

# BITS, BYTES & PIXELS

LIMA 99/4A USERS GROUP



APRIL 1989 VOLUME 5 #4

**MULTI USER GROUP CONFERENCE UPDATE:**  
Saturday May 20, 1989  
Lima Ohio Campus, Ohio State University

The following organizations and individuals have confirmed with us their plans to attend our Conference and have available materials relating to the T.I. 99/4a and the beneve computers. Setup time starts at 8AM. Scheduled events run from 9AM to 5PM. As Conference time approaches we expect additions to this list.

#### TABLES IN THE EXHIBIT HALL:

- Lima Ohio User Group: We will offer free copies of anything in our library to a designated representative of ANY user group attending, even representatives of groups that do not schedule exhibit space. User groups we know will be attending will receive a library listing in the mail prior to the conference. Our listing will also be posted at the conference. This offer is not made to individuals, who can gain access to our library by joining the Lima UG.
- CIN DAY USER GROUP; Cincinnati and Dayton Ohio areas
- GREAT LAKES USER GROUP; Detroit area
- BUD MILLS SERVICES; sales of Horizon Ramdisks and P-Gram cards.
- ST. LOUIS 99ERS; St. Louis MO area, sales of SUPER BASIC
- TIGERCUB SOFTWARE (Jim Peterson); Sales of original software, plus many VERY inexpensive disks full of public domain software.
- C.O.N.I. the Columbus Ohio user group.
- COMPUSERVE (Jim Horn, TI sysop); signing people up for this national information service.
- GENIAL COMPUTERWARE; software sales. Barry Traver, the well known TI columnist for Computer Shopper, will represent Genial at our conference.
- ASGARD SOFTWARE (Chris Bobbitt); software sales. Chris told us recently that PRESS may be ready in time for our conference (or sooner). We sure hope so!!
- CLEVELAND AREA USER GROUPS, Cleveland Ohio area. Among other things they will have TI BASE for sale.
- OH MI TI USER GROUP, Toledo OH and southeastern Michigan areas.
- L.L. CONNER ENTERPRISES (Larry Conner), hardware and software sales. This well known dealer often advertises in Computer Shopper and is the exclusive dealer for Turbo Pascal 99.
- P&A SOFTWARE (Paul Scheidmantle), software sales including a probable new release relating to computer graphics and art.
- THE FORT'S USER GROUP, Fort Wayne IN area.

DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE CONFERENCE ROOMS (Note: These demonstrations will be videotaped and made available to any user group for the cost of a blank tape and postage):

- Paul Scheidmantle, HOW TO CONVERT FROM ONE "ARTIST" FORMAT TO ANOTHER.
- Bud Mills, THE LATEST ABOUT HORIZON RAMDISKS AND THE P-GRAM CARD.
- Steve Karasek, SUPER BASIC v2. This demo, originally scheduled to be given by Harold Hoyt, will now be given by the software author himself. See the SUPER BASIC review in the Feb 89 issue of Micropendium. Version 2 will be officially released at the conference.
- Irwin Hott, HOW THE BLIND USE SPEECH.
- Barry Traver, RECENT SOFTWARE FROM GENIAL COMPUTERWARE
- Barry Traver (his second presentation), LINKING XB TO ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE VIA "CALL LINK".
- Chris Bobbitt, THE LATEST RELEASES FROM ASGARD SOFTWARE.
- Martin Smoley, TI BASE TUTORIAL.

There are still time slots available for more demos and space in the exhibit room for more tables. Any individual, user group, or dealer who wishes to schedule a demonstration or reserve table space may do so. There is no cost for anything. This event is totally free. For more information write us at P.O. Box 647, Venedocai OH 45894, or call Dave Szipp evenings at 419-228-7109.

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#### HOTEL ROOMS AVAILABLE FOR THE MULTI USER GROUP CONFERENCE

Those attending our Multi User Group Conference on May 20 may want to spend a night or two at a nearby motel. Two excellent choices are available less than three miles from the Ohio State's Lima Campus, site of the conference.

The Lima HOLIDAY INN has offered our conference guests its "corporate rate" which is about \$5 less than the regular rate. One person in a standard bed is \$55 and in a king size bed the cost is \$60 for one person. The per person rate is, of course, much less if several share a room. This Inn has a restaurant, bar, and Holidome swimming pool and recreation area. It is a "class joint." Call the Inn directly at 419-222-0004 for reservations. Don't use the Holiday Inn national 800 reservation number. State that you are attending the computer conference at the Ohio State University campus and request the corporate rate. All Inn guests that are attending our Conference will be housed in the same general area within the Inn.

