BITS, BYTESSPIKELS

LIMA 99/4A USERS GROUP



1997--Volume 13. June

POST MUG CONFERENCE NOTES

Video tapes of most of the seminars given at the MAY 23/24 1997 MUG Conference are available to anyone for \$10. These two tapes cover about 10 hours of seminars. Your money pays for the media and postage within the USA. Send your request to Charles Good, P.D. Box 647, Venedocia DH 45894.

Many photographs taken at the conference are evailable for viewing and downloading at the conference wab site, which is www.bright.net/~cgoad/muq1997.html

Winners of the Jis Peterson Memorial Achievement Awards were:

COMMUNITY SERVICE - Tom Wills HARDWARE - Southwest 99ers for the Super AMS card. SOFTWARE - Bruce Harrison GENEVE 9640 - Tim Tesch

72 people signed the sign in sheet. 86 name tags were used. 55 people attended the after-the-conference-banquet. We know that some members of the local public did not sign in, so we estimate attendance at 100.

DONE

NUG 1997 REVIEW by Andy Frueh Lima Ohio User Scoup

Well I had a TERRIFIC time. Keep in mind that this was my first TI Fair of any kind since I left the community in 1992. There wasn't a huge crowd (the current estimate stands at around 70 to 75 I believe) but all of the "regulars" were there (RAMCharged Computers, Bud Mills, Bruce Harrison, and many others).

That's part of what struck me as odd. When I went to the MUG Conference 5 years ago, the ratio of vendors to huyers small. There were many more "requiar" people than vendors. This time out, it seemed that nearly everyone who attended also had a table. What also disturbed me was the apparent absence of families. I quess families have all moved on to Nintendo 64s and Macs or PCs??? :-)

Another gloomy aspect of this show (hey, let's get the plope and dope out of the way FIRST!) was the lack of anticipation. At previous shows, there was always the eager anticipation of the new hardware and software that would be released and/or demond at the show. Not so this time. The feeling I got from talking to various people was that, after the AMS, every significant product that has ever been made for the TI has BEEN made. Has the 4As number been called?

I doubt it. There may never again be a new software product as significant as Funnelweb or hardware like the Seneve, TIM, or AMS cards. But the COMMUNITY ITSELF seems to be as tight and close as ever. Probably even MORE so with the advent of seail. As our community slowly shrinks, what we have left are the dishards. Those who either absolutely don't want to, or can't, get rid of the 4As. What surprised se was the large number of people who knew me or recognized. I know some of you are members of this list, and I felt terrible that I didn't know more of you!!! That was truly a great experience, being able to actually see and talk to some of you!

One of the neatest things to se was the large quantity of free or almost free stuff available. I prabbed three consoles and had to pay for one of them. I grabbed a Pcode card for \$5,00!!! I also took a Disk Manager 2 cartridge (don't know exactly why yet, though) and a Console Writer cart! I forgot to pick up a Navarone Widgit though...can anyone sell se one? Oh yeah, and to anyone who's offered se the TI-Writer and other manuals, I've got them now (free!) I've even picked up a TI-FORTH MANUAL!!! (GASP!) Now that I'm older, maybe it'll make sense to me! :)

There were three products for sale that really grabbed sy attention. The HSGPL, while I have no use for it and didn't understand it to a great extent, was one. The SCSI card at Bud Mills' table I also found exciting. I saw a PBox with a Syquest drive in it! For those who are unfamiliar with them. Syquest cartridges are a lot like lip cartridges for lip drives. They are removeable media that can store a WHOLE lot more than 1.4 mags on a PC. This particular system was using the cartridge as a hard drive (that's how the 4A "saw" the drive - as a hard drive).

There was also the Video Turtle. I didn't go to many seeinars, but I wanted to check this one out for you :) My opinion? It's a high-quality device that does EXACTLY what they said it would do. It's possible to send R6B video out to an Svideo monitor. And it looks WONDERFUL. I sometimes have trouble reading 80 column text on a monochrome monitor. And I'm 23 with good eyes! :) But I could actually read it on a 19 or 20" TV with NO PROBLEM. And I was at least 6 to 8 feet away from the screen. Graphics were clear and sharp. The device is simple to use and the manual is clear enough for anyone to figure it out. It's literally as easy as plugging in a toaster.

My only complaint? The cost. The gadget is \$129 and you'll need an SVideo television. I assume you could use a VCR with SVideo, but if you send that to a non-SVideo TV, the picture won't improve at all (you're still seeing a regular

television signal if you do that). While they announced that TexComp, distributer of the Turtle, had 19° SVideo TVs for something like \$179 or so, that's still \$300 worth of equipment. Now, put that in perspective. You can MOT buy a good (or even barely decent) 19° or even 17° monitor for \$300. Heck, even 15° monitors usually go for just over that! And the Turtle/TV combo works with any device that sends out RGB signals, including Amigas, Sega Genesis, Apple IIgs, and other machines. I think the product will be a success, but I'm not sure how many 99ers will contribute to that success.

