THE CIN-DAY NEWS

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER
NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

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TI-99/4A - C - GENEVE

Hello, I hope everyone is enjoying this Summer, I know I have been. It seems like I never have enough time to do all the things I would like to do. Which is why this newsletter is a little late. I guess I never really knew how much time really goes into putting one together. Believe me a lot! I spend hours alone just trying to find articles that I think will be interesting, then of course one must put them all together, take them to the printers, and then sort and label them for mailing. Quite a task I can tell you. I would like to ask all our members at this time to look around for articles, graphics, or what have you, to put in upcoming newsletters. Our President, Rick Kellogg, has been doing a great job with the headers, like the one above. But I would like to see things done by other members as well. Remember this is your newsletter. Well, that's all for now, See you at the next meeting. Your Editor, Eric Bishop.

CREATE YOUR OWN CURSOR

By Don Turner
New Horizons-Northwest Ohio 99er software

I don't quite know how to give the proper credit to this routine, but whoever discovered this way to modify the cursor you're an unsung hero.

While I have experimented with TI Extended Basic, I have learned many ways to make it do the things that the manual never let you know. Also, not to forget the clever programmers who offered their information and discoveries to the TI Community.

Creating a cursor is rather easy and once done the cursor routine can always be used in other programs. If you understand how to define a character then understanding how to create a cursor is just a easy.

First I'll write the TI Extended Basic code to re-define the cursor.

```
100 CALL CLEAR :: CALL INIT
110 CALL LOAD(8196,63,248)
120 CALL LOAD(16376,67,85,82,83,79,82,48,8)
130 CALL LOAD(12288,255,129,129,129,129,129,129,255)
140 CALL LOAD(12296,2,0,3,240,2,1,48,0,2,2,0,8,4,32,32,36,4,91)
150 CALL LINK("CURSOR")
```

Line 130 defines the cursor description (what it looks like). Defining the cursor is made rather easy because you are not using HEX but "straight binary"

BINARY->	128	64	32	16	08	04	02	01	
ROW 1	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	=255
ROW 2	X							X	=129
ROW 3	X							X	=129
ROW 4	X							X	=129
ROW 5	X							X	=129
ROW 6	X							X	=129
ROW 7	X							X	=129
ROW 8	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	=255

As you can see the values come from adding the total binary value across each row to define the segments in the cursor. I defined a hollow box cursor. (Note the X's in the figure and the weighted value that was totaled.)

After defining your custom made cursor, save it to disk and you are ready for your first run.

Run your program and look at your new cursor. If you don't like it merely make some changes and run again. Repeat this process until you are satisfied with your new cursor. The new cursor will stay until you turn off the console.

DESIGN YOUR OWN CURSOR

Introduction by Dave Peden

In May of 1984 Terry Atkinson of Canada wrote a little program to redefine the cursor for the TI. Since that time many people have written about the program and a few have forgotten that he wrote it. Recently the L.A. Topics reprinted the best description I have seen explaining how the program works and in detail how to design your own cursor. The following except for the program was written by J. .F. Millforth of the WEST PENN 99'ers in March of 1987.

What ever program that you use, Assembly, or Extended Basic,, you will have to encode the design for your CUSTOM CURSOR. The program will be the vehicle for your own cursor.

If you are interested in creating your own cursor, please read the rest of this page, and I'll show you how to chart out this TEXAS CURSOR, and how to create your very own, let's say one with your initials. or a square box. The creation is very much the same as charting a sprite in Extended Basic, but instead of using HEX, you will be using straight BINARY.

```
1 ! TEXAS CURSOR written by Terry Atkinson/cursor design by
Jim Peterson
2 CALL CLEAR :: CALL INIT
3 CALL LOAD(8196,63,248) ! REF table pointer at >2004 (3F,F8)
4  CALL LOAD(16376,67,83,82,83,79,82,48,8) ! Indicates that a
program named "CURSOR" begins at>3008
5 CALL LOAD(12288,48,48,63,255,254,124,24,12) ! THIS IS WHERE
WE START THE CUSTOM CURSOR DESIGN
6 CALL LOAD(12296,2,0,3,240,2,1,48,0,2,2,0,8,4,32,32,36,4,91)
7 CALL LINK("CURSOR") :: END
```

BINARY WEIGHT	128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1	=48	=48	=63	=255	=254	=124	=24	=12
ROW 01	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
ROW 02	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
ROW 03	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
ROW 04	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
ROW 05	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
ROW 06	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
ROW 07	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
ROW 08	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

If you look at the above chart, you will see the TEXAS CURSOR defined. Now all you will have to do is make a blank chart similar to the one above, and instead of putting the "I"'s in for TEXAS, put in the "I"'s to match the shape of your custom letters, or logo. Add up the numbers (binary weights) across the top of the chart above the place you inserted an "I". Do this for each row, and put the total at the end of each row.

