CHICAGOS TI-99/4A & GENEVE/9640 COMPUTER USERS GROUP

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SEPTEMBER 1993 """

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THERE WILL BE A TIVEAIRE . LOOK INSIDE !

Dallas TI Home Computer Group

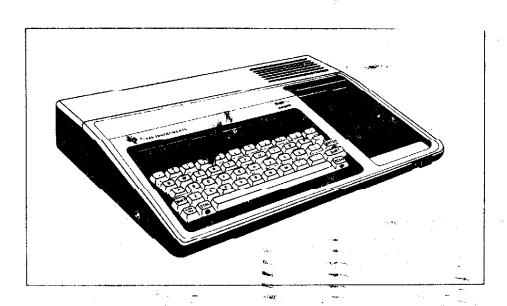
c/o: Walter Pearson P.O. Box 29863

Dallas TX 75229

AHHH! What do you want 77

PRODUCTION NOON TILL S P.M.
I STILL LOVE MY TI99/4A
BUT : I CAN'T FIND ANYTHING IN THIS ROOM

Thanks to



The other news letter editors beside myself did give me the will to get this on e out this time. My thanks to the people who are willing to put in the time with there computers. (Funnelwéb farm!) SO, THIS ISSUE WE WILL HAVE SOME OF THE RE-PRINTS FROM OTHER USERS GROUPS. OY THEM ! \*\*\* THERE WILL BE A CHICAGO TI-FAIRE 1 CALL CLEAR 2 FOR P=1 TO 5 :: READ P\$(P):: PRINT P\$(P):" ":: NEXT P :: PRINT : : : : 3 DATA DISFIX, DISVAR, INTFIX, INTVAR, PROGRAM 4 FRINT "MASTERS DISK DRIVE 1 OR 2 ": : : : 5 CALL KEY(0,K,S):: IF S=0 THEN 5 6 IF K<49 THEN 5 :: IF K>50 THEN 5 7 I 事=CHR事(K) 8 Ds="DSK"&Is&"." 9 OPEN #1:D\$, INPUT , RELATIVE, INTERNAL 10 INPUT #1:A4, B, C, D 11 PRINT "DISK NAME =";A\$;" FREE ";D;" TOTOL = ";C :: PRINT : : USED ":C-D:" : : 12 INPUT #1:A\$, B, C, D 13 IF LEN(A\$)=0 THEN 31 14 PRINT A#:B;P#(B) 15 IF B=2 THEN 20 16 IF B=1 THEN 33 17 IF B=-1 THEN 34 18 IF B=-2 THEN 20 19 GOTO 12 20 INPUT " DO U WANT 2 READ THAT FILE ??????? N or Y ":Z# 21 IF Z\$="N" THEN 19 22 TE 7\$<>"Y" THEN 20 23 OPEN #3:D\$&A\$,INPUT ,DISPLAY ,VARIABLE 80 24 INPUT #3:Q\$ 25 IF EOF(3) THEN 30 26 PRINT Q\$ 27 CALL KEY(5,K,S):: IF S=-1 THEN 27 28 IF K=90 THEN 30 29 GUTU 24 30 CLOSE #3 :: FOR PP=1 TO 555 :: NEXT PP :: GOTO 19 31 CALL SQUND(999,333,1) 32 CLOSE #1 :: RUN 33 INPUT " DO U WANT 2 READ THAT FILE ?????? N or Y ":Z\$ 34 IF Z\$="N" THEN 19 35 IF Z\$<>"Y" THEN 33 36 OPEN #3:D\$%A\$,INPUT ,DISPLAY ,FIXED 80 37 INPUT #3:0# 38 IF EOF (3) THEN 41 39 PRINT Q\$ : : : :: GOTO 19 42 RUN

Thanks for the disk CHARLES GOOD. I aint had the time to review it. It got me to see if there was something for the NEWS-LETTER in it!

all of the DV/80 files on any disk.

I still did not review it. But it did get me to make a program that would read

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That line is only on my disk. HAY! IT'S BEEN A LONG SUMMER..

