TIDBITS

MID SOUTH 99 USERS GROUP

MEMPHIS TENNESSEE

FEB. 1986

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

UG 2/86
DALLAS TI USER GROUP
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DALLAS, TX 75229

either been President or vice-president each year with Gerald Smith serving a term as President during that period of time.

Now it is 1993 and the TI99/4a is still around and so are we and we will continue to be around as long as we have members supporting us! C ya at this months meeting!

SUPPLIERS OF TI99/4A

COMPATIBLE PRODUCTS

February 1993 List compiled by Gary W. Cox

The following is a list of vendors of products for the TI99/4a and Geneve 9640 computers. The list is not complete as there are more suppliers than what is listed but this covers a good portion of them. Those listed with an asterisk (*) beside the name indicate that it has been a while since last contact with that company. Listings are in no particular order and information listed is correct to be best of my knowledge.

TM Direct Product Marketing
1650 Broadway
Redwood City, CA 94063
1-800-336-9965

Texcomp
P.O. Box 33804
Granada Hills, CA 91344
(818) 366-6631

Joy Electronics
P.O. Box 542526
Dallas, TX 75354-2526
(214) 243-5371
(800) 442-3892 Texas
(800) 527-7438 Outside Texas

Bud Mills Services
166 Dartmouth Drive
Toledo, OH 43614
(419) 385-5946

L.L. Conner Enterprise
1521 Ferry Street
Lafayette, IN 47901
(317) 742-8145

Rave 99
112 Rambling Rd.
Vernon, CT 06066
(203) 871-7824

Asgard Software
1423 Flagship Drive
Woodbridge, VA 22192
(703) 491-1267 7-10pm EST
(716) 778-9104 11am-7pm EST

Tigercub Software
156 Collingwood Ave.
Columbus, OH 43213
(614) 235-3545

Texaments
53 Center Street
Patchogue, NY 11772
(516) 475-3480
(516) 475-6463 24hr BBS

Harrison Software
5705 40th Place
Hyattsville, MD 20781
(301) 277-3467

Competition Computer Products
2219 S. Muskego Ave.
Milwaukee, WIS. 53215
(800) 662-9253 (national)
(800) 242-7902 (wis)
(414) 672-1600

Hunter Electronics
4 N. 370 Pine Grove
Bensenville, IL 60106
(312) 766-9503

Comprodine Software
1949 Evergreen Ave.
Fullerton, CA 92635
(714) 990-4577

Arcade Action Software *
4122 N. Glenway
Wauwatosa, WI 53222

Crystal Software
635 Mackinaw
Calumet City, IL 60409-4014
(708) 891-2315

Ramcharged Computers
6467 E. Vancy Dr.
Brookpark, OH 44142
(800) 669-1214
(216) 243-1244

Electronic Sys Development*
P.O. Box 23805
Washington, DC 20006
(301) 322-6150

J.P. Software
2390 El Camino Real #107
Palo Alto, CA 94306
(415) 328-0885

Western Horizon Technologies
Don O'Neil
10225 Jean Ellen Dr.
Gilroy, CA 95020
(408) 848-5917

Jim Lesher
722 Huntley
Dallas, TX 75214
(214) 821-9274

The Bunyard Group
P.O. Box 62323
Colo Springs, CO 80962-2323
(719) 488-2572

CaDD Electronics
81 Presscott Road
Raymond, NH 03077
(603) 895-0119

Alboes Computer/Suppliers*
6298 Hamilton Rd.
3G Main Street Village
Columbus, GA 31909
(404) 327-4900

Braatzs Computer Services
719 E Byrd St.
Appleton, WI 54911
(414) 731-3478 (order line)
(414) 731-4320 (after 6pm)

McCann Software
4411 North 93rd St.
Omaha, NE 68134

Notung Software
7647 McGroarty St.
Tunjunga, CA 91042
(818) 951-2718

OPA
432 Jarvis St. Ste. 502
Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2H3
Canada
(416) 960-0925

LGMA Products
5618 Applebutter Hill Rd.
Coopersburg, PA 18036

D. Wright Stuff
2201 185 North Past Road
Indianapolis, IN 46219
(317) 895-1755

Media Ware Software
2141 NW 64th Ave Suite 15
Sunrise, FL 33313-3950
(305) 749-4690

MS Express Software
P.O. Box 498
Richmond, OH 43944-0498
(614) 282-5627

Secure Electronics
South 81 West 18878 Apollo Dr.
P.O. Box 132
Muskego, WI 53150
(414)679-4343 or (414)529-2173

S&T BBS Software/Tim Teach
3804 North 75th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53216

(414) 464-4946 (voice)
(414) 464-1978 (BBS)

TI/GENEVE SUPPORTIVE PUBLICATIONS

Micropendium Magazine
P.O. Box 1343
Round Rock, TX 78680-1343
(512) 255-1512
$25 year (U.S.)