NEXT PAGE

Right next to the above motel is a MOTEL 6. They have not offered us anything "special," but their regular rates are cheap. One person is \$21.95 and each additional adult is \$6. This is a very nice, simple, motel with 97 units. Their phone is 419-228-0456.

To get to either of these motels exit 175 at exit 125 (state highway 309). Go EAST on 309 about 200 yards and turn right at the first street, which is next to the Bob Evans restaurant sign.

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## AVPC UPDATE by Charles Good

Since I wrote my AVPC article for the March issue of our newsletter, I have received from various sources the following software, all of which gives an 80 column display on 99/4A systems equipped with an AVPC card. This software also probably works with a Geneve, although I haven't verified this. All the software described in this article bears no copyright notice and is apparently public domain. User groups can obtain copies by sending a disk and paid return mailer to the Lima User Group, Box 647, Venedocia OH 45094.

### MULTIPLAN IN 80 COLUMNS:

This displays 7 columns and 18 rows on powerup. This is the same screen display as the Geneve's Multiplan and compares to the 4 columns and 18 rows seen with the normal 99/4A Multiplan. This software was originally written for the Mechatronics 80 column peripheral and does NOT yield an increase in recalculation speed compared to the normal 99/4A Multiplan. Multiplan on the Geneve does have an increase in recalculation speed. There is a known bug. When you first load a Multiplan data file, you can print the results to a printer as usual. However, if you do any manipulation of the data, you can't print it to a printer. What you do is save the manipulated data back to disk in the normal way. Then reboot Multiplan (either the 40 or 80 column versions), reload the data into Multiplan, and immediately print the data.

### DISK MANAGER - DISK FIXER 80 COLUMNS, v4.0

This combination disk manager and sector editor was written in Germany. All text displays and prompts have translated into English. However the required keypresses are boys that correspond to the first letter of the German language command, and this is confusing. The capabilities of this software are similar to Birdwell's DSKU, including a screen dump at any time. Help screens are always available to describe the current keypress options. In general I like DSKU better. Its operation is familiar to me and its keypress commands relate to English words. I do, however, like the EDIT SECTOR display of the 80 column software. The

entire sector is displayed on the screen simultaneously in both ASCII and Hex. The sector editing keys are identical to those of DSKU, and changes made in one display (ASCII or Hex) are immediately displayed in both displays. Both AVPC and Geneve users might like this software.

### INFOCON 80 COLUMN GAME LOADER:

This boots as EA5 or Funnelweb 3 and immediately boots any Infocom game that is in DSK1. The game disk should already be in DSK1 when the loader is booted. Text is displayed properly in 80 columns with your score and game location displayed in a separate two color bar at the top. This loader has been tested on both the AVPC and the Geneve with no problems except that it has no clean exit. You must turn off the console in order to exit the loader. An important advantage of this loader, besides the 80 column display, is its speed. With AVPC equipped systems, Infocom games load about 3 times as fast with this loader compared to booting the Infocom game from extended basic as DSK1.LOAD.

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### FUNNELWEB v4.13 HAS BEEN UPDATED

Geneve owners who are using the 80 column version of Funnelweb may have noticed problems with the Formatter. The Lima User Group has received from Tony McGovern an updated FWB v4.13 in which the formatter problems have been corrected. This update is dated Feb 14/89. Only Geneve users will notice any difference between the previous release of FWB v4.13 and the updated release.

FWB v4.13 includes a Horizon RDS modified by Tony McGovern from that included with the Miami User Group's v7.3 to be fully compatible in 80 columns with the AVPC card. Bud Mills, in a March 11 telephone conversation with the Lima User Group, claims to hold the copyright to all RDS versions specifically written to access 32K chips. This includes RDS v7.0 and higher. However Bud Mills has given the Lima User Group permission to freely distribute Tony's modified RDS with the understanding that this RDS be used ONLY on HORIZON brand ramdisks.

User groups (or individuals who are paid members of the Lima US) desiring full 80 column compatibility of FWB v4.13 with either the Geneve or with a system equipped with an AVPC card and Horizon ramdisks can obtain the Feb 14 update of FWB 4.13 by sending a disk and postage paid return mailer to the Lima User Group, Box 647, Venedocia OH 45094.

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## DRAW A FULL PAGE WIDTH DRAWING PROGRAM a short review by Charles Good

In this newsletter issue we are publishing some Infocom game maps created with a public domain "artist" program that is somewhat resembles CAD (computer assisted drawing) programs on other computers. The software was given to me bearing the name AUTOCAD on the disk, although this name is not used in the program docs. These docs bear no author name or date and refer to the software name simply as "DRAW".

