

JUNE 1996

BEST  
WISHES

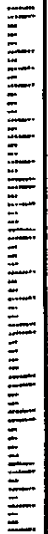


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FIRST CLASS MAIL

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# TIDBITS

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## PRESIDENT'S BIT

-----by Gary W. Cox

At last months meeting we still did not resolve our lack of a meeting place. Unless something changes this months meeting will be our last meeting at the Red Cross and unless someone can find a meeting place it will be our last user group meeting until further notice.

Please Please bring some ideas to this months meeting... I really need your help!

On a lighter note Cecure Electronics has purchased the remaining stock of Myarc equipment and has on hand floppy/hard disk controllers, Myarc RS232's and new Geneve's! They are available while supplies last. Cecure can be reached by calling (414) 679-4343. Cecure also recently aquired the stock of Rave 99 products. Plans are to remanufacture many of the Myarc and Rave 99 products. Cecure also has Expansion Boxes with 32k, disk drives & disk controllers for \$125 each.

C ya at this months meeting...

## TI99/4a and the Internet

-----by Gary W. Cox

Recently I was asked, can the TI99/4a access the Internet? Here is the answer to that question!

First of all what is the Internet? Many people misunderstand exactly what the Internet is... Basically speaking the Internet is just like a the telephone company as the Internet is just a medium for communications. The Internet is really just a local area network with the local area being Earth itself! The Internet is simply a collection of host computers connected VIA a network called the Internet. Host computers (or servers) on the Internet provide whatever service that the designer desires. Some systems on the Internet are available whereby someone can "Telnet" into a system therefore "lugging" onto a system the same as someone would log onto a BBS or any other computer system. Using Telnet is somewhat like using your own system as a "dumb terminal" and you log into someone else's system and use whatever functions that your access level allows. Also available on the Internet are USENET groups which are basically large discussion areas where people post messages... EVERY subject imaginable is covered in USENET groups. EMAIL is a big part of the Internet as by logging into a host system such as CompuServe, Genie, Delphi etc... EMAIL can be sent and received to anyone anywhere on the Internet. FTP (File Transfer Protocol) is another service available where I can request a file from another system to mine. Telnet, USENET groups and EMAIL all can be obtained VIA a TI99/4a and 2400 baud modem VIA a "text only" interface. I haven't tested

FTP access with the TI99/4a. However, the Internet provider used with the TI99/4a must provide a "text only" interface. A service such as America Online requires America Online software to access their service and thus can NOT be accessed using a terminal program (such as Fast Term, Telco, Mass-Transfer etc...) and therefore can not be used with a TI99/4a or Geneve computer. Compuserve provides a text interface to their service but on the Internet side Compuserve only provides for Telnet, USENET groups and EMAIL. Delphi provides a little more in the way of "text only" interface to the Internet as WEB pages can be accessed VIA a "text only" interface.

What are WEB pages? WEB pages are where the bulk the activity on the Internet occurs. WEB pages are usually graphics oriented pages accessed through the use of a WEB browser such as Netscape (for Pc's and Apple's). A WEB browser simply translates HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) codes into a mixture of graphics and text on the screen. WEB pages are the addresses that are often seen listed on Television in the format: HTTP://address.com. HTTP stands for Hyper Text Transfer Protocol relating back to the HTML codes.

Most WEB pages are written with graphics in mind so accessing a WEB page with a "text only" interface will not only look terrible but will be missing the graphics. To actually view a graphic WEB page not only must a system have a display capable of 640 by 480 resolution (VGA) but a system capable of displaying 256 colors and the minimum modem speed necessary is 14,400 although a 9600 might work if you want to take a nap, a 2400 modem to view a WEB page in graphics mode is completely unusable! Note that a standard TI99/4a will only operate at a maximum modem speed of 2400 baud. So using a TI99/4a VIA a "text only" interface to view a WEB page is barely useable at best and is defiantly not recommended. This limitation extends also to IBM PC's, XT's, AT's, 286's, Commodore, Atari's and even a 386 system with VGA is barely capable of using Netscape as Netscape requires "Windows" and Windows requires a fast system, memory etc... Generally speaking a 486 with VGA is the minimum necessary to view WEB pages. So if you want to view these WEB pages you will need something a more powerful than a TI99/4a although you can view the non-graphics text located in those pages with a TI99/4a or Geneve 9640...

Therefore, in order to connect to the Internet a system must first connect to a host such as an Internet provider. Many businesses have their own Internet connections and host system but having your own direct connect to the Internet is expensive and impractical for home and small business users. Most people must go through an Internet provider to get onto the Internet. Most cities have a variety of local Internet providers providing access at a flat rate. Online services such as Compuserve, Genie and Delphi also provide Internet access.