Genial TRAVelER Diskazine
835 Green Valley Drive
Philadephia, PA 19128
(215) 483-1379 (on disk)

9640 News (Genave owners)
P.O. Box 752465
Memphis, TN 38175-2465
(901) 368-0112 (BBS)

For repairs contact:

Texas Instruments Inc.
Attn: 99/4a Repair Center
2305 North University Ave.
Lubbock, TX 79408
(800) TI-CARES
(806) 747-1882

(Repair of Corcomp products)
99 Computer Repair
c/o David Lynch
2101 W. Cresent Ave. Unit A
Anaheim, CA 92801
(714) 539-4834

Western Horizon Technologies
Don O'Neil
10225 Jean Ellen Dr.
Gilroy, CA 95020
(408) 848-5947

Secure Electronics
South 81 West 18878 Apollo Dr.
P.O. Box 132
Muskego, WI 53150
(414)679-4343 or (414)529-2173
(authorized Myarc repair)

GRAPHPAPER IN A HURRY!

by Morton Dworshak
Mid South 99er User Group

If you need a piece of graph paper in a hurry, here is a program that will produce it in a matter of a few minutes. You have a choice of grids of 1/8th, 3/16ths, and 1/4th inches, -and the grids may be mixed as well. That is, for example, you may want the X-coordinates to be measured in eighths of an inch, and the Y coordinates in quarters of an inch, and so forth.

Here is how it works. Run the program called GRAFPAPE1 one time. This will give you the desired number of sheets of paper lined in one direction only. Now separate the sheets, tear off the perforated strips, and then trim the sheets to nine inches. Next, rotate the sheet/s 90 degrees, and put them in the printer one at a time. run the program on each sheet again. Be sure to turn off the printer after each sheet has been printed, -just in case you want to use different choices for line spacing.


```
1 ! SAVE"DSK1.GRAFPAPE1"
20 REM.........GRAFPAPE1...
30 OPEN #1:"PIO"
35 PRINT #1:CHR$(27);CHR$(56)
36 REM--LN 35 ALLOWS PRINTING TO CONTINUE TO THE END OF A
   SINGLE SHEET--
37 INPUT "DARKER LINES DESIRED? Y OR N?":D$
38 IF D$="Y" THEN 39 ELSE 40
39 PRINT #1:CHR$(27);CHR$(69)
40 INPUT "NO. OF SHEETS NEEDED?":S
50 FOR R=1 TO S
60 PRINT "CHOOSE D, DISTANCE BETWEEN LINES:"
65 PRINT "1, D=1/8 INCH, LN 90."
70 PRINT "2, D=3/16 INCH, LN 95."
75 PRINT "3, D=1/4 INCH, LN 100."
80 INPUT "WHICH DO YOU WANT, 1,2,OR 3? ":D
85 ON D GOTO 90,95,100
90 D=20 :: L=56 :: GOTO 110
95 D=24 :: L=46 :: GOTO 110
100 D=15 :: L=36 :: GOTO 110
110 PRINT #1:CHR$(27);CHR$(51);CHR$(D)
120 ! LN 110 SETS LINE FEED TO D/144THS OF AN INCH--
130 FOR J=1 TO L
131 ! THE VALUE OF L IN LN 130 DETERMINES THE NO. OF LINES
    PRINTED PER PAGE...
140 PRINT #1:RPT$(CHR$(95),80)
142 ! LINE 140 MAKES STRAIGHT HORIZ. LINES...
150 NEXT J
160 NEXT R
170 ! AFTER EACH SHEET IS LINED(PRINTED) IN ONE DIRECTION,
    REMOVE THE PERFORA TIONS, ROTATE IT 90 DEGREES, TRIM
    IT TO 9 INCHES,
180 ! AND RUN IT THROUGH AGAIN TO MAKE THE GRAPHPAPER
    COMPLETE.
185 ! ANY OF THE THREE CHOICES FOR D MAY BE MADE IN THE
    PROGRAM FOR THE 2ND PASS OF THE PAPER THRU THE
    PRINTER..
190 !
200 ! NOTE! THIS PROGRAM MAY BE USED TO LIST PROGRAMS WHEN
    ONE SPACE IS DESIRED BETWEEN SUCCESSIVE LINES.
210 ! HERE'S HOW: CHOOSE #3 OPTION FOR D IN LN 80.  HIT
    ENTER AND ALLOW ONLY 1 OR 2 LINES TO BE PRINTED.  THIS
    SETS THE PRINTER FOR THE
220 ! DESIRED LISTINGS....
```

