

CPU NEWSLETTER



Volume 8 Number 1

99ER

JANUARY, 1989

MINUTES

December 19, 1988

Our annual Christmas party was a great success!!! More than 35 members and their families attended.

The Group was introduced to our newest addition. The complete system that Barry picked up for the Group. This came at the most appropriate time since it appears that our old TI controller card bit the dust and we couldn't use the drives. Rich Lindway volunteered to 'baby-sit' our newest system. Thank you Rich!

Tony DeDonatis announced that he had a custom computer desk for sale. Before he was finished describing its features, it was sold. See, it pays to advertise at our meetings.

Dave Ratcliffe announced that TRITON has been purchased by INFOCOM and we may be seeing the end of TI related software etc. (hope not).

Barry asked for and received the authorization to order more discs

for the Group from our supplier. (note: ordered and received already). It pays to have good relations with the suppliers.

Dave introduced more programs for our Freeware Library. Barry announced that he has received the updated version of TI-BASE (Ver2.0) and will exchange all of the members' older versions for \$9.00 (which includes the shipping charges).

"PRESS" is still delayed and is expected any day now from ASGARD. The members are anxiously awaiting its arrival. Several members came up to the desk and wanted to buy it at the meeting even after the delay was announced.

The short business meeting ended and the rest of the time was spent constructively eating, drinking and just plain being merry.

Till next time,
Barry Long, Secretary

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY FEBRUARY 13th

The Executive Washroom
by
Dave Ratcliffe, Prez,
CPUG

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Seems like I just wrote the December Washroom installment. Amazing how time flies. Actually, it WAS almost yesterday since this is January 1st, New Year's Day. Hope you all had a safe Holiday.

For those heavily into telecommunications and PCFursuit, the year has started with a real jolt. Telenet says they are raising our monthly rate to \$30 as of 2/1/89. Nothing there to get upset about. Now, here comes the other shoe.... They are placing a cap on monthly use, at that rate, of 30 hours. Personally, I spend MORE than 30 hours a month on PCF calling BBS's all over the country. For those that crack the 30 hour limit, Telenet will charge you \$1.45 per hour for each hour over 30. Nice guys. There are a ton of reasons why this should be considered as a self inflicted wound for Telenet. Time will tell if PCF stays an excellent bargain, or joins the dinosaurs in history.

I have had some remarks from some of our members that this column has little to do with our local UG. That may be in some cases but it has a LOT to do with the TI world. For that reason, sour remarks not withstanding, I won't be changing the format of the Washroom.

Here's something that is useless, but interesting... Type the following into your computer in Ex-Basic (note, <cr> means press ENTER):

```
NEW <cr>  
100 CALL INIT :: CALL LOAD(-31932,0) <cr>
```

Then type RUN and hit ENTER. When this short program is done, the * READY * that normally comes up on your screen will no longer be there. To get it back, retype everything again and replace the 0 with a 1 and you'll get the * READY * back again. I know, it's totally useless but shows you what hidden things there are in our computer.

More rumblings in some of our exchange newsletters of TI groups considering an expansion to include 'other' brands of computers. Probably something we'll never stop but it DOES make me angry to read about it. The idea of 'expanding' membership to other brands of computers does no service to those who joined for support for their TI. This 'cheap and dirty' way of gaining revenue may work but it does so to the detriment of the TI members. Experience shows this. Look at the ex-TI UG's that have added other brands to their roster. Their newsletters MAY have 1 or 2 items dealing with the TI, the rest dealing with 'other' brands. Not much help for the remaining TI owners. Do us all a favor... If you want a UG that caters to something besides the TI, GO JOIN ONE! Don't change a TI UG by using the excuse that you are 'just trying to keep it alive'. THAT idea is a bunch of meadow muffins.

That's enough preaching for now. Have a good month.

>> Dave <<

TI-BASE
Ver 2.0
A Review
by
Barry Long, CPUG
December, 1988

Have you ever been so excited about a product that you couldn't wait until it arrived? Well, I have, and not only once, but twice! The first one is "PRESS" from ASGARD. I'm still waiting for that one! (patience). The second one is really the first, since I had the fortunate opportunity to review the previous versions (1.0 and 1.02) of TI-BASE from INSCEBOT.