DRAW loads and autostarts from the E/A module (EAS), or Funnelweb loader 7. This is one of the very few programs that boots from number 7 of the Funnelweb (v4.1x) Loaders menu. There are different versions of DRAW for those with PIO and with RS232 printers. I have had no trouble with the PIO version, but I have been told that one individual with a TI impact printer has not been able to get the RS232 version to work properly with that printer. I am unable to check this out myself, since nobody in my user group has an RS232 printer.

With DRAW you have, in black and white only, very complete pixel by pixel control using either the joysticks or the arrow keys. Drawings are 480 pixels wide by 192 pixels high. This is the FULL WIDTH of an 8 1/2 inch piece of paper. Few other "artist" software packages for the TI allow you to use the full width of your printer paper! You window right/left one pixel at a time on the display screen, and there is a special "page locator" symbol at the top of the screen which slowly moves right and left to give you an indication of what you are seeing in relation to this 480 width. If the page locator is in the center top of the screen this means that there are 112 pixels to the left and another 112 pixels to the right of what you can see on the monitor.

Although DRAW graphics are only 192 pixels high, the same as TI ARTIST, you can completely fill a printed page with what looks like one single graphic. You load one full width DRAW graphic from disk (a 49 sector file) and dump it to a printer. You can then load another DRAW graphic and dump it IMMEDIATELY below the first graphic on the same sheet of paper. You can fit four of these graphics one below the other onto a single 11 inch sheet of paper in such a way that you can't tell where one ends and the next begins.

The following are among features available in TEXT mode:

- both upper and lower case standard character set
- plus over minus sign
- 1/2 sign
- 1/4 sign
- arrows (left, right, up down)
- the exponent 2 (as in "squared")
- the square root sign
- underline
- vertical line

- degree sign
- the PI sign
- the greek letter omega

The following are available in DRAW mode:

- straight line, from a marked point to the cursor
- parallel line, after moving cursor away from a line
- rectangle, after marking 3 points
- box, makes "rectangle" appear 3D
- circle, after marking 2 points
- open triangle, drawn from cursor to 2 marked points
- fill
- arrows, up/down left/right and at 45 degrees
- cursor movement speed can be changed

Other features:

- letters and/or lines can be superimposed over each other with or without erasing with one pixel accuracy.
- individual pixels can be turned on and off in either draw or text mode.
- lines ONE PIXEL HIGH can be added or subtracted from the entire graphic, moving EVERYTHING up or down by one pixel at a time.

Saving and loading DRAW graphics to and from disk is easy. You use FCTN/8 or FCTN/7 and enter the file name. Unfortunately these graphic files appear incompatible with other "artist" graphic formats and you can't view the graphics with MAX-RLE.

DRAW appears to be very useful for full page width maps, circuit diagrams, flow charts, etc. User groups (not individuals) can obtain a copy of DRAW by sending a disk and paid return mailer to the Lima User Group, P.O. Box 647, Venedocia OH 45894.

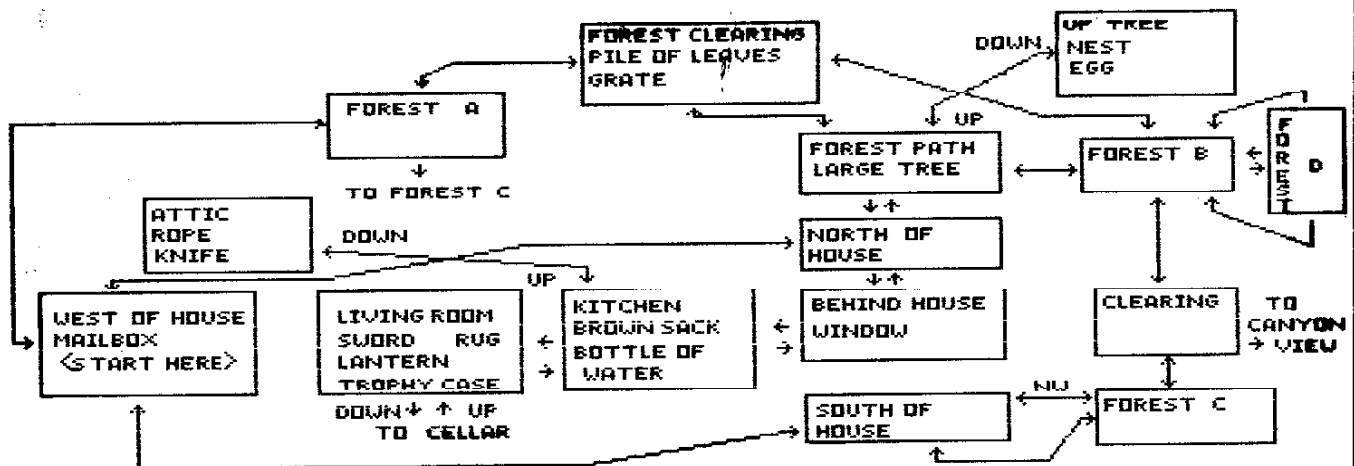
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## ZORK 1 MAPS