Hy session on Internet Resources available for the TI-99/4A went pretty well. All of the Internet books I had brought were gone by the end of the seminar. If you need a copy, please let me know! If you can use Microsoft Word 6 format, I'll email it to you in that format. Since I's pretty much done with the book, you can reproduce it in whole or in part. Send me a donation for my trouble if you really want to, but I'm not formally asking for one. And yes, you can post the Word file on the internet.

I received a VERY good response to both a survey (results will be posted today. I'll also reproduce the survey form here, so you guys can respond too!) and questions about an online user group. Of the 15 or so people who attended my seminar, 12 or so wanted to join such a group! So let's move on with this. Email me and let me know WHEN you want to meet and HOW (irc? Brad's chat page?) and we'll get something started ASAP.

So, in summary, I think the MUG Conference WAS a success. A little gloomy perhaps, but a success. I can't wait until I can attend another Fair!

Andy Frueh afrueh@madison.k12.ky.us

DONE

FEST WEST 98 IN LUBBOCK TEXAB

Just a quick update as to what is happening with getting a TI Fest West in Lubbock. I got a call from Texas Instruments asking how big of an area we'd want and about how many would be attending. The room size was fairly easy, however, I'll be needing your help on the possible number of attendees.

I'd like to hear from those who would attend at TI Fest West in Lubbock. The tenative date is February 15, 1998 (President's Day weekend). Also, would you prefer a one or two day Fair?

- # Tom Wills President
- \$ SouthWest 99ers User Group, Tucson, AZ B5731-7831
- # Sponsors of TI99 List Server (TI99@TheRiver.Com)
- # Internet E-Mail: twills@theriver.com

DONE

AN INTERNET USER SROUP FOR THE 99/4A by Andy Frueh Lima Ohio User Group

OK, from what people have told me they want. I'm (finally) able to make some kind of announcement about this Internet user group idea. Here are the facts:-

- 1) We are calling ourselves "The 'net 99ers"
- 2) We will be meeting via irc. It seems that this is most suitable, as it doesn't force one to use a java-enabled browser. You can simply use any computer capable of getting on the internet via TCP/IP. This includes Mindows 3.1, 95, NT. Mac, and DOS as well as possibly others.
- 3) The network on which the first meeting will be held is EFNet. There are about 3 to 5 major irc networks on the internet. Hy favorite server is irc.voicenet.com It's a free server and usually quite fast. The channel name will be ti994a (no spaces or punctuation). If you need help configuring an irc client for your computer, LET ME KNOW! I can help with the basics. I use mIRC32 for Min95.
- 4) The first seeting will be held June 28th, the last Sat. In Jun. The time will be 1:00PM Eastern time. I think this is best for a lot of us, including our friends overseas. Most of you have told me you'd like something in the early afternoon on a weekend. If the time needs to change, we can change it. I will be on the channel at this time, however, to inform others of any time/date changes. For now, all meetings will be held on the last Sat. of each month at 1PM. If enough people show up to warrant it, we could break off into other channels (such as TI994A-GENEVE or TI994A-AMS) I think we should appoint (vote for?) a president and vice pres. during that meeting, or shortly after (by email?)
- 5) The "meeting" will be probably very informal...just a bunch of talking. But we need YOU to be there to contribute. Only with a good-sized following can we make this idea work!
- 6) I'm relying on interested parties (you know who you are!) to get the word out. PLEASE tell your newsletter editor or the editors of other newsletters. Tell other groups. Tell anyone you think might care or want to stop by!!! Anyone will be welcome to visit with us. But definately spread the word! A new U5 was born today, and it's because of Y O U PEOPLE!
- 7) We're currently talking about having a listserve for U6 info. That would help those who can't join us on the internet but who are subscribers to this list. We feel it is unfair for you to have to wade through our ramblings! We'll get all of that info out as soon as possible.

Thanks again everyone! I'll recompile the surveys you've been sending and post the results to you all in a week or so.

ABOUT COPYRIGHT OF PROGRAMS PUBLISHED IN MAGAZINES by John Koloen

Copyright has been undergoing a lot of changes. Current law gives all copyrights to the author, whether the fore be in print or electronic. The author doesn't even have to apply for copyright. It is granted automatically. (However, if you want to enforce the copyright, you may have to actually file a form with the copyright office.) This includes smail. There's an issue as to whether a person who receives an email can forward it to someone else without violating the original sender's copyright, since forwarding is essentially creating a copy, which is technically a violation of copyright unless the original author is granted permission for said forwarding. You sometimes see email and messages in newsgroups in which the author states that his message is comprishted. In this case, if you were to use this assume in some form or make and distribute copies of it, you would be violating the author's copyright.