I could hardly wait until the updated version arrived! It was like an early Christmas present. I must say, when INSCEBOT promises, they deliver, and FAST! I had ordered several updated versions for our members plus one complete package for another member. This was on a Wednesday, by the following week, I had all of the order. Thank you Mr Faherty!

Now, on with the review. For those who don't have TI-BASE, WHAT'S KEEPING YOU? THIS IS ONE GREAT PROGRAM! Even if all you have is a simple telephone list, GET THIS PROGRAM, PLEASE! If this sounds like a pitch for INSCEBOT, well, it is. They have contributed heavily to the TI community in the way of good, intelligent software. We must support them! Whoops, I'm diverting again! Sorry.

Version 2.0 comes on 2 discs (SSSD). The first disc is the entire program. The second disc is a TUTORIAL. The Tutorial is menu driven and quite easy to learn. Just load the main disc, and after the date inquiry and the setup screen, type in DO TUTOR. This will load the second disc. Follow the menu selections and sit back and relax. For those who have one of the older versions, I suggest you go through the Tutorial disc as well. There are some significant changes!

First, we are back up to over 16,000+ record storage. Not that I couldn't get by on only 8,000, but, it is a bonus. I may even find enough information to fill it! (Ha)

Second, we now have built in printer drivers for several of the most common printers in use within the TI community. This feature alone is worth

the update price! Read the Docs and set up the printer driver properly, and that's the last time you will need that information during your session. You can even include the printer information within your Command Files if you care to. To set the printer parameters, type: PRINTER X, where X is your printer name. (Epson, Nec, etc). The systems disc will activate and load your particular printer file. Simple, isn't it?

You can use any Command files that you previously created with the older versions, they are completely compatible, as well as all of your old data files.

If you're like me, you have many data files created from several other "Data-Bases" They can now be converted to TI-BASE with very little effort on your part. No more typing in the same information into another data-base. This program will do all of the 'dirty' work for you! FOLLOW the Docs tho! You must know the parameters of you old file, ie: size, attributes, field length, etc. Once this information is known, then TI-BASE takes over and bingo, you now have 'Aunt Sarahs' phone number etc into a 'real' data-base, not a flat file manager.

You have many mathematical functions available, including BOOLEAN algebra.

You now have the ability to do multiple sorting on several fields during the same processing. This is nice if you are sorting zips, cities, last names, etc. all at the same time. One of the drawbacks (few) is the sort routine, which is still very slow. I can live with that as long as I have all of the other features. (fur now at least. (hint)

Due to limited Local Space, you cannot create a Command file that is more than 35-40 lines in length, however, you can 'Nest' several command files together, and the program will treat each one seperately. Not really a problem, but a minor inconvenience. The speed of the processing is directly proportional to the amount of information you are asking for. The ability to Find your data is almost as fast as PRBASE. But unlike it, you can relate many different like fields and link them together, and Find the specific data almost immediately (once it has been sorted, that is).

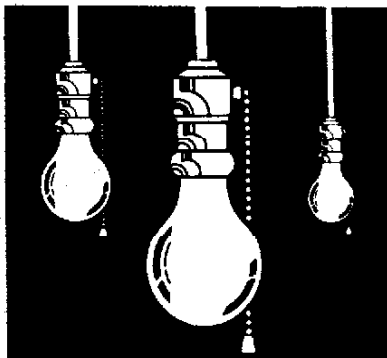
In comparison to PRBASE, if you could do a fair comparison, TI-BASE is extremely easy to use. Granted, you can create your information in PRBASE with just about the same amount of ease, however, TI-BASE's strength lies in its ability to retrieve that data in a much more conventional and easier manner. You can Print your data with considerable more control than with PRBASE. You don't have to 'count' line length, etc. I don't mean to 'knock' PRBASE, but, I'm just a 'good ole boy' and I could never print my information out the way I wanted it. What I'm trying to say is, "If you can read, you can use TI-BASE"

Speaking of reading. Sorry INSCEROT, but there you fall short. Your use of blue on grey paper in subscript type just doesn't cut it. Please consider us 'older' Tiers and

our eyes, and tempers. Maybe it would be easier to put the Docs on a disc in DV80 format? Then those of us with questionable eyesight might even choose to use Bold or even Expanded print if we have to.

