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## HOOSIER USERS GROUP People Helping People

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May/June 1995

The HUGgers Newsletter

Volume 14, Number 2,

THE 1995 LIMA MULTI USER GROUP CONFERENCE

This year's Lima TI conference was held on April 29 at the Lima campus of Ohio State University; and as in previous years, we had a table set up with our usual selection of items for sale including manuals, some hardware and While our sales were modest. it was worth while for us as a club to have had a table set up.

Vendors present included our own Ricky Boltoms; Larry Conner from LaFayette, IN; Ramcharged Computers; Competition Computers; Bud Mills Services; Cecure Electronics; and CaDD Electronics. Seminars included those given by Barry discussing "The TI in a PC World"; Charles Good on version 5.2 of the Funnelweb 80 column text editor, Rich Xtended Basic - ver. 1001 and Term 80; Jim Krych on the Super AMS memory expansion card for the 99/4a; Bud Mills on Geneve version of SCSI hard drive card; Mike Wright on PC99; and Mary Phillips who gave a demo of "Artist Card Shop".

Attendance was estimated by Charles Good at around 125 people - including Gary Bowser from Toronto (of OPA fame). Gary is still involved with the TI community "NEW under the name and IMPROVED TECHNOLOGIES, Inc.

Items of interest included: (a) Super AMS memory expansion card developed by Asgard Software/Peripherals is now being produced by the SouthWest 99ers' Users Group in 128k and 256k versions. Cost including several disks of software is \$100.00. (b) Western Horizons Technology's SCSI hard drive controller card was demoed. It is now usable with the Geneve 9640 and nearly ready for use with a TI99/4a system. David Nieters is

now working on completing 99/4a support. (c) Funnelweb - the latest version of the 80-column text editor (version 5.2 for those with 9938/9958 video chip with 192k ram) now gives a choice of one 128k text buffer or 2 64k buffers or 4 32k buffers with the ability to cut and paste between buffers. (d) PC99 TI emulator, Stage 3 was demoed and is now fast enough to give adequate performance on a 386 PC. More functionality has been added and the price has been reduced to \$94.00 for the "full" version and \$47.00 for the "light" version. Available from CaDD Electronics. Ramcharged Computers has purchased the entire stock of Asgard Software from Harry Brashear. Ramcharged Computers can be reached at 1-800-669-1214. demonstrated Good 80-column terminal emulator called Term 80 that will give 80 columns and real VT100 emulation on a standard 40 column 99/4a.

- B.C.P.

H.U.G. Elections

Elections for 1995 Officers need to be held. If you are interested in serving office (President, any President, Treasurer, etc.) please let one the current officers know. While we would like to hold the election at the May meeting, the election will probably have to be held at the June meeting. Please plan on attending the June meeting.

> Monthly meeting location white house next to St. Ann's School 2839 S. McClure Indianapolis, IN

Meeting starts at 2:00 pm May 21, 1995

Next HUG meeting: June 18, 1995

#### USING EURO-WRITER MODE IN FUNNELWEB THE EASY WAY

### by WOODY WILSON, SCCG

Have you ever wanted to use the Euro-Writer mode provided in the new Version 5.0 of FUNNELWEB but hated to learn all the new commands? Well, the method I am going to outline in this be what you need. article MAY

For several days I have been helping a member of the SCCG configure his Horizon Ram disk with the 80-column version of FUNNELWEB Vn. 5.0. (The ideas I will set forth here work well with both 40 and 80 column version.) I want you to take a close look at the portions of two files I have placed just below this paragraph. One is from the source code for the English text command file F4TXAE/S and the other is from the source code for the German text command file F4TXCE/S.

```
F4TXAE/S file:
TEXT 'SF' Save File
 TEXT 'LF'
                Load File
 TEXT 'PF'
               Print File
 TEXT 'LT'
               Load Temp
 TEXT 'LT'
TEXT 'DP'
TEXT 'SD'
TEXT 'P'
TEXT 'E'
TEXT 'F'
TEXT 'L'
TEXT 'SH'
TEXT 'T'
TEXT 'T'
TEXT 'T'
               Dir Printer device
                Show directory
                                            <P>urge
                Purge
                Edit
                Files
               Lines
                SearcH
                Tabs
                                            <T>ab
                Quit
 TEXT '90'
                Quit Immediate
 TEXT 'FS'
                Find String
 TEXT 'RS'
TEXT 'R'
TEXT 'C'
                Replace String
                Move
                Copy
 TEXT 'S '
                Show
 TEXT 'D'
                Delete
                Mark
 TEXT 'H'
                Help
 TEXT 'NC'
                Wildcard
F4TXCE/S file:
TEXT 'DS' Sav
TEXT 'DE' Los
               Save File
Load File
 יםםי דצאד
                Print File
 TEXT 'DZ'
                Load Temp
 TEXT 'ID'
                Dir Printer device
 TEXT 'I'
                Show directory
 TEXT 'U' TEXT 'E'
                Purge
                                            <P>urge
                Edit
 TEXT 'D'
```