In my opinion the best Internet provider for TI99/4a is Delphi. Compuserve does not provide WEB page access via a "text only" interface. Some local Internet providers may provide a "text only" interface so you will have to inquire about this before selecting a service. The type of "text only" interface and it's abilities vary between Internet providers as well... For access to Delphi call (voice) 1-800-695-4005 and you can

receive 10 FREE hours access to try it out...

Therefore, the TI99/4a can easily have Telnet access onto the Internet as well as access to USENET groups, possibly FTP and defiantly EMAIL. Web Page access (sometimes referred to as the World Wide WEB) is very messy with the TI99/4a and is just about unusable. Many TI99/4a owners use their PC's to access the Internet and view the wide range of material available not only for the TI99/4a but just about anything else that you can think of! If you have a Internet access check out my WEB page at: [http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/gary\\_cox](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/gary_cox). On my page I also have a link to the Polivka TI99/4a home page (GREAT!) where you can then link to other TI99/4a home pages... If you would like to link directly to Polivka's home page the address is: <http://w3.gwis.com/~polivka/994apg.html>. Note there is a "squiggly" line (FCTN W on a TI keyboard) before the word polivka which must be in the address!

Thus the TI99/4a can access the internet through a "text only" interface in a very limited way.

## SPEEDING UP TI-BASE LOADING TIMES

(C) 1995 by Bill Gaskill

TI-Base is indisputably the slowest loading data base manager available when run from its native SS/SD floppy disk. Why it is so slow to load is a combination of factors such as the need to boot the multiple files that make up the program, the hardware used to do the loading and the fact that TI-Base supports a variety of loaders, each of which take varying amounts of time to get TI-Base up and running.

The slowest loader that you can choose is the XB loader, which does a CALL LOAD that pokes TIBASEB into memory so that it can set up the loading environment for TI-Base. The slowest hardware environment that you can choose is a mechanical floppy drive because it rotates at only 300 rpm and then only on demand. So you not only have the slow rotation of the disk, but you also lose a little more time waiting for the disk drive to start up and then find things on the floppy. Put the two together and you get a 60-70 second load time.

The fastest loader is the TIBASEP file, which is an E/A option 5 file. When used with the Horizon Ram Disk and John Johnson's Menu (running ROS V7.35 or higher) the load time drops to well under 10 seconds. TIBASEP is a program image file and thus loads with the same kind of speed that causes Personal Record Keeping data files to load so fast. The ram disk operation is electronic rather than mechanical, which should explain on it's face why it outperforms a normal floppy disk, and JJ's Menu allows TIBASEP to be loaded at the press of a single key, with no module swapping. Put them all together and you have a blazing operational environment that ANY IBM computer owner would drool over. If you are a hard disk drive owner the load time is only slightly slower than a ram disk, since drive speed is comparable and the TIBASEW hard disk loader is also a program image file.

Regardless of the loader used, your choice of hardware will

have an impact on most things that TI-Base does. Because the 99/4A has such a small amount of memory for TI-Base to work in, many of the features are placed in a program overlay file. As with most data base management programs written for the IBM world, TI-Base uses the overlay concept to switch different functions in and out of memory as needed. This allows the main shell of the program to be memory resident while individual, task-specific features can share the predefined memory space that has been set aside for overlay usage. Since the overlay file resides on disk rather than in memory, the speed of your disk drive will have a direct effect on how quickly overlay features are accessed. This access time has a corresponding effect on the speed of overall program operation. Thus the more times you perform a function that requires access to TI-Base's OVRLAY/P file and the program segments that it houses, the slower the overall operation of the program is going to be. This becomes painfully obvious to the floppy disk user, but goes almost unnoticed when a ram disk or hard disk drive is used.

It is quite possible that TI-Base can be run just as efficiently from any of the other ram disks that are available. I just don't own them and thus cannot verify whether they do or not perform the same. I am not promoting the Horizon Ram Disk over the Corcomp, Myarc, Quest or Rave units, I just happen to own it. I do like being able to turn my computer on, have the John Johnson/Gary Bowser Menu appear as the default screen, and then just press a single key to have TI-Base up and running in less than 10 seconds. If you are a serious TI-Base owner as I am, I think that you will too. =eof=

## SPEEDING UP TI-BASE OPERATIONS

(C) 1995 by Bill Gaskill

Last time we talked about speeding up the loading process for the TI-Base program, which I defined as the time that it takes to get from initial start up to the prompt for Today's Date. After you have entered the date the SETUP file is read by TI-Base as a default function and then the dot prompt appears. But in between the date and the appearance of the dot prompt, which is where you want to be in order to use the program, there is also some time to be saved.