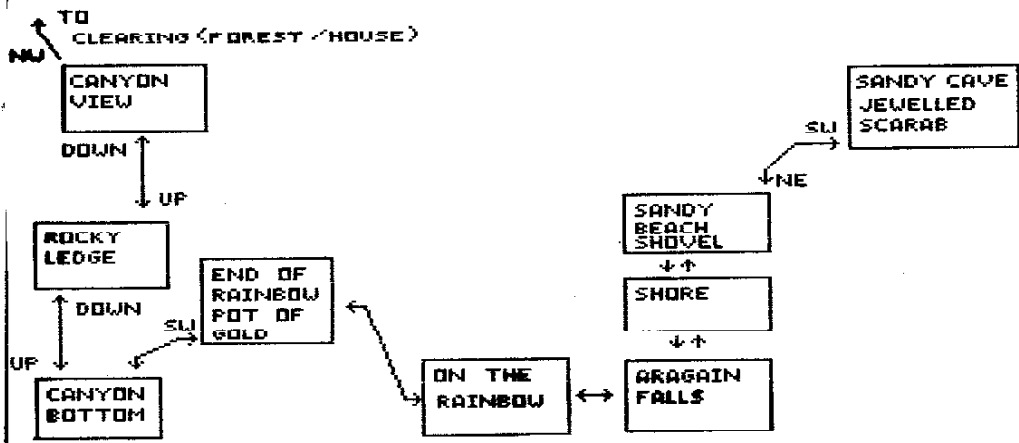
The following maps should aid you in solving the Infocom game ZORK 1. This, and other superb Infocom text adventures were once marketed for the 99/4A, although I haven't seen Infocom games listed in recent dealer catalogs. Years ago I tried to play ZORK 1 and quickly got stuck. Near the beginning of the game I found a grate, and couldn't get it open. These maps reveal that the grate is apparently the end point of the game. You open the grate from below to get out of the underground world.

The author of these maps is unknown. The maps were obtained as part of a software exchange and bear no date, author's name, or copyright statement. They are printed here from 49 sector disk files that load into and print out to a printer from DRAW.