B#3

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1 REM SET-UP PRINTER
100 CALL CLEAR
110 FOR P=1 TO 5 :: READ P$(P):: PRINT P$(P);" ":: NEXT P :: PRINT : : : :
120 DATA DISFIX, DISVAR, INTELX, INTVAR, PROGRAM
130 PRINT "MASTERS DISK DRIVE 1 OR 2 ": : : : :
140 CALL KEY(0,K,S):: IF S=0 THEN 140
150 IF K<49 THEN 140 :: IF K>50 THEN 140
160 I $=CHR$ (K)
170 D#="DSK"&I#&"." "
180 OPEN #1:D$, INPUT , RELATIVE, INTERNAL
190 INPUT #1:A$,B,C,D
200 PRINT "DISK NAME =";A$;"
                               USED ";C-D;"
                                             FREE ":D:" TOTOL = ":C :: FRINT : :
: :
210 INPUL #1:A5,B,C,D
220 IF LEN(A$)=0 THEN 380
230 PRINT As:B:Ps(B)
240 IF B=2 THEN 270
    TESTING
```

Checking TI General Forum mailbox!

Msg#: 478 TI General Forum 93/08/09 11:58:36 pm (Read 24 times) From: Mark Zeman #854 To: ALL

Subj: RM Faire

and the supplier of the

My wife and I went to that show @ the RM Holiday Inn in July. I hope I'm not stepping on any toes by saying this, but it was about 1/3 the size of I last year's TI Faire. It was \$3 a head to get in and within 20 minutes we'd seen the entire layout twice. Mostly for cloneheads, we found only 2 or 3 system vendors and a lot of other misc junk. We were shopping for a 486DX to use as a server, and the show served one purpose, in that we decided we should leave ASAP and visit a friend who owned a computer store. We get our box there instead. Of course, there wasn't anything related to the TI t at the RM event.

I submit 2 thumbs down for cost (consider the size) and lack of variety. I read somewhere that there's another such show at the same place in October. We'll definitely pass, as I anticipate a much better Faire around that time.

ORIGIN: Chicago TI UG BBS (708)-862-0182 / 8N1 / 24 hours [0/0:0]

Msg#: 484 TI General Forum 93/08/12 11:01:14 pm (Read 21 times) From: Michael Maksimik #611 To: ALL Subj: Funnelweb

Charles Good has sent me the new Funnelweb editor series (version 5) dated july 1993....fresh from New South Wales, Australia.. This includes the 40 column editor and 80 column editor. 40 column can be used by standard TI consoles, 80 column by users with a 9938/9958 video upgrade. Look for the archives in the TI section in a couple of days.

ORIGIN: Chicago TI UG BBS (708)-862-0182 / 8N1 / 24 hours [0/0:0]

P9#4

Msg#: 250 Hardware SIG

93/08/12 11:32:08 pm (Read 20 times)

From: Michael Maksimik #611

To: ALL Subj: HFDC144

While I WILL develop a floppy disk formatter for HFDC users, I have used HFDC144 to format high density floppies. To gain additional storage (up to 3600 sectors, approx. 900k) until we have full MDOS support of 1.44 meg, use the HFDC144 format program and then use a sector editor to edit sector 0 of the disk. Change the disk name (if you like) and then go to the last 22 or so bytes in the sector( they are all "FF"'s. ) Change them ALL to zeros "00" and you will gain additional storage on the drive. I have tested this, and it works. I stored 860k worth of files on the disk, and then verified the whole disk to make sure the files were all there. and they are. I had 40k left on the disk. This will only work with ROMPAGE (to run the formatter) and then use a sector editor (SECTOR ONE, or Disk Utilities)...both will recognize the high density format. In addition, MDOS recognizes it and a CHKDSK will report total disk space of 1.44 megabytes, available storage 900k. The additional sectors will become available when MDOS (and the HFDC EPROM) are modified to treat higher capacity disks as mini hard drives, giving them limitless capacity and multi-level directories.

ORIGIN: Chicago TI UG BBS (708)-862-0182 / 8N1 / 24 hours [0/0:0]

Msg#: 141 Announcements 93/08/09 07:10:32 pm (Read 20 times)

From: Michael Maksimik #611

To: ALL Subj: files

Many of you new callers have PC's but can't run or transfer the TI files to your TI, either because you don't have a terminal program for your TI, or you lack other necessities:

1) 32k memory expansion, RS232 card, modem, disk system and a program such as TELCO or MASS TRANSFER for sending and receiving files.

2) PC TRANSFER to copy files from PC disks to your TI (you need either the Myarc or Corcomp disk controller to do this)
In any case, you will first need to get the TELCO or MASS TRANSFER program ON DISK to run on your computer (TI ) so you get then download any of the programs on the BBS. These programs are the gateway that will allow PC owners (former TI users) that call this BBS to take advantage of new TI programs.

Contact someone on this BBS who is close to home and arrange for them to get you the tools you need (softare and hardware) to allow you to start enjoying your TI after it's long hibernation.

ORIGIN: Chicago TI UG BBS (708)-862-0182 / 8N1 / 24 hours [0/0:0]

Msg#: 145 Announcements

93/08/12 10:12:15 pm (Read 19 times) 4

From: DonJones #168

To: ALL

Subj: Home Base BBs

