TIDBITS

MID SOUTH 99 USERS GROUP

MEMPHIS TENNESSEE

LOOKIN FOR A HOME

JULY 1996

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

UG 2/86
DALLAS TI USER GROUP
P.O. BOX 29863
DALLAS, TX 75229

75229-0863

----------MID-SOUTH 99-JUL.1996----------

Newsletter of the MID-SOUTH 99 USERS.GROUP-Vol 14.# 7-JUL 1996

TIDBITS

OFFICERS

Gary Cox	PRESIDENT	901-353-0667
Richard Hiller	VICE-PRESIDENT	901-794-9945
Mac Swope	TREASURER	901-363-3880
Marshal Ellis	SECRETARY	901-327-2506
Clif Oliver	Disk Librarian	901-837-3318
Gary Cox	Program Chairman	901-353-0667
Mac Swope	Chairman - Equipment	901-363-3880
Marshal Ellis	Editor - TIDBITS Newsletter	901-327-2506
Beery Miller	9640 NEWS BBS Sysop	901-368-0112

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President's Bit

by Gary W. Cox

The June meeting was our last meeting to be held at the Red Cross. Meeting attendance was good and we had a huge all your can eat BBQ dinner at the meeting.

I've been working very hard to find us another place for our group to meet with little success. I really need each member to attempt to locate at least 1 meeting place and report back to me. I can be reached at internet address: gary.cox@stjude.org or my voice mail is 751-8976.

As a last resort, for this month I have obtained at least a temporary meeting place at the Raleigh Public Library located at 3157 Powers Road. The library is located at the corner of Jones road and Powers road located to the left back side of the new KMART. One way to get to the library is to exit I-240 North onto Austin Peay Highway and take a left onto Jones Rd. Note that between I-240 and the KMART a great deal of construction is going on so an alternate route may be necessary. We need to maintain at least 10 people at the meeting in order to maintain this meeting room which may be our home until we can come up with a better idea. I haven't checked out the facilities but I am told that the library has a meeting room with tables and chairs so we will just see it when we get there. The meeting will be from 6:30pm until 8:45pm as the Library closes at 9:00pm and as usual we will go out to eat after the meeting. Please come to this months meeting!

Finally, the German TI Users have changed the date of their TI International meeting from September 20th-22nd to the 1st-3rd of November 1996. For more information write to Martin Zeddies, Hauptstrasse 26, D-38446 Wolfsburg-Reislingen, Phone: +49-5363-71125.

TI-BASE PRINTER DRIVERS

(C) 1995 by Bill Gaskill

Printer drivers are software switches that can be used to control various modes and fonts that are supported by your printer. Because printers are intelligent peripherals, which means that they have a chip in them with a set of pre-programmed instructions, computer programs can access those instructions via messages sent in codes that your printer understands. Because not all printers share the same method of access to the instructions on their chip, nor do they all have the same instructions (capabilities), professional software authors create printer drivers to match up their program with your printer.

TI-Base provides a PRINTER driver file on the system disk that contains switches to access fifteen of the most common functions a user would access in any printing session. The list below shows the default functions that the TI-Base PRINTER drivers file supports.

NAME Name of your printer.

(FF) Form feed.	(LF) Line feed.
(CR) Carriage return.	(DS) Double strike.
(UL) Underline.	(EX) Expanded print.
(CM) Compressed print.	(IT) Italics.
(B) Bold or double strike.	(SPS) Superscript.
(SBS) Subscript.	(HT) Tab horizontally.
(ST) Set horizontal tabs.	(NM) Normal printing mode.
(BLANK) User defined option.	

Although I have not actually done so, I see no reason why a user could not create their own totally new printer drivers file, complete with new field names in fields 5-15 as well as customized escape codes. A few basic rules would have to be adhered to though.

You must be certain that the NAME field remains the first field in the file and that it is 10 characters long. You must also ensure that the next three fields in the file are FF, LF and CR and that each are exactly 2 characters long per field. When you are done creating the new data base it must be named PRINTER and the file must be sorted on the NAME field.