Enter these totals in line 3, AFTER the address in the CALL LOAD (12288,xxx,xxx,xxx,xxx,xxx,xxx,xxx,xxx). Now save this program to disk! RUN the program and you are all set.

The program should stay in the computer until you either:

1 Write over it with another program, not likely with Extended Basic.

2 Shut the system down or go to the Title screen

From So. Cal. Computer Group
CALL TIES June 87

S.C.C.G. TIES

278-8155

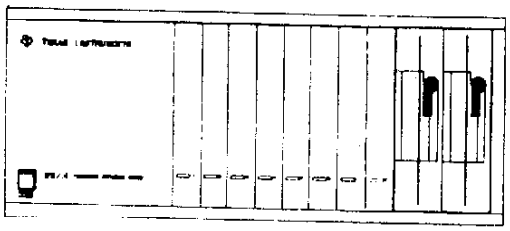
```
*
* The TI Logo On-Screen:-
*     Try this little routine:-
*
*     1 !      DSKn.LOGO-DEF
*     2 DATA 0103030303030303,FC04
*     0303040602OC,0080404080000C1
*     2,FF80C04060381C0E,192121CD0
*     50505C4,BA8A8A8AA1A1A122
*     3 DATA 0301000000000000,E231
*     10180C070300,4C9020404020E00
*     0
*     4 CALL CLEAR :: FOR I=1 TO 9
*      :: READ A$ :: CALL CHAR(I+1
*     27,A$):: NEXT I
*     5 DISPLAY AT(8,1):CHR$(128);
*     CHR$(129);CHR$(130):CHR$(131
*     );CHR$(132);CHR$(133);" Texa
*     s Instruments";CHR$(134);CHR
*     $(135);CHR$(136) :: END
*
*     It's the "TI" logo, using nine
* characters from #128 to #136. You
* can put it anywhere on the screen if
* you are careful to line up the three
* rows of 3 characters each with PRINT
* or DISPLAY AT(r,c): statements.
*
```