You sight think that items sent to a list server would be excluded from copyright restrictions. But they may not be. There is a debate going on on a copyright list server that seems to be coalescing around the conclusion that even items sent to a list server are copyrightable and therefore responders who include a copy of the original message in their replies may be in technical violation of copyright. Sounds absurd, but the law on copyright basically prohibits the copyring of works without permission of the copyright holder. Period.

DONE

HSSPL CARD PRICES

CECURE ELECTRONICS INC. Has 9 MSSPLII CARDS left at a SPECIAL PRE -LIMA FAIR PRICE

- 2 RANKS of A4K SROW and 32K ROM \$200.00
- 4 BANKS of 64K GROW and 32K ROM \$225.00
- 8 BANKS of 64K SROM and 32K ROM \$250.00
- 16 BANKS of 64K GROW and 32K ROW \$275,00 MAXIMUM SIZE

THESE PRICES ARE GOOD UNTIL FRIDAY MAY 28 1997 OR UNTIL LAST 9 CARDS ARE SOLD - WHICH EVER COMES FIRST. ONLY ONE CARD PER PERSON. AN ORDER WILL BE NEED TO BE PAID FOR BY JUNE 1 1997.

This Card was described in detail in the March / April MICROPENDIUM.

It comes with a 64K#8 DSR FLASH EEPROM that can be upgraded to 512K#8 if the need arises and 2 128K#8 STATIC RAMS. The Modules are programmed into FLASH EEPROMS so there is NO batteries to go dead or pop out or system crashes to corrupt memory in the FLASH EEPROMS. They require a special

menu software program to re-program that is available in either 40 or 80 columns

You may either reply to this LIST SERVER via E-MAIL or contact CECURE ELETRONICS INC. by the following:

800 ORDER LINE: 800 959-9640 9:00 am to 5:00 pm CDST Mon-Fri VDICE: 414 422-1010 9:00 am to 5:00 pm CDST Mon-Fri FAX: 414 422-9889 24 hours 7 days

E-MAIL CECURE. ELECTRONICS. Don. Walden@juno.com

DONE

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THINGS ARE REALLY LOOKING UP FOR CADD ELECTRONICS, MAKERS OF THE PC99 EMULATOR.

I am sitting in one the CaDD Electronics' stretch limos (with real mappa leather seats) and am transmitting this email from my 600MHz Hexium laptop through the CaDD satellite in geodesic orbit while on the way to the Cadd private airport to take the CaDD Learjet home. It's only 30 miles to the CaDD mansion, nestling in its 500 acres of rolling hills in southern New Hampshire, but the jet is _so_ such quicker.

It's been a tough day at CaDD Towers on Route 128 -- America's Technology Highway. The cafetaria ran out of Beluga, and we were notified that we were down to our last case of Chateau la Fitte '47. But... that's life in the fast lane.

Since everything about our business and the underhand way we operate has now been revealed, it only seems fair to confess that a large chunk of the mega-dollar revenues generated by sales of PC99 were actually secretly channeled to the Democratic Party during the last election. When this comes before Congress, the newspapers will probably call it Texpate. We had to keep _some_ of the funds back to accommodate our upmarket lifestyles and, of course, keep Texam Instruments in the black with our five-figure quarterly royalty payments.

But, what the hell. If we need nore revenue we can stick the users with yet another useless upgrade and soak 'em for it. They're dumb enough to think that some work has to be done to generate an upgrade. As an aside, we have to admit we wished we had thought of that get-rich scheme first, but that honor belongs to a Seattle, Washington-based company, who we've had thoughts of buying out, but our accountants are only marginally impressed with their market share of the PC OS market.

We often wonder what we would be doing now if we hadn't struck the motherlode with PC99. After just half a dozen sales we all quit our jobs and now loaf around writing as little code as possible, while watching our Swiss bank accounts just overflow.

Which all goes to prove the old adage: you can be a fool some of the time, or you can sound like Scott all of the time...

Regards, Mike Wright (for CaDD Electronics)

[soon to be remamed and listed on the NYSE as Mega Global Electronics]

mjaw@xyvision.com

DONE

USING FUNNELNEB WITH THE VOTO EMULATOR

Prompted by Charles Good's announcement that TI had bought out HicroSoft I recently transferred Fwb 4.40 and 5.01 to v9t9. Hight as well be ready for future developments. Seriously I had just figured out how to transfer files from my TI99/4A to my PC using Telco and/or MagicFM with a serial cable connection and to convert them for use by v9t9.