There is a new bbs up and running. Its name is "Home Base BBS," and the SysOp is Al Stump. Many old timers may remember him from the early days of the Chicago TI Group meetings. At that time, he was our hardware expert, and he wrote an article called, "Hard Times." Al now uses his "klone" exclusively, but as he has no antipathy for the TI-99/4A or Genny, at my suggestion, he has created a forum for our community on his board. As most of us are multiple system users, many may find his board helpful relative to "klone" related problems and matters. You may also be able to find some of the older members of the Chicago group, who have switched to the "klone," present on this bbs. The board is located in the western suburbs of Chicago; the number is (708)865-9173. kdj

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ORIGIN: Chicago TI UG BBS (709)-962-0182 / 8N1 / 24 hours [0/0:0]

## Chicago T199/4A users group BBS

- o Meeting Information:

  New meeting place in the works
  o Stay tuned for more info.

  Most likely, it will be in
  o or around the Oak Brook Mall o
  or in one of the bank rooms
  o surrounding the mall.

  Please call the BBS for info.
- o Enabled: YMODEM, MNP 2-5 error o correcting protocol. Read
- of the document MODEM in the info file section. Softmail/E-mail:
- o send messages \*and\* files to (

Messages to #611 are to sysop,

- o Michael J Maksimik.
  - Set your terminal width to 40 or 80 to match your
- computer's display setup....
- o Please DON'T use CARET symbol in text or filenames'
- Thank you for calling. Remember
- o if you w<mark>ant mail, you have to</mark> send mail.... Enjoy your
- o stay!!!

Michael J Maksimik, SYSOP user #611

<Press any key</pre>

BH #

July, 1993

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Atlanta, Georgia

# THE FACTS ABOUT TI MEMORY SYSTEMS AN EDITORIAL

Over the last six months there has been a lot of noise on the computer networks and in user group newsletters on issues related to extended memory cards for the 99/4A. Some people have blatantly asked people to come out and choose sides on a very complex issue without understanding what they are choosing. In fact, what should be a pretty objective decision has been turned into an emotional gut-churner - a question decided by loyalities, petty rivalries, lies and innuendo. Frankly, this is why we are in the situation we are in today - and why companies like Myarq and Corcomp left the community. Everything technical debate gets turned into a personal vendetta, thinly disguised ambition is allowed to prevail over substance, and the community eats its young yet again.

When I set out almost 3 years ago with a really talented bunch of guys to put together a new kind of memory card for the 99/4A, I had believed that the community had finally outgrown that kind of thing. I was wrong. Seeing all of this stuff all over again has made me seriously consider throwing in the towel once and for all.

Why? Because everything we've done with these cards has either been ignored, mis-represented, or labeled as too "controversial" or "not ready for prime time".

For 8 months we've been mailing out press releases, articles and newsletters about our memory cards that apparently no one is reading, and user groups aren't re-printing or even reporting on. The only reference to what we've done that I ever see in print is usually in an article about our competitors, or in an editorial that simply says that there has been a "debate" and that it has "gotten out of hand".

This is simply ridiculous.

This is the most important thing I've been involved with in the 10 years I've been in this community, and unless the community gives this a fair hearing, well, I guess it's finally time to cut my losses.

Here is my tast attempt to get the unvamished facts out in front of you, the reader.

- 1. The Asgard Memory System (AMS) is available NOW it is NOT still in "development". We announced the product the day it was commercially available for sale, and in stock. In the last 8 months, we've been refining the product, writing software, and working on the next generation card. Our only competitor announced their product over a year ago, and have yet to release more than press notices (which all seem to be faithfully reprinted everywhere). It is pretty hard to compete against something that so far exists only on paper especially when the unreleased product gets more press than the one that you can buy today!
- 2. We started AMS almost 3 years ago long before there ever was a "National Committee for TI Standards". This so-called committee has never met more than once, doesn't include most of the TI hardware or software developers in the U.S., much less the rest of the world, and has produced a specification for memory systems without any real debate, which endorses our competitor's plans. Before we had a chance to object, it was the declared "standard". Can you say "railroaded"?
