

MAY 1988

MEETING SCHEDULE
FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH
(2nd Sunday if 1st Sunday
is on a holiday weekend)

HUG TIBBS - 24-hour BULLETIN BOARD
(713) 781-4844 300/1200 bps

AT THE NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 1988 2:00 P.M.
St. John's School - 2401 Claremont

AGENDA for MAY meeting: TELCO demonstration by Mike Connell and TI-Artist Graphics short course by Jim Uzzell.

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- Departments FLUG TI Faire, Richardson Texas

Editors.EChoes

Well, this is what is called the short form of the front page--it does have its advantages, like eliminating the spot where you could find the editors phone number to complain about not YET getting the April Newsletter!. Well, its like this....it was done, not by time of the meeting but soon thereafter, but since this is a short jump between meetings, and since by eliminating two and a half pages plus separate postage a savings of \$50.00 or so could be made, and mostly because I did not have it done until the 14th or so, you get an April issue and a 85% May issue, without the classifieds. Seriously, I could, and WILL in the future, simply copy pages from other articles and make a run with that, but there were some items in both the April and May copy that I felt deserved updating an re-typing. Enough, they are here. Read and Enjoy.

For next month, I pRoMiSe I will get in the article (Not yet written!) about types of files and loading methods, also some Funnelweb info to go with the TI-Writer info files (beginning this month) by Bob Seddon, (HUG member).

Check out the review of TELCO in the March MICROpendium and the one here before the meeting. IT sounds like a professional quality program.

Thanks to John Owen of JUG for a good description, with handouts, of the operation of the United 99 Database at the April meeting.

NOTE please, the TI Faire being staged by the Forest Lane Users Group is a chance to show that TI'ers on both coasts aren't the only live wires. A good break for the rest of the family also--let your wife go shopping in Dallas!

FLUG TI Faire Saturday April 30, 1988
North Central Freeway Holiday Inn, Richardson Texas

By J. Peter Hoddle

Rather than discuss the virtues and pit falls of the 9640, this month I am going to go over the details of the standard hardware available to 99/4A owners. There seems to be a great deal of confusion over the capabilities of the various peripheral cards, hopefully this will clear some of that up (more likely it will just make things worse).

Disk Controllers

There are 3 main disk controllers out there, made by TI, CorComp, and MYARC. They all vary in their capabilities, so let me first list the different features a disk controller can have. All disk controllers can support double sided disk drives. This means that if you have drives that can store data on both sides of the diskette, any of these controllers is capable of using that feature. Many disk drives can support what is called "double density." This is a method for packing double the data onto a disk. Most disk drives these days are 40 track, which is standard, while some can support 80 track. 80 track means that you can store twice the amount of data as on a 40 track disk. However 80 track drives usually require more expensive diskettes because the data is so compact on the surface of the disk. Disk drives vary in the time it takes them to access data. The slowest speed is about 20 milliseconds (ms). There are drives that are as fast as 3 ms, although these are more expensive.

The TI disk controller can handle up to 3 double sided, single density, 40 track, 20 ms step time disk drives. In otherwords, the TI disk controller is the bottom of the line in all respects. Ryle Data current has available an EPROM set for the TI disk controller that will allow it to access 80 track drives, however I do not know enough about the product at this time to make any comments on it.

The CorComp disk controller can handle up to 4 double sided, double density, 40 track, 20 ms to 6 ms step time drives. This means that you can have one more drive than the TI controller, and each drive can hold double the data. The drives can also be accessed faster. The CorComp disk controller has some nice extra features including a good disk manager (it was the basis for DM1000), and a number of extra CALLs. The disk controller literally takes over the computer on power up, however, which causes some compatibility problems. This can be fixed by purchasing a new EPROM set from MG for about \$35.

The MYARC disk controller can handle up to 4 double sided, double density, 40 or 80 track, 20 ms to 6 ms step time drives. This is essentially the same capability as the CorComp card. You can only use 80 tracks if you purchase a special EPROM from MYARC for about \$50 that supports 80 track drives. The MYARC disk controller comes with probably the best disk manager program for the /4a, and has a built in CALL DIRECTORY command to catalog disks from BASIC and Extended BASIC. Also, the MYARC disk controller is noticeably faster than the others because of the approach MYARC took in designing the card.

RS232 Cards

There is very little to say in this area. There are

cards available from TI (very rare these days), CorComp and MYARC. They all have 2 RS232 ports and 1 parallel (PIO) port. The CorComp will not work with the MYARC print spooler (more below on that), whereas the MYARC and TI will. The CorComp has what some describe as a "kludgy" PIO port, however it works as well as the others. The MYARC supports some extra software commands to allow for 19.2K baud (the others stop at 9600, real slow <grin>), inverted busy in software rather than hardware, and some other details. MYARC also has an EPROM that will make the PIO port act like the thermal printer (TP) if you need something like that. However, really all these cards are pretty much the same. Most people prefer the TI card, and shun the CorComp. The MYARC is probably the best and most readily available these days.

MEMORY CARDS and RAM Disks

There are more memory cards out there than almost anything else. TI made a 32K memory card. That was it. Most RAM disks, but not all, replace this card. If you just want a 32K card, they are available from MYARC and CorComp and there is no difference worth discussing between these two cards. They both seem to work reliably. Foundation made a 128K memory card that replaced the 32K memory expansion and gave you an extra 96K of memory that could function as a RAM disk. Unfortunately their RAM disk software was terrible. Quality 99 software and others have since released new software that makes this card acceptable, however since it is out of production it can't really be strongly recommended.