FMB works fine on v9t9 with some exceptions listed below. With the CONFIGURE program new UL lists can be added and even ML can be used. A number of programs used by FMB seem to run properly based on limited testing.

Some of the problems I encountered were as follows:

- 1- All DSKx's of any size are read by DISKREVIEW to show that they contain 360 sectors. ARCHIVER III does show the correct number of sectors on a disk.
- 2- DR will not run an Extended Basic program but does not have any problem with running other programs.
- 3- FW 5.01 will properly load CHAREx files to show different ALL-Character screen fonts. With my TI99/4A I had figured out how to download different printer fonts to my FX-BO Epson printer by printing a DVBO file of control characters from either DISKREVIEW or Text Editor. This will not work with v9t9 although I have no difficulty sending text to my printer.
- 4- Any attempt to mark and then load a file by using SD causes the ED program to freeze, but works properly if marked from DR before entering Text or Program Editor.
- 5- The usual method of entering ALL-CHAR mode by using CTRL + ',' does not work but Ctrl + ',' + '.' does work. I could not use the FWB feature of changing caps to lowercase and vice versa by using ALT + '>' or 's'.
- 6- Although the documentation seems to indicate that disk size must be less than 360 sectors a few of my disks are greater than 360 without apparent ill effect.

If anyone has figured out how to overcome some of these problems I would like to hear about them. Even with these limitations FWB is still a very useful program to have on v9t9.

As an aside the number of postings to this sailing list will likely pass 450 for the month of April. The total for March was 273. This continues to be an interesting and growing list.

- 1 Jacques Groslouis
- 1 jgroslou@nbnet.nb.ca
- \$ 1747 Riverbank Drive
- # Bathurst New Brunswick E2A 4L1
- # CANADA

DONE

THE RELEASE OF MYBASIC V4.0

For anyone interested, DDI Software has anounced the release of its version of Mybasic (Advanced BASIC) for the Seneve. Here is the information I received:

Version 4.0 of MyBasic has 99% of known version 3.0 bugs fixed.

To receive your personally registered FREE copy, send \$15.00 registration to the address below:

US: James Uzzell HQ Airsouth PSC 813 Box 105 FPO AE 09420

Other Countries:
James Uzzell
Airsouth(NATO)
BLDG 9 BOX 105
Viale Delca Liberazione
80124 Banoli Napoli Italy

For the registration fee you will receive:

- Hardcopy of 88 replacement pages, including commands not found in original earnual, deleted commands and changed commands.
- Five new appendices call Key ASCII Assembly support info color palette / hex charts RS232 DSR info Disklayout / flogpy
 - 3. 17 DDI Software Mybasic utilities
 - 4. Support from DDI to registered users

**DONE **

A GERMAN TI FTP SITE

I put another two files in my FTP directory:

spduap.s --- TH89900 source code for a simple Speech Syntheziser ROM read utility; tailor it to your needs.

monitor.xmo --- Memory dump and disassembler for MDOS. Allows to map in banks by setting the memory mapper. Output to any device. Written in TIC 1.61,

You can find it at: ftp://www.vsb.cs.uni-frankfurt.de/pub/people/mz/spdump.s

or in http://www.uni-frankfurt.de/*zapf/tigene.html

Michael Zapf

DONE

NEW LOWER PRICES ON ANS CARDS

The SouthWest Ninety Niners User Group is proud to annound that they will be dropping the price of the Super AMS card by \$10. The Super AMS 129k card will now be \$75, down from \$85, and the Super AMS 256k version will now be \$90, down from \$100. There is a \$5 shipping and handling charge for all cards that must be shipped.

Maybe this will help in not having to find as many dollars.

- # Toe Wills President T199 List Server Moderator
- # Southwest 99ers User Group, Tucson, AZ 85731-7831
- * Hosts of the International Fest West '98 Lubbock
- # Internet E-Mail: twills@theriver.com

DONE

A NEW VERBION OF PC77 WITH DODD DISK CAPACITY

After two years of trials and tribulations we now believe we have successfully esulated the Myarc FDC for use with PC99. This will be of great benefit to PC99 users, in that they can now transfer up to DBDD disks between a TI and a PC.

He have been working with Dr. Eric Bray of Philadelphia, acting as an intermediary for Lou Phillips of the former Myarc, Inc, who is the legal owner of the ROHs in the FDC, and of the Hyarc Disk Hanager program. Today, we received the following email from Eric:

From: embray@jung.com (Eric W. Bray)

I spoke with Lou on 5/15/97 7:00 PM, I also faxed him a copy of the letter you sent me. He verbally gave me the authority to authorize the use of the code in the Myarc FDCC in your program. He still would like you to forward a copy of the program to him via myself. He is leaving to go out of town and on the road for the next week., so I will not have verbal contact with him until next weekend. I can forward the program to him and he can have it when I do speak to him again.

