OSHAWA TI
99/4A
COMPUTER
USERS GROUP

OSHTI

OCT 91

IN CANADA
THANKSGIVING
DAY OCT.14

Sept. OSHti meeting

The Sept. OSHTI meeting was not very well attended. It seems that a lot of our members were either working too hard or taking a vacation. Keith went over to England and Bernie was off for a sort vacation. Guy and Ray were putting in a lot of hours and couldn't attend.

We did have a NEW or shall I say, old TIer. Jack Hutchinson, my former Head was in attendance. Jack retired last June after 36 years in teaching.... nuff said. Jack had a TI back in the early days but now has an APPLE GS. Jack enjoyed the meeting and was impressed with what the TI can now do.
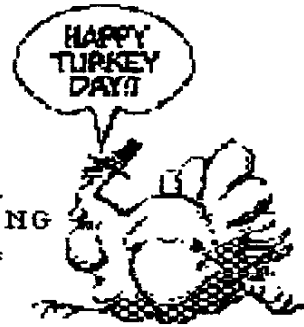
Doug was able to attend and give us some refreshing comments. Doug's truck was noticed by some to be tipping quite precariously at the edge of the road; shades of Tom's truck taking a dive. Don reported that his sail boat is now fixed after meeting a rock.

Welcome back everyone for another year of computing.

We still need some more volunteers for Sun. Nov. 3rd in Bowmanville for the COMPUTER FAIR. See details later.

I phoned Gary Bowser during the meeting and taped the conversation for

play-back during the meeting. The details are in a separate article about the NEW TI ACCELERATOR.

80-column MULTIPLAN was demonstrated. It works but has a PRINTER bug. This was produced for the DIJIT 80-column card and works on T.I.M. It has a very nice display of the disk files using 3 columns rather than 1.

Funnelweb vsn 4.40 was demonstrated. There are a few new features, the main one being the handling of DSKU comments. I still have to read up on this in the documentation. Most of the improvements are for 80-column users though.

The Disk of the month featured at least 1 original programmes (I wrote it). This is a programme which prints names on 15/16 x 3 1/2" computer labels. It was based on the work of Ed Machonis and is fairly user friendly. I hope you enjoy it. The programme can also be found on DELPHI (US

be found on DELPHI (US database) called NAMETAG.

Other programmes on the OSHTI D.O.M. included CALCULATOR, an XBasic programme that shows a large calculator on the screen and allows you to do the same things as a regular calculator. There were several games :

--->S I E G E : fight an opponent in their castle with a cannon. Put in the angle and the force.

--->R O A D R A C E : something like Pole Position.

--->W O R M S : XBasic programme. Eat bugs and grow larger. Don't hit yourself or the walls as you grow.

--->O T H E L L O : an XBasic game. It was NOT on the LOADER programme but can be loaded from the option 3 as DSK1.OTHELLO

--->c99 programmes: FILE APPEND or COPY and a WORD DESCRAMBLER programme or those WORD SCRAMBLES in the news paper. These must be run out of Ed/Assembler cartridge from Option 5. I don't know the reason why though.

The meeting adjourned earlier than usual and we were able to see TEAM CANADA beat TEAM USA for the ice hockey CANADA CUP.

COMTUTER FAIR :

Join us at the BOWMANVILLE RECREATION COMPLEX on SUNDAY Nov. 3 for the 2nd year of the ONTARIO COMPUTER FAIR in our region. We will need some help manning the club's tables from 11am till 4 pm. Set up will be at 10 am. We should be out of there by 4:14 pm. If we have lots of help then we will have more time to wander around and get a bargain.

We also have lots of $1 off coupons for your friends and acquaintences.

BOWSER TO DEMO

Rather than try to explain the NEW 9910S TI accelerator to you. I am trying to get Gary Bowser from OPA to come to our next meeting and explain and demonstrate the accelerator. Also. he will probably be able to demonstrate and explain the DIGITAL SOUND cable and software. We hope to see a good turn-out at the next OSHTI meeting. This will be on:

THURS Oct.24,1991

Be there !

LEARN TO PROGRAMME

This is the first in a series of article for novices on HOW to WRITE PROGRAMMES for your TI 99/4A computer.

I will assume that you have VERY LITTLE KNOWLEDGE on writing programmes and start from there. I will also write the articles from the point of view that I had when I started out. That is, you write simple, short programmes to see how the computer works. You may think that the programmes are TOO SIMPLE and not want to do the first steps, but you have to sometimes crawl before you walk and walk before you can RUN a programme (ha ha!).

I will concentrate on writing programmes for EXTENDED BASIC and show the differences between TI BASIC to illustrate the power of XBASIC. When I purchased my first TI 99/4A, I bought XBASIC (it was $150 then, ugh !) so I knew that it would be the way to go from the start.

power up. If you have a PBOX then make sure that it is on BEFORE you turn on the TI, otherwise you will not be able to SAVE a programme. The first programmes will be short and illustrate things that you may NOT want to save.

