma Matchett.

The photograph shows Maria Ahmed in the Addis training room.