PILLARS

by Morton Dworshak
Mid-South 99er User Group, Feb., 1993

Most of us have seen great temples with lofty pillars reaching up toward the sky but we have never been a part of building any of these great structures. Now through an instrument called a computer we can make pillars for the temple of our dreams.

I was working with programs top make graph paper, and as I dealt with athe commands to create different distances between

lines, I accidentally thought about progression from lines very cloose together to lines farther apart. This led tp going from small to large distances, and then back again to small.

This program will allow you to make all sizes of pillars, and all on one sheet. Have fun!

The program is written for Extended Basic.

P.S. - In order to draw correcrt pillars, input the same number in lines 105 and 360. Both ask for the "Number of lines." As a start, try the number 5 in both inputs.

The printer I have is a Sta Microtronics, Model 10X. In line no's 220 and 390, CHR$(241) works better than CHR$(95), check it out.

```
5 ! PILLARS (EXTENDED BASIC)
7 ! PRINT PILLAR PATTERNS BY MORTON DWORSHAK MID-SOUTH 99,
   JAN. 199 3
10 OPEN #1:"PIC"
15 PRINT #1:CHR$(27);CHR$(56)
20 ! LN 15 ALLOWS ONE TO PRINT A SINGLE SHEET WITHOUT THE
   BELL AND RED LIGHT..
50 INPUT "DARKER LINES DESIRED? Y OR N? ":D$
60 IF D$="Y" THEN 70 ELSE 90
70 PRINT #1:CHR$(27);CHR$(69)
80 CALL CLEAR
90 DISPLAY AT(10,1):"PRINT THE FIRST HALF OF THE PILLAR."
100 ! 5 LINES MAKES NICE PILLARS!
105 INPUT "NO. OF LINES DESIRED?(MAX = 15.) ?":N
120 FOR D=1 TO N STEP .5
210 PRINT #1:CHR$(27);CHR$(51);CHR$(D)
220 PRINT #1:RPT$(CHR$(95),80)
250 NEXT D
260 CALL CLEAR
270 DISPLAY AT(10,1):"NEXT, PRINT THE OTHER HALF OF THE
   PILLAR."
290 ! FIRST CHANGE LN 120 TEMPORARILY TO: FOR D=34 TO N
350 ! NOW PRINT THE OTHER HALF OF THE PILLAR...
360 INPUT "NO. OF LINES? SAME AS ABOVE? ":N
370 FOR D=N TO 1 STEP -.5
380 PRINT #1:CHR$(27);CHR$(51);CHR$(D)
390 PRINT #1:RPT$(CHR$(95),80)
400 NEXT D
410 PRINT #1:CHR$(27)&CHR$(64)
```


THE NEW FUNNELWEB v5

described by Charles Good
Lima Ohio User Group

TEXT EDITOR

Tony McGovern has released a "completely rewritten from source code" Funnelweb version 5 80 column editor dated Dec 15, 1992. A similar 40 column version will follow soon. These v5 editors are designed to run from the Funnelweb v4.4 environment. So far, the only "version 5" parts of Funnelweb are the text editors. They are fully multi-lingual and compare favorably with Asgard's new FIRST DRAFT word processor. New features, added or revised since the v4.4 editor are summarized below.

HELP SCREENS AND MULTIPLE FILES IN MEMORY:

FIRST text in memory - the edit buffer:

SECOND text in memory - the help screens:

When the 80 column editor first boots it loads into memory up to four help screens. These can be viewed from the command line by pressing H(elp). Each screen is 26 lines by 80 columns and they pop up on screen immediately because they are already in VDP memory. The Program Editor loads one set of help screens relating to assembly language coding. The Word Processing editor loads another set of screens more appropriate for help with text editing and formatting. You can move back and forth from one help screen to another by pressing the Q and A keys. FCTN/9 returns you back to the edit buffer. Sets of useful help screens are provided, and the user can also create personalized help screens. A utility is provided to convert the first 26 lines of any DV80 file into an 80 column help screen. (The 40 column editor will have 28 line by 40 column help screens. An unlimited number of these screens can be loaded into memory one at a time from disk by pressing H(elp) from the 40 column command line.)