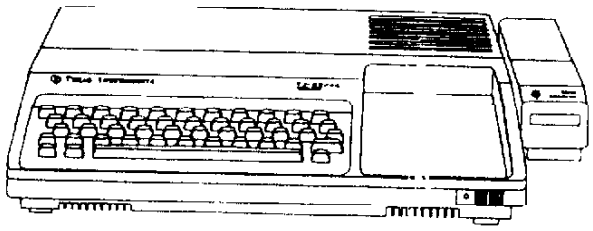
UNIVERSAL FILE READER

```
100 @=0 :: F=1 :: J=2 :: _=3 :: \=4 :: GOTO 110 :: A$,CHOICE$,FILE$,P$,PRINT$,Z$ :: A,DE,F,K,L,S,Z :: CALL CLEAR :: CALL KEY :: CALL SCREEN :: !@P-

110 ! $$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$
120 ! $  UNIVERSAL  $
130 ! $ FILE READER $
140 ! $     BY     $
150 ! $ BOB CARMANY $
160 ! $ VERSION 4.0 $
170 ! $     IB     $
180 ! $$$$$$$$$$$$$$$$
190 ON BREAK NEXT
200 CALL CLEAR :: CALL SCREEN(5):: DISPLAY AT(1,9):"FILE READER":"      VERSION 4.0":"" "&RPT$("-",24):: DISPLAY AT(14,1):" "&RPT$("-",24)
210 DISPLAY AT(10,1)BEEP:"INSTRUCTIONS (Y/N)? N" :: ACCEPT AT(10,24)VALIDATE("YyNn") SIZE(-1):CHOICE$ :: DISPLAY AT(10,1):RPT$(" ",24):: IF CHOICE$="N" OR CHOICE$="n" THEN 220 ELSE GOSUB 550
220 DISPLAY AT(8,1)BEEP:"Device.Filename":")" :: ACCEPT AT(9,1)SIZE(15):FILE$ :: IF FILE$="" THEN 220 :: CALL ERASE
230 DISPLAY AT(16,1):"Device.Filename" :: DISPLAY AT(17,1):")"&FILE$
240 DISPLAY AT(8,1)BEEP:"File Descriptors (Choose 1)" :: DISPLAY AT(9,1):"1) DISPLAY ,VARIABLE":"2) DISPLAY ,FIXED"
250 DISPLAY AT(11,1):"3) INTERNAL ,VARIABLE":"4) INTERNAL ,FIXED" :: DISPLAY AT(13,2):"1" :: ACCEPT AT(13,20)VALIDATE("1234")SIZE(-1):A :: CALL ERASE
260 DISPLAY AT(8,1)BEEP:"Record Length" :: DISPLAY AT(9,6):"80" :: ACCEPT AT(9,6)VALIDATE(DIGIT)SIZE(-3):L :: CALL ERASE
270 ON A GOTO 280,290,300,310
280 ON ERROR 610 :: DISPLAY AT(20,1):"DISPLAY ,VARIABLE" :: DISPLAY AT(20,19):L :: OPEN #C:FILE$,INPUT ,DISPLAY ,VARIABLE L :: GOTO 320
290 ON ERROR 610 :: DISPLAY AT(20,1):"DISPLAY ,FIXED" :: DISPLAY AT(20,16):L :: OPEN #C:FILE$,INPUT ,DISPLAY ,FIXED L :: GOTO 320
300 ON ERROR 610 :: DISPLAY AT(20,1):"INTERNAL ,VARIABLE" :: DISPLAY AT(20,20):L :: OPEN #C:FILE$,INPUT ,INTERNAL,VARIABLE L :: GOTO 320
310 ON ERROR 610 :: DISPLAY AT(20,1):"INTERNAL ,FIXED" :: DISPLAY AT(20,17):L :: OPEN #C:FILE$,INPUT ,INTERNAL,FIXED L :: GOTO 320
320 DISPLAY AT(8,1):"Parameter Flag ":"1 For DISPLAY Files":"2 For INTERNAL Files" :: DISPLAY AT(10,22):"1" :: ACCEPT AT(10,22)VALIDATE("12")SIZE(-1):Z :: CALL ERASE
330 F=Z
340 DISPLAY AT(8,1)BEEP:"Print about of file? (Y/N) N" :: ACCEPT AT(8,25)VALIDATE("YyNn")SIZE(-1):P$
350 IF P$="N" OR P$="n" THEN 450
360 DISPLAY AT(8,1)BEEP:"Printer devicename     " :: DISPLAY AT(10,1):")PIO" :: ACCEPT AT(10,1)SIZE(-20):PRINT$
370 DISPLAY AT(23,1):"Printer )"&PRINT$ :: CALL ERASE
380 ON ERROR 610 :: OPEN #1: PRINT$,OUTPUT,DISPLAY
390 IF EOF(1)THEN 510
400 ON F GOTO 410,420
410 LINPUT #C:A$ :: GOTO 430
420 INPUT #C:A$
430 CALL KEY(1,K,S):: IF K=13 THEN 330 :: IF S()1 THEN 430 ELSE PRINT A$ :: PRINT #1
440 GOTO 390
450 IF EOF(1)THEN 520
460 ON F GOTO 470,480
470 LINPUT #C:A$ :: GOTO 490
480 INPUT #C:A$
490 CALL KEY(1,K,S):: IF K=13 THEN 330 :: IF S()1 THEN 490 ELSE PRINT A$
500 GOTO 450
510 CLOSE #1
520 CLOSE #C
525 FOR DE=1 TO 2000 :: NEXT DE
530 DISPLAY AT(12,1)ERASE ALL:"Read Another File? (Y/N) N" :: ACCEPT AT(12,26)SIZE(-1)VALIDATE("YyNn"):Z$ :: IF Z$="Y" OR Z$="y" THEN 200 ELSE 540
540 DISPLAY AT(12,5)ERASE ALL:"PROGRAM TERMINATED" :: FOR DE=1 TO 500 :: NEXT DE :: CALL CLEAR :: END
550 DISPLAY AT(1,1)ERASE ALL:"To use this program, simply follow the input prompts as they appear on the screen"
560 DISPLAY AT(7,1):"The 'Record Length' prompt":"is the record length that":"appears at the end of the":"file description":"(ie. D/V 80)"
570 DISPLAY AT(16,1):"You may stop the screen":"scrolling by pressing ANY":"key or <ENTER> to abort the":"file presentation":