Files

Lines

Tabs

Quit

Move

Copy

Search

Quit Immediate Find String Replace String <T>ab

TEXT 'Z'

TEXT 'S

TEXT 'T'

TEXT 'EN'

TEXT 'EE' TEXT 'TS' TEXT 'TE'

TEXT 'ZB'

TEXT 'ZK'

TEXT 'ZA'

TEXT 'ZL' TEXT 'MK' TEXT 'H' Delete Mark Help TEXT 'WC' Wildcard

Did you notice that the commands in the two files are arranged in the identical sequence? If you checked any of the other command text files you would find that they too have the identical command sequence. What does this mean to us? It means that we do NOT have to use the German text file to command the Text Editor when writing a letter to our German friends. We can replace the F4TXCE file by putting a copy of F4TXAE (renamed F4TXCE) on our disk in place of F4TXCE. The easy way to do this is to use DSKU and make the name change at the same time that you do the copying. If you do not have DSKU, make a temporary copy of F4TXAE to .a disk, name change the file on that disk to F4TXCE, and then copy that file (F4TXCE) to your ram (or disk you are going to use when loading FUNNELWEB).

The nice thing about this method is that although you select German from the menu, the command lines in the Text Editor are in English. Since the font you are using is still the German character file, all the special characters that you need are still available.

Those of you that write in French, Italian, Swedish, Dutch, Spanish, etc. can do the same thing by replacing the proper text command file with the English version. I have listed the proper file names for the various languages below:

ENGLISH **F4TXAE F4TXBE** FRENCH F4TXCE GERMAN ITALIAN F4TXDE **F4TXEE** SWEDISH **F4TXEF** DUTCH

The Spanish text file was not on my disk, but you can make your own if you think you really need it.

Now that you have written your letter, how are you going to print it? If you have any of the new printers with the International Character Sets you can do it very easily. Most of the printers of this type will accept a software command and will print out the proper characters. If you preface your letter with the following command, you most likely will find your printer will accept German characters: CONTROL U, FUNCTION R, CONTROL U, CAPITAL R, CONTROL U, SHIFT B, CONTROL U. On the Panasonic printers instead of SHIFT B, use SHIFT A for French, SHIFT E for Studies CHIET E for Italian My manual Swedish, SHIFT F for Italian. My manual does not show a command for Dutch.

# 3 1/2 INCH DISK DRIVES OH THE T199/4A BY FRANK AYLSTOCK

The 5.25" (360k) drives are becoming another orphan, like our TI. The disk controllers do not know if you have 3.5" or 5.25" drives. The only thing they know is what your input is, and the only control you have is the number of tracks per sector, number of sides and density. The TI disk controller will handle double sided but only single density. The Corcomp controller will handle double sided and double density. The Myarc card with the QUAD CHIP installed will handle disk drives up to 720k. The 5.25" quad density drives are another orphan but you can use 3.5" disk drives. The 3.5" drives can be up to 1.44meg this means that you will have 2880 sectors or the equivalent of 8 SS/SD floppy disks. The only drawback to the 3.5" drive is that all the programs you receive come on 5.25" floppy disks. However you can set up your system so that you have at least one 5.25" disk drive and the others 3.5" drives. The HFDC by Myarc will also accept up to quad density disks.

I would recommend that you switch over to the  $3.5^{\rm M}$  drives as they are a superior form of storage for the following reasons.

1) The disks are enclosed in a shell/cover which hold them rigid and will not allow the disk to get bent. You can even write on the disk directly without harming the data.

2) They contain there own sliding reuseable "write protect tab". By merely moving the tab up or down the disk can be protected.