THIRD text in memory - screen viewing:

As in the v4.4 text editor, one can do a S(how) D(irectory), move the cursor next to a DV80 file name, press a key, and display a screen of that file. Subsequent presses of the same key window down through the entire file. There is no limit to the size of the file that can be viewed one screen at a time in this manner. This file isn't really stored in memory, just displayed on screen.

FOURTH text in memory - the V(iew) buffer:

From S(how) D(irectory) you can put the cursor next to the name of a DV80 file, press CTRL/V and load the whole file (or any part of it) into a 64K memory buffer for instant recall any time during the editing process. Once loaded into the V(iew) buffer the file can be scrolled one line at a time or windowed up and down very rapidly. Pressing <enter> from within S(how) D(irectory) or V from the editor command line pops this text into view. This V(iew) buffer can hold very large text files. It is in fact the same memory area as Funnelweb's Disk Review

"V" text buffer. You can load some text into the 80 column editor's V(iew) buffer, exit the editor to a central menu, and from there go to Disk Review. After performing some disk management functions from Disk Review, you can go back to the 80 column text editor and the V(iew) buffer text will still be there! You can also load ANY KIND OF FILE into Disk Review's V(iew) buffer. Then if you exit Disk Review and go to the 80 column v5 text editor this text will be waiting for you in the editor's view buffer. Just press "V" from the editor's command line to see the text you loaded into Disk Review! (Because 40 column systems have only a limited amount of VDP memory, this V(iew) buffer feature is not available from the 40 column v5 editor.)

FIFTH text in memory - the ST(ore) buffer:

From the editor command line you can press ST(ore) and move the contents of the edit buffer into temporary storage in VDP RAM. You can then load another file into the edit buffer, edit the second file and save it back to disk, then press RE from the command line to RE(call) the ST(ore)d text back into the edit buffer. The ST(ore) buffer acts as a temporary ramdisk, but is much faster. Text files are saved and loaded to horizon ramdisks one record (line of text) at a time. This is fast but definately not instantaneous. Large files take 10s of seconds to load and save with a horizon. The ST(ore) buffer response time is immediate! It is too bad you can't exchange text between the edit and store buffers. Tony says this trick would eat up lots of memory and that's why such a featurehas not been included. (ST and RC to and from VDP RAM is not available from the 40 column v5 editor. There isn't enough memory.)

NEW FILE SAVING AND PRINTING OPTIONS:

These are available in both the 40 and 80 column editors and are accessed via the P(rint)F(ile) command. You can configure the editor with printer codes. Then every time you insert a "P" in front of the printer name (such as PF <enter>, P PIO) the editor will send these preconfigured codes to the printer before any text. I have my v5 editor set up to send the "print all the following in 'emphasized print' command. If I also use a "Q" with PF the editor will send a printer reset code to the printer after all text has been printed (PF <enter>, P Q PIO).

You can append the contents of the text buffer to the end of an existing disk file by specifying the disk file as the printer device preceeed by an "A" (PF <enter>, A DSKx.FILENAME). DV80 files of unlimited size can be created this way. I build multiple choice exams for my students this way, one question at a time taken from question lists I have stored as DV80 files.

You can also use PF to create DF128 text files readable directly by MS-DOS and Unix software.

NEW POWERUP OPTIONS:

Normally the v5 editor boots in either Word Processing or Program Editing mode depending upon which of Funnelweb's central

menus is used to select the editor. However, if you hold the space bar down as the editor loads you get a list of choces. The editor can be pre-configured to always give you this list of choices without pressing the space bar or to automatically boot as any one of the choices unless you press the space bar.

1. Word Processing
2. Program Editor

Then you get these choices:

1. Default 7-bit
2. National 7-bit
3. TI Euro Writer
4. All Chars.

If you want the resulting disk file of your document to be readable by someone else on another computer using anything except Funnelweb v5 (such as an earlier version of Funnelweb, or TI Writer) then select items 1 or 2 from this menu. Items 3 and 4 from the above menu do some fancy stuff (more about this later), but produce disk files that can only be read and displayed on screen properly with Funnelweb v5.