PROGRAMME 1: "INPUT and OUTPUT to SCREEN"

KEYWORDS: REM, CALL CLEAR, INPUT, PRINT, A$(string variable), GOTO

Line numbers can be TYPED in as you go, or you can use NUM to generate them.

```
100 REM MY FIRST PROGRAMME
110 CALL CLEAR
120 INPUT A$
130 PRINT A$
140 GOTO 140
```

The above programme will work in BASIC or XBASIC. It works a bit faster in XBASIC.

The REM is a REMark statement to identify the programme or part of the programme. In XBASIC you can use the exclamation mark '!' instead of REM.

CALL CLEAR is a built in subroutine which CLEARs the screen.

INPUT A$ stops the programme and waits till you type something in then press <enter>. INPUT, in this case shows a '?' prompt on the screen. You can type up to 138 characters during this input. Both uppercase and lower case, alphabetic and number(numeric) are OK. You can even type in function or control keys. All of the letters you type in go into the STRING VARIABLE A$. The $ tells the computer that this will be ANY KEY that TI has. If we left out the $, then the computer would only accept NUMBER keys (and + - signs).

PRINT A$ simply reprints the inputted characters. You will see that they are identical to the ones inputted after the '?'.

The last line effectively puts the computer into an endless loop. You can STOP the programme by using the Function 4 key.

Even though you stopped the programme, the string variable A$ is still there. Just type in the line PRINT A$ now and press <enter>. There you can see the characters that you typed out.

Now for some embellishments. This is where YOU can JAZZ up this programme. The following HOMEWORK is suggested to get you involved in making this a better programme.

HOMEWORK:

1. Instead of having the ? appear. Have a "PROMPT" appear asking you to "Type in you name". Use your TI USER REFERENCE book (p.II-58) or extended basic book (p.102) to help you.

2. Change the SCREEN COLOR using CALL COLOR(x); where x is a color between 1 and 16.

3. Use CALL SOUND (TI User REF. II-84 ; XBASIC MANUAL p.170) to signal the end of the programme.

4. Allow for multiple input by using a loop back to the beginning of the programme.

ADVANCED HOMEWORK:

1. After INPUT allow the user a second chance to make corrections; ie. use second input like "ARE YOU SURE ?".

2. Use "::" to put the all the lines most of the

lines in 1 or 2 lines of
programme.

3. If you are using
XBASIC, use ACCEPT AT(p.47)
rather than INPUT. Use
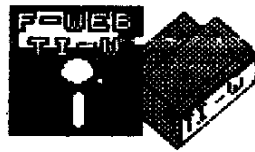DISPLAY AT (p.77) for your
prompt.
-> Have the input take
place in the MIDDLE (row 12)
of the screen instead of at
the bottom as in BASIC.
-> Use ERASE ALL in the
DISPLAY AT statement to clear
the screen.
-> Use BEEP with ACCEPT AT
and/or DISPLAY AT.
 TIll
 next TIme
 Tom

TIW/FWEB tips

TI-WRITER (Fweb) TIPS:

The problem with any
FORMATTER is that they LOOK
for c/r's or carriage returns
to FILL in the space. Last
month, I forgot to put them
in my PROGRAM FILE. Program
files DO NOT have any c/r's
or LINE FEEDS, l/f, so you
must put in the c/r's
yourself !
To do this I used a nice
little, seldom talked-about
feature of TI-Writer (F-web
etc). This is the REPLACE
STRING (RS) feature of the
command line. Here's how it
works.
Make sure the cursor is
NOT in WORD-WRAP mode. Use
ctrl 0 to do this.

->The cursor will now be a
HOLLOW SQUARE instead of a
solid square (actually, it's
a rectangle).

-> Find the length of the
longest line in the series
which is MISSING its c/r's.
It is best to have these
lines at the END of your
file. Let's suppose, 33 is
the longest line. We then
would put our c/r's in column
or at character 34 in each

line.

-> Place the cursor ABOVE
the TEXT where you want to
insert the c/r's

->Use Function 9 or Ctrl C
to get to the command line.

->type in RS and enter.

->At the prompt you will
type in "34 34 / /c/r/". The
34 34 means that you will
start at column 34 and end
your search at column 34.
Nifty, huh ?
Between the first and
second slash, press SPACE bar
to get a space character.
But the "c/r" is NOT the
regular 'c' and 'r'. You
must put in a REAL CARRIAGE
RETURN ! To do this you will
make use of the THIRD CURSOR,
the control character cursor
! When you have typed in the
second slash, then press Ctrl
U and you get the '_',
underline cursor. Then type
a SHIFT M (this is character
13, since M is the 13th
letter of the alphabet). You
will then see the REAL c/r
appear. To get the slash
symbol you must use Ctrl U
again and get the HOLLOW
cursor back. Then press
ENTER.