3) The size is a large consideration as they require a lot less space to store or transport them.

4) They contain a sliding door which protects the storage medium at all times. This door opens and closes automatically when the disk is inserted or removed from the drive.

5) The size also helps to read and write data faster than the 5.25" Eloppy disk drives.

6) The disks are coated with superior oxide which is less vulnerable to data loss.

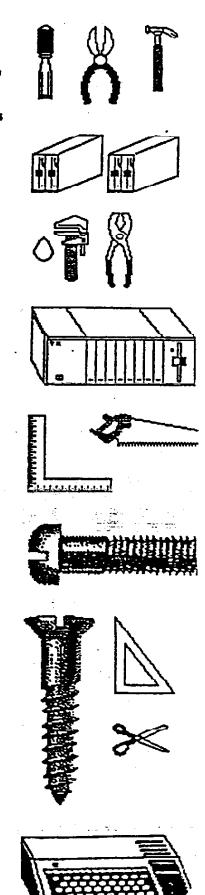
7) They are considered more reliable than 5.25" disks especially important when dealing with quad density disks.

8) The drives take less current during the reading and writing process. In fact some of the 3.5" drives use only the 5 volts.

Last but not least is the price. Around this area (Los Angles) the drives can be purchased for as little as \$50.00 and there is no conversion or other hardware changes to be made and they will replace the existing drives with very little labor.

Look into these drives!

The above was reprinted from the BREA USERS GROUP



## THE MAKING OF THE CONCOMP 9988 DISK CONTROLLER CARD

By W. R. Moseid

When the decision was made to provide a new disk controller card to the II-99/4A world, we began what turned out to be a long and ardous trip. The metal case (clamshell) was easy. Just use the one that had been designed for the CorComp 32K and RS-232 cards. Then, modify it slightly for a slot to accommodate the new circuit board which would project throught the back of the case. This part would hold the connectors for the cables to the internal and external floppy disk drives.

Since all disk controller integrated circuits (chips) can control up to four floppy disk drives, we decided not to restrict people to three drives. With some careful planning, design and care a card could be produced which would support up to four disk drives with any combination from the list below:

\* Single or Double Sided \*

\* Single or Double Density \*

\* 35 or 46 Tracks per Diskette Side \*

\* Any Combination of the Above \*

\* Automatic Density Recognition \*

In order to allow the use of a variety of disk drives which people had available, a feature was selected which allowed the owner to set the lead Step Time (Need step time is the time it takes the disk drive read/write heads to step from one track to another). You can select one of four step times for each disk drive in your system. The times selected were 15 milliseconds (ms) 18 ms, 6 ms, 3 ms. This timing is set by positioning a set of DIP (Dual-In-line Pack) switches to various on/off settings. The decision was made to place the DIP switches inside the case. Even though this meant the owner would have to was selected for several reasons.

- imes Safety for the Card (Makes sure power is OFF when the DIP switch is set)
- \* Safety for the DIP switch (Chances of something hitting it or changing the settings were minimized)
- X Lower costs to the Consumer.(Assembly Time and Material Costs were lower)
- \* The 10ms Factory Setting works with most Drives.

When the 99/4A Power Up sequence was examined, several interesting things were discovered:

\* Plato, TE II, and other Command Modules have a special sequence that runs at that time. (once they get control they do not give it up and the power up scan is not completed.)

\* In order to allow the owner the ability to select the CorComp Disk Manager from the litle screen, a special power up Screen had to be made to allow our rapid loader to execute on the single key press.

\* Because of the way Plato, TE II and other Command Modules operate during PowerUp, a choice of two different Menu Screens had to be provided.

When the early timing studies were done, they were conducted with direct I/O using an Assembly Language program (NO 6ROM). At that time we calculated that the Corcomp Disk Controller in double density could run 2 to 4 times faster than the II Disk Controller. A fact proven by the speed at which the 98 sector Disk Manager program loads into expansion memory. This is based on the way that the CorComp Disk Controller card accesses the diskette and transfers the information into the computer. However, when II designed their disk memory system, they made a decision that the memory expansion would not be required. This way, with the controller (ald stand alone disk controller) and a console, you could utilize BASIC with the disk system. In order to do this, the II Disk System and ALL of the Command Modules which use disk expect the information read from the disk to be in console (VDP RAM) memory. For example, when Bh., EXTENDED BASIC or the EDITOR/ASSEMBLER load from disk, they expect the information to be in the console memory. If memory expansion is attached then EXTENDED BASIC will move the information to the memory expansion after it is loaded. This moving process is very time consuming. Remember, each sector (256 characters) read or written must be passed through VOP RAM in order to be compatible with II firmware/software. In the following table are