MYARC makes a memory card which replaces the 32K memory card, and comes with either 256K or 512K of memory. The memory beyond the first 32K can be divided between a RAM disk and a print spooler, although the print spooler will not work with the CorComp PIO port. For an additional \$50 or so, you can get MYARC Extended BASIC II, which is a much faster, more powerful, and slightly bigger version of Extended BASIC that will work with the Foundation card or the MYARC memory card. CorComp makes a 256K and 512K card, and these both function as RAM disks. I don't know much about these cards, except that they are reported to work quite well, so again I will make no comments.

The Horizon RAM disk comes either as a kit or assembled, and provided a very reliable 90K or 180K RAM disk. It can also be upgraded to 256K. It supports a very powerful operating system including replacing the TI title screen with a custom menu of programs. The Horizon RAM disk does not replace the 32K card and thus can be used along with a MYARC or Foundation RAM disk.

Print Spoolers

Your printer is much slower than your computer. Your computer could print a full TI Writer document in a few seconds. Your printer couldn't. A print spooler is a device that accepts your document as fast as the computer can send it, and then the spooler sends it to the printer, while you can continue to use your computer for other things. The first print spooler was part of the CorComp Triple Tech card. It has 64K of memory and ran independently of the computer. The MYARC print spooler is part of the MYARC 256K and 512K cards and can be anywhere from 1K to 400K. The MYARC print spooler is software driven, so if your computer fails while the spooler is printing, your document probably won't be finished. Further more, some programs lock out the MYARC print spooler so that it can't print at all until you exit that program. However, for most uses the MYARC spooler is adequate.

There is another class of print spoolers, which are separate hardware devices that go outside your expansion box. These will work with any computer. They are usually 128K of memory, and run about \$90 or so. These work quite well, and if you don't want the added features of the Triple Tech card (clock and speech synthesizer in the box) or the power of the MYARC memory cards, these are a very economical solution.

Speech In the Box

There are two ways to get the speech synthesizer into your expansion box. You can either get the CorComp Triple Tech card with its print spooler and clock, or the Rave 99 speech card. Both cards require that you already have the speech synthesizer as they both just provide a connector for it. The Triple Tech card will not work the 9640. The Rave card will, however it did not work well with all speech synthesizers, at last check. Rave has been good about trying to resolve this problem, and since their card is only about a third the cost of the Triple Tech card it does provide a reasonable alternative.

Clocks

There are several clock cards available, all radically different. The MBP (MPB??) clock card is one of the earliest, and works well. The CorComp Triple Tech clock is probably the most popular, although CorComp also makes a standalone clock for those who don't want the entire Triple Tech card. John Oulow recently designed a memory card that you can build which includes a clock similar to the MBP. The problem with all these clocks is that there is almost no software that supports them. Bulletin board programs can use them, and a couple program by John Johnson use them, but mostly you'll have to write your own software to handle these clocks.

IBM Style Keyboards

There are two sources for IBM keyboard interfaces. The first was from Rave 99, and they are quite well established now. They have support for special Multiplan and TI-Writer modes to minimize key strokes, and installation is straightforward. The second source is ML Systems. They supply only a keyboard interface, you supply the keyboard. The Rave folks will supply you with a keyboard, if you wish. The ML Systems supports keyboard macros, where one key stroke can send up to 12 key strokes to the computer. This is a powerful feature, however if you wish to customize the macros you must pay an additional \$20. There have been reports that the ML systems interface is less reliable than the Rave, however I suspect that this is due to the keyboard being used and not the interface. Because the ML systems interface is considerably less expensive than the Rave, it might be worth taking the chance. The one thing I can't stand about the ML systems is that it uses the ESCape key to replace the function key on the 4A, whereas the Rave uses the ALTernate key. The Rave choice makes much more sense, using the ESCape key is horribly awkward. Look at an IBM keyboard sometime and you'll see what I mean.

By permission of the Author,
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of the Boston Computer Society

TELCO REVIEW

by Todd Clifton
(reprinted from Southeast Ninety Niners/April '88)

TELCO is a terminal emulator that does more to integrate the TI-99/4A (and Geneve) with other computers than any other package available. As a matter of fact you would expect to find a program like TELCO on the IBM or Mac, which becomes apparent as you boot TELCO, by the Menu System. TELCO is completely menu driven by sets of professional looking "overlays" that remind one of Sidekick on the IBM. The Menu System makes set up and use of TELCO so easy it is possible to set up and get on line without ever looking at the documentation!! However, I do not recommend it, lest you miss some of the wonderful features.

As most of us are aware by now, a new version (1.3) of TELCO is now available. This version corrects several defects in the initial release that caused TELCO to fall short of its great potential. Now that the new update is available I feel it is fair to review this telecommunications package for the TI-99/4A.

TELCO is a difficult package to review because it offers the user so many options and capabilities that it's important to touch on many of them so the reader gets a good over-view of the program. To do less would under-rate this great program.

TERMINAL MODE

This version of TELCO supports four different terminal protocols. These are ANSI, D410, ADM3A, and VT100. To explain each of these protocols is best left to another article. However, TELCO does emulate them and their particular key functions well. When in any terminal mode, there is a menu "overlay" that shows, not only all TELCO function keys, but any keystrokes particular to your selected emulation. At the bottom of the screen is a status line that tells you your current baud rate, elapsed time, and current operation, unless you toggle the status line off. In addition there are flags for Spooler, Log, Parity setting, and Window Lock. Also keep in mind, the menu system may be bypassed by "hot keys" when in terminal mode and ANY TELCO option or function may be called up even while on line! As we go through TELCO's list of operations I think you will find this as impressive as I do.