After you chose one of these options, you are given the following choice of languages, comparable to what is suggested by the TI Writer module:

1. Australia---My 40 column beta test editor lists this as "default". This is the one USA English users would choose. It uses character sets C1 or C2, the same character sets used by the rest of Funnelweb. This is the only option that does not load in additional character and command sets from disk.
2. British---Choosing this loads in a separate character set that redefines SHIFT/3 as the British pound sterling symbol. In all other respects "2. British" is the same as "1. Australia".
3. France
4. Deutschland
5. Italia
6. Sverge
7. Nederland
8. Espania

Choosing a non English language loads in foreign language character sets that redefine little used keyboard characters such as FCTN/A, FCTN/F, FCTN/W, etc as appropriate foreign characters. Most of these foreign characters are vouls with accent symbols over them such as umlaut, grave, acute, or circumflex. These character sets and their ASCII values correspond to some of the international character sets 1-9 found on most modern printers. This means that if you send the a control code to set your printer for the appropriate foreign character set then the foreign characters you see on screen will be printed properly. From the editor the epson compatible printer key sequence with no spaces between keypresses is CTRL/U FCTN/R CTRL/U R CTRL/U SHIFT/A thru I CTRL/U where A-I specify the particular character set (1-9) desired. For Genimi 10X and SG10 printers substitute 7 for R in the above key sequence.

Non-English languages also load appropriate foreign text into the command line and change the command abbreviations to

reflect the foreign language. For example, in French "Imprimer Fichier" means Print File, and you use the command IF, not PF, to print stuff. The Swedish version has "Lagra Filer" for Save File. The command LF in the Swedish text editor will save (not load) a file. This can be disasterous for English speakers who don't know Swedish.

Not all the foreign commands and command line text are finished. English, German, and Swedish are complete. French and Dutch are almost complete. Spanish hasn't been started. Sample source code and a utility that creates foreign commands and command line text are included for those interested in expanding Funnelweb v5's multilingual capabilities.

EURO-WRITER:

In Europe, TI released a multilinual version of TI Writer (TIW v2) with some special features. By selecting EURO-WRITER from the powerup menus, the Funnelweb v5 editor provides all the features of the TI Writer v2 editor; specifically an intuitive way of adding accent marks to vouls.

When in Funnelweb's EuroWriter mode you have access to the foreign character set of the language you select from the powerup menus, and these character sets include some, but not all, accented vouls. But there is another intuitive way to create accented vouls that lets you put ANY ACCENT over ANY VOUL. Type a voul, either upper or lower case. Then backspace to put the cursor back over the voul, type any of four FCTN/key or CTRL/key combinations, and an umlaut grave acute or circumflex mark will appear on screen over the voul! The only problem is that these voul/backspace/accent screen displays are coded with high ASCII numbers above 127 and don't normally print properly. You need to print text files with these accented vouls using the European formatter (also multingual), the formatter that TI included with TI Writer v2. You need to use special transliteration files that redefine ASCII codes greater than 127 as accented vouls. This formatter with its auxiliary language and transliteration files is not part of the Funnelweb v5 editer package, but the files can be obtained by anyone from the Lima user group. Unfortunately, the European formatter REQUIRES use of the TI Writer module. It hasn't yet been modified to run easily out of the Funnelweb environment using something other than the TIW module to boot Funnelweb. Also, transliterations to print some of the accented vouls are less than ideal. Accentd vouls you see clearly on screen with Funnelweb's Eurowriter mode may look strange when printed.

ALL CHARS MODE:

Our 99/4As normally can directly type ASCII 0-127 with ASCII characters below 32 accessed from CTRL/U "special character mode". But our 8 bit computer is capable of generating codes 0-255. When high ASCII codes <127 are sent to a printer during text printing the printer will print graphic symbols. A common standard for these high ASCII graphics is the IBM character set #2 found on most printers. High ASCII codes sent to a printer with IBM graphics #2 enabled print line shapes

somewhat comparable to the "lines" font of Page Pro that prints those neat borders and page dividing lines. Check your printer's manual to see what these graphics look like.

[SPECIAL NOTE FOR STAR SG10 PRINTER OWNERS: There is an undocumented software method of switching from STAR mode to the IBM character set #2. You don't need to use a dip switch. The code with no spaces between keypresses is CTRL/U FCTN/R CTRL/U w CTRL/U SHIFT/A CTRL/U. To switch from IBM set #2 back to STAR mode use this code: CTRL/U FCTN/R CTRL/U w CTRL/U SHIFT/2 CTRL/U. The w in these codes is lower case.]