## Time To Load In Seconds

FILE TYPE	* OF SECTORS	TI CONTROLLER		CORCOMP DISK CONTROLLER			
		L/0	SD Ready	L/0	SD READY	L/0	DO Ready
C-8 PGM X-8 PGM X-8 IV254 E/A PGM E/A DF80	47 39 52 25 181	7.2	24.5 8.8 18.2 6.3 55.8	7.2 6.3 —	24.5 8.8 18.2 6.3 54.3	5.8 3.6	22.3 6.3 14.9 4.2 47.8

L/O - CONTROLLER OUT READY - CURSOR BACK ON SCREEN

MOTE: The tests were conducted with default interlace The task of figuring out all the technical details of how selections. Timing may be improved with different to achieve compatibility with the II hardware, software interlace selections for the various modules and and firmware was a very hard and time-consuming effort. Rt times, some of the issues seemed almost too much to

With the speed increase indicated in the previous table, we naturally were curious how time is consumed having to use the VDP RAM as an intermediate storage area. The table below shows the time required to copy a disk. When the CorComp Disk Controller copies a disk, VDP RAM does not have to be used as an intermediate storage place saving time.

## Time To Copy 360 Sectors (3 Files) in Seconds

Type of Copy	TI Disk Controller	CorComp Disk	Controller
		WO/TURBO	W/TURBO
SD to SD	151	143	70
SD to DD		135	61
00 to 00		123	ŠÍ

Measuring performance increase figures is always a it was interesting to see challenge. This is due to the fact that the "statistics designed by Texas Instrume people" can make them do what they want. But, you can see think it's interesting rea a performance increase in using the CorComp Disk CorComp disk controller.) Controller Card and DiskManager of up to approximately 2962 depending on several factors which are:

\* Diskette Density \*

\* The Operation Being Done \*

\* Diskette File Type (DIS/VAR-worst) \*

\* Language Used (GROM - worst case) \*

\* Kind Of Loader (X/B, Ed/Asm, etc.) \*

\* File Sector Location &n Diskette \*

When the Utilities were designed we found that II changed Extended Basic to prevent its scanning the peripheral DSR's for CALL's (ie; CALL FILES) from running a program. In order to allow the utilities to function with Extended Basic, a list of the utilities had to be provided in the Link Table in extended memory. Thus the syntax for using the CorCoap Utilities in X/B is CALL LINK(utility name)(etc....).

Console Basic did not possess this constraint. In Basic, the Utility syntax is CALL (utility name, etc.)

The Disk Manager was written especially for the CorComp Disk Controller. We sat down and thought of all the features one would like in a Disk Manager. Just about all of the ideas are in the current Disk Manager. A decision was made to publish the Disk Manager on diskette for the following reasons:

\* Easy to Release an Update \* \* Lower Cost to the Customer \*

The task of figuring out all the technical details of how to achieve compatibility with the II hardware, software and firmware was a very hard and time-consuming effort. At times, some of the issues seemed almost too much to overcome. In the end, our perseverence and determination were rewarded and the Disk Controller Card reached the market. All the known problems, as of this writing (11/10/84), have been resolved. All other 3rd Party cards are fully compatible with the CorComp 9900 Disk Controller Card.

While writing the manual, we decided to try and present the material in a manner that would allow the beginning user to sit down and follow the guide in a logical step-wise manner. This method allows the user to learn how to utilize the card from its manual in a very straight-forward manner. The manual was also designed for the technically minded individual who could read to the level of detail desired. It required 700 hours of effort preparing the manual before these objectives were achieved.

(EDITORS NOTE - I published this article because I thought it was interesting to see how an item that was not sold or designed by Texas Instruments came to be. Additionally, I think it's interesting reading for anyone who might own a Corcomp disk controller.)

Tenitive HOOSIER USER'S GROUP meetings.....