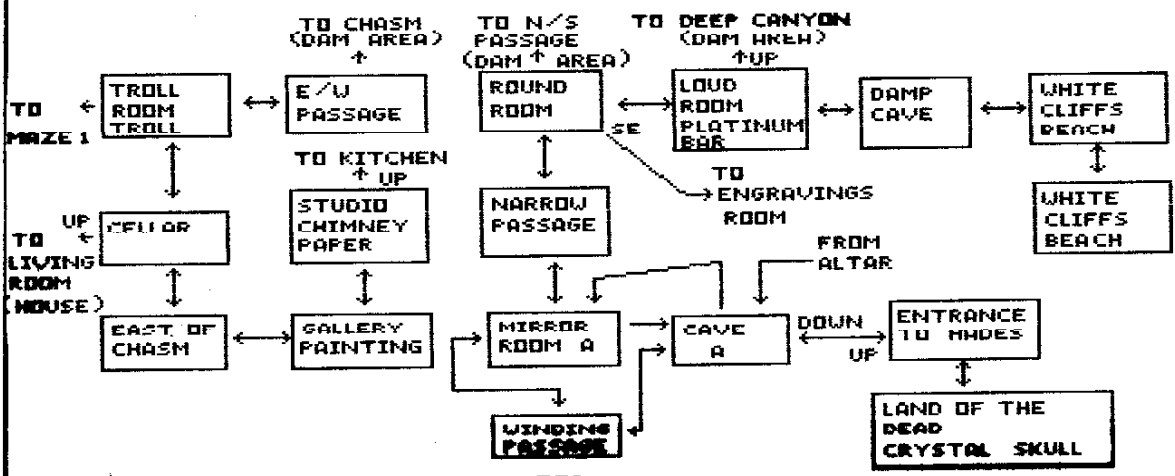
NEXT PAGE



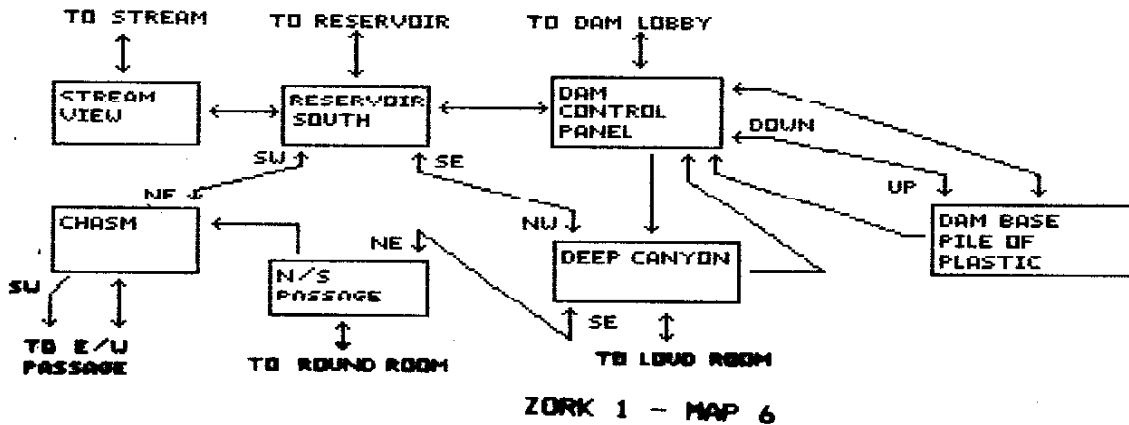
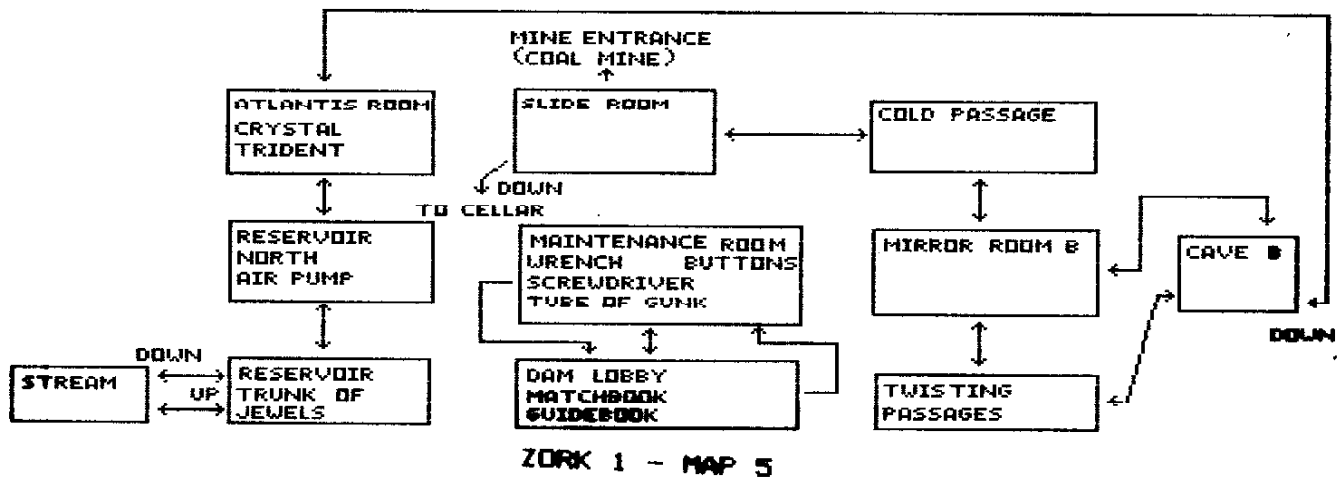
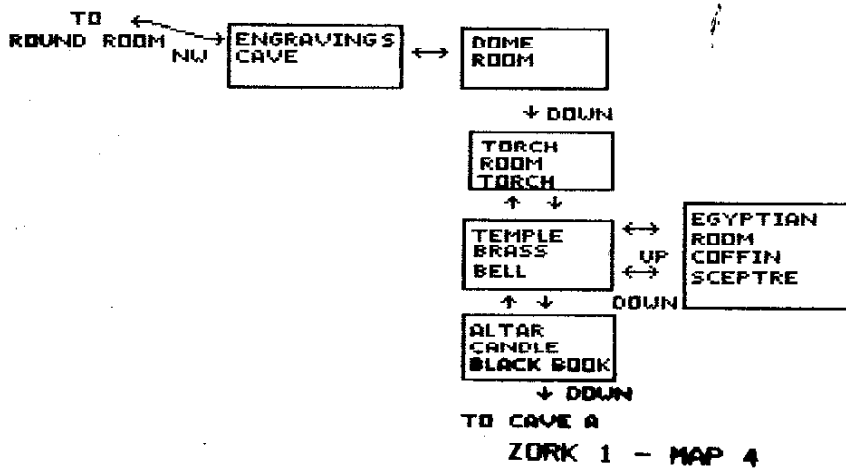
ZORK 1 - MAP 1