- 3. Our memory system was designed to the only standard TI ever made for extended memory on the 99/4A the one used in the TI-99/8. In fact, the guy who DESIGNED the TI-99/8 said our design was identical to the one TI specified.
- 4. Because our design was built to TI's specifications, it doesn't conflict with any other card in the P-BOX except a 32K card. You can plug it in and your Horizon RAM-disk, Myarc HFDC, or anything else you have will still work fine.
- 5. Our design uses standard, off-the-shelf components. EVERY other extended memory design uses lots of custom ICs, and even more custom programming (as in a big DSR). Custom parts not only drive up the development time, they also drive up the cost, and guarantee that the design remains proprietary. By using off-the-shelf parts, we keep the price down, and guarantee competition. Remember how much TI used to charge for the 32K card when they were the only one making them?

We designed our system to the "KISS" method - "Keep It Simple, Sam"

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### **A9CUG NEWSLETTER**

July, 1993

Atlanta, Georgia

THE FACTS ABOUT TI MEMORY SYSTEMS

AN EDITORIAL (Continued)

- 6. Our system is tried and tested. We use the exact same "memory mapper" (the chip that controls the computers use of memory) that TI used in their 99/8, their 9900 minicomputers, and that IBM used in the very first IBM PCs. This component has been available for 10 years all "bugs" in it have long been removed.
- 7. Everything about our system is "open". Anyone can write a program for it or enhance it the hardware and software specifications are available free of charge. Heck, the 5-disk development system we've spent the last 18 months writing is even fairware and posted on the bulletin boards.
- 8. The AMS is very fast. It can switch pages over 10 times faster than any competitor, and with little program code (even in Assembly). Why is speed important? If you are sorting 512K of data, or loading 512K of pictures, you'll notice the other system is less than half the speed.
- 9. Our system doesn't have its software in a DSR and we are proud of it! Why?

A. We found that putting the operating software in a DSR makes it run much slower than if it was in RAM - and really doesn't give any benefit to the programmer or the user.

- B. Any DSR increases the chance for compatibility problems who wants to waste time finding problems with Myarc cards?
- C. A DSR is "fixed". If you find a bug in it, the only way to correct it is to replace it. Consider all the pain Myarc users have gone through with EPROM upgrades of the HFDC and the Geneve.
- D. If programs are written to work around a DSR bug, they may not work when the DSR is fixed.
- E. If the software to use the card is built into each program, than the only thing we have to do to correct a bug is issue an upgrade. Old programs written for earlier versions of our operating system software would continue to work fine, and new programs could take advantage of new features without worrying about hardware compatibility problems since the operating system isn't in hardware.
- F. Why do you think Microsoft and Apple load their operating systems from disk, and not from ROM chips?
- 10. We have a complete set of development tools available NOW. Even if our competitors released their card today, it would be a year before they had a system that was as easy as ours is for programmers. Because our software was designed before our hardware, we were able to design a "programmer friendly" system that is far easier to program than any other extended memory system. This is important as so many people have said, who wants a memory card there are no programs for?

In the last 8 months since we released our first AMS card we've released 2 software packages that take advantage of the card (including the word processor FIRST DRAFT), and software from other people has started to appear. Around 20 AMS cards are in the hands of developers around the world.

its any of this news? Apparently not - I've seen few of the facts above in print anywhere, even though we've put them in a half-dozen articles.

The facts, on their own merit, should be compelling enough for people to put aside their differences and really weigh the benefits of what we've done - instead of consigning it as some "curiosity", or ignoring it.

We wanted to put together something that was cheap enough to build that every TI user could have one, and yet was simple enough to write programs for that every TI programmer could do so. I think we've done that. If the TI world isn't interested at this point, doesn't care, or wants to keep waiting for fantasies, well, I can take a hint.

Thank you.

Chris Bobbitt July 2, 1993

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Pg # 8

# TERNATIONAL CHICAGO TI FAIR

THE CHICAGO T.I.USERS GROUP
Invites all to the FAIRE on
Oct.30 1993. 9:00 AM At the
HOLIDAY INN
6161 West Grand Avenue
Gurnee, Illinois
WELCOME
COMPUTER OPERATORS, USERS
BRING THE FAMILY. GURNEE
MILLS ACROSS THE STREET