We would like to publicly thank Eric Bray for his efforts on our behalf. In addition we would like to express our thanks to Lou Phillips for his generous offer in allowing us to include his proprietary code in our PC99 product.

Me will be showing this version of PC99 at the Lina, MU5, and hope to release it as Stage 4 as soon as we can thereafter. All current owners of the product will be notified by sail when the release is available. Thanks to Eric and Lou for helping us clear one more hurdle in that direction.

**DONE **

DISK STRUCTURES AND CARTRIDSE TRANSFERS FOR THE V9T9 99/40 PC EMULATOR

I'll try a basic explanation. It's like this: V9t9 has two methods of accessing TI files.

<<<i><><i>>>> FIAD:- 'Files in a Directory' - The original method was to create a seperate directory on your PC hard drive for each TI-99/4A disk drive. In V9t9's default configuration, without the TI ROMs. V9t9 will use its subdirectory, 'DIBKS', as the directory to which any file is saved to under emulation, whether you save to DSK1., DSK2., DSK3., DSK4. or DSK5. However, you can create your own virtual 'disk drives', like this: Say you wanted to type in some TI Extended BASIC games from a magazine, and you needed somewhere to save them. In MS-DOS, you would create a V9t9 subdirectory called XBGAMES (in my case the full path would be 'C:\DOSAPPS\UTILS\V9T9\XBGAMES'), which you could use as any of the five drives. After creating this directory, 'boot up' V9t9 with TI Extended BASIC as your module. Once V9t9 is running, press CTRL-SHIFT-F9. This will take you to the 'ENTER PATHNAMES' screen, in which you tell V9t9 where each of your 'disks' are. Among the other diskettes, you will see something mimilar to:

3 : DBK3 (M8-DOB pathnase) = C:\dosapps\utils\v9t9\DISK\

at which you will need to change the default 'DISK' directory to 'XBGAMES'. To do this, press '3', then change the pathname, press enter, and then ESC to return to smulation. From them on, any file saved to 'DBK3.' on the virtual TI-99/4A will go to the PC directory XBGAMES. Of course, when you want to access them in another session, you will need to change this path again. If you have forgotten the name of the path and you need to get a directory of your MS-DOS drive to see what paths you've created, you DON'T have to exit V9t9. Simply press CTRL-F9, which will take you into a DOS shell, where you can type DIR or do anything you'd like at the command prompt, after which you must type EXIT to return to V9t9.

As I said earlier, 'Files in a Directory' is V9t9's default method of dealing with files. The reason is that Ed Swartz couldn't use TI's original RDMs. The advantage to using this method is the flexibility. You could, for instance, simply pute your 'DSK3.' disk on the PC's A: drive. That would cause V9t9 to use the PC's floppy as D8K3. Now, when using the FIAD format, V9t9 contains these lines in the V9t9.Cnf file:

DSK1Path = C:\DOSAPPS\UTILS\Y779\DISK
DSK2Path = C:\DOSAPPS\UTILS\Y979\DISK

D8K3Path = C:\DDBAPP8\UTIL8\V9T9\DIBK

DBK4Path = C:\DOSAPPS\UTILE\V9T9\DIEK

DSK5Path = C:\DOSAPPS\UTILS\V9T9\DIBK

(you can change these to suit your automatic startup preferences)

EauDiskDSRFileName = emudisk.bin DiskDSRFileName = disk.bin SharedDiskDSRFileName = bothdisk.bin DSRCpabo = emudisk.emurs232

Once you have the original TI ROMs, you will need to change some lines in order to use the second option.

((<2>>> DGAD: - 'Disks on a Disk' - When you transfer your TI diskettes over to V9t9 via R8232, using the RECV program, all of the diskettes are saved into V9t9's 'DISK8' subdirectory, which is where V9t9 looks for disk images. This is eluded to in the V9t9.Cnf line:

Diskinggerath = Ci\DOSAPPS\UTIL8\V979\DISKS

The disk 'images' are usually 90K files on your PC hard drive which contain entire TI diskettes. If you transfer the TI-Writer diskette over to V9t9, for instance, you might have named it 'TI-WRITE.DSK'. Usually all of the disk images end with the 'DSK' extension. In order to access the TI-WRITER diskette, with the TI RGMs transferred and in place, you will have to go into V9t9.Cnf and take a look at these lines:

Disklaage1 = DISKOOO1.DSK Disklaage2 = DISKOOO2.DSK Disklaage3 = DISKOOO3.DSK DSRCoobp = enudisk.eaurs232

The first three lines tell V9t9 what disk images to place in the disk 'drive' every time you boot it up. You can change these, although this is not strictly necessary. As an example, I have changed the first line to:

Diskipage: = FWEB501.DSK

This means that whenever I boot V9t9 up, FunnelWeb will automatically be in drive DSK1., so it can automatically boot up in Extended BASIC.