As I stated, the SETUP file is always the first file read by TI-Base, as a default function. However, you don't really even have to have it. Although a "file does not exist" error message will appear at the dot prompt, you can completely eliminate the SETUP file by renaming it or leaving it off of your working copy of the program disk. Any parameter or function performed in SETUP can be recreated from the dot prompt. As delivered, SETUP contains eight lines of code that don't do anything more than set the cursor speed and display messages. Virtually all of the parameters that one normally uses in TI-Base SETUP operations already have default values that can be used as is. SETUP is really only a professional convenience, put there to meet user-specific needs.

If you don't care to eliminate SETUP you can edit it down to a single line or make each of the default lines in the file comments. Either of these options will save you time in getting the program to the dot prompt. If you wish to save SETUP with your own values and parameters, you can also edit it to eliminate some of the more time consuming operations that it performs. In all versions beginning with V2.0 and above, a PRINTER driver data base is accessed through SETUP that takes as much as 10 seconds to read on a floppy disk. Reading of the PRINTER data base, which contains the escape codes for any special modes or fonts required by your particular printer, can easily be by-passed if you don't intend to do any special printing during the current session. To do so, simply call the SETUP file into the command file editor with a MODIFY COMMAND DSK#.SETUP, where the pound sign is the number of the drive that the TI-Base program is booted from. Once the SETUP file is on screen press Fctn 2 to insert and then type in an asterisk in front of the line that reads: PRINTER (your printer name). This will make the command that activates the PRINTER data base into a comments line so that it is by-passed by the command file interpreter. Press Fctn 8 to save the changes to the PRGDISK and you are done. You will still be able to print from within TI-Base. You just can't use any of the special print modes or fonts found in the PRINTER data base. When you want to activate the special printer features, simply select an empty slot and then type in PRINTER (your printer name) and the PRINTER data base will be opened, read and then closed all with that one command from the dot prompt.

After you get to the dot prompt there are several things that you can do to speed up operations. If you operate the program directly from the dot prompt, rather than through the command file mode, you will find that anything you do works faster. Use of the command file mode invokes the command file interpreter, which is among the biggest offenders in slowing down the TI-Base program. But the command file mode does have some advantages from the dot prompt too. Aside from its ability to support the creation of complex code for user-specific programming needs, it can also be used to automate recurring functions that you perform, thus saving you typing time. I discovered early on in my TI-Base experience that it was easier to create short-named, one-line command files out of things like the CATALOG, DISPLAY, FORMAT and LIST functions, than it was to have to type the function in each each time I wanted to use one. Once created a simple DO CAT for the CATALOG function or DO DIS for the DISPLAY function got things rolling in no time. Try it, you'll like it. =eof=

-----MID-SOUTH 99-JUN.1996-----

Organisation des TI / GENEVE Treffen Date: TI=MEETING  
----- Date of creation: 9.Feb 1996

Hello TI-friends, hallo GENEVE-freaks !  
-----

IT IS TIME NOW to send the FIRST information for the

11. Internationalen TEXAS INSTRUMENTS 99/4a and  
MYARC GENEVE 9640 from 20-22 September 1996  
in Wolfsburg / Germany

out. So if you are in Europe in this time and you are a  
real I-friend I think there is no problem to make a weekend stop  
in Wolfsburg (the hometown of Volkswagen). We make the meeting  
this year at:

Freizeitheim Vorsfelde  
Am Sportplatz 5  
D-38448 Wolfsburg - Vorsfelde  
-----  
Germany

The mainly fair is on Saturday, 21st of September 1996.  
But in the last years shown that many TI-user are interested to  
stay a little bit longer at the meeting place to compute or to  
make small excursions in the city of the meeting place. In this  
year we organize a visit of the VOLKSWAGEN car-factory at riday  
(20th. Sep) and a small tour to the german-german boundary  
which divide Germany for a long time in to parts (on 21st Sep).  
But the main reason for the meeting is to get news and change  
informations around the TI and GENEVE computer systems.

If you are like to stay longer in the area, there are Hamburg  
greatest european port and 'Reeperbahn', Hannover (city of the  
EXPO 2000) and Berlin (may be you know it form the 'wall')  
within daytrip distance.