Jan	15,	1995	Jul	16,	1995
Feb	19,	1995	Aug	20,	1995
Mar	19,	1995	Sep	17,	1995
Apr	23,	1995	Oct	15,	1995
May	21,	1995	Nov	19,	1995
Jun	18,	1995	Dec	17,	1995
	Feb Mar Apr May	Feb 19, Mar 19, Apr 23, May 21,	Jan 15, 1995 Feb 19, 1995 Mar 19, 1995 Apr 23, 1995 May 21, 1995 Jun 18, 1995	Feb 19, 1995 Aug Mar 19, 1995 Sep Apr 23, 1995 Oct May 21, 1995 Nov	Feb 19, 1995 Aug 20, Mar 19, 1995 Sep 17, Apr 23, 1995 Oct 15, May 21, 1995 Nov 19,

Hoosier User's Group meets at the White house next to St. Ann's School on south Holt Road. Doors open to the public at 2:00 pm. We support the Texas Instruments 99/4A and the Myarc 9640 Geneve computers.

Date changed due to Easter

317)
392-2312 255-7381 783-4575 783-4575 255-7381

## HOW TO ACCESS / FILES

# By Jerry Keisler L.A. 99ers

I have been asked by several members how to run some of the programs on our DOM. The following is a list of what you may find in your disk directory and how to run it.

If your disk has a load file, it may run all the files on the disk regardless of type.

#### PROGRAM FILES (PG)

There are several options for running these files.

## EXTENDED BASIC (XB)

Will load and run automatically when you select XB and the disk is in drive 1, if it has a load file. Or can be run by typing RUN <Enter> or RUN "DSK1.name" <Enter> If the program loads correctly but you get a BAD VALUE error when it runs, you need to load the program into basic (no chars above 143 are allowed in XB). If the program file is more than 45 sectors and won't load, you have to open up more memory. Do this by typing:

CALL FILES(1) <Enter>
OLD DSKn.name <Enter>
RUN <Enter>

#### BASIC

Programs need to be loaded by typing:

OLD DSKn.name <Enter> RUN <Enter>

Most Basic programs will load and run in XB but not visa versa. If you get a FOR-NEXT error in line xxx and when you edit the line you get a lot of nonsense, the program is written in XB. The same is true if the sectors are greater than 45. More space is needed in the computer. See CALL FILES above. If you still get a memory full and tried XB. then most likely it can be run on tape (OLD CS1) without the expansion box turned on.

### EDITOR ASSEMBLER (EA)

If a program file will not load and run in Basic or XB and gives an I/O ERROR 50, it may be an assembly language program. These can be run using BOOT, the Editor Assembler module, option #5 with DSKn.name or Funnelweb's RUN option of Disk Review. These program files are listed in consecutive order such as MASS, MAST, MASU, or UTIL1, UTIL2, UTIL3. The files will normally have 33 sectors.

#### GRAMULATOR

These require a GROM simulator card or box. The files contain 34 sectors and have the same name with the numbers 1 through 66 attached to files 2 through 8. Follow your GROM simulator instructions to load and run.

#### OTHER PROGRAM FILES

Some specialized program files can only be loaded from a special module such as ADVENTURE (54 sectors). PERSONAL RECORDKEEPING, STATISTICS, TUNNELS OF DOOM (52 sectors).

DIS VAR 80 FILES (DV80)

These are usually text or documentation files (DOCS, README, ETC.) They are instructions on how to run programs on the disk. Read or print them using TI Writer, Funnelweb, Boot or the (V,T or P) option of several disk managers.

DIS VAR 163 FILES (DV163)

This is an XB file in MERGE format. It can be merged into a program already in computer memory. Type:

MERGE DSKn.name <Enter>

You must do this even if no program is in memory. To save a file in MERGE format, type:

SAVE DSKn, name, MERGE (in XB only)

DIS FIX 80 FILES (DF80)

Use EDITOR ASSEMBLY MODULE, LAR or Funnelweb to load these. Some files will auto load and/or auto start. use LOAD and RUN option #3. Type:

DSKn.name <Enter>

If the program does not run but asks for a second file name, you must do #1 and #2 or just #2 below.

- #1 If there are multi files for the program type:
  DSKn.name <Enter> for each file.
- #2 Then press enter. If the program does not start, enter the program name. The program name could be START, BEGIN, GAME. LOAD, RUN, FIRST, etc. Funnelweb will give you a list of names found in the program.