As it was intended to be used, any of the data in the existing fields may be edited to fit your printer, or you may APPEND a new record to the file if one of the existing drivers does not match the printer that you are using.

If you discover that none of the existing drivers match your printer then you will want to add a new record to the PRINTER file. To do so, boot your TI-Base program and then load the file by typing in USE DSK#.PRINTER, where the pound sign (#) is the drive number where your TI-Base program disk resides. Type in APPEND when the file is active and then TYPE in a NAME

for your printer such as AXIOM, GORILLA, SEIKOSHA et cetera. Next find the hex codes for Form Feed, Line Feed and Carriage Return in your printer's manual and key them into fields 2-4. The same reference is used to determine the remaining hex codes for fields 5-15.

After you have appended the new record onto the PRINTER file press Fctn 9 to return to the dot prompt and then type in SORT ON NAME so that the file remains sorted by the NAME field's contents. If you do not sort the file after appending the new record you will find that the drivers are not properly accessed.

After sorting the file, CLOSE it to ensure that the changes are written to disk. Then call up the SETUP file into the command file editor. After the word PRINTER, type in the name for your printer that was entered into the NAME field in the record that you just appended to the PRINTER file. Press Fctn 8 and you are done. Now, type in PRINTER (your printer name) and TI-Base will read in the driver for your specific printer.

=eof=

CONVERTING DATA BASES TO TI-BASE

(C) 1995 by Bill Gaskill

CONVERT is the directive and program segment in TI-Base that is used to translate data that is in another data base or program's format to a format that is readable by TI-Base. It is, perhaps the most welcome feature of TI-Base to any user who has existing data files that need to be imported without the drudgery of retyping.

The requirements for a successful conversion of existing data are;

-knowledge of the existing (source) file format as far as number of fields and length and type of each field.

-having an existing data base that is either in FIXED format or that can be converted to FIXED format via some utility external to TI-Base or that has the data in each record in the same physical position in the data string.

-two disk drives or enough space on a single disk to accomodate the source file, the target (TI-Base) file and the OVRLAY/P file that contains the CONVERT routine.

Knowledge of the existing (source) file format is necessary so that you can design the TI-Base (target) file with the same number of fields and field lengths as the fields in the source file. This ensures that the data from the source file is placed in the correct field in the TI-Base file.

The FIXED length requirement is needed so that CONVERT can be assured that the data to be placed in the target fields will

be found in the corresponding positions in the source fields. The exception to the FIXED length requirement is when a data file is printed to disk as a tabular report. While such a file may be stored as a variable length file, the data in each field will always be found in the same positions for each record. For use with CONVERT, the data string looks just like a FIXED field data file. This is one way that PR-Base data files can be converted to TI-Base format. In fact, data from any program that can print records in tabular report format, to a fixed or variable length disk file, can be converted to TI-Base. This assumes of course that a valid disk drive name can be substituted for a printer name.

The steps in the conversion process include;

1. Type in CONVERT DSK#.FILE1 (space) DSK#.FILE2 where the pound sign indicates the desired input and output drives, with FILE1 being the source file name and FILE2 the target file name.

* you could also just type in the word CONVERT and TI-Base would prompt you for "From" and "To" paths. Paths mean that both the disk drive names and numbers and the file names would have to be entered (e.g. DSK1.FILE1)

2. Create the TI-Base file when the CREATE screen appears. Press F8 when you are done designing the target file and then press <ENTER> when prompted to "ready devices, PRESS ENTER". The conversion reads and writes will begin. When complete, the dot prompt will appear.

3. Type in USE DSK#.TARGETFILE, where TARGETFILE is the name of the file that you created to receive the converted data, to activate the newly created TI-Base file.

4. Type in the word RECOVER and then press <ENTER>

TI-Base will read the new file to determine the end of file and thus the number of records in the file. It then rebuilds the index (the /S) file.