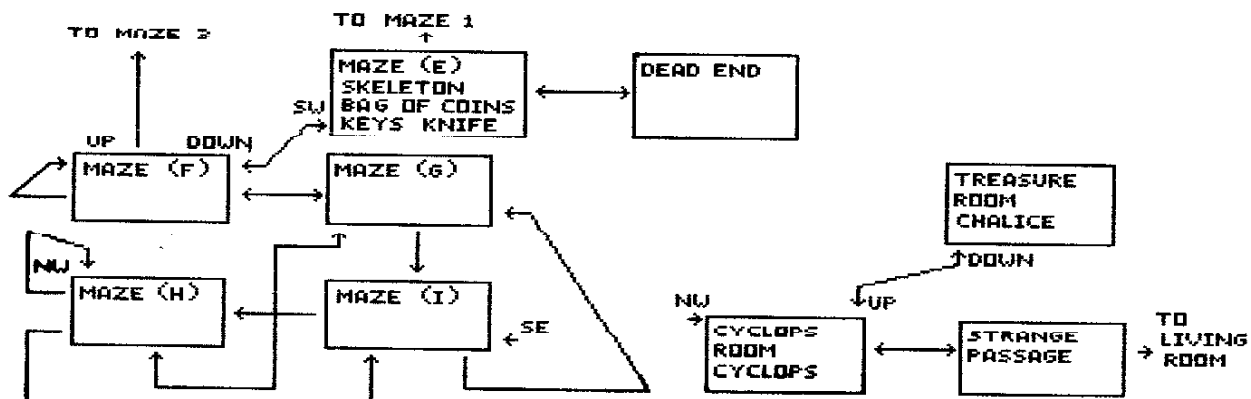
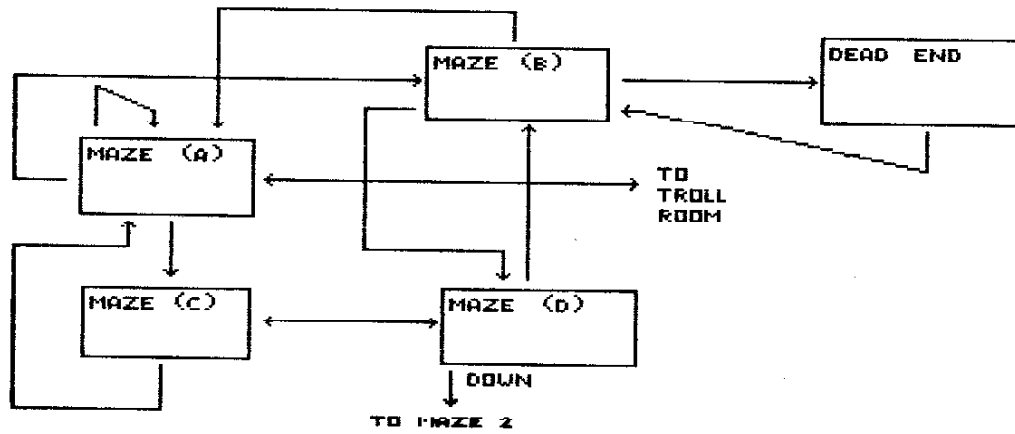
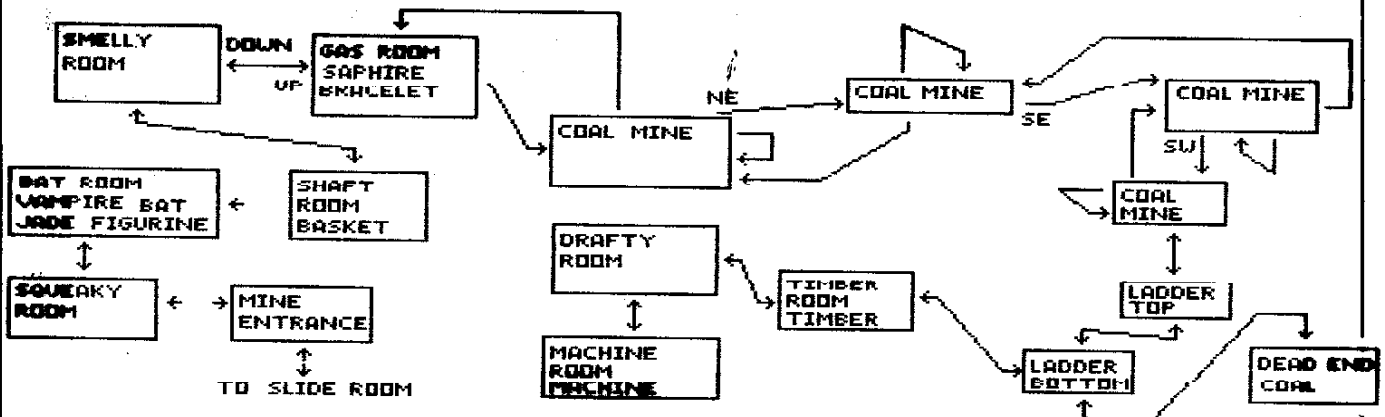