Selecting All Chars mode with the Funnelweb v5 editor allows you to directly type on screen and print to the printer ASCII 0-254 of the IBM character set #2. This includes all the normal upper and lower case letters numbers and keyboard symbols, plus the graphic symbols coded by high ASCII numbers. To type the graphic symbols type CTRL/, (control and comma simultaneously) and then each keypress will produce a graphic symbol. To return to the keyboard normal letters type CTRL/, again. Normal letters and graphic symbols remain on screen as you use CTRL/, to toggle the keyboard back and forth beteen graphics and normal. Graphics and text print normally using PF (PrintFile). You don't need a formatter to print these graphic symbols.

SOME OF THE OTHER NEW FEATURES:

--You can move text up and down from within the command line. This is very handy for M(ove lines)), D(elete lines), and C(opy lines) operations. You don't have to remember line numbers. Go to the command line and type M, D, or C. Then use the arrow or up/down screen keys to display the first line number and last line number so that you will enter the proper numbers to M, D, or C.

--From the various fixed modes with an open box cursor (Program editor or WP with word wrap off) you can break lines at the cursor, insert text, then rejoin with the next text line. This means you can insert text into the middle of a paragraph from a fixed mode without losing existing test off the end of the right margin, something no other version of TI Writer will allow.

--Typing a number in a blank command line followed by <enter> will put that line at the top of the screen and return to edit mode (S before line number not necessary). <Enter> from a blank command line returns to edit mode (E prior to <enter> not necessary).

--You can freeze the display beginning with the line below the cursor while continuing to scroll, window, and edit from the cursor line to the top of the screen. This means you can simultaneously display two parts of the edit buffer with full editing capabilities for one of these displayed parts.

--You can put a bookmark (mark the text) at any line number from either command mode or edit mode. Later you can put the cursor on this text with FCTN/= even if the text has been edited since marking.

--You can display the contents of any hard drive path from the command line similar to doing a SD. Enter "HD" from the command line, then type a path name and press enter. The

resulting display of that directory's file names resembles the SD display, and you can mark DV80 files for loading into the editor. This should be great for hard drive users who have trouble cataloging their hard drives with existing software.

--From SD or HD two diffent files can be marked, the regular and "temporary" file. These can be loaded into the editor with LF (regular) and LT (loads the "temporary" file).

--A user definable wild card character can be used the string searches with FS and RS.

--The SD display shows the number of bytes remaining in the edit buffer.

--When you load, print, or save files an incrementing number in the upper right of the screen shows the current line being loaded into or out of memory.

CONFIGURING THE EDITOR -- WHICH v5 EDITOR FILES ARE REQUIRED?

Just the 80 column editor, without other parts of Funnelweb, comes on an almost full unarchived DSSD. There are lots of files, mostly foreign char sets and command line text. This disk as distributed by the Lima User Group has DSKU commants added by me to each of the files. These comments should aid in figuring out the purpose of each v5 editor file.

If you want only word processing in English then put ED, EE, and HELP00 10 20 and 30 on your Funnelweb v4.4 working disk or directory. If you want to play around with All Chars graphics add file CHAR@1 to this list.

You should use INSTALL/ED and a modified CONFIG/ED to configure the Print File "P" and "Q" printer codes into your ED file, but these two files don't have to be kept on the Funnelweb work disk. Funnelweb's v5 editor can be configured with CONFIG/ED to immediately boot to any of the available languages, or to boot to the powerup menu selections. No matter how the editor is configured, if you hold down the space bar as the editor boots you will get the powerup menu selections.

If you want use the full multilingual capabilities of the v5 editor then you need all the CHARxx and F8TXxx files on your Funnelweb work disk.

The various utilities for configuring the editor, making your own help screens, making your own character sets, etc have an undocumented feature. They respond to FCTN/7 (AID) by invoking the Quick Directory if files QD and QF from Funnelweb v4.4 are on the Funnelweb work disk.

This upgraded editor is fairware. If you try it and like it you should send Tony McGovern some indication of your appreciation.

FROM THE TEACHER'S DESK

by Dave Howell
from the Erie 99ers newsletter, January 1993

SOMETHING NEW FOR CLASSROOMS?