580 FOR DE=1 TO 3000 :: NEXT DE
590 CALL CLEAR :: DISPLAY AT(1,9):"FILE READER":" VERSION 4.0":" "&RPT$("-",24):: DISPLAY AT(14,1):" "&RPT$("-",24):: RETURN
600 !@P+
610 CALL CLEAR :: CALL SCREEN(7):: DISPLAY AT(12,1):"YOU HAVE JUST ENCOUNTERED A":"FATAL I/O FILE ERROR.":"PLEASE RE-ENTER YOUR FILE"
620 DISPLAY AT(15,1):"PARAMETERS" :: FOR DE=1 TO 1000 :: NEXT DE :: RUN

630 SUB ERASE :: DISPLAY AT(8,1):RPT$(" ",16^2)
640 SUBEND
```






```
100 ! Instance Printer V1.5
110 !      08/06/87
120 ! by Robert Coffey Jr.
130 !    102 Woodgate Road
140 !    Tonawanda, NY 14150
150 !
160 ! Assembly Subroutine
170 ! Written 12/08/87
180 ! by Harry Wilhelm
190 !
200 CALL INIT
210 CALL LOAD(8194,38,214,63,248)-
220 CALL LOAD(16376,77,73,82,65,67,76,38,40)
230 CALL LOAD(9748,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,4,0,6,0,3,0,7)
240 CALL LOAD(9768,2,224,36,244,4,204,2,11,37,21,2,2,38,20,2,3,0,6,4,192)
250 CALL LOAD(9788,2,1,0,1,4,32,32,12,4,32,32,24,18,184,204,160,131,74,5,129)
260 CALL LOAD(9808,6,3,22,246,2,3,1,0,5,67,2,5,0,7,8,19,4,196,2,9)
270 CALL LOAD(9828,3,0,2,6,0,7,9,41,193,198,2,39,255,255,194,39,38,20,66,3)
280 CALL LOAD(9848,194,8,19,1,161,9,6,70,21,244,195,96,38,28,6,13,10,29,4,206)
290 CALL LOAD(9868,195,197,63,160,38,30,195,207,19,2,2,45,0,4,195,109,38,32,167,
13)
300 CALL LOAD(9888,6,196,222,196,6,13,22,253,6,5,17,1,16,216,6,204,216,12,37,20)
310 CALL LOAD(9908,4,192,2,1,0,7,2,2,37,20,216,32,38,32,131,124,4,32,32,16)
320 CALL LOAD(9928,216,32,38,32,131,124,2,224,131,224,4,96,0,112)
330 DIM F(32,8),P$(32)
340 T=1 :: ESC$=CHR$(27):: FILE$="DSK2.INSTANCE" :: LF$=ESC$&"3" :: ZERO$=CHR$(0
)
350 DISPLAY AT(1,4)ERASE ALL:"INSTANCE PRINTER V1.5" :: DISPLAY AT(3,5):"by Robe
rt Coffey Jr."
360 DISPLAY AT(5,5):"Assembly Subroutine" :: DISPLAY AT(6,6):"by Harry Wilhelm"
370 DISPLAY AT(9,4):"INSTANCE:"&FILE$ :: ACCEPT AT(9,13)SIZE(-13):FILE$
380 DISPLAY AT(13,7):"(1) DOUBLE DENSITY" :: DISPLAY AT(15,7):"(2) QUAD DENSITY"
390 CALL KEY(0,K,S):: IF K<49 OR K>50 THEN 390 ELSE DENSITY=VAL(CHR$(K)):: CALL
HCHAR(DENSITY*2+11,7,42):: DISPLAY AT(18,11):"Working...."
400 STRIKE=DENSITY+T :: LF=21*(STRIKE/3)+T :: FILLER=64*DENSITY :: TEMP=4/DENSIT
Y
410 OPEN #1:"PIO.CR.LF" :: OPEN #2:FILE$&"_I",INPUT :: IF DENSITY=1 THEN FORMAT$
=ESC$&"L"&CHR$(192)&CHR$(3)ELSE FORMAT$=ESC$&"Z"&CHR$(128)&CHR$(7)
420 PRINT #1:ESC$;"@";
430 INPUT #2:WIDTH,LENGTH :: J=(32-WIDTH)*(13*DENSITY)
440 FOR A=T TO LENGTH :: FOR B=T TO WIDTH :: INPUT #2:F(B,1),F(B,2),F(B,3),F(B,4
),F(B,5),F(B,6),F(B,7),F(B,8):: NEXT B
450 FOR Z=T TO 5 STEP 4
460 FOR B=T TO WIDTH :: P$(B)=""
470 CALL LINK("MIRACL",F(B,Z+3),F(B,Z+2),F(B,Z+1),F(B,Z),DENSITY,TEMP,P$(B))
480 NEXT B
490 FOR ZZ=T TO STRIKE :: IF ZZ=STRIKE THEN PRINT #1:LF$;CHR$(LF);ELSE PRINT #1:
LF$;CHR$(T);
500 PRINT #1:FORMAT$;RPT$(ZERO$,FILLER);:: CALL SPACE((J),ZERO$)
510 FOR B=T TO WIDTH :: PRINT #1:P$(B);:: NEXT B :: CALL SPACE((J),ZERO$):: PRIN
T #1:RPT$(ZERO$,FILLER);CHR$(10):: NEXT ZZ
520 NEXT Z :: NEXT A
530 PRINT #1:ESC$;"@" :: CLOSE #1 :: CLOSE #2
540 CALL HCHAR(5,T,32,500):: DISPLAY AT(11,12)BEEP:"DONE!" :: DISPLAY AT(15,5):"
Print another? (Y/N)"
550 CALL KEY(0,K,S):: IF S=0 THEN 550 ELSE S=POS("YyNn",CHR$(K),1):: IF S=0 THEN
 550 ELSE IF S<3 THEN 350
560 CALL CLEAR :: END
570 !
580 SUB SPACE(J,ZERO$)
590 IF J<255 THEN PRINT #1:RPT$(ZERO$,J);ELSE PRINT #1:RPT$(ZERO$,255);:: J=J-25
5 :: GOTO 590
600 SUBEND
```