But anyway, to make use of DOADs, you have to have the TI ROMs transferred, and you have to change the DSRCombo line to:

DSRCosbo = RealDisk, EauR8232

in order to use the REAL disk ROM. Incidentally, if you've transferred the TI's RS-232 ROM, you can also change EauRS232 to RealRS232. From this point on, when you boot up V9t9, you won't be able to use your FIADs (I'll tell you how to do both shortly). Instead, when you boot up V9t9 and press CTRL-SHIFT-F9 to go into the 'ENTER PATHNAMES' screen, you will see something like this:

1 : DSK1 (disk filename) = DISK0001.DSK

2 | DSK2 (disk filename) = DISK0002.DSK

3 : DSK3 (disk filename) = DISK0003.DSK

You can now change any of these filenames to the name of a disk that you have transferred and wish to use. For instance, you can press 2, then change DISK0002.DSK to TI-WRITE.DSK, then press enter, then ESC. From then on, all files saved to or loaded from DSK2. will be directed to the TI-Writer disk image that could be sitting in V9t9's 'DISK8' subdirectory. "Great!", you say, "but what about my FIAD's? Does this mean that I have to change the V9t9.Cnf file everytime I use it, depending on whether I want to use FIADs or DOADs?" 'No!' is the answer. If you wish to use both at the same time, turn to the third option:

<<<3>>>> FIADs AND DOADs:- Both - If you change the line
in V9t9.Cnf from either

DSRCombo = Emudisk.EmuRS232

07

DSRCombo = RealDisk.RealRS232

tn

DSRCombo = BothDisk,RealRS232

you now have the ability to use BOTH! Once you've booted up Y9t9, press the CTRL-SHIFT-F9 combination, to get to the 'ENTER PATHNAMES' screen. I use both FIADs and DGADs, and my screen looks like this:

- 1 : D8K1 (disk filename) = FWEB501.D8K
- 2 | DSK2 (disk filename) = DISKOOO2.DSK
- J : DSK3 (MS-DOS pathname) = C:\dosagge\utile\v9t9\DISK\
- 4 : DSK4 (MS-DOS pathname) = C1\dosapps\utils\v9t9\D8K4\
- 5 : DSK5 (MS-DOS pathname) = C:\dosapps\utils\v9t9\D8K5\

What this means is the followings the esulated DSK1. and DSK2. are capable of loading up disk IMAGES only. As you can see, DSK1. loads up FunnelWeb. DSK2. contains the default file eluded to in V9t7.Cnf. The esulated DSK3., 4 and 5 are only cabable of doing FIADs, which means that DSK3. would be the 'DISK' subdirectory I talked about earlier. DSK4. and DSK5. I have changed in V9t9.Cnf. DSK4. would be a 'DSK4' subdirectory, and DSK5. would access the 'DSK5' subdirectory. Does this make sense?

Didn't think so ;) I have tried to make this explanation simple, but it's difficult to take a cumbersome concept which is easy once you know it, and transfer it into writing. I hope that you understand these confused ramblings, but it not, maybe you could take Ed Swartz's confused ramblings, combine them with my confused ramblings, and come up with a clear explanation. On the other hand, you might come up with toxic waste!

 $>\!\!2)$ I had someone else transfer by ROMs/SROMs. I've acquired some new >cartridges since then, and I want to transfer those.

Hemma... That's a whole other kettle of fish! Read the TRANSFER.TXT file in the 'DOCS' subdirectory, then ask some informed questions. But to cover the basics: You need to have straight-wired 25-pin male - to -25-pin female cable. You need to get the TRANS program in the 'DIBK' subdirectory over to you TI. Once you've done this, you need to run it, and run the RECV program on your PC. This will enable you to transfer Modules, ROMs and Disk images.

>3) I have an XB disk that I want to transfer from my 99 to >90 to test >0 that part out. Just one more thing I can't figure out!

As above. TRANS running on you TI will allow you to transfer disk images to the PC running RECV. The disk image will be saved in the 'DISKS' subdirectory, under the name you choose, such as XBDISK, which will be called XBDISK.DSK.

>If I need anything special (cables or whatever) I'd be happy to buy them >from someone who will be attending the MUG Conference.

>I've read the docs, but that's one of the biggest weaknesses of v9t9. >The docs are good considering the package is shareware, but it confused >the holy buggers out of se! HELP!!!

Parhaps you should try getting a hard copy of the docs. I find it easier to read on paper than to try and make cross-references in several text-files!

I don't think I solved all of your problems in one posting (and I have helped you before to get the thing up and running), but after reading this, ask about what you're still confused.

Brian Tristam Williams Johannesburg, South Africa.