Students may be equiped with "personal digital assistants" (PDAs) in the classroom of the future. What are PDAs? Something like pocket -sized microcomputers allowing students to do just about everything one does now woth desktop systems. Fantasy? Not for long. As recently reported in Education Technology News, Sue Talley, of the Foundation for Educational Technology Software in Redwood City, California, anticipates "PDAs will supplement full- blown multimedia computers in the classrooms."

Although some industry watchers think PDAs are a little more than a dream, Talley thinks this technology holds "considerably more promise." Nor does she think PDAs would need a long time to make their way into schools. "I hink it will happen more quickly," especially if there is Japanese partnership.

MICROCOMPUTERS - THE COUNT

How fast are microcomputers invading the classrooms? Market Data Retrieval (MDR), a Shelton, Conn. - based firm specializing in statistics on technology in schools, says "The installed base of microcomputers in elementary and secondary schools exceeded 2.5 million for the first time during the 1991-1992 school year. This installed base is in public, private and Catholic schools. The latest year's total is almost 550 percent higher than the 386,000 installed computers during the 1983-84 school year.

Private and Catholic schools show a much faster increase than in public schools. Private shcools exhibited a 24.6 percent growth in 1991-92 over the prior year. In Catholic schools the growth rate was 16.1 percent compared to only 9.2 percent in public schools.

However, about 89 percent of all installed microcomputers are in public schools, according to MDR. "Private schools have 5 percent and Catholic schools about 6 percent of the total installed base."

AND THE "MICROINTENSITY"?

The number of students per microcomputer has been dropping steadily in recent years, according to MDR. Alaska leads the nation with a low of 10 students per computer to a high of over 30 studeats per computer in Mississippi. Overall, microintensity figures have falled from 26.4 students per computer in the 1988-89 school year to 18.9 in 1991-92.

ELECTRONIC LEARNING LABS

Education Technology News reports that Pacific Bell is testing an "electronic learning laboratiry" in two California high schools. Called the Knowledge Netword Gateway, the new service provides students with high-speed computer access to a broad array of education al databases and learning resources., including electronic mail connectin to schools around the world. It is envisioned that eventually every school in California will be connected to this vast electronic library, which will allow

students to study virtually anything, anywhere in the world, without leaving the classroom.

THE CONTROVERSIAL CHRIS WHITTLE

Chris Whittle is certainly in the thick of it in terms of creating controversy in education. His "Channel One" classroom television news programming fell under attack by the "BALTIMORE SUN" newspaper when it advised Baltimore schools to turn down the programming in its schools. Channel One is a 12-miute news program put on by student broadcasters that is aired every moning during homeroom periods in the secondary schools. The controversy surrounds the paid commercials that supports the free installations in the classrooms.

The newspaper editorial pointed out that while the Baltimore Sun had supported partnerships between schools and corporations in the past, Channel One deserved to be abandonned because "it is difficult to see how children will benefit" form Channel One's commercial programming. "Let's not kid ourselves: Whittle is the real beneficiary in this arrangement," the editorial said. The time allocated to commercials on Channel One's 12-minute per day may not seem excessive, but it adds up to 35 hours over the school year, and that time could be used for "more fruitful activities."

On another education front, chris Whittle's Edison Project to establish a chain of private, for-profit schools fell under attack recently by the National Governor's Association. Whittle was told that his schools would rob public schools of their best students. "We are afraid that Mr. Whittle's schools will strip off the best and brightest and leave onlyt he problem children, those most difficult to educate, in our public schools," said Texas Governor Ann Richards.

But this hasn't daunted Mr. Whittle. He plans to produce a chain of at least 1,000 profit-making schools serving two million students by 2010 at a cost of $5,500 per student - today's average cost per pupil in the average public school.

Whittle told the governors that even though the Edison Project could profit from a school voucher program in various states, vouchers are not part of his agenda. "We are concerned about creating radical new choices, not choice," he said.

STRANGE CONFERENCES!!?

In checking the calendar of technology meetings around the country, I couldn't believe some of the far-out topics available. Check these out and come to your own conclusion.

"Computer Music Conference" sponsored by the International Computer Music Association.

"Gaming: the Futur's Language - Adding New Dimensions to Learning" sponsored by the North American Simulation and Gaming Association.

"Object-Oriented Programming Systems, Languages and Applicatins' (OOPSLA), "Conference on Very Large Databases", "International Workshop on Hardware-Software Codesign", all sponsored by the Associatin for Computing Machinery.