5. Type in the word CLOSE. The new file is closed and the CONVERT is then complete.

6. Now activate the target file and then invoke the EDIT mode to display a couple of records. This will show you if the data was successfully converted, and whether or not it is positioned properly in each field.

=ecf=

THINGS THAT HAVE COME AND GONE AND SOME THAT NEVER WERE

article by Bill Gaskill July 1996

DUSTING OFF MICROSOFT MULTIPLAN:

While no one denies the fact that word processing is the most common productivity use for a computer in the TI-99 community, and any other computer community too I suppose, spreadsheet use is the second most common productivity application, except it seems, with 99ers. I suppose this is because there really was only one commercial grade electronic spreadsheet ever written for the 99/4A -- Microsoft Multiplan. Yes, there were several other electronic spreadsheets written for the 99/4A also, but each lacked the capability of providing the kind of tools that Multiplan offered.

With that said, I don't want any reader to get the idea that I think Multiplan is the be-all, end-all in electronic spreadsheets. Let's face it, the program is pushing 15 years old, it won't do graphs, which is a staple of the electronic spreadsheet application anymore, and the mighty Microsoft Corporation doesn't even produce the program anymore. Still, it's the best we have. Now, on to business.

If you don't own Multiplan, you can still buy it new and in the box from various sources, or you can purchase a previously owned version, if you're looking for more of bargain. The sources I've verified as having Multiplan in stock are:

Braatz Computer Services ($50 new, $30 used, shipping included),
Competition Computer ($21.00 new, $18.00 used, shipping included),
L.L. Conner Enterprise ($23.95 new, shipping included), and Tex*Comp Ltd. ($18.95 new, $13.00 used, shipping included). Ron Markus from Ramcharged Computers told me he has no Multiplan packages at this time, but with his ability to dig into the hidden places out there in the 99/4A Community, I would n't be a bit surprised to see him offering Multiplan in the not too distant future.

Other sources worth contacting who may have Multiplan are Jim Lesher, Joy Electronics, and Ramcharged Computers. I didn't get a chance to contact them. There may also be other vendors I'm not mentioning too. If you don't own Microsoft Multiplan, BUY IT now. Eventually, Multiplan will be a thing of the past as far as availability for the TI-99/4A. Unlike TI Writer, which no longer requires a the unique cartridge to run (compliments of Paolo Bagnaresi, Tony McGovern and others), Multiplan still requires the PHM 3113 cartridge unless you have a GRAM device and can use Art Green's enhanced Multiplan v4.0.

The purpose of this article is not to give you a Multiplan

tutorial, but instead, to give you a series of easy to create, and easy to use Multiplan templates that can be quickly loaded into Multiplan for instant productivity. Over the last several months the V.A.S.T. 99ers of Phoenix, Arizona ran an excellent series of Multiplan tutorials by the late Herb Schlesinger. If you would like to obtain them you can write to the V.A.S.T. User Group care of Ralph Rees 18815 N. 13th Ave Phoenix, AZ 85027.

THE MULTIPLAN TEMPLATES:

CASHFLOW AND NETWORTH - These two templates are designed to help you determine what you have in the way of assets and liabilities. Both Cash Flow and Net Worth should be positive numbers. That's the objective. The goal is to then turn positive Cash Flow into increased Net Worth.

LIFE INSURANCE NEEDS - I've created two Multiplan templates for use in estimating life insurance needs. Template #1, entitled LIFENEEDS, is a table, and Template #2, entitled LIFECHART, is a worksheet. Both come from The Wall Street Journal's GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING PERSONAL FINANCE.

The LIFENEEDS table comes from the position that life insurance needs can be "Roughed Out" by estimating coverage

> "...as multiples of annual salary needed to replace 75% of take home pay until the insured person would have reached age 65."

The caveat in using this "roughing out" approach is that it does not take into account any income that survivors can expect from Social Security, investments or other sources.

To estimate your life insurance needs simply multiply your salary times the number under your age, at your current salary.