ATTENTION GRABBER

a modified program from KEVIN COX

```
100 REM ********************
110 REM *FROM MICROPENDIUM*
120 REM *VOL 2 NUM 8 PG 43*
130 REM *      27-7-88     *
140 REM *                  *
150 REM *MODIFIED BY K COX*
160 REM ********************
170 CALL CLEAR
180 CALL SCREEN(2):: CALL MA
GNIFY(2)
190 T$="HUNTER" :: FOR X=1 T
O 6 :: CALL SPRITE(#X,ASC(SE
G$(T$,X,1)),2,20+4*X,50+16*X
):: NEXT X
200 T$="VALLEY" :: FOR X=1 T
O 6 :: CALL SPRITE(#X+6,ASC(
SEG$(T$,X,1)),2,50+4*X,30+16
*X):: NEXT X
210 T$="99er GROUP" :: FOR X
=1 TO 10 :: CALL SPRITE(#X+1
2,ASC(SEG$(T$,X,1)),2,80+4*X
,15+16*X):: NEXT X
220 FOR COUNT=1 TO 2 :: FOR
X=3 TO 16 :: FOR Y=1 TO 22 :
: CALL COLOR(#Y,X):: NEXT Y
:: NEXT X :: NEXT COUNT
230 RUN$="NOW HEAR THIS...TH
IS ROUTINE WILL LET YOU CREA
TE AN AMUSING SCREEN THAT WI
LL"
240 RUN$=RUN$&" CAPTURE THE
ATTENTION OF ANYONE WHO SEES
 IT. THANKS TO THE..."
250 RUN$=RUN$&"MANNERS 99ER
CLUB FOR UNCOVERING IT... EN
JOY..."
260 GOSUB 280
270 FOR I=1 TO 1000 :: NEXT
I :: GOTO 170
280 FOR SET=1 TO 9 :: CALL C
OLOR(SET,16,6):: NEXT SET
290 RUN$=RPT$(" ",28)&RUN$ :
: FOR LT=1 TO LEN(RUN$)+1 ::
 DISPLAY AT(20,1):SEG$(RUN$,
LT,28):: CALL SOUND(150,1000
,22,-5,7):: NEXT LT
300 RETURN
```

```
********    ********
********    ********
**          **
**          **
**          **
**          **
**          ********
**          ********
```

Decimal/hex conversion charts

This chart converts hex numbers from 0 to FF to decimal and vice versa.

Hex to decimal
To convert a hex number to decimal read along the row for the first hex digit in your hex number and down the column for the second hex digit. The number where the row and column meet is the decimal equivalent for your hex number. e.g. hex A1 is decimal 161.

Decimal to hex
To convert a decimal number to hex, find the decimal number in the chart. Then read back along the row for the first hex digit and up the column for the second hex digit e.g 154 is 9A.

First hex digit \ Second hex digit	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
2	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47
3	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63
4	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79
5	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95
6	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111
7	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127
8	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143
9	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159
A	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175
B	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191
C	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207
D	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223
E	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239
F	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255

Converting addresses
To use the chart to convert hex addresses, look up the decimal equivalent for the first pair of digits in the address. This is the page number. Then look up the decimal equivalent for the second pair of digits to find the position on the page. Multiply the page number by 256 and add the position on the page.