REVIEW BUFFER

From within the terminal mode TELCO has an 8k buffer to review data. In this mode the Fctn 7 (Menu) key produces a menu describing keystrokes that guide you through the buffer much like a word processor. In addition, there is a screen dump of the current screen available.

CONFERENCE MODE

Also in terminal mode, a conference mode is available. On larger services which support real-time conferencing between several parties it becomes difficult to type a message while your screen is constantly scrolling with incoming messages!

When in conference mode, TELCO creates a "window" at the bottom of the screen that allows you to type messages unaffected by screen movement.

EDITOR

From the Main Menu TELCO has available a D/V 80 editor. It supports 80 columns by 50 lines, and is intended for input of short messages for later upload.

AUTO-DIALER

The Auto-Dialer that comes with TELCO is by far the best I've seen for the TI! The dialer maintains a file of up to 99 names and numbers to dial. In addition, when entering a new number TELCO prompts you for parity, terminal info, and baud rate. When a number is dialed and a connection is made TELCO configures itself to communicate with that system! This eliminates the need for multiple "default" files. To dial a number you must enter the number that appears next to the BBS name (1, 2, 3,...) and presto, it's done! You also have the option of entering up to 15 numbers. TELCO will dial the first number and if there is no answer it will hang up and dial the next number you selected! This dialer is an integrated part of the program and can be called up at any time while online to dial new numbers. Some other dialers only allow access to themselves when the program is first booted.

CATALOG

The Catalog function of TELCO is more like a mini disk manager! It catalogs disks similar(ly) to DM-1000 and allows you to delete, protect, and un-protect multiple files. In addition it allows you to "view" on screen any D/V 80 files on the disk.

FILE TRANSFERS

TELCO supports ASCII and X-MODEM (with and without CRC) transfers. TELCO's X-MODEM protocol is like FASTERM's in that if a TI file header is not the first record transmitted it will continue the download and save it a D/F128 format. (Some other programs will not support a download if it doesn't have the TI header.) This allows you to download a BASIC program from another computer. By using a file converter, you can edit the program and get it running on the TI! Don't laugh...I've done it and it works!!

SET-UP OPTIONS

TELCO (using its Menu System) allows you to set up a default file that will configure just about every option the program allows. One of the neatest things this does is let you set up the program to support nearly any modem.. You can set hang-up strings, dial commands, etc. Most programs have these options hard-coded into the program and require the user to...use a "Hayes compatible" modem!

DOCUMENTATION

TELCO comes with a well-written 20 page documentation file. It clearly explains TELCO's features and takes you step-by-step through the program's many options. If the program's menus aren't easy enough, the doc file makes it so anyone can use and understand TELCO.

(cont. next page)

CONCLUSION

TELCO runs on both the 99/4A and the Geneve. Make sure you obtain TELCO Version 1.3 or above. Earlier versions had quite a few bugs in them that 1.3 seems to have addressed.

Is there anything about TELCO I don't like? Well, yes there is. In the first version the print spooler and log are set up in such a way as to be confusing. Once the log or spooler is opened the data doesn't get put into them until it scrolls off the screen. Now, while odd, it's not that bad. What gets confusing is that Log/Spooler indicator shows it is waiting, not active, which in fact it is. On version 1.3 you are given the choice of retaining this or changing to the more familiar "immediate" mode. The bad news is that it's just for the Print Spooler and not the Log. The Log still retains the odd "feature". Another minor improvement could be made by putting in a routine to sound the "chimes" when a download/upload is complete. At 300 baud a file transfer can take some time and it's nice to leave the room and do something else (like eat dinner!) until the transfer is complete.

TELCO was written by Charles Earl from the Ottawa Users Group (of DN-1000 fame). This program is not a freebie and is worth FAR more than the \$20.00 Mr. Earl expects from each program. After using TELCO a couple of times you'll feel pretty bad about not compensating him for his monumental contribution to the TI community. So get off the stick and make it worth this man's time!!

So, let me give it to you straight! TELCO, in my opinion, is the finest Terminal Emulator package available for the TI-99/4A. If you are playing around with Fast-Term and its bolt-on auto-dialers or Mass-Transfer and its Y-Modem that no one supports, or ...TE-II, get on the TELCO bandwagon. You'll never look back!!

End reprint of review by Todd Clifton, with our thanks to the Southwest Ninety-Miners.///

Further TELCO review and comments follow:

(Ed. note: An earlier version of TELCO was reviewed by MICROpendium in the March 1988 edition, pp. 35,36. Selected quotes follow:

"TELCO is a sophisticated program that some have compared to PROCOMM, one of the finest general purpose terminal programs available on PC's."

"Even though TELCO is sophisticated in terms of the number of functions it supports, it's not difficult to use."

"TELCO is not like any other terminal program for the TI. Its use of windows for menus means that the user always has information on the screen to use when deciding what he wants to do next. The user also has access to all functions at any time."

"The documentation...consists of nearly 250 sectors. It is well-written and provides a wealth of information about telecommunications in general and TELCO in particular. It assumes that the user has some familiarity with terminal programs and telecommunications."

"This program gets an A on every count, not only for what it does but for what it can achieve."