DIS FIX 128 FILES (DF128)

These are usually ARCHIVED files. You must unarchive these files before you can run them. Use ARC303 OR ARC303G.

#### INT VAR 254 FILES (IV254)

These files usually have more than 45 sectors and are Extended Basic requiring memory expansion. They do not require CALL FILES (1). Basic cannot be used. The same commands are used such as RUN or OLD DSKn.name. The programs are usually so long that they cannot be saved to tape. (SAVE CS1)

#### DATA FILES

Files such as INT FIX 108. INT VAR 128. INT VAR 64 and some program files are data files that can be used by a program on the disk. They will not RUN and should be left on the disk with the other programs.

#### QUICK REFERENCE

TYPE	SIZE	TRY
PG		XB, Basic, EA CART
PG	33	EA #5, BOOT, FW
PG	34	GROM SIMULATOR
PG	52	TUNNELS OF DOOM
PG	54	ADVENTURE
DV	80	TI-WRITER, FIC
DV	63	XB MERGE
-DF80		EA-#3
DF128		ARCHIVER
IV254		XB
IV245		XB
ANY		DATA

#### SOME OTHER FILES

#### TI-BASE

ENDS WITH	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
/P /H /C /C /D /S	IF255 DV80 DV80 IF40 IF	PROGRAM HELP COMMAND OR COMMAND DATA BASE DATA DATA BASE STRUCTURE
	TI-ARTIST	
_C _P _F _S _I _V _M	25PG 25PG DV80 18DV80 DV80 DF12 DV254	PICTURES COLOR PICTURES PATTERN CHARACTER FONT SLIDES INSTANCE VECTOR MOVIE

ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION
PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT YOUR HOOSIER USER GROUP DUES ARE PAST DUE
as of May 1, 1995!!!

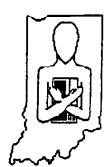
ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION

Texas Instruments 99/4A System FOR SALE

Console, Speech Syth., P-Box with RS232, 32K, Disk Controller and SS/SD Disk Drive plus several modules (including Ext. Basic, Editor/Assembler, TI-Writer) \$150.00

Contact: William M. Lucid 317-291-3995 Internet email: lucid@indy.net

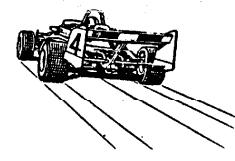
All funds from sale goto HUG Treasury.

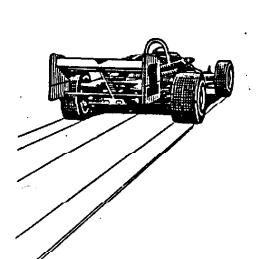


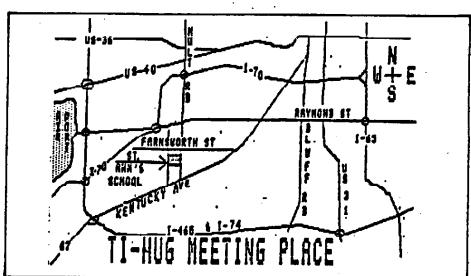
TI Hardware for sale:

TI RS232 (pbox card) \$50 TI 32K (pbox card) \$25

Contact Bill Lucid 317-291-3995 Internet: lucid@indy.net







# Hoosier User's Group S&T BBS 300/1200/2400/4800/9600 Baud 8N1 317-782-9942 24 Hours Daily

Dan H. Eicher 2720 Palo Verde Ct. Indianapolis, IN 46227

S661 Yen

CHAC BAIT

GEOL, LS YEN

JAIRBTAN



Forwarding and Address Correction Requested

HOOSIER USERS GROUP P.O. Box 2222 Indianapolis, IV 46206–2222



# APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Below you will find an application for membership to the Hoosier Users Group. Active membership entitles you to the Newsletter, up and download on the HUGbbs, attendance and voting rights at regular club meetings, access to the HUGger Library of Programs, special club activities and special guest speakers for one year.

Make check or money order payable to Hoogier Users Group. Send completed application to:

HOOSIER USERS GROUP P.O. Box 2222 Indianapolis, IN 46206-2222

please print	cut on line		
Date:			
Name	New membership:		
Address	·		
City/State	Renewals:		
Phone number	\$22.00		