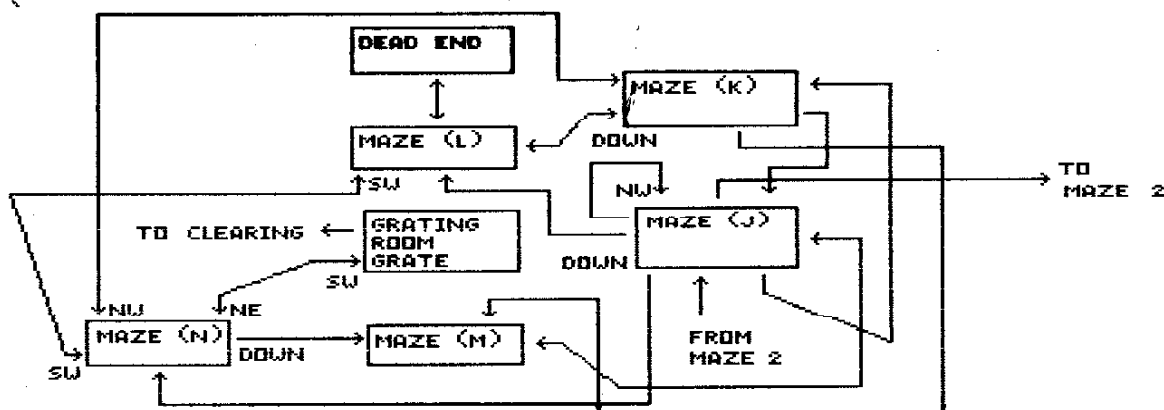
ZORK 1 - MAP 2



ZORK 1 - MAP 3







ZORK 1 - MAP 10

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Notice to fellow 99'ers

By: Andy Frueh, Lima UG

This newsletter, Bits, Bytes, and Pixels has helped me in many areas of my computing. I am currently returning the favor by writing articles for it. It's not hard! If you have something to say about TI, tell us! We publish this newsletter for our members! If you bought hard/soft ware, write up a review! If it is about TI, odds are, it will find its way into the pages of our Lima UG newsletter! (EDITOR'S NOTE: Andy has given me a disk with almost 40 short articles for the newsletter. FANTASTIC!! We will be publishing these articles in this and future issues of BB&P. Local and out of area members take note. Follow Andy's suggestion and write some goodies for OUR newsletter.)

\*\*\*DONE\*\*

Possible AXIOM bug

By: Andy Frueh Lima, Oh UG

AXIOM's PIO interface, the Parallax TI, may have a "physical bug." At least it does on mine. I thought I should warn other users before it's too late! It seems that the connection from the interface to the firehose cable can get loose. As anyone can guess, this causes the most fatal error

lock-up.

I noticed it first when using Disk-Patch. It seemed that as soon as I wrote to a sector, the program would run off in left field and not talk to me. I freaked. I finally decided that it was the software. Ha-Ha!. I couldn't even use BASIC (TI-BASIC not XB) without a lock-up every 5 or so minutes! This was a pain! Finally, for 2 or 3 days, I had no expansion system! It never worked! I knew that it wasn't the fuse because both the fan and interface light were operating. I removed the fuse anyway, and I was right. The fuse was perfect.

Now I had a problem. I really didn't want to ship it off to TI (Oh what I would give for the exchange centers to re-open!) In a last ditch effort, I unhooked everything, even my cassette drive. I plugged it all back in (that's a lot of plugs!) and it worked for the rest of the day! My next problem was to find the culprit plug. I had just recently purchased a printer and the AXIOM so I started there. I wiggled the Parallax and switched on. After a few minutes, the system locked-up! Ah-Ha!! I now have no problem, so I know that it was the interface.