Two's complement conversion chart

This chart gives the two's complement in hex of decimal numbers from −1 to −128. To convert a number to two's complement, find the number in the chart, then read along the row for the first hex digit and up the column for the second digit.

First hex digit \ Second hex digit	F	E	D	C	B	A	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
F	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5	-6	-7	-8	-9	-10	-11	-12	-13	-14	-15	-16
E	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
D	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
C	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
B	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
A	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96
9	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112
8	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128

Doing conversions on a calculator

When you do conversions on a calculator the calculator displays the remainder as a decimal number. For example, if you are converting decimal 134 to hex you divide by 16 then convert the answer and remainder to hex digits. A calculator would give you the answer as 8.375.

To convert the remainder to a whole number you subtract the number before the decimal point, then multiply by the number you divided by.

8.375 − 8 = 0.375 × 16 = 6

So 134 ÷ 16 = 8 remainder 6 therefore decimal 134 is 86 in hex.

Nowadays to be intelligible is to be found out.

— Oscar Wilde

PRINT HEAD CLEANING: by Chuck Reinhard
Long Island TI User Group

It takes only three things to get good, dark crisp print from your printer.

1. A properly adjusted printer
2. A good ribbon
3. A clean print head

The guide for the fine printer wires gradually gets clogged with a mixture of lint, ink and oils from the ribbon. As this dirt builds up and dries out, the pin wires drag in the guide. The result is you get light, low-contrast print even from a new ribbon. The following is a procedure for cleaning the print head that is quick, simple, and does not require removal of the head.

Obtain an aerosol can of Color TV Cleaner (Radio Shack #64-2320 or equivalent). Make sure the label states that it contains silicone, that it will not harm plastic and that it has a plastic tube to plug into the spray nozzle.

Power off the printer. Leave paper in the printer, but remove the ribbon. Gently move the print head to the middle of the carriage.

Cut a two inch square from a lint-free cotton handkerchief. Fold the cut cloth over on top of itself a couple of times until it is about the width of your printer ribbon and is about four layers.

Insert the cloth into the print head exactly where the ribbon was, between the pin guide and the ribbon shield. The cloth should not fit too tight.

Insert the tube into the aerosol spray cap. Put the end of the tube in contact with the cloth next to the pin guide of the print head and give a short quick press to wet the cloth.

Turn on the printer and send a page of print to the printer (self test can be used). Now move the cloth a little to the side so that you have a clean spot. If necessary, give the cloth another shot of fluid and print out another page.

Remove the cloth from the print head and print a page (without the ribbon). If you see any printing on the paper, put the cloth back into the print head and repeat the whole process until the page prints clean.

Finally, install the ribbon and enjoy the improved print.

Editor's note: Leland Piper read this article and tried cleaning his printhead using the above technique and it worked GREAT!!!!

PRINTER RIBBON REINKING: by Henry Hein

This advice does not apply to carbon ribbons. Long ago I wrote on this briefly. Ever get a dull printout and can't find a new replacement ribbon? Don't fret, yes, it's your fault. To be safe you can always revive the one you forgot to throw away without having to leave your house, that is, if you have the following: STAMP PAD INK, RUBBING ALCOHOL, EYE DROPPER, POCKET KNIFE REAMER AND DRILL.

Ribbon reinking kits are far overpriced and I've seen them sell for $40. Ridiculous, I say! You can do many for $3 or less if you follow my instructions carefully.

Find a table or workbench and place a newspaper about 4 ply thick on it. Put your cartridge flat on the paper and drill a hole about 1/8 to 1/4 inch wide about 3/4 inch away from the ribbon's tow winding axles. Most cartridges are one directional. If your's isn't, drill the hole only at the loaded side.

Get the eyedropper and fill it with Carter's stamp pad ink. Some other brands may do as well but be careful. They may contain a plastic dissolving chemical and could do damage. Test it out on a piece of plastic or by placing a drop of it on the outer casing of the cartridge and rub it off after a minute or so to see if any discoloration or erosion show up after wiping it away with a piece of newspaper or toilet tissue. If not, you're in business. NEVER use INDIA INK!

Squeeze the rest of the eyedropper's contents into the drilled hole. DO NOT LIFT the cartridge from this position. Now fill the alcohol bottle's cap with alcohol and fill the eyedropper with it. Squeeze the contents into the hole. Let it sit a few minutes.