In closing, I want to state that I am not a "professional" computer expert, but, I know what I want and what I need to do the job, and in my personal opinion, TI-BASE ver 2.0 fills this need. I would and can recommend this program to every Tier I meet. This is a 'must have' addition to anyone's software library. You will probably never ever come across another bargain like this one. Thank you INSCEROT!!

Barry Long
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AN OLD but GOOD PROGRAM

by Kurt R. Showers
Editor

When we are considering software and we are trying out the new programs we are constantly reminded that the new is built on the old. The new programs are usually also built on the old programs that we liked. These programs were ones which filled a need that we as users had. An old program which has not been built on is Microsoft Multiplan. I don't believe that is because of a lack of need. It is more of a lack of use and understanding, the full capabilities of this spreadsheet program. I had a specific need in my volunteer work as the treasurer of our local fire company. There may be another reason why this program has not been improved on and that may be because it would be hard to improve on it.

I've included some of my own practical use of Microsoft Multiplan to help you see what can be done and there are more which I've not even tried. We received a review by Dottie Swartz on using it for a data base program in compiling receipts, however since she has tried out the new data base programs, Multiplan may have lost the job to a new and better utility program. Another use I've had for my own personal needs are as a check register as a budget plan organizer and as an income tax support document compiler. I also used it to make a list of phone numbers. So you see that there are a number of uses for this program, and I think that this is only a short list of what it can be used for. It is designed to be used in a small business to build journals which will be supported by the other lesser journals and when those journals are uploaded they automatically up-date the corresponding journals which they support. (such as accounts receivables and the personal accounts of each customer. There are many capabilities of this particular program which I have not even learned.

The first exhibit which I've included is a compilation of over three years of the interest on three different CDs of the fire company. Since all this information is all public domain by the Right to Information Act, which deals with the public domain and because we are a

small fire company which most of you have never heard of, I am sharing these with you as an example of Multiplan potential and its unrecognized (by the PC world at large) ability to be a very viable personal computer.

In the process of time in this document I changed the format of information three times. Let me explain; In 86 and early 87 I started this document, at that point I simply needed to have a compilation of their past history, then since the income was not sent to the fire company in the form of a check but as a notice of accumulation of income into the total value of each separate CD, and since I did not want it to appear as accumulation of cash on hand to those who would eventually review this document, I then dumped the individual amounts shown back into the separate CDs showing the increase as part of the total value of each Cd, at the end of September of 1987. Then through the remainder of the year I simply transferred each months income as it was reported. In 1988 I decided that it would be nice to not only show the total value of all the CDs but to show the growth of each CD as it grows each month. Note the third CD is different and does not increase from month to month. This is because it indeed is different. The income from this CD is sent to the fire company each quarter in the form of a check and is entered into cash receipts.

Just a couple other things about this document. There are fifteen columns in this spreadsheet. There are 158 calculations, which can all be processed in 43 seconds. (I know pretty slow but what can I say, its faster than me.) These are also calculations which are inter-related (one calculation dependant on the results of one or more previous calculations. Just a futher note, in order to have

fifteen columns on an 8"x11" page you have to tell the printer to condense the print then you can use twice as many lines across the normal default of 72 .

That's enough for now from this department.