DONE

HISTORY OF SARY BOWSER AND THE TIM by John VanNeelie

Firstly I have no direct connection any sore to OPA - 1 had done some work in the past for Gary Bowser - OPA.-

I would have to say that Gary is very talented when it came to the design work and technical aspects of the TI99/4a and the programming side.

BUT- this is a big BUT- Gary is not a business oriented person. I tried on a number of occassions to help out in the business side. But to no avail. His big mistake was that he tried to make a living off the TI business which all vendors - past and present will tell you is not possible. Gary would not see that and this was his demise and unfortunately that of many of the loyal TI members in the community. I know of many personally and some not so personally.

I do know that the biggest problem with the TIM was not the design but the manufacture cost around it. Firstly the expense for the circuit boards was a large cost. At the time of the initial setup the crystals for the Video chip where special order. By the time the last TIM's were shipped the crystals were available dirt cheap but this was too late. The next big headache was trying to obtain the 9958 video chips. Canada is a very difficult place to obtain electronic parts at a reasonable price. This is mostly because the market is driven by the BIG sultinational congomerates based in the USA. Stock of the parts are not in Canada all the time and is shipped from the USA most times and delays with customs and shippers makes getting them time consuming. The USA seems to be a place that one can get many things a lot easier with less hassles.

So the high cost of the initial setup of circuit boards and sourcing parts at a reasonable cost along with very little capital killed the TIM.

I know that there is less than 100 in existance. I have one. I know this for a fact as I did built a fair number of them. So did one of the other 979 Toronto U.S member.

This product has been very reliable and of the few that I had repaired = the actual TIM board = 3 or 4 to be exact = the problem was memory chip related. The BOB board that had to be installed in conjunction with the TIM the few that were repaired had be returned and large change that they were tampered with, the eproms had be damaged from someone trying to dump the code. I know that every TIM that was shipped had be tested and had a extensive burn in test done to be sure that the unit worked before being shipped.

I know that this is not excuse for what Gary Has done to the large group of TI users who paid for products and not received them.

This is in reponse to several questions and statements in the number of messages on the LISTSERV on this issue.

Unfortunately I see not vision of the TIM coming back to production as I know of many options that were put forward to Gary by many people — with ideas on how to keep the TIM in production but Gary refused to give in a little.

At one point I had considered producing them under a licensing agreement but even that fell through as 1) the amount of money required and 2) bary didn't want to give up control.

He refused I ideas of selling it as a kit which included the circuit boards, pals, and epross and detailed parts list and assembly instructions, he refused to let another vendor buy the proprietary components (epross and pals) plus a royalty and let the vendor build and sell them.

So eventually the TIM has died along with other great products. Also so has the trust of many TI loyal users who paid in full up front to buy this exciting new product only to receive nothing and excuses.

Presently Sary is busy in the PC Clone market with little to no interest in the TI market. But this is no comfort to the many users who have been taken for their money.

These are sy comments to the questions and comments sade in other messages on this topic. In no way do I have any connection personally or professionally with OPA in the area of business. My business time were severed a long time ago.

DONE

VIDEO TURTLE INFORMATION

The VideoTurtle is a video-convertor product. Converts RGB known as TV RGB, 15.7 KHz, into 8-Video.

S-Video is a leap above standard television. With two channels of video information, and wider bandwidth, S-Video enables enhanced displays on equiped TV's.

Unlike standard TV, which has one channel and limited bandwidth, S-Video allows full use of the TV's scan lines. Standard TV splits the scan lines between odd and then even lines.

Because of the larger amount of scan lines, greater detail is possible, then with standard TV. And, a such bigger channel for pure color information. Crisp and clear graphics, and radical display of colors becomes available with S-Video.

The DBS system highly recromends using 8-Video TV's, as the optimum display for home use. With the advantages listed above, it's hard to see why not!

VideoTurtle takes advantage of the S-Video TV standard. Because S-Video TV's often have many more scan lines of resolution than the TV R6B monitors, clarity equal to or better than the older monitors is available!

VideoTurtle allows the RGB user to still maintain high-quality video, while using the inexpensive S-Video TV's as a total replacement!

Plus, the TV itslef, is just that, without a need for a tuner or extra device, your computer/videogase display can change into a standard TV, with reacts control NEXT PAGE

So many systems output and can use TV R6B. Up until now, the only way to properly view that R6B, was the TV R6B monitors. With the monitors gradually dying off, the option has been used or a standard TV itself!

Not such of a choice is it?

VideoTurtle, from Turtle Enterprises, gives you a better choice, and in many cases, even better than the old monitor! By taking the output from your home computer/video games system, attaching a cable to the VideoTurtle, and an S-Video cable to the S-Video TV, you are ready to go! Plug and Play!