While it's setting you can rinse out the eyedropper, cap, and put it all away, except for the ribbon cartridge.

Gently lift it with both hands in its FLAT position and inspect edges for leakage. If so, your cartridge has a you know what. No problem! You can wash your hands later, and the paper on the table prevented and indelible stain.

If a leak shows just wipe off with tissue or something else.

Cartridges usually have a screwhead (Phillips or standard) slot. Use an appropriate screwdriver bit in your drill and set it on low speed. Watch your ribbon moving with the pattern your refill job did. You can gauge the amount of ink you need to reink the ribbon thoroughly WITHOUT making it soaking wet. Give the ribbon a two or three minute ride on each try with the drill. If it's too wet, don't fret! Use a clean lint free cloth to wipe off excess by pressing lightly with your index finger over the exposed ribbon while holding the cartridge between thumb and middle finger, holding the drill with the other hand, of course.

Sounds like a big to-do, eh! How many stationery stores are open on Sats and Suns. And they get as much as $12 for some cartridges when they're open. No wonder they can close on weekends!

PS....If you don't need the reinked ribbon right away you can store it in SEALABLE plastic bag indefinitely.

SPOOL RIBBONS are cheap enough and can be ordered in bunches, but in case you didn't, shame on you! It may be a little messier. Mounting it on a small board with two nails protruding from it helps. Don't cloth ribbons, the printers pins may stick. If so, you may need Chuck Reinhart's advice, above. Nylon ribbons are best suited for DMPs but cloth can do well in a pinch if pins are clean.

Just roll the ink on bit by bit if you have a roller bottle of stamp pad ink.

If not, then eyedropper will do with the least amount of squeezing. After you think (on a visual inspection run-through pass of the ribbon) that the ribbon is reinked add a few drops of alcohol as a dispersant. Stamp pad ink is thick but still very fluid. The alcohol eventually dissipates but aids in spreading the ink base more uniformly on the ribbon.

If the spool owner doesn't care for the messy job and the stores are still open, get any ribbon needed for your size spool. You might not find a spool to fit your printer so cast off the ribbon from the old spool, and rewind the new ribbon on it. Go into the sewing box and get the snap button sets 1/4 to 1/2 in diameter and make your own ribbon 'stops' at reasonable distance from the ends of the ribbon, usually a three or more inch lead. NOW YOU'RE IN BUSINESS AGAIN!

Yes, ribbons wear out, but they can last a LONG time with reuse over and over again. If your ribbons show signs of fraying that is when you should get a NEW one. Otherwise, it's NOT necessary! Happy Printing!

Editor's note: The above two articles came to us via the T.I.-Dings newsletter 2/88.

Curt and Curtis Finney did a reinking on our NX-1000 ribbon after the EXPO using a roller-top bottle of stamp pad ink. They used an electric screwdriver to turn the cartridge knob and held the ribbon against the roller with a Q-tip.

shuttle

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Love is a wet puppy dog. Here's Snoopy again with a poster of his own for your enjoyment. Watch where you step however!