The LIFECHART worksheet makes an attempt at getting a little closer to estimating life insurance needs by using expenses incurred by surviving members of the insured person's family and income lost to offset those expenses after the insured person dies.

To use the worksheet simply fill in the appropriate numbers over the ones included in the sample LIFECHART Multiplan template. I have included instructions in this template beginning at window R1C5.

The NETWORTH worksheet is a simple measure of cash flow and the amount of your accumulated wealth. It is also one of the most important tools in your personal finance arsenal.

In Generally Accepted Accounting Principles one is taught that Assets are equal to Liabilities plus Owner's Equity. A similar principle applies to net worth, which is; Net Worth is

equal to Assets minus Liabilities.

The REFINANCE Multiplan worksheet gives the current homeowner a means of determining whether or not refinancing a current mortgage is a wise move. The rule of thumb is that it pays to refinance if you can get interest rates at least two (2) percentage points lower than the rate you're currently paying.

So if you took your original mortgage out at 10% interest and can now get 8% mortgage money, it might be worthwhile for you to refinance your existing mortgage.

The worksheet helps you make that determination by adding up all of the cash expenses you will have to "buy down" the mortgage, and then by explaining how long you'll have to live in the house with a refinanced mortgage just to breakeven on the expenses of buying down to the lower interest rate.

ROMAN NUMERALS:

Recently I've become involved in collecting movies sold in VHS format, so I of course have to automate the data on my TI-99/4A. One of the categories I always include in my Video Library Data Base is the date that a movie was released. For some unknown reason though, many of the movies still use Roman Numerals at the end of the flick to identify the release date. Because I don't use this type of numeral very often, I decided to give myself a refresher on how to read Roman Numerals. Maybe you'll find it useful too.

I=1, V=5, X=10, L=50, C=100, D=500, and M=1000.

To read Roman Numerals just remember that a smaller number is added when it follows a larger number, but it is subtracted when it precedes the larger number.

For example, VIII=8, XXVII=27, IX=9, CM=900. Sometimes, both situations may occur in the same number as in CLXIV=164, and MCMLXXXVI=1986. To make sure that you understand the date concept, let's dissect the 1986 date above (MCMLXXXVI).

Going from left to right:

M=1000, which is where the 1 in 1986 comes from.
CM=900 (1000-100), which is where the 9 in 1986 comes from.
L=50, then add XXXVI (36) which means 50+36=86, which is where the 86 in the year 1986 comes from.

Cumbersome? You bet! But some institutions hold on to the old ways for a long time. In some cases that's not all bad. For year of release and copyright in movies, I'd much rather use Arabic numbers. Oh, well.

THE TUG'S SLANT ON CES 1983:

The following information has been excerpted from the June

1983 issue of the International 99/4 Users-Group President's Letter.

The June Consumer Electronics Show gives retail store owners and buyers an opportunity to preview the electronic products that will fill their shelves for the fall and Christmas season. It's a time when these buyers expect to see new innovative products and gain hands-on experience so they can best serve their customer's needs.

This year, over 60,000 of these buyers came to Chicago looking for new computer products which they expect to provide a significant portion of their overall income for the rest of the year. They were for the most part not disappointed. Atari introduced four new computer models. Mattel previewed heir new Aquarius. Timex touted their 1500, and Coleco introduced a show-stopping bundled system called ADAM.

At the TI booth, however, retailers expecting to see an 80K release from the current industry leader openly displayed disbelief when it failed to appear on the showroom floor. A TI spokesman would not provide any reason for the absence of the 99/8, other than saying, "We will sell no computer before its time."

Acknowledgements were made that the 99/8 will be brought to market before year's end, but total details were sparse and TI representatives acknowledge that strategy changes may be made based on competitive announcements made at the June show.

Additionally, new software packages which TI announced to be available in the third and fourth quarter of 1983 must still have a long way to go, as very few were shown in their entirety at TI's booth. At a June 4 press conference held by Imagic, a leading cartridge manufacturer, an announcement was made that TI and Imagic have signed a joint agreement that will allow Imagic a license to create a minimum of seven new solid-state modules for the 99/4A. They include Demon Attack, Microsurgeon and five future announcements. Apparently this agreement must have just culminated as both packages shown at TI's booth were running under the control of Mattel equipment, cleverly concealed out of public view.