ED: The review contains a complete description of the structure and functional activities of the program, with details of the Log/Spooler and other features. It is noted that the program is User-Supported software, available directly from the author or from many BBS as an archived download. The program is fully copyrighted and rights reserved by the author, who has supported it through 4(?) revisions since its introduction in Feb. 1988. He still must rely on the honesty of the users in order to be paid for his time and effort:

CHARLES EARL
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K2P 0Z5

Mike Connell will demo TELCO at the May 1, 1988 Houston Users Group meeting.
(and TELCO)

Editor-to-Editor Comment:

Statistics from Ali Ulgen Poll indicated that almost 2/3rds of responding TI users belonged to users groups with less than 50 members. Over 1/3 belonged to groups of less than 33 members. Only 12% of respondents belong to groups with over 100 members. All this indicates that small groups outnumber large groups by a ratio of about 30 to 1. This means that our methods of providing a meaningful and useful Group for members has got to be geared to something other than a large group meeting with a demo staged by a vendor of equipment, etc, (when was the last time you saw one of those?!).

So certainly, a info-access system such as the U99DB of the JUB group is a virtual necessity for the Users who are otherwise somewhat isolated from other groups. For this reason, it is imperative that groups exchange info and newsletters even with those small groups who cannot generate a lot of "Original" material. Without these (majority of) TI Users, there is very little "TI Community" left, and very little incentive for our talented and skilled creators of software and hardware to continue to generate the wonderful "inventions" they have given us all during the last two years--certainly the most productive years in the lifetime of the 99/4A! I am hereby encouraging other groups and newsletter editors to NOT do what I have seen commented on recently, and DON'T selfishly cut off small groups whose Newsletters are not seen as being "of value" to your group! Their continued existence may be of more value to you than you think. Besides, some "small" groups have been the source of some very innovative and valuable creations and contributions--the JUB group itself almost falls into the "small" group category!

So maybe some of the very small groups would be better off to spend their money on "absentee" memberships in half-a-dozen groups with the best resources and the best newsletters, and not produce one of their own at all! Think about it folks, if you (now) have a resource for locating the info you need, and are willing to make and pay for zerox (tm) copies as-you-need-them, then you really need a library access resource rather than a publishing resource. Comments?

HUB LIBRARY RE-NUMBERING UPDATE

The HUB Librarian, Larry Pipkin, has been working on re-grouping the category breakdowns for some of the program groups, and has developed the following number sequences:

0001 - 0999 = GAMES 1001 - 1999 = GRAPHICS
 2001 - 2999 = BUSINESS 3001 - 3999 = EDUCATION
 4001 - 4999 = MISCELLANEOUS 5001 - 5999 = MUSIC/SOUND
 6001 - 6999 = WORD PROCESS. 7001 - 7999 = CATALOG/COPY
 8001 - 8999 = MULTIPLAN 9001 - 9999 = COMMUNICATION
 10001 - 10999 = UTILITIES 11001 - 11999 = DATABASE

Many of the programs previously in the Miscellaneous category have been moved to other categories and re-numbered as per the following list.

OLD PGM #	NEW PGM #	OLD #	NEW #	OLD #	NEW #
4000	---	4100	4020	4200	6020
4001	0251	4101	7020	4201	11007
4002	4001	4102	10023	4202	9020
4003	4002	4103	10024	4203	10045
4004	4003	4104	4021	4204	10046
4005	7001	4105	4022	4205	8005
4006	1315	4106	11001	4206	6021
4007	4004	4107	11002	4207	9021
4008	1316	4108	10025	4208	4034
4009	1317	4109	6008	4209	10047
4010	3140	4110	6009	4210	10048
4011	3141	4111	8001	4211	4035
4012	10001	4112	7021	4212	9033
4013	3142	4113	4023	4213	10049
4014	4005	4114	9006	4214	6022
4015	3143	4115	9007	4215	11008
4016	4016	4116	9008	4216	9037
4017	10002	4117	3161	4217	7042
4018	3145	4118	6010	4218	6023
4019	3146	4119	4024	4219	6024
4020	4006	4120	4025	4220	10050
4021	4007	4121	2060	4221	6025
4022	4008	4122	7022	4222	7043
4023	3147	4123	2061	4223	7044
4024	3148	4124	6011	4224	9022
4025	7002	4125	4026	4225	6026
4026	4009	4126	7023	4226	10051
4027	4010	4127	10026	4227	10052
4028	3149	4128	7024	4228	7045
4029	4011	4129	4027	4229	7046
4030	3150	4130	10027	4230	10053
4031	3151	4131	7025	4231	10054
4032	3152	4132	7026	4232	11009
4033	3153	4133	9009	4233	10055
4034	3154	4134	6012	4234	10056
4035	7003	4135	10028	4235	10057
4036	3155	4136	10029	4236	4038
4037	7004	4137	10030	4237	7047
4038	9001	4138	7027	4238	7048
4039	3156	4139	7028	4239	4039
4040	10003	4140	10031	4240	1318
4041	4012	4141	6013	4241	4040
4042	7005	4142	6014	4242	7049