If you are like to visit the 11th international TI meeting  
please contact one of the addresses below in the text. We will do  
our best to make you an enjoyable weekend-stay in Wolfsburg.

The prices for a hotel night in Wolfsburg are between 40 DM  
(low level) up to 200 DM (de luxe) for a one night stay in a  
single room.

Please contact us as soon you were sure that you visit our  
meeting, so we will organize the rest for you.

Please contact only one of the two TI-MEETING-CONTACT  
addresses or express your wish to visit the 11th International  
TI / GENEVE meeting in Wolfsburg. Send the following reservation  
form !

Martrin Zeddies	Burghard Knedel
Hauptstrasse 26	Bresauler Strasse 2
D-38446 Wolfsburg	D-38550 Isenbittel
-----	-----
Germany	Germany
Tel/Fax: 05363 / 71125	Tel: 05374 / 2237

11. Internationales TI GENEVE-Treffen vom 20-22

-----September 1996-----  
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-----MID-SOUTH 99-JUN.1996-----

Organisation des TI / GENEVE Treffen Date: TI=MEETING

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* R E S E R V A T I O N \*  
\* for 11. Int. TI/GENEVE Computerfaire \*  
\* \*\*\*\*\*

With this form I pleasure you to register me as a visitor  
on the 11th International TI 99/4A and MYARC GENEVE 9640  
Computermeeting in Wolfsburg. Please consider me with the  
following informations for your meeting.

Name) \_\_\_\_\_ (Firstname) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street No. ) \_\_\_\_\_ (ZIP) (city) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Phone / Fax ) \_\_\_\_\_ (Computer system) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date) \_\_\_\_\_ (signature) \_\_\_\_\_

- ( ) I want show MY OWN SYSTEM on the faire. On this fact  
I need table \_\_\_\_\_ Meter in length.  
( ) I like to show new hardware on the TI-Paire. Please  
contact me for further details !  
( ) I like to show a program / softwarepaket on the  
meeting. the name of the product calls:

\_\_\_\_\_. Please contact me for more !  
I want visit Wolfsburg with \_\_\_\_\_ persons (all together).  
Please check the possibility for the night stays.

- ( ) I need \_\_\_\_\_ double/twin rooms and / or \_\_\_\_\_ single  
rooms ax. price for in accomodation is : \_\_\_\_\_ DM /  
person / night  
( ) I only visit you on Saturday and need no place for  
overight  
( ) Please book the accomodation IN MY NAME. I am  
willingness to pay a deposit for my reservation.  
( ) I am sure to visit the computer meeting. Please send  
me \_\_\_\_\_ tickets of the meeting for the special price  
(4 DM). Regular price on the meeting is (5 DM). I  
pay with 2 IRC postal coupons.  
( ) Please send me detailed informations about the TI /  
GENEVE meeting. I pay the postage for the sending of  
this information and send you 2 IRC postal coupons.

( ) \* cross here \_\_\_\_\_ = fill in data

11. Internationales TI GENEVE-Treffen vom 20-22  
September 1996

## THINGS THAT HAVE COME AND GONE AND SOME THAT NEVER WERE

article by Bill Gaskill

June 1996

This month we'll finish up our discussion/tutorial on the Navarone Data Base Management System and how you can get the most out of it for your money.

### SUBFILES:

If you had intended to create a subfile rather than sorting the file, the only thing different that would have been required was an entry in the STRING prompt and the entry of an E or an N in the parameters prompt.

To create a subfile, you must enter a search parameter in the STRING variable that will be found in the field that is being sorted on. For example, assume that you wished to create a subfile of all records that contained the phrase REVIEW-HARDWARE in the TYPE field. TYPE is the second field in the file so you would enter 2 as the sort selection field and then 31 and 22 as the beginning field position and LENGTH of the sort field. You would enter the phrase REVIEW-HARDWARE in the STRING prompt and then an E at the E/N prompt to tell the sort program that it is to sort only those records that are EQUAL to REVIEW-HARDWARE in the TYPE field.

The resulting file would then need to be RUN through the SETUP program to generate a SETUP file as per the instructions in the SORTING DATA paragraphs above.

### PRINTING REPORTS:

To print a report enter the report generator by pressing 4 from the DBMS menu. When prompted for the SETUP file name, which is the name of the report definition, enter DSK1.INDEXPT1 and then press <ENTER>. Next, press Fctn 5 (BEGIN) and then type in DSK1.INDEX at the DATA FILE prompt. The default printer configuration of PIO. appears. Alter it to fit your printer if needed, press <ENTER> to accept it if it fits your system, or erase it and press <ENTER> if you wish to print the file to screen rather than to a printer. In this case we will actually generate a printed report, so after taking care of the printer name, press <ENTER> and answer the remaining prompts.