I know of no way to correct this physical bug. The only solution (other than maybe to stick bubble gum to the interface) is to check the connection before I power up. Also, I must be sure (and I usually wouldn't) move the console during use. Users beware! I hope this problem is in my Parallax alone, but...

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## CHANGING MULTIPLAN DEFAULTS

by Charles Good  
Lima Ohio User Group

### SCREEN COLORS:

To most people background and text colors are a matter of personal preference, and those that normally appear when Multiplan is first booted are quite acceptable. However, to users of black and white TVs or to Geneve or AVPC users with 80 column monochrome monitors, changing screen colors can make a big difference in screen legibility. Upon powering up the Multiplan module and before pressing <ENTER> to boot the Multiplan system disk, screen colors can be changed by pressing the space bar several times. The first press does nothing. Subsequent presses cycle through a set of predetermined colors. One of these predetermined color combinations is black on white, which is usable with monochrome monitors.

Multiplan powerup and "spacebar" color combinations are determined by the module and not by the Multiplan system disk. Thus, the only way to permanently alter the powerup color combination is to use a gram device such a P-Gram card or a Gram Kracker. These all allow you to dump the Multiplan module to disk. The powerup color combination is at byte >D1 of the first sector of the highest numbered Multiplan module disk file (the file that ends with the number 4). If you load the unmodified Multiplan module files into a gram device and then use the device's memory editor, the memory location to change is g50CB. Changing either of these to "F1" will produce a white on black display that is perfect for monochrome monitors.

### DATA DRIVE NUMBER:

As Multiplan is initially set up, you are expected to use DSK1 for both the system disk and your data disks, switching disks as needed. Instructions on page 13 of the Multiplan manual tell you how to temporarily change the data disk drive to DSK2 or DSK3. This can be made permanent by using a sector editor (DISK PATCH of Funnelweb, or Birdwell's Disk Utilities are good for this) to change the second sector of the MPINTR file on the system disk. In ASCII look for "DSK1" and change the 1 to the drive number you desire for use by your data disk.

### PRINTER NAME:

The original Multiplan system disk, when it is unpacked from the Multiplan box, sets Multiplan up for use by the TI impact printer, whose name starts with RS232. The only way I know to change this printer name to PIO (or something else) is to use a sector editor and edit the same sector that is mentioned above (second sector of MPINTR disk file). Look in ASCII for text that starts with RS232. Change this to PIO and delete the rest of the original printer name with spaces.

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## ADVANTAGES OF BELONGING TO A USER GROUP AND HOW TO KEEP THE GROUP ACTIVE

By Harold Bingham  
1147 36th Street  
Ogden, Utah 84403

The advantages of belonging to a user group is to obtain help and information from other users on using programs and the use of your computer. To gain knowledge from one another about programing. To discuss problems you are having and obtain help to resolve those problems. Another big advantage of being a member of a user group is the use of the club's disk and cassette library, and to exchange programs with other users. The newsletter that your club produces gives help too. If your club has a newsletter, chances are it exchanges newsletters from other user groups. If you read all these newsletters you will gain a broader understanding on the use of your computer and how to use various programs.

Now that I have listed some of the advantages of being a member of a user group, I would like to suggest ways to keep that group active. First of all I would suggest that there should be a program chairman, and that he delegates different members to demonstrate at least one program at each meeting. Copies of the program that is being demonstrated should be available on disk and cassettes so that those attending the demonstration can go home and try it themselves. These can be sold for cost + a small profit for the club. Try and get every member involved into this project. This will get the inactive members to attend if they have been asked to demonstrate a program. We can all gain and need each other. When asking help from each member, you make them feel needed and an essential part of the group.

If the number of people attending your meetings are few, and seem to be getting fewer, assign a telephone committee to call and remind people of the meetings and what the program will be. This is particularly important for members who seldom attend. The club's library which includes the disk library as well as a library of newsletters. A catalog should be available of the club's disk library. Newsletters of other user groups should be made and be available to those requesting it. Library material should be readily accessed by all members. There is usually not enough time at the meetings to read all the material, therefore an organized library check out system should be employed on a time limit basis.

Workshops should be included in your programs. These work sessions can include a wide range of subjects. One of the most important of them that should be scheduled on a regular basis is programing. It doesn't hurt to have parties. It doesn't hurt to get member's mates involved. The last thing I would like to remind those in charge of meetings is that you want to leave every member who attends a meeting satisfied, as they go home, that they have gained something for attending the meeting. This will make each member to look forward in attending the next meeting.

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