NEW WORD PROCESSOR

from the pages of the K-TOWN 99'er newsletter, Dec., 1992

In the mail today, Nov. 23, arrived my copy of FIRST DRAFT / FINAL COPY that I ordered from Asgard Software for $39.75 plus some postage and handling. Two disks plus a nice manual in a neat package. I plan to give it a good workout and that is going to take some considerable doing after five years of regular use of TI Writer.

Thanks to Art Gibson, the author, we K-Town 99'ers have something of a head start. Most of the material in the mnanual has already been shared with us by Art and so we are not starting from scratch.

Already a couple of things stand out: Art uses disk space to conserve computer memory. When you work on a long document there appears from time to time a box on the screen that says "working" and halts things while some more of the text file is loaded from disk. This is no great problem and if the text file is on a RAMdisk it is no problem at all. The big advantage is that you never get the old "memory full - save or purge" message. All you have to worry about is disk space.

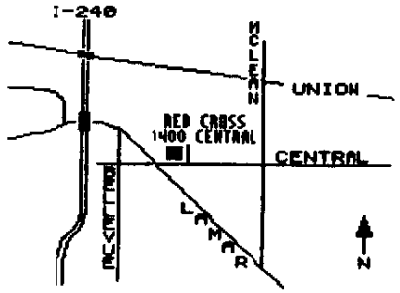
Another thing is that the program uses fixed length records rather than variable length records. In some cases this takes a lot more disk space. For example, the dictionary files for the spelling checker are furnished in variable record format and it is easy to understand why. In D/F 80 format each word would occupy 80 bytes! Even in D/V 80 format the dictionaries will not fit on one DSSD disk.

A quick and easy facility for converting D/V files to D/F files and vice-versa is available in the editor but, as the manual points out, watch out for disk space.

I tried the spell checker on the HELP file (Art is a MUCH better programmer than speller). It is easy to use and it works but even from a RAM disk it takes some time. You would use it for final proof-reading an important document but there is too much waiting for everyday stuff.

The all-purpose menu is great, especially since I don't have the Horizon RAMdisk. It will load the Archiver and DM1000 from my FUNLWEB files. Now I just have to tinker untill I can make them return to the FD/FC environment.

It has great potential and I suspect that it will be worth it for an old dog to learn new tricks. I haven't had to call Art on the phone yet but I make no promises.



LOCATION MAP

WORKSHOP : to be announced.

PROGRAM BIT - third Thursday

FEBRUARY 18th , 1993

MEETING: 7:00pm - Red Cross Building - 1400 Central.

6:45pm - Doors Open

7:00pm - Meeting begins, general discussion.

7:30pm - Demonstration to be announced.

9:00pm - Meeting ends.

9:15pm - Late dinner at location to be announced at meeting.

NOTICE

Information contained in TIdbits is accurate and true to the best of our knowledge. Viewpoints and opinions expressed in TIdbits are not necessarily that of the Mid-South 99'ers. We welcome any opinions/corrections from our readers. Articles may be reprinted elsewhere as long as credit is given to the author and newsletter.

GROUP INFO

Visitors and potential members may receive 2 free issues of TIdbits while they decide if they wish to join (no obligation) On the top of your label is a code. A Y means you are a member, N means 2 free list, UG means user group and S means a business. Beside the Y is a date, one year from that date your dues are due. A dollar sign ($) on the label will indicate that your dues are due. The library is open only to members. Library list is $1. Mail order disk library access is $2 for the first disk and $1 for each additional disk - max of 5 disks per month. Order by disk number only. At meetings, library access is FREE if you exchange your disk for ours or $1 per disk for our disks. Send all mail order library requests to librarian's address! Send dues and correspondence to group address.

CALENDAR

MEETINGS: FEB 18 MAR. 18, (3rd Thursday!)
WORKSHOPS: TO BE ANNOUNCED

24HR TI BULLETIN BOARD

The 9640 NEWS BBS 300/1200/2400/4800/7200/9600/12000/14400
Hayes. 901-368-0112

GROUP MAILING ADDRESS

Mid-South 99 Users Group
P.O. Box 38522
Germantown, Tn. 38183-0522

LIBRARY ADDRESS

Jim Saenenes
46 Higgins Road
Brighton, Tn., 38011

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ **ST** ___ **ZIP** _____
PHONE(___)___-_____:**INTERESTS** _____
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Detach and mail with check payable to: Mid-South 99 Users Group, P.O. Box 38522, Germantown, Tn, 38183-0522.