At the:

                  Last line of page header  
enter a 01 and then press <ENTER>. At the:  
                  Last line of record form  
enter a 02 and then press <ENTER>.

Press <ENTER> through the remaining prompts for suppression of detail and pauses between pages (unless you are not using continuous feed paper) and the report printing process will

begin.

The LAST LINE... prompts are somewhat confusing to the new user. What they allow is control over header inclusion in the report and spacing between lines printed on the report. Thus, if you entered a zero at the ...PAGE HEADER prompt the field names would not appear in the report. If you entered 03 at the printed between it and the last record.

The Navarone report generation system also supports other advanced features besides the cut and paste layout capabilities. Among the neatest are the ability to imbed printer control codes in a report definition and the ability to define break fields that, when coupled with the detail suppression option, can count the number of occurrences of a break field in the file. Consult the system manual for more detail on these options.

### HORIZON RAM DISK:

The Horizon Ram Disk may be used both as a program disk and/or as a data file storage disk. If it is to be used as a program disk, you must configure it as DSK1. DBMS treats it exactly as it does a mechanical floppy.

### HARD DISK USAGE:

DBMS supports the Myarc HFDC for both program access and data file storage. The programs found on the DBMS system disk must be copied to the DSK1 emulation subdirectory for system programs access. Data file storage capabilities may be created in any subdirectory on your hard disk, as long as the WDS1.. subdirectory name and then the file name, when combined into one string of characters, do not exceed 15 spaces. For example;

                  WDS1.DBMS.FILES          is acceptable because it is 15  
or fewer characters in length. But,;  
                  WDS1.DBMS.FILENAME      would not work because it  
exceeds the 15 character combined path and filename limitation.

### FUNCTION KEYS:

FCTN 1: Erases a data input block in the DBM SETUP screen editor.

FCTN 2: Inserts a data input block space in the DBM SETUP screen editor.

FCTN 4: Halts reports printing process in the DBM REPORTS program. Deletes the current record in the DBM ENTRY program.

FCTN 5: Begins entry of a new record in the DBM ENTRY program. Begins the printing process in the DBM REPORTS program.

FCTN 6: Accesses the key field information screen in the DBM SETUP program. Accesses the field length definition screen in the DBM REPORTS program. Also used the same as the <ENTER> key when using indexed method for data access in the DBM ENTRY program.

FCTN 7: Displays a help window at the base of the screen in the DBM ENTRY program. Accesses the report format editor in the

DBM REPORTS program.

FCTN 8: Accesses the first sequential record in the DBM ENTRY program.

FCTN 9: Backs up one screen from the current screen in almost all situations, in any DBM program. FCTN=: Quits the current program.

#### EXTENDED BASIC DATA ACCESS:

Because DBMS data files are created in standard 99/4A Display/Fixed format, they may easily be accessed in an Extended Basic environment. This means that data can be manipulated outside of the DBMS environment so that features not provided by DBMS can be created for further manipulation of data. For example, the Extended Basic program listed below may be used to display the contents of the sample data base we have created.

```
1 !DBMS file access routine
100 CALL CLEAR :: R=2
110 OPEN #1:"DSK1.INDEX",INP UT ,DISPLAY ,FIXED 172
120 LINPUT #1:B$ :: DISPLAY AT(R,1):B$ :: R=R+4 :: IF R >18
THEN R=2
130 IF EOF(1)THEN 160 ELSE 1 40
140 CALL HCHAR(23,2,80,1):: DISPLAY AT(23,1):"ress any key
to resume scrol" :: CALL HCHAR(23,31,108,1)
150 CALL KEY(0,K,S):: IF S=0 THEN 150 ELSE 120
160 CLOSE #1
```

Other programs may be created that can be used to merge two or more data files into a single file, create subfiles from a main file, convert data to TI-WRITER format and more.

```
1 !DBMS file merge utility
100 CALL CLEAR
110 DISPLAY AT(5,1):"First f ile:" : "Merge file:" : "Sav e
file as:" : "Correct? (Y/N) : "
120 ACCEPT AT(5,12)BEEP SIZE (15):IN1$
130 ACCEPT AT(7,12)BEEP SIZE (15):IN2$
140 ACCEPT AT(9,14)BEEP SIZE (15):ON$
150 ACCEPT AT(11,16)BEEP:YNS :: IF YNS<>"Y" THEN 110
160 IF IN1$=ON$ THEN 250
170 IF IN2$=ON$ THEN 250
180 OPEN #1:ON$,UPDATE,DISPL AY ,FIXED 172 :: OPEN #2:IN1
$,INPUT ,DISPLAY ,FIXED 172 :: DISPLAY AT(22,1):" " : "Rea ding
from:";IN1$
190 LINPUT #2:A$ :: PRINT #1 :A$ :: Y=Y+1 :: DISPLAY AT(
2,1):"Records merged:";Y
200 IF EOF(2)THEN CLOSE #2 E LSE 190
```

#### HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE'S 'NO ADVERTISING' POLICY:

The following text comes from the September 1984 issue of Home Computer Digest. It is the announcement by Gary Kaplan et al concerning HCM's move to emulate Mad Magazine.

The publication you are now holding is a bonus for subscribers to Home Computer Magazine. It will be mailed to you approximately nine times per year. We hope you'll find it both enjoyable and useful.

The adjoining press release (see below) explains the reason for this extra magazine--keeping you informed of mail order product availability while allowing us an ad-free environment in our main publication. I'd like to share with you--our valued subscribers--some of the behind the scenes events which lead to the unprecedented publishing nove described in the press release.

First, as many of you know, a massive shake-out has been taking place in the computer industry. Hardware and software companies--and magazines--have been "biting the dust" at an alarming rate. In today's highly competitive marketplace, the number of firms who sell enough product to be able to pay for magazine advertising has rapidly been dwindling. What often appears to be a healthy dose of paid advertising in a computer magazine is often just an overextension of credit. Many of the advertisers have trouble paying; some are forced to go bankrupt and never do pay. In effect, the thousands of advertisers the computer magazine industry once had now numbers in the hundreds.

Fortunately, Home Computer Magazine is not dependent upon advertising sales to "stay alive". That's because, unlike most other computer magazines, we (1) sell almost all copies we place on the newsstands, (2) haven't spent huge sums of money on promotions to obtain subscribers, and (3) will be able to further amortize our magazine front-end costs over a new spin-off product line debuting this fall.

The rest of the industry will probably regard Home Computer Magazine as being slightly "mad" for turning away ad dollars, but "What, Me Worry?"--MAD Magazine has prospered for over 30 years without outside advertising! We too, are confident that this unorthodox move will actually assure our survivability and bring greater financial success. The new "uncluttered" magazine format will allow us to further distinguish ourselves from the rest of the pack by giving both our present readers, and the hundreds of thousands more future readers, a computer magazine value unequalled anywhere. In the vernacular of the day, "more beef and less bun" nourishes profitable growth.

It might interest you to know that all advertisers in this Digest have pre-paid their ads--thus giving us (and we hope you too) some additional assurance of their viability as ongoing businesses. Because these advertisers are now only reaching our subscribers (and not our newsstand purchasers), we ask that you do them (and us) a favor by showing the Digest to others who would benefit from seeing it--and letting them know that they can get their own personal copies by subscribing to Home Computer Magazine

Our staff here is very proud to be pioneers in the computer

publishing industry--especially when others are retreating or falling by the wayside. Without you, our loyal subscribers, the successful journey we've had over the years wouldn't have been possible. I'd therefore like to once again thank each of you for your past, present and future support.

Gary M. Kaplan  
Publisher

THE PRESS RELEASE:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

-----  
COMPUTER MAGAZINE MAKES UNPRECEDENTED MOVE  
-----

Emerald Valley Publishing Co. announced today that beginning with its September 1984 issue, Home Computer Magazine will no longer carry outside advertising.

According to publisher Gary M. Kaplan, "We want Home Computer Magazine to stand out and be recognized as the best publication in its field. By removing the advertising content from the magazine, we have the editorial and artistic freedom to produce a truly unique publication that will set the standard for editorial quality, integrity, and readability for the entire industry."

The new magazine format will allow each article to be presented in its entirety without being interrupted by distracting advertising material. It will also prevent articles from being broken by intervening editorial material resulting from a less-than-flexible layout required to accommodate the needs of advertisers.

"We have thoroughly analyzed the financial considerations of this unprecedented move," Kaplan continued. "Our profitability projection has yielded very favorable results and undoubtedly reflects the current magazine's uncommon strengths: its extremely high sell-through percentage on newsstands; its large, inexpensively acquired subscriber base; and its companion ON DISK Revue (tm), a spin-off software line recently introduced at the Summer Consumer Electronics Show, slated for retail distribution this fall."