OLD PGM #	NEW PGM #	OLD #	NEW #	OLD #	NEW #
4043	4013	4143	9010	4243	7050
4044	10004	4144	8002	4244	9023
4045	10005	4145	4028	4245	7051
4046	4014	4146	7029	4246	3163
4047	7006	4147	10032	4247	10058
4048	10006	4148	6015	4248	10059
4049	6001	4149	3162	4249	6027
4050	10007	4150	10033	4250	6028
4051	7007	4151	10034	4251	10060
4052	10008	4152	2062	4252	6029
4053	10009	4153	7030	4253	8006
4054	7008	4154	6016	4254	10061
4055	7009	4155	7031	4255	9024
4056	9002	4156	4029	4256	4041
4057	6002	4157	10035	4257	10062
4058	7010	4158	9011	4258	4042
4059	10010	4159	6017	4259	10063
4060	6003	4160	8003	4260	8007
4061	6004	4161	10036	4261	11010
4062	11011	4162	7032	4262	6030
4063	6005	4163	7033	4263	1319
4064	10012	4164	6018	4264	4043
4065	4015	4165	11003	4265	8008
4066	4016	4166	10037	4266	10064
4067	3168	4167	11004	4267	3164
4068	4017	4168	4030	4268	10065
4069	10013	4169	11005	4269	7052
4070	10014	4170	8004	4270	10066
4071	10015	4171	10038	4271	7053
4072	7011	4172	7034	4272	7054
4073	7012	4173	9012	4273	11011
4074	7013	4174	7035	4274	9034
4075	4060	4175	4031	4275	4045
4076	10016	4176	4032	4276	10067
4077	10017	4177	9013	4277	4046
4078	10018	4178	9014	4278	10068
4079	10019	4179	9015	4279	4047
4080	10020	4180	7036	4280	2063
4081	6006	4181	10039	4281	6031
4082	7014	4182	10040	4282	6032
4083	9003	4183	10041	4283	7055
4084	7015	4184	9016	4284	7056
4085	3157	4185	10042	4285	9025
4086	3158	4186	9017	4286	9026
4087	3159	4187	10043	4287	10069
4088	3160	4188	9018	4288	10070
4089	7016	4189	0252	4289	4048
4090	4018	4190	11006	4290	7057
4091	4019	4191	6019	4291	4049
4092	9004	4192	4033	4292	4050
4093	9005	4193	9019	4293	10071
4094	7017	4194	7037	4294	10072
4095	7018	4195	7038	4295	4051
4096	10021	4196	7039	4296	10073
4097	6007	4197	10044	4297	10074
4098	10022	4198	7040	4298	10075
4099	7019	4199	7041	4299	10076

(continued)-

OLD PGM #	NEW PGM #	OLD #	NEW #	OLD #	NEW #
4300	10077	4314	7058	4328	11014
4301	3165	4315	10082	4329	10087
4302	9027	4316	4054	4330	10088
4303	10078	4317	9029	4331	9030
4304	3166	4318	6034	4332	11015
4305	10079	4319	10083	4333	10089
4306	6033	4320	4055	4334	10090
4307	9028	4321	8009	4335	4057
4308	11012	4322	11013	4336	4058
4309	4052	4323	10084	4337	10091
4310	10080	4324	10085	4338	4058
4311	3167	4325	4056	4339	10092
4312	10081	4326	7059	4340	9031
4313	4053	4327	10086	4341	-end-

You will need to make these changes in your catalog in order to keep the numbers in sequence; all Library Addendums from June on will be based on these numbers, therefore some of the 4000 series will be re-used for new programs.

Actually, #2059 will not appear until the June Addendum, and the #4329 through #4341 listed here never actually appeared in Addendum listings, but don't worry—if they are listed, there REALLY is a program there, you just never had the OLD number for it! Honest, it all works out after the June Addendum (I think!). And if it doesn't, Larry will figure out what program you ordered JUST BY YOUR DESCRIPTION OF THE TITLE SCREEN, or something. And if I made any errors in re-typing all this stuff, shame on me and 10 lashes with a used printer ribbon. Just remember, the June Addendum has numbers: 0253, 1320, 2059, 4056, 5276, 6035, 7060, 8010, 9030, 10087, 11015, as the starting point for the next programs added to each category. I hope!!! rtl

NEWS IN THE TI-WORLD

GRAMULATOR-----Further info on the Gramulator mentioned last month, from Mark Van Coppenolle:

"The Gramulator should be compatible with all 99/4A peripherals. It has been tested with TI and Myarc disk controllers as well as the Myarc 512K Randisk. All other controllers and randisks should work fine." It was further mentioned that no kits were available at this time, but if demand for kits seemed to warrant it, they would possibly be able to set up for this type of sale also.

The prices indicated were: \$180.00 for complete Gramulator with 64K GRAM and 16k RAM, plus \$80.00 for 4 banks of 8k each for use with the MBX system cartridges. Information on user installation of this 32k will be provided also. Delivery to be in 8-10 weeks (!) --checks and money orders (no credit cards). Mass. residents pay sales tax. Call for details and technical information, at 617-372-0336 after 6:30 PM (Eastern time).

AUSSIE (IN TOWN)---Geoff Shipton of the TISHUG Group in Australia was in the U.S. from about March 20th through Early April, as went through Houston on April 6 or 7, I believe. He had with him three or four boxes of disks, 48 of which were copied by a member of the HUG Group. Most were DSDD, and averaged about 1000 sectors of programs each. About one-half were from groups here in the U.S., and the other half were from Australia, so there should be some good new programs and updates in there. Larry P. now has the lot, and when he has gone through and picked out the new stuff, the JUG group is going to see what they can use out of it. Their contribution to the Aussies was to get with Mr. Shipton and get the info and disks to him so the "down under" crew could get involved in the United 99 Data Base. Since there have been so many major software and hardware advances made (of necessity) by the Australians, this is an important step for for sharing of info both directions. Our own Bob McCarthy was one of the early contacts with Mr. Shipton when he arrived, and tried to show him some of Houston sights besides just computer keyboards, which is about all he had managed to see on previous trips!