Some systems come with TV R6B but with distinctions, and VideoTurtle can handle that with mere jumper changes! All in all, no software drivers to load, or certain video modes to use, to utilize the VideoTurtle!

Tex Comp Ltd is the authorized distributer of the VideoTurtle. Their phone number, for orders only, is (900)944-3474. For technical help, (918)947-3341. Shipping time is 4 weeks. Pricing tentative. Call Tex Comp Ltd for further information!

Thank you again for your interest in the VideoTurtle from Turtle Enterprises!

Regards, James W. Krych Turtle Enterprises Bales Rep

DONE

THE TOMY TUTOR COMPUTER, A 99/4A WITH XB IN DISGUISE

>I forgot to mention there was also a kid's computer (manufactured by Tomy I think) that actually was a 99/4A with XB in disguise. If anyone knows the details, please spit 'em out. Otherwise I'll try and dig them up.

A. The TDMY used a TMS9995 CPU with a TMS9918A Video Controller. They can the computer at 10.7 MHz so the XTAL could be used for both the CPU and VIDEO. It DID NOT use any GROMS. It's built in BASIC was FAST as it was A TRUE ASSEMBLY, NOT a GPL and ASSEMBLY. The MODULES were up to 64 k and none used any GROMS. It had an EXPANSION PORT out the back for DISK DRIVES etc. that never made it to the market place. The Keyboard was a RUBBER one. CHEAP!! It did have a tape cassette port. (I used a RADIO SHACK one) 5 pin DIN and the JOYSTICKS were very easy to use. The BASIC was almost identical to TI BASIC. It had 16k of semory that was shared with the video controller sust like the 4A and you had the choice of coeposite video and sound (2 RCA PLU68) or a RF port to a TV. All of this was built in plus the power supply was inside also, a 120 volt cord went to a switching power SUDDLY.

As a side note, sost if not all the sodule programs were ported over to the 9640 GENEVE by Barry Boone, and are being sold by RAMCHARGE COMPUTERS.

Pon Walden -President- TI79/4A Milwaukee Area US P.O. BOX 2 NUSKEGO WI 53150-0002 FAX 414 422-9889 BBB 414 422-9669 **DONE**

MORE ABOUT THE TONY COMPUTER

Now this brings back some great memories! :)

Actually it is quite obvious that TI had a hand in the TOMY OS. There was WAY too such in common with the 99/4A architecture. For instance, when I was poking around the OS, I found that while the scratchpad area was in a different part of memory, all of the offsets matched the 99/4A's as far as usage. Such as the floating point area being at offset >4A, and keyscan return information being at >75. The TOMY OS had a huge library of graphics code in ROM, which the cartridges would call via BLMP's to a vector table. This would have allowed

TOMY to update and debug their OS without breaking any cartridges. This also made it possible for me to patch the OB to run on the 9640, and then be able to run the application cartridges without any patches at all.

Another fun fact about the TDMY TUTOR is that the built in XBASIC used the same tokens as the 99/4A's XBASIC. This might mean in theory that they could read each other's programs... If memory serves there WERE some minor differences between the XBASIC's though, so some modifications to code would have been needed, and I'm not sure they shared 100% of the same commands.

-Barry Boone

##DONE##



Bob Carmany at his seminar

MINIREVIEW OF PC99

I've had PC99 for about a year. I used v9t9 originally, but wanted something that was still being actively supported. The mini-screen debug mode that PC99 offers was also of interest to me, since I want to do some development work with it. I've been very happy with it, and have never had any compatibility problems. Everything I've run behaves the same on it as a real 99/4a

PC99 is slower than v9t9. That isn't important if you have a Pentium PC, as either emulator can run many times faster on those systems than an actual 99/4a. If you still have a 386 or 486 though, it might matter.

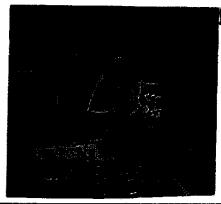
In reference to the first sessage comparing the two, yes PC99 costs something and v9t9 is free. However, v9t9 is a dead product. CaDD is by no seans running to the bank with all the soney they're saking with PC99. I doubt they'll ever recoup their investment in PC99. But, they do continue to work on the product, enhancing and improving it.

Just my two cents!

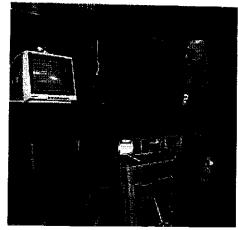
Toe Baggett - toesyb@tapscan.com



John Bull shows Contract Bridge



David Nieters selling SCSI cards at the WHT table.



Cerd Weissman shows off the HSGPL card.



Tim Tesch accepts the Peterson achievement award from Jim Krych



Bruce Harroson amazes the audience with his software.