Subscribers to Home Computer Magazine will also be kept abreast of additional product availability through a separately mailed, 32-page publication called Home Computer Digest (tm). This supplementary publication will be mailed approximately nine times per year and will contain mail-order advertising plus limited editorial material geared to readers who purchase products by mail.

# # #

\*\* Although Kaplan's announcement states that Home Computer Digest would be mailed nine times per year, beginning (I assume) with the September 1984 issue, I've only seen September 1984, November/December 1984, and February 1984 issues. Does anyone else out there in the TI Community have other issues of Home Computer Digest? If so, I have two "extra" September 1984 issues and two "extra" November/December 1984 issues that I would trade 1-for-1 for other issues I don't have. If that is not possible, but you do have other issues, please write me at Bill Gaskill 2310 Cypress Ct Grand Junction, CO 81506 or call me at 970-242-8842 and we can discuss other possible arrangements such as my purchasing your copies etc.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO:

- Seagull Software Box 611 Keyport, WA 98345. They offered 99/4A software such as Coin Management System, Disk Library System, Saving Zort, Teaching Time and Trivia back in November 1984, but seemed to have disappeared after that. I ran across an ad for their products in the November/December 1984 Home Computer Digest, but don't recall seeing it anywhere else? Anyone have more info on the firm?

WANTED:

I would like to add the following items to my collection of original TI-99/4 and 4A products. If you have any of the items listed below, and they are in new, or near new condition, with original documentation, labeling, and original packaging, please contact me. But PLEASE call before you send anything, unless you are sending it as a gift.

-- AVERAGE BEAR WRITER by DataBioTics -- DCEB Word Processor by DC Software Writers Box 335651 Northglenn, CO 80233. -- PAGEWRITER 99 by VMC Software -- MICROPAL Extended BASIC cartridge. I'll either buy yours, or trade you for an original Texas Instruments Extended BASIC cartridge. -- MINI-EDITOR for Mini Memory cartridge by Amerisoft -- TIPROCESSOR II and/or TIPROCESSOR III that was offered by TISOFT out of New York City in 1984. =eof=

## COLLECTING CARTRIDGES-- Part 8

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COMMAND MODULE SIMULATOR

The following notice appears in the 99er Digest portion of the September 1983 issue of 99er Home Computer Magazine on page 53.

FAIRS and AMUSEMENT PARKS GO COMPUTER

"TI's Consumer Group will be represented nationwide at 14 state fairs this Summer and Fall. Exhibits featuring the 99/4A will reach an expanded market with TI's Product Service Representatives demonstrating educational, entertainment and



information management applications in Arizona, California, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin. In addition, Six Flags Magic Mountain amusement park in Valencia, California will feature a 3000 square foot Computer Discovery Center sponsored by TI. Forty 99/4A systems and a short (Bill) Cosby narrated film will be exhibited."

Locations and dates given by TI's Consumer products group were: -- Arizona State Fair, Phoenix, AZ Oct. 21- Nov 6, 1983 -- Indiana State Fair -- Kentucky State Fair -- Los Angeles County Fair, Pomona, CA Sept. 15- Oct. 2, 1983 -- Louisiana State Fair, Shreveport, LA Oct. 21- 30, 1983 -- New Mexico State Fair, Albuquerque, NM Sept. 13- 25, 1983 -- North Carolina State Fair, Raleigh, NC Oct. 14- 22, 1983 -- Ohio State Fair -- Oklahoma State Fair, Oklahoma City, OK Sept. 23- Oct. 2, 1983 -- State Fair of Texas, Dallas, TX Oct. 7- 23, 1983 -- Tulsa State Fair, Tulsa, OK Sept. 30- Oct. 9, 1983 -- Wisconsin State Fair -- Western Washington Fair, Puyallup, WA Sept. 9- 25, 1983

It turns out that the Product Service Representatives at all those events were supplied with a TI Command Module Simulator. This unique piece of hardware was not the Peripheral Expansion Box that you might be thinking of, but rather an enclosure not much larger than a good sized shoe box, which sported two DS/DD disk drives and an arsenal of cartridge software on disk that consumed 22 DS/DD floppies. That's right, double-side, double-density. Every command module released or planned for release was apparently on these 22 disks so the Product Service Rep could call up any of them for members of the public to view, operate or play.

#### COMMAND MODULE SIMULATOR

The following is a list of the programs found on the 22 DS/DD floppies that accompanied the Command Module Simulator.