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100 REM PEANUTS #13
110 REM WET PUPPY - SNOOPY
120 REM BY WALTER H. BLOOD
130 OPEN #1:"P10"
140 FOR L=1 TO 56
150 P$=""
160 READ N
170 FOR I=1 TO N
180 READ A,B,C$
190 FOR J=1 TO A
200 P$=P$&CHR$(32)
210 NEXT J
220 FOR J=1 TO B
230 P$=P$&C$
240 NEXT J
250 NEXT I
260 PRINT #1:TAB(7);P$
270 NEXT L
280 PRINT #1:A$:A$:A$
290 PRINT #1:TAB(7);"LOVE IS A WET PU
PPY DOG"
300 CLOSE #1
310 STOP
320 DATA 2,21,1,X X,1,9,X,2,19,5,X,10
,2,0,4,18,4,X,1,1,X,4,2,/,6,2,0
330 DATA 3,17,1,XX X,5,2,/,9,2,0,3,16
,4,X,5,2,/,11,2,0,3,16,2,X,6,2,/,12,2
,0
340 DATA 2,15,2,$,22,2,0,2,14,3,$,23,
2,0,4,13,1,$$$ $,9,4,*,3,4,*,2,2,0
350 DATA 4,13,1,$$$ $,9,5,*,2,5,*,2,1
,0,4,13,1,$$$ $,9,5,*,2,5,*,2,2,0
360 DATA 4,12,6,$,9,5,*,2,5,*,3,5,0,4
,12,1,$$$ $$,9,4,*,4,4,*,8,3,0
370 DATA 3,11,4,$,1,2,$,33,2,0,2,11,7
,$,35,2,0,2,11,6,$,37,3,0,2,11,7,$,37
,3,0
380 DATA 2,11,7,$,38,3,0,3,10,6,$,1,2
,$,38,3,0,4,10,7,$,1,2,$,22,7,M,8,3,-
390 DATA 4,10,7,$,1,1,$ 00,19,11,M,5,
3,0,4,10,7,$,1,1,$  00,18,11,M,5,3,0
400 DATA 5,9,8,$,1,1,$   0,1,6,0,14,7
,M,6,3,0,6,9,1,$,1,6,$,1,1,$,4,1,0,5,
6,0,21,3,0
410 DATA 6,9,1,$,1,6,$,1,1,$,4,2,0,7,
3,0,20,3,0,5,9,7,$,2,1,$,5,1,0,7,1,0
 000,14,4,0
420 DATA 5,9,1,$,4,1,$$  $,6,1,0,6,1,
0,4,16,0,3,9,1,$$   $ $,8,1,0-,4,1,$
$  $$
430 DATA 3,10,1,$$$ $ $,7,10,*,3,1,$
$ $$$,4,12,2,$,11,1,0,1,5,*,1,1,00  $
  $$$
440 DATA 3,12,2,$,10,2,0,7,1,00  $$ $
 $,3,23,2,0,8,2,0,3,1,$$ $,2,24,2,0,8
,2,0
450 DATA 2,23,2,0,10,2,0,2,23,2,0,11,
2,0,2,22,2,0,12,2,0,2,21,2,0,13,2,0
460 DATA 3,19,3,0,6,1,0,7,2,0,3,18,3,
0,7,1,0,7,3,0,4,17,3,0,2,1,0,5,1,0,8,
2,0
470 DATA 4,16,3,0,2,2,0,4,2,0,6,2,0,4
,15,3,0,3,1,0,5,2,0,8,2,0
480 DATA 3,14,1,00 000 0,5,2,0,8,2,0,
4,13,4,0,2,3,0,5,2,0,8,2,0
490 DATA 4,12,3,0,5,2,0,5,2,0,7,2,0,4
,12,3,0,5,2,0,5,2,0,7,3,0
500 DATA 5,11,2,0,7,1,0,6,3,0,5,2,0,1
,4,0,4,11,2,0,7,1,0,4,8,0,1,14,0
510 DATA 6,6,6,1,0,3,0,5,1,0,7,1,0,3,
7,0,9,2,0,6,2,4,I,1,6,I,0,2,0,5,1,0,1
7,3,-,8,2,0
520 DATA 7,0,3,I,11,7,0,12,4,0,4,2,0,
3,1,0,3,2,0,10,6,-
530 DATA 8,0,7,I,3,2,I,8,1,0,15,3,0,3
,2,0,3,2,0,2,1,0,3,8,-
540 DATA 8,5,3,I,3,3,I,6,1,0,10,1,0,6
,2,0,3,1,0,4,1,0,2,1,0
550 DATA 6,7,6,I,1,4,I,2,2,0,9,2,0,6,
1,00  000  0 00,10,6,-
560 DATA 5,17,4,-,0,13,0,5,1,0 00,1,7
,0,2,10,-,3,5,9,-,17,8,0,1,2,0
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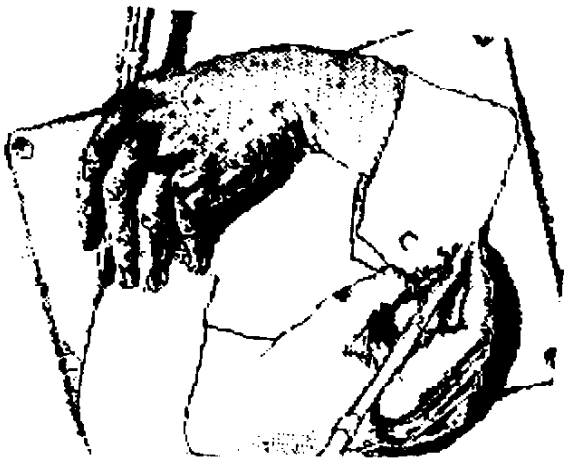

The "CIN-DAY NEWS" is published through the efforts of the:

CIN-DAY USER GROUP
416 PINEWOOD AVENUE
PIQUA, OHIO 45356

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