----- United Data Base Update

As of April 19, the U99DB now consists -of 5 disks:
 UNDB-INFO, containing general information in DV-80, and Rediskit copy program (which WILL copy PRBASE)
 UNDB-START, containing instructions for UNDB coding plus PRBASE Help info, plus screens from UNDB/1. The procedure is to copy the 10 header sectors to another disk to start the data entry blank form. This is then returned to JUG for incorporation into the U99DB system.
 UNDB/1, contains 300+ screens of data
 UNDB/2, contains 341 data screens
 UNDB/3, contains 341 data screens

These three data disks contain the 1987 encoding submitted by seven users groups to JUG: JSC-JUG Group; Cleveland Area; Paris Tx 99/4A US; Pittsburgh US; South California Computer Society, San Diego TI-SIG; Southern Nevada US; and West Jax 99ers. There are 11 other groups known to be encoding* for their 1987 newsletters, including our own Kim Peterson for HUG, and starter kits have been sent to 13 other groups, according to John Owen and Phil Van Norstrand, including the Hunter Valley Group in Australia. Other groups may (hopefully) be copying the starter kits from some of these groups to send in to JUG.

So the United 99 DataBase is growing fast, and should be a valuable resource to the TI community. Cost so far is a nominal \$1.00 for the basic two disks, which is below the cost of the disks and postage! So, those who are interested, send them your Peso, or better yet, \$2.00 so they can break even!:

JSC-JUG Users Group
 c/o John Owen
 2321 Coryell Street
 League City, Texas 77573

Don't forget, the key to the entire system is that if each users group encodes its own NL info, then ALL users groups can find it within the index. ALSO don't forget to send your Fairware contribution to William Warren for PRBASE 2.0! Thanks and a Tip of the hat to the JUGernauts.

HUG LIBRARY CATALOG ADDENDUM
May 1988

0258 **ON MONEY**EA/5** Joysticks optional
A public domain game from Germany. Has great graphics and speed. Uses either keyboard or joysticks. Comes with docs. 81 sectors

The following programs are new and replace the original programs numbered 1152 and 1153. We recently discovered these programs were copyrighted and therefore removed from HUG Library. We apologize for this error and hope this rectifies the situation.

1152 **RLB-CHRISTMAS TREE**DF/128** Printer required
A pretty picture of a Christmas Tree that can be printed out using Program #1078. 54 sectors

1153 **RLB-NORMAN ROCKWELL**DF/128** Printer required
A group of pictures by artist Norman Rockwell originally used as covers for Saturday Evening Post that can be printed out using Program #1078. 150 sectors

1293 **RLB-SHELLS**DF/128** Printer required
A pretty picture of an assortment of shells that can be printed out using Program #1078. 25 sectors

1294 **RLB-SHUTTLE**DF/128** Printer required
A group of pictures of the Space Shuttle that can be printed out using Program #1078. 174 sectors

1295 **RLB-SNOOPY**DF/128** Printer required
A cute set of pictures of Snoopy that can be printed out using Program #1078. 79 sectors

1296 **RLB-SNOW OWL**DF/128** Printer required
A pretty picture of a snow owl that can be printed out using Program #1078. 25 sectors

1297 **RLB-STAR TREK**DF/128** Printer required
A group of pictures from Star Trek that can be printed out using Program #1078. 75 sectors

1298 **RLB-STEVIE NICKS**DF/128** Printer required
A picture of the rock star that can be printed out using Program #1078. 54 sectors

1299 **RLB-STREET SCENE**DF/128** Printer required
A very pretty picture of a street scene that can be printed out using Program #1078. 54 sectors

1300 **RLB-STRIPS**DF/128** Printer required
A picture of the evil gremlin that can be printed out using Program #1078. 54 sectors

1301 **RLB-SUN**DF/128** Printer required
A geographic picture of the sun that can be printed out using Program #1078. 25 sectors

1302 **RLB-ELIZABETH TAYLOR**DF/128** Printer required
A picture of a young Elizabeth Taylor that can be printed out using Program #1078. 27 sectors

1303 **RLB-SHIRLEY TEMPLE**DF/128** Printer required
A picture of child star Shirley Temple that can be printed out using Program #1078. 43 sectors

1304 **RLB-TIGERS**DF/128** Printer required
A group of pictures of tigers that can be printed out using Program #1078. 133 sectors

1305 **RLB-UGLY ALIEN**DF/128** Printer required
A picture of an ugly alien that can be printed out using Program #1078. 54 sectors