A-Maze-Ing -- Addition -- Adventures in Addition & Subtraction -- Alien Addition -- Alligator Mix -- Alpiner -- Ambulance -- Angler Dangler -- Anteater -- Bach Music -- Beginning Grammar -- Beyond Parsec -- Blasto -- Breakout -- Buck Rogers : Planet of om -- Burger Time -- Car Wars -- Card Shark -- Chisolm Trail -- Computer Math Games 1 -- Computer Math Games 2 -- Computer Math Games 3 -- Computer Math Games 4 -- Computer Math Games 6 -- Congo Bongo -- Connect Four -- Crossfire -- Cubit -- Decimal Deli 2 -- Decimals -- Defender -- Demolition Division -- Disk Fixer v2.1 -- Disk Manager -- Division -- Dragon Mix -- E.T. At Sea -- E.T. The extraterrestrial -- Early Learning Fun -- Editor/Assembler -- Electrifying Fractions 2 -- Equations -- Face Maker -- Fantastic Fractions 1 -- Fantasy -- Fathom -- Football -- Fractions -- Frog mp -- Frogger -- Gastion Privee -- Germ Patrol -- Hangman -- pper -- Hunt The Wumpus -- Hustle -- Indoor Soccer -- Integers Jawbreaker -- Laws of Arithmetic -- Love Tennis (aka Micro nnis) -- M\*A\*S\*H -- Make A Sentence -- Mancala -- Measurement ormulas -- Meteor Multiplication -- Microsurgeon -- Mighty Multiplication 2 -- Milliken Manager -- Mini Memory -- Minus ssion -- Moonmine --

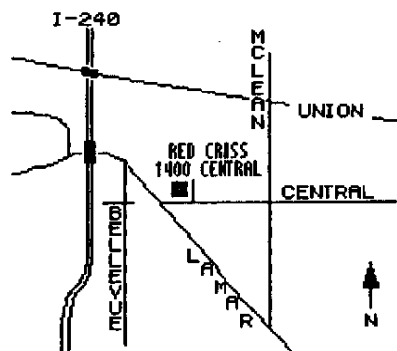
Moonsweeper -- Mouse Attack -- Multiplication -- Munchman -- Munchmobile -- Music Maker -- Number Bowling -- Number Magic -- Number Readiness -- Othello -- Paddle 11 -- Paint 'N Print -- Parsec -- Percents -- Peter Pan's Space Odyssey -- Physical Fitness -- Picture Parts -- Pinocchio's Great Escape -- Plant Genetics -- Plato Interpreter -- Princess and Frog Pyramid Puzzler -- Q\*Bert -- Reading Adventures -- Reading eers -- Reading Flight -- Reading Fun -- Reading On -- Reading wer -- Reading Rainbows -- Reading Rally -- Reading Roundup -- Reading Trail -- Reading Wonders -- Return to Pirate's Isle -- tor Raiders -- Salary Planner -- Scholastic Spelling Level 3 -- Scholastic Spelling Level 4 -- Scholastic Spelling Level 5 -- Scholastic Spelling Level 6 -- Securities Analysis -- Simon Says Slymoids -- Sneggit -- Space Journey -- Speech Editor -- Star Gaze -- Star Trek -- Starship Pegasus -- Statistics -- Story chine -- Subtraction -- Super Disk Manager -- Tax/Investment ecord Keeping -- Terminal Emulator I -- Terminal Emulator II -- Terminal Emulator II (1200) -- The Attack -- TI Invaders -- TI LCGO II -- TI Writer -- Tombstone City in the 21st Century -- Touch Typing Tutor -- Treasure Island -- Tunnels of Doom -- Verb per -- Video Chess -- Video Games 1 -- Video Graphs -- Win rake's Molecular Mission -- Weight Control & Nutrition -- Won With Decimals -- Wing War -- Word Invasion -- Word Radar -- Yahtzee -- Zero Zap

=eof=

## Just a Note

The right word may be very effective, but no word was ever as effective as a rightly timed pause. Mark Twain

There will come a time when you believe everything is finished. That will be the beginning. Louis L'Amour



LOCATION MAP

WORKSHOP : to be announced.

PROGRAM BIT - third Thursday

JUNE 20th , 1996

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: JUN. 20 (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

Clif Oliver  
2584 Marshall Road  
Atoka, Tn., 38004

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  \$18.00 FAMILY  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ : INTERESTS \_\_\_\_\_  
 EQUIPMENT, ETC. \_\_\_\_\_

Detach and mail with check payable to: Mid-South 99 Users Group,  
P.O. Box 38522, Germantown, Tn, 38183-0522.