New additions to the Compact Computer line, which were expected by many, were also missing and no definite shipping date has been determined for the Hex-Bus and low-cost peripherals, as quality assurance problems continue to plague the project.

One large chain-store executive told a Users-Group interviewer, "We expected much more from TI than they showed. Our current sales of 99/4A products have dropped and we hoped that TI would give us a new product to sell."

He went on to say, "There is a lot of confusion in the marketplace right now, and only manufacturers who can make

strong commitments to price versus performance will survive."

In other new developments many manufacturers of low-priced computers are for the first time showing bundled computer systems. Mattel, Atari, Coleco and others are offering system packages which include a variety of components, including modems, recorders and TV sets. It's still too early to tell if TI can pull off the official announcement of the 99/8 and supply retailers with significantproduct evaluation time to get the much needed sell-through they need to remain the industry leader.

THIRD PARTIES SHOW LITTLE FEAR:

Although Texas Instruments seems to be taking its stand on protecting their uncontested patents concerning GROM technology quite seriously, other third-party software producers at the Consumer Electronics Show showed little fear in challenging the giant Texas Electronics firm.

To set the stage for the battle, Texas Instruments announced in a press release May 18th that they will periodically make modifications in the design of the 99/4A Home Computer. These changes will implement the machine to check any module plugged in to its cartridge port for a proprietary auto-incrementing memory called GROM. The press release went on to say that TI does not intend to license this technology to others for manufacturing plug-in cartridges designed to work with their home computer products. Additionally, TI is prepared to enforce its GROM patents against unauthorized use by any outside parties.

This hard line stance by Texas Instruments was again emphasized on June 4th, the first day of the summer Consumer Electronics Show, when TI placed a full-page advertisement in a CES daily trade journal warning retailers that unless cartridges shown by third party sources are licensed by Texas Instruments, there is a distinct possibility that they will not work in current production 99/4A Home Computers.

Additional reinforcement was evident when the show doors opened on Sunday as all of the 99/4A consoles in the Texas Instruments booth were equipped with a new version 2.2 operating system that does indeed check for auto-incrementing memory. One would think that such stern warnings from such a powerful adversary would keep even the mention of any intention to produce plug-in cartridges for the 99/4A to an absolute minimum. The warnings, however, seemed to have little effect on at least four software manufacturers who showed new cartridge releases for the 4A.

At the Atari booth, demos were being run up on soon-to-be-released titles such as Pac-Man, Defender, Donkey Kong, Centipede and Dig Dug. Atari Publishing also announced that it will be bringing to market four additional titles under a licensing agreement with Synapse Software. These include

Shamus, Protector, Picnic Paranoia, and Slime.

"We are very excited about releasing these packages for use with the 99/4A." an Atari spokesman said. "We feel that it offers a whole new world of arcade style entertainment to over 1 million owners of the 99/4A."

One Atari employee was overheard saying, "The quality of of speed and graphics we have been able to achieve with the 99/4A is not even surpassed by our stand-alone arcade machines." Atari plans release of its new cartridges sometime in August and suggested retail prices are expected to be $44.95.

Thorn EMI, a giant multi-billion video conglomerate, also announced its plans to release three new cartridges for the TI-99/4A Home Computer. River Rescue, Submarine Commander and War Games all looked great. The War Games package should have a wide appeal as many of the screen sequences are those used in a newly-released movie of the same name.

Romox, a California-based cartridge manufacturer, showed three new releases for the 99/4A, including Hen Pecked, Typo, and Whiz Kid. Romox also plans to release a new low cost cartridge programmer to the general public under an agreement with a Sunnyvale, CA hardware manufacturer. Several other well-known software houses were rumored to have products waiting in the wings for pre-Christmas release. Included are such well-known names as Parker Brothers and Mattel.