- 1306** **BLE-UHURA**DF/128** Printer required
A picture of Uhura from Star Trek that can be printed out using Program #1078. 25 sectors
- 1307** **BLE-UNCLE BUNNY**DF/128** Printer required
A cute picture of "Uncle Bunny" that can be printed out using Program #1078. 54 sectors
- 1308** **BLE-UNDERWATER**DF/128** Printer required
A picture of several divers swimming underwater that can be printed out using Program #1078. 25 sectors
- 1309** **BLE-VAMPIRES**DF/128** Printer required
A pair of pictures of vampires that can be printed out using Program #1078. 108 sectors
- 1310** **BLE-THE WALL**DF/128** Printer required
A graphic picture from Pink Floyd "The Wall" that can be printed out using Program #1078. 25 sectors
- 1311** **BLE-GEORGE WASHINGTON**DF/128** Printer required
A good picture of our first President that can be printed out using Program #1078. 29 sectors
- 1312** **BLE-WEATHER MAP**DF/128** Printer required
A picture of a weather radar map that can be printed out using Program #1078. 17 sectors
- 1313** **BLE-WEEKEND**DF/128** Printer required
A cute cartoon for the weekend that can be printed out using Program #1078. 25 sectors
- 1314** **BLE-WHALES**DF/128** Printer required
A picture of killer whales that can be printed out using Program #1078. 54 sectors
- 2054** **BUSINESS & FINANCIAL PROGRAMS VOLS. 1 & 2**KB** Printer optional
A double-sided disk full of business and financial programs from Aminon Library of San Francisco. Some of these programs may be duplicates of programs already in library. 49 programs. 697 sectors
- 2055** **BUSINESS & FINANCIAL PROGRAMS VOLS. 3 & 4**KB** Printer optional
A double-sided disk full of business and financial programs from Aminon Library of San Francisco. Some of these programs may be duplicates of programs already in library. 38 programs. 667 sectors
- 2056** **BUSINESS & FINANCIAL PROGRAMS VOLS. 5 & 6**KB** Printer optional
A double-sided disk full of business and financial programs from Aminon Library of San Francisco. Some of these programs may be duplicates of programs already in library. 32 programs. 678 sectors
- 2057** **BUSINESS & FINANCIAL PROGRAMS VOLS. 7 & 8**KB** Printer optional
A double-sided disk full of business and financial programs from Aminon Library of San Francisco. Some of these programs may be duplicates of programs already in library. 25 programs. 709 sectors
- 2058** **BUSINESS & FINANCIAL PROGRAMS VOLS. 9 & 10**KB** Printer optional
A double-sided disk full of business and financial programs from Aminon Library of San Francisco. Some of these programs may be duplicates of programs already in library. 25 programs. 714 sectors
- 3139** **CALCULATOR**KB**
A programmable electronic calculator based on the Hewlett Packard HP-34C. Comes with complete documentation. 86 sectors
- 4328** **PRO-PHONE**KB** Printer optional
A "Pairware" program by Roger Goins of Tulsa. Create and print your own personal telephone directory. Can be sent to screen or to printer. Comes with complete documentation. 104 sectors
- 5275** **ALLELUIA**KB**
A new music program from Gregory Rashall. A beautiful adaptation of the song done by Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers. Comes with music and words. 31 sectors

HUG LIBRARY CATALOG ADDENDUM
May 1988

0250 ON HONEY**EL/5 Joysticks optional

A public domain game from Germany. Has great graphics and speed. Uses either keyboard or joysticks. Comes with docs. 81 sectors

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TI-WRITER TIPS #1
- by Bob Seddon -

EDITOR MARGINS VERSUS
FORMATTER MARGINS

There are two kinds of margins in TI-Writer: Editor Tabs & Formatter Dot commands.

EDITOR TABS

When you create text with the Editor you use margins called Tabs. Tabs are set via CTRL c (PROMPTS), t (Tabs), Enter. This sequence of keystrokes makes the Tab Line appear across the top of the screen. You can type over the Default settings at 0 and 79 and reposition L and R to make on-screen tabs any width within that range.

PRINTING WITH THE EDITOR

You can print text created in the Editor with the Editor itself by CTRL c (PROMPTS), f (FILES), pf (Print File), Enter. This sequence of keystrokes prints text with margins equal to the tab settings; the printer output resembles the screen.

However, there are advantages in NOT using this method to print. If you use the Formatter instead of the Editor you can print lines longer than 80 spaces. You can automatically number successive pages. You can put Headers at the top of each page, Footers at each bottom. You can make the R margin flush with the .FI;AD command. You might want to use the Ampersand to underline, the Each to Print Bold. You can double space and set page length.

PRINTING WITH THE FORMATTER

To print through the Formatter you must Save the file, Exit the Editor, Load the Formatter, reload the file, and then print. The Formatter prints the file according to the Dot Command instructions.

FORMATTER DOT COMMANDS

Formatter margins are also set in the Editor, but not the same way as the Tabs. Instead, Formatter margins are typed in (usually on line 0001) as Dot

Commands (.LM n;RM n). Dot Command margins (if present) override Tab margins when text is printed through the Formatter. If there are no Dot Commands the file will print out according to the Tab margins. The Formatter follows the Dot Command instructions but does not print the Dot Commands as it does text. The Editor, on the other hand, not only ignores Dot Commands but also prints them just as it will any other text, since it cannot make the distinction between Dot Commands and regular text.

Quite often you will want to print your text with margins EXACTLY the same as on-screen. There are at least two reasons you might want to do this:

(1) HYPHENS

If you pack in as much text per line as possible you will want to break words and hyphenate them; if you do so, the final printed output must break the words at the same place you did. Otherwise, your text will take on the appearance of this particular sentence.

(2) MULTIPLE COLUMNS

If you create text with narrow columns so that you can put several parallel columns on one page you need to count the EXACT number of lines. Line numbers down the left column give you this number (minus the lines devoted to printer commands) if your on-screen equals your printed work. (NOTE: see box at end of article about the advantages of narrow columns.)

There is a trick you must use to make your on-screen work created in the Editor resemble the printed output of the Formatter so that each resembles the other line-by-line.

R TAB ONE # HIGHER THAN .RM

If you use the Formatter you must set the R Tab one digit higher than the setting of the .RM dot command. The difference between the Formatter and Editor is that the Formatter will print ON the .RM column. The Editor prints UP TO (but not on) the R Tab.

TAB SETTINGS: 0 & 31
SPACES USED ON-SCREEN: 0 - 30
(31 ACTUAL SPACES OCCUPIED)

DOT SETTINGS: 0 & 30
COLUMNS PRINTED ON: 0 - 30
(31 ACTUAL SPACES OCCUPIED)

In this article I set the Editor margins at 0 and 31 to fit three columns on the page. The Formatter settings are at .LM 0;RM 30. You can see that the columns printed at a width of 31, not 30.