	NOTE NO.	ACCUM.	NOTE NO.	ACCUM.	NOTE NO.	TOTAL	TOTAL
1986/1987	142105	INTEREST	144513	INTEREST	130010	IN CD'S	ACCUM.
BEG. BAL. 8/30/86	\$4346.88	\$138.42	\$2500.00	\$175.48	\$3000.00	\$9846.88	INTEREST
SEPT.86 INCOME	\$28.57	\$166.99	\$18.63	\$194.11		\$10207.98	\$361.10
OCT.86 INCOME	\$23.19	\$23.19	\$15.16	\$15.16			\$38.35
NOV.86 INCOME	\$24.08	\$47.27	\$15.64	\$30.80			\$78.07
DEC.86 INCOME	\$23.43	\$70.70	\$15.22	\$46.02			\$116.72
JAN.87 INCOME	\$24.34	\$95.04	\$15.82	\$61.84			\$156.88
FEB.87 INCOME	\$24.47	\$119.51	\$15.91	\$77.75			\$197.26
MAR.87 INCOME	\$22.22	\$141.73	\$14.45	\$92.20			\$233.93
APR.87 INCOME	\$22.74	\$164.47	\$16.08	\$108.28			\$272.75
MAY 87 INCOME	\$22.11	\$186.58	\$15.65	\$123.93			\$310.51
JUNE 87 INCOME	\$22.96	\$209.54	\$0.00	\$123.93			\$333.47
JULY 87 INCOME	\$22.32	\$231.86	\$16.26	\$140.19			\$372.05
AUG.87 INCOME	\$23.18	\$255.04	\$32.28	\$172.47	\$3000.00	\$10207.98	\$427.51
SEPT.87 INCOME	\$23.29	\$278.33	\$18.76	\$191.23			\$469.36
TRANSFER ACCUM INT.	\$0.00	(\$278.33)	\$0.00	(\$191.23)			(\$469.56)
TOTAL CD VALUE	\$4792.20	\$0.00	\$2885.34	\$0.00		\$10677.54	\$0.00
OCT.87 INCOME	\$24.03	\$24.03	\$16.54	\$16.54			\$40.57
TRANSFER ACCUM		(\$24.03)		(\$16.54)		\$10718.11	(\$40.57)
NOV.87 INCOME	\$24.95	\$24.95	\$31.60	\$31.60			\$56.55
TRANSFER ACCUM		(\$24.95)		(\$31.60)		\$10774.66	(\$56.55)
DEC.87 INCOME	\$24.27	\$24.27	\$15.67	\$15.67			\$39.94
TRANSFER ACCUM		(\$24.27)		(\$15.67)		\$10814.60	(\$39.94)
TOTAL CD VALUE	\$4865.45	CD/VALUE	\$2949.15	CD/VALUE		\$10856.09	
JAN.88 INCOME	\$25.21		\$16.28			\$10856.09	\$41.49
TOTAL CD VALUE		\$4890.66		\$2965.43		\$10897.80	\$0.00
FEB.88 INCOME	\$25.34		\$16.37			\$10897.80	\$41.71
TOTAL CD VALUE		\$4916.00		\$2981.80		\$10937.03	\$0.00
MAR.88 INCOME	\$23.83	\$0.00	\$15.40	\$0.00		\$10937.03	\$39.23
TOTAL CD VALUE		\$4939.83		\$2997.20		\$10982.94	\$0.00
APR.88 INCOME	\$29.37	\$0.00	\$16.54	\$0.00		\$10982.94	\$45.91
TOTAL CD VALUE		\$4969.20		\$3013.74		\$11027.63	\$0.00
MAY.88 INCOME	\$28.59	\$0.00	\$16.10	\$0.00		\$11027.63	\$44.69
TOTAL CD VALUE		\$4997.79		\$3029.84		\$11074.07	\$0.00
JUNE.88 INCOME	\$29.71	\$0.00	\$16.73	\$0.00		\$11074.07	\$46.44
TOTAL CD VALUE		\$5027.50		\$3046.57		\$11119.28	\$0.00
JULY.88 INCOME	\$28.93	\$0.00	\$16.28	\$0.00		\$11119.28	\$45.21
TOTAL CD VALUE		\$5056.43		\$3062.85		\$11166.25	\$0.00
AUG.88 INCOME	\$30.06	\$0.00	\$16.91	\$0.00		\$11166.25	\$46.97
TOTAL CD VALUE		\$5086.49		\$3079.76		\$11213.49	\$0.00
SEPT.88 INCOME	\$30.24	\$0.00	\$17.00	\$0.00		\$11213.49	\$47.24
TOTAL CD VALUE		\$5116.73		\$3096.76		\$11263.07	\$0.00
OCT.88 INCOME	\$30.49	\$0.00	\$19.09	\$0.00		\$11263.07	\$49.58
TOTAL CD VALUE		\$5147.22		\$3115.85		\$11314.61	\$0.00
NOV.88 INCOME	\$31.69	\$0.00	\$19.85	\$0.00		\$11314.61	\$51.54
TOTAL CD VALUE		\$5178.91		\$3135.70		\$11364.80	\$0.00
DEC.88 INCOME	\$30.86	\$0.00	\$19.33	\$0.00		\$11364.80	\$50.19
TOTAL CD VALUE		\$5209.77		\$3155.03		\$11364.80	\$0.00

GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR CASSETTE
SYSTEM

BY MICKEY SCHMITT
NUMBER 2

LOADING AND SAVING PROGRAMS

WHILE LOADING AND SAVING PROGRAMS WITH THE USE OF A CASSETTE RECORDER IS NOT A DIFFICULT PROCESS IN ITSELF - READING AND UNDERSTANDING THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME CAN BE QUITE CONFUSING. WITH THAT THOUGHT IN MIND I HAVE TRIED TO KEEP THE INSTRUCTIONS AS SIMPLE AS POSSIBLE.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LOADING PROGRAMS:

1. TYPE: OLD CS1
2. THEN: PRESS ENTER
3. FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS AS THEY APPEAR ON YOUR MONITOR OR TV SCREEN:
 - 3.1 * REWIND CASSETTE TAPE CS1
THEN PRESS ENTER
 - 3.2 * PRESS CASSETTE PLAY CS1
THEN PRESS ENTER
 - 3.3 COMPUTER DISPLAYS MESSAGE:
* READING
 - 3.4 COMPUTER DISPLAYS MESSAGE:
* DATA OK
 - 3.5 * PRESS CASSETTE STOP CS1
THEN PRESS ENTER
4. WAIT FOR THE FLASHING CURSOR TO APPEAR IN THE LOWER LEFT-HAND CORNER OF YOUR MONITOR OR TV SCREEN
5. TYPE: RUN
6. THEN: PRESS ENTER

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SAVING PROGRAMS:

1. TYPE: SAVE CS1
2. THEN: PRESS ENTER

3. FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS AS THEY APPEAR ON YOUR MONITOR OR TV SCREEN:

- 3.1 * REWIND CASSETTE TAPE CS1
THEN PRESS ENTER
- 3.2 * PRESS CASSETTE RECORD CS1
THEN PRESS ENTER
- 3.3 COMPUTER DISPLAYS MESSAGE:
* RECORDING
- 3.4 * PRESS CASSETTE STOP CS1
THEN PRESS ENTER

4. YOUR PROGRAM IS NOW SAVED - BUT YOU SHOULD GET INTO THE HABIT OF CHECKING ALL YOUR PROGRAMS TO BE SURE THAT THEY WERE SAVED WITHOUT ERROR.

5. CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS AS THEY APPEAR ON YOUR MONITOR OR TV SCREEN:

- 5.1 COMPUTER DISPLAYS MESSAGE:
* CHECK TAPE (Y OR N)?
- 5.2 TYPE: Y
- 5.3 THEN: PRESS ENTER
- 5.4 * REWIND CASSETTE TAPE CS1
THEN PRESS ENTER
- 5.5 * PRESS CASSETTE PLAY CS1
THEN PRESS ENTER
- 5.6 COMPUTER DISPLAYS MESSAGE:
* CHECKING
- 5.7 COMPUTER DISPLAYS MESSAGE:
* DATA OK
- 5.8 * PRESS CASSETTE STOP CS1
THEN PRESS ENTER

6. YOUR PROGRAM IS NOW SAVED - SAFELY AND WITHOUT ERROR. THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT!

NEXT MONTH'S TOPIC WILL BE KEEPING YOUR CASSETTE TAPES AND PROGRAMS ORGANIZED.

IF YOU NEED ANY HELP UNDERSTANDING HOW TO LOAD AND SAVE PROGRAMS - JUST GIVE ME A CALL (412-335-0163) AND I'LL TRY TO HELP.

WE'LL LOOK FOR
YOU
AT THESE MEETINGS

Circle your Calendar with these meeting dates

JANUARY 16
FEBRUARY (13)
MARCH 20
APRIL 17
MAY 22
JUNE 19

All meetings begin at 7PM but the Group equipment will be up and ready for use at approximately 6PM.

All meetings are held at the CAMP HILL SHOPPING MALL COMMUNITY ROOM. (Next to
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NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 13TH 1989 at 7pm