The most blatant show of defiance to TI's attempted lock-out of third party suppliers occurred on Tuesday, June 7th at 4pm when Michael Brouthers, president of Funware, Richardson, TX, calmly walked up to a version 2.2 console at the Texas Instruments booth, inserted his newly released cartridge titled Ambulance, and showed that it will indeed work on TI's newly modified machine.

When questioned about Brouthers' bold act of defiance, a TI employee said, "It is a clear violation of our patent rights and I am sure that our legal department will take the appropriate steps."

Brouthers said, "We intend to release nine new cartridges for the TI Home Computer between now and September 1, 1983, and are willing to guarantee to our customers that all will work on present and future versions of the 99/4A.' New releases from Funware will include Ant Colony, Cave Creatures, Driving Demon, Saint Nick, Crisis Mountain, Trashman, Astroblitz and Pipes.

AMNION HELPLINE:

The following text comes from Dr. Guy-Stefan Romano, president of Amnion Stoneware 116 Carl St. San Francisco, CA 94117 415-753-5581. It was delivered in a form letter sent to users of the Amnion Helpline's Library Services. You will

recall that Dr. Romano died in August 1988.

"To all TI 99/4A Owners -- A Clarification About The Helpline

Library Services, a subsidiary of Amnion Stoneware and a completely independent company, for a short period of time had as one of its service clients, the International 99/4 Users Group of Oklahoma City. We accepted them as clients because we believed that they were what they represented themselves as, a bona fide Users' Group. When we learned that they were and always had been only a mail order business going by this patently misleading name, we cancelled all service to them in January of 1984, not desiring to be partner to any misrepresentation or deception. That business, now bankrupt and dodging lawsuits for fraud, etc., never was a bona fide Users' Group working as a non-profit organization., but a regular company doing business in a manner that many view as a deliberate attempt to deceive and exploit the innocent and trusting public for their own personal gain. In the world of Public Domain it is considered grossly unethical, immoral and exploitative to sell programs that authors have made available free to the world. We apologize to all those to whom we recommended this firm in good faith.

Library Services is known as The Helpline since Jan. 1984. Service is offered to all individual TI 99/4A owners or Users' Groups at NO CHARGE and with "no strings" whether you own Amnion Software or not. No "sales pitches" will be made. The service will attempt to give help on anything having to do with the TI 99/4A. Information on hardware or software quality, sources, availability, reputability and service is available in a totally unbiased manner. We maintain constantly updated lists of genuine Users' Groups in your area (AND YOU SHOULD BELONG TO ONE). Help with programming problems or referrals is offered. We also maintain files of reports from callers on service, quality, reputability and support from third-party suppliers. We maintain the national Free Access Library, a non-profit entity, of public domain programs for the 99/4A and all TI program update releases.

You may call at the hours listed above (Pacific Time) or send a SASE with your letter with questions. We promise that you will receive the "straight dope" with no obligations. Our resident PH.D., Guy-Stefan Romano, whom you may already know for his free help to 99/4A users since March of 1981, is there to give valid and COMPETANT technical help as he always has. Dr. Romano is doing this strictly on a voluteer basis and, at his insistence, receives no fee or reimbursement for his services so that he can be free to give all information without being obligated to anyone -- even Amnion! He is there to help in anyway he can.

Remember that this service is free to all whether or not you own Amnion products. Use it as often as you need it. We await your call at THE HELPLINE."

Amnion Stoneware's flagship products were ARCHIVA*II v1.1, a freeform data base manager, and WORTEX v9.0, which was a full-featured word processor. ARCHIVA*II appears to be the very same program that the IUG sold as Data Base 300/500. I've never seen Wortex, so I can't offer any insite into that program. Does anyone reading this have a copy of the Wortex word processor, or know of someone who does? If so, I'd sure like to hear from you. Please contact Bill Gaskill 2310 Cypress Ct in Grand Junction, Colorado 81506.