123456789 123456789 123456789
L....T....T....T....T....T....T

When counting, remember to begin ON zero: call the 0 a 1, 1 a 2, 2 a 3, etc. R follows the last T. We cannot print it here for the very reason being discussed! Counting the number of spaces used in each line on printed work is not difficult. Nor is it hard to count spaces used on screen. It is even easy to memorize the rule for making Editor margin width one character longer than dot command margin width. The one frustrating thing about this whole business is allowance for a L margin on zero!

Instead of making .RM one digit smaller than the R tab setting you have the option of achieving the same effect by making the .LM one digit greater than the L Tab of the Editor. The option of using zero as a L Tab adds confusion to this issue because you can also set .LM at zero; thus, this tactic is of no particular benefit for you.

SPACE(S) AFTER . : ? !
REFORMAT VERSUS .FI

When you Reformat, the Editor packs in text according to its own set of rules, rules different from the Formatter .FI command. If you leave only one space after a period, the Editor's Reformat command will NOT increase the spacing to two places. The Formatter, on the other hand, ALWAYS leaves two spaces after periods, whether you want it to (at sentence ends) or not (after initials).

We can prevent the Formatter from increasing the single space after the final dots of initials, abbreviations, etc. by putting a carat between such dots and the next letter.

Similarly, we need to force in two places after :, ?, and ! If you merely leave two spaces after each one the Formatter will reduce your two spaces after each of these down to one unless you follow them with a carat, then the space. Optionally, you can key in two carats (and no space).

SPACES LEFT AFTER:

	period	initial	?!:
Editor	1	1	1
Reformat			
Formatter	2	2	1
.FI			
Remedy	space twice	carat once	carat twice

FORCED IN CARRIAGE RETURN

The Formatter makes a decision to Wrap based on the R tab setting and whether a word (or ANY group of characters) occupies or exceeds that setting. Usually the last PRINTED character in a paragraph is a period and if it falls on the last occupiable position (R tab setting minus one) you must be careful where you place the carriage return.

- (1) If you space once after the period, then Key CTRL m, there is no problem.
- (2) If you cursor down below your text, then Key CTRL m, there is no problem.
- (3) If you key CTRL m in the position directly following the period, the last word in a paragraph will not fit at the end of the line and will drop to the next line.

When it drops, you notice that it SHOULD fit, even when you account for the space before the word and the period following. The Editor Wraps the word around to the next line because it treats the carriage return

following the period as part of the word, even though the carriage return is not a printed symbol.

If this happens to you, you must break the text after the period and before the carriage return (CTRL g), then Reformat. The word will now NOT wrap to the bottom line. The carriage return also moves up to the original line.

FORCED IN FORMATTER COMMAND

A similar problem occurs when you precede a word with an ampersand, carat, or @. Let us consider the ampersand which is, of course, a Formatter command to underline any word it precedes. The Formatter .FI Command ignores the ampersand and packs in Text as though the ampersand were not there. Unfortunately, the Editor treats the ampersand as a regular character when Reformatting and, so, will make a decision to Wrap a line based on the presence of it within a line of text, just like the carriage return. This anomaly makes it difficult to create a line of text which appears on screen exactly as it will print.

There is a technique to insert these codes in front of any (or even every) word on the line. Unlike the carriage return which FOLLOWS a word, a Formatter command PRECEDES it, making the previous technique impossible. Turn off wordwrap with CTRL O. This turns your cursor into a hollow rectangle. Move the cursor to the letter before which you want an &. Key in Insert (FCTN 2). Key in the ampersand. Everything right of it will move right one column. This is the only way you can make a character appear ON column R.

You can only insert one such ampersand per line using this trick UNLESS YOU RESET THE EDITOR R MARGIN TO A HIGHER NUMBER. If you insert an additional character anywhere else on the line and do not first increase the R margin the last character on the line will vanish. You can precede EVERY

word in the line with a non-printable character so long as you increase the R Tab enough so that all text and all codes fit on that line. The only restrictions which apply are that you may not mix text and code such that you exceed 80 spaces; nor can you Reformat afterwards.

THE NARROW COLUMN ADVANTAGE:
NO WINDOWING

I find it convenient to set on-screen margins so I can see all text without Windowing left and right. Since I also like to leave the four-digit column numbers on the left side of the screen at all times, the highest possible R margin setting is 34. (34 is off screen, but Wordwrap causes text to occupy 33 by briefly Windowing right, then left, when you type on 33 itself.)

You can turn off the column numbers (FCTN O) to see six more columns of text (4 digits and 2 spaces) which lets you set the margins at 0 and 39. You can even set R at 40 (which is off screen) so that Wordwrap will cause text to occupy 39; this makes a REAL 40 column screen. Naturally, the R Tab can be reset anytime to Reformat to any desired margin width up to the on-screen maximum of 0-79.

79 COLUMN SCREEN

I am sorry to break the news to you that you only have a 79 column screen, not the 80 column screen you thought you did! When in Wordwrap the Editor does not let text occupy the column of the R margin (on screen or when printed with the Editor). If you create text with Wordwrap on, the Editor alone cannot print 80 columns: its extremes are 0 and 79, and 79 is not printed on. The arithmetic is tricky because of the presence of the zero. If your Editor margins are on 0 and 79 you can only print 80 column text IF your dot commands are set at 0 and 79! AND IF you use .FI; nor will on-screen equal output.