CARTRIDGE PACKAGING:

Not too many months ago I ran into a previously unseen white cardboard box with TI part # 1103013-1, that was used to house Texas Instruments produced Command Module software. I wrote about the packaging in a previous "THINGS..." article but I never included a "picture" of it. Assuming your newsletter editor has the space, you will get to see that "picture" in this issue, on the sane page with the more common 1043601-1 white cardboard packaging for comparison.

I've also include a couple of other "uncommon" TI packages. Part # 1041342-1 is the gray cardboard package used to house Extended BASIC, and part # 1037111-1 is the white cardboard package that had the flip out front cover that was used to hold the instruction manual for the software inside the package.

MORE "PICTURES":

This is a tough one for newsletter editors, so you may have to get photocopies if you want the information, because it probably won't come out in any future newsletter. I've sent 12 pages from the Christmas 1983 JC Penney catalog to your newsletter editor. They show the Atari, TI, Coleco, Mattel and other home computers of the day, plus many of the programs and peripherals offered for each. The information is both interesting and of historical value, because it shows just how drastically the home computer market has changed in 10-12 years.

SUPPLIERS/VENDORS MENTIONED IN THIS ARTICLE:

Braatz Computer Services
Robert Braatz
719 E Byrd St.
Appleton, WI 54911-2814
414-731-3478 Office
414-213-0475 Car phone

Competition Computer
Kyle Crighton
350 Marcella Way
Millbrae, CA 94030
800-471-1600

L.L. Conner Enterprise
Larry Conner
1521 Ferry St.
Lafayette, IN 47904
317-742-8146
317-423-4879 FAX
INTERNET WEB PAGE: HHP://WWW.HOLLI.COM
EMAIL Address: LCONNER@HOLLI.COM

Ramcharged Computers
Ron Markus
6467 East Vancy
Brookpark, OH 44142
800-669-1214
216-243-1244

Tex*Comp Ltd
422 E ARROW HY #732
Glendora, CA 91740
800-846-3474
818-858-2785 FAX

JUST A NOTE

The length of your educatin is less important than its breadth, and the length of your life is less important than its depth.

Marilyn vos Savant
Parade

SAVING AND LOADING DIRECTLY BETWEEN FUNNELWEB AND AN IBM COMPATIBLE PC

by Charles Goc

from BITS,BYTES & PIXELS, LIMA 99/4A USER GROUP, SEP.'95

Using Funnelweb editor you can use LF and SF to LoadFiles and SaveFiles directly to and from a hard drive or floppy disk on an IBM compatible PC. You can use the IBM's hard drive to store all your important text files! This can be sometines be done at very fast transfer rates comparable to saving and loading text using a 99/4A disk, and you don't need a modem on either the TI or the IBM.

What you do need is an IBM and TI computer cabled together between the TI's serial port and an IBM com port, usually COM2. You can't use a store bought serial cable for this because the TI serial port is not quite standard. I had L. L. Conner make my cable. You may be able to make your own. The needed pin connections for such a cable are these:

```
TI . . IBM
 1------1
 2------2
 3------3
 6------20
 7------7
20------6
```

TO SAVE TEXT FROM FUNNELWEB TO THE IBM:

On the IBM start Windows and go the the Accessories window. Activate the Terminal program. Click on "Settings". Then click on "Terminal Preferences' and make sure CR does not generate CR/LF (if the box has an x in it, click on the box to turn off the x) and that you are in 80 columns. Accept these settings by clicking on OK.

Click on "Settings" again and then click on "Communications". Select either 19200 or 9600 baud and parity, 7 data bits, and the proper COM port. Then click on OK. I haven't figured out how to save 8 bit characters (Funnelweb's extended IBM graphics set) directly to an IBM using this technique. You may want to experiment with the baud rate. On my Geneve I can use a baud rate of 19200 without losing characters at the IBM end or causing an error message at the Geneve. On my 99/4A system I can only use 9600. On both systems I have a TI RS232 card. Cable length and the pecularities of your system may dictate that you use a slower baud rate. when using 19200 to save text the speed of this save is at least as fast as saving to TI floppy disk.

Click on "Transfers" and then on "Receive Text File". Select or create a file name, drive letter, and directory. Then click on OK. If asked say you want to override the existing log file. Nov you are ready to receive text from Funnelweb.

Write you document of LF a document into the Funnelweb editor. First set up the IBM terminal program as described above, then enter SF from Funnelweb's command line. Yse

"RS232.BA=19200" (or BA=9600 on a 99/4A system) as the SaveFile file name. Yes I know the IT's RS232 isn't supposed to be able to handle a baud rate of 19200, but on my Geneve it works for me! You need to specify the same baud rate in Windows Terminal and Funnelweb SF file name. Once you enter the SF file name your text will flow out of Funnelweb and across the serial cable into your IBM. You will see the text appear on the IBM screen. When the IBM cursor stops displaying more text moe themouse pointer of the IBM and click on "Stop". You Funne;web text has now been saved to an IBM disk as an 80 column ascii file with no control characters and no tab markings.

TO LOAD TEXT FROM AN IBM INTO FUNNELWEB

First load up Funnelweb editor. If you ar using a Geneve load Funnelweb editor from GPL (you can use spped 5) rather than using EXEC. When using EXEC v2.11 on the Geneve I can't break out of the RS232 loading process although I seem to remember that I could with an earlier version of EXEC. From Funnelweb's command line type LF and specify "RS232.BA=600" as the file name. Press enter and Funnelweb will appear to lock a it waits for text to flow in from the RS232. You can't use baud rates faster than the 600 for LoadFile even though you use much faster baud rates to save files.

Now set up the Windows Terminal program. Click on "Settings"then on "Communications". Click on 600 baud, 7 bit, Odd parity, the proper com port, and then click on OK. Now click on "Transfers" and then click on "Send Text File'. Select the file name and drive of the text file you are loading orto Funnelweb and click on OK. At this point text will start flowing into Funnelweb and you will see line numbers increment at the right of the Funnelweb v5.x command line.

When text stops flowing across te IBM screen and when Funnelweb's line numbers stop incrementing on Funnelweb's command line this means all te text is now in the TI's text buffer. Press FCTN/4 (the Break key) and then <enter> to display this text on the TI's screen. It is this FCTN/4 keypress that files when I load Funnelweb into ny Geneve using EXEC instead of GPL.

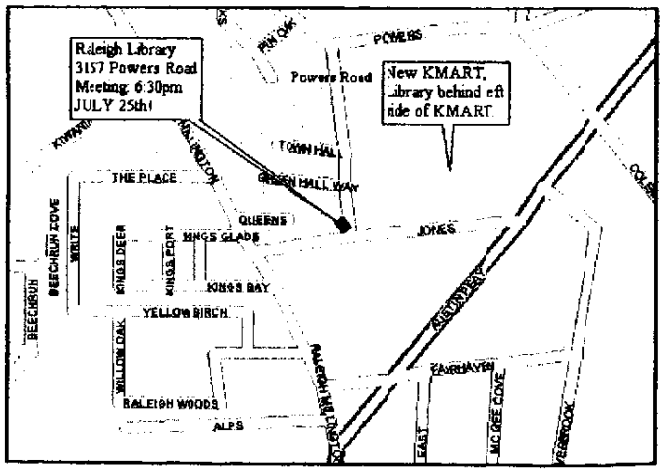
DONE

T.I.U.G. MEETING ON NEW DATE!

Thursday July 25th, 6:30pm - 8:45pm

NEW LOCATION

Raleigh Public Library, 3157 Powers Rd. Next to KMART on Austin Peay Highway.



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 non-exchange disks. Send all mail order library requests to library address! Send dues and correspondence to group address.

CALENDAR

MEETINGS: JUN. 25, (4rd 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
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Detach and mail with check payable to: Mid-South 99 Users Group, P.O. Box 38522, Germantown, Tn, 38183-0522.