->You ill be prompted with
REPLACE :(Yes No All or
Stop). Since you want to do
ALL press 'A' and VOILA !
Pressing 'Y' allows you to
do ONE at a time. This would
be necessary if you had
imbeded text and wanted to
end at some line.

Hope this was informative.
Some of this is in the
TI-Writer manual.

Tom

MORE TIW/FWEB TIPS

There will probably never be an end to the TIPS that people can give for TI-Writer or FUNNELWEB Editor etc. Here are two that I have discovered over the last two weeks.

The FIRST TIP involves printing through the FORMATTER. I was making a test up and I wanted to make sure that things lined up before I saved the file. Now this is easy if you don't use anything fancy. However if you use REDEFINED KEYS or TRANSLITERATES then the actual picture of something on the screen may be different than what you want.

For example I wanted to have the formulas of several organic compounds printed with their STRUCTURE as the following.

```
    CH        H
      \3    /
        C=C
      /    \
    H        H
```
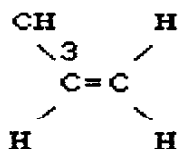
To get the above to work I would have to type in the following:

```
    CH#3!        H
      \        /
        C=C
      /    \
    H        H
```
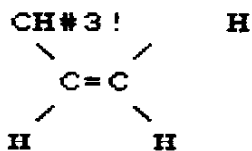
I have redefined '#' to put the printer in subscript mode and '!' is redefined to put the printer back to regular line print. You can see that the 'H' does NOT line up, but would print in the correct position when run through the formatter.

The Subscripted 3 needed two transliterates to make the printer do a subscript and then return to normal print. The result is that the top 'H' would be two spaces to the right. However, if you just put the '3' in without the transliterates then you can use the Replace String function after you have typed out the diagram.

Of course, make sure you use the 'hollow cursor' or insert mode when you do it otherwise the result will be reformatted which defeats the entire purpose.

So after you type in the diagrams so that they look as they should but with the subscript '3' directly beside the 'CH' go to the COMMAND LINE (F9) and press CTRL 0 to get the hollow cursor. Type 'RS' for replace string and do the following.

```
/CH3/CH#3!/
```

This will replace the CH3 with the subscripted CH

```
              3
```

You don't have to worry about what the final product looks like and it will work as long as none of the formula is pushed off the right side of the page.

ANOTHER TIP

The second tip is only for those with 80 column cards and monitors with a pixel size of 0.42 mm. To get the pixels closer together and thus more legible in 80 column mode in FUNNELWEB, press 'CTRL H' in the command line. This will push the top and bottom of the screen closer together. I use a white foreground and a black background to remove the 'jitter' although your eyes will get accustom to the 'jitters' after awhile (at least mine do).

c99 GOOF
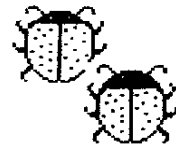
I am sorry for the scrambling of the c99 programme last month(Sept.91) I did not put in carriage returns after each line so the Newsletter programme CRUNCHED it together instead of printing it as below. This points out another problem with the newsletter programme that the other format (PAGE PRO) doesn't have; PAGE PRO is WYSIWYG so you never have a surprise. I unfortunately, did NOT see it till after I read the newsletter after it was printed.

   S O R R Y !

```
int a,b;
main()
{
puts("TYPE TWO CAPITAL LETTERS");
putchar(10);
a=getchar();
b=getchar();
putchar(10);
if(a<b)
{
a=putchar(a);
puts(" comes before ");
b=putchar(b);
}
 else if (a>b)
{
b=putchar(b);
puts(" comes before ");
a=putchar(a);
}
 else
{
puts(" both are ");
a=putchar(a);
}
}
```

   As you can see, there is only ONE command per line in c99 (or C).
   This programme allows you to INPUT two capital LETTERS and then tells you if they are in the FIRST HALF or SECOND HALF or are the same TWO letters.
   Tom

TIBASE 3.01

TIBASE vsn 3.01 has some insidious little bugs. Here's one that I found recently. It is easy to avoid but hard to detect.
   One of the names of the FIELDS in a DATABASE I had created was called DEVIA_%. Instead of entering the value of this field which would need to be done using a calculator each time, I wrote a COMMAND FILE. In it, the value of a previously known quantity was multiplied by 100 and divided by another field value and the result stored in DEVIA_%. Well, it would NOT work for all the values I had. Some ended up as being 1.00 even when they were correctly calculated to be 8.33. For some reason, the FIELDNAME would NOT accept a REPLACEd value correctly.
   Another thing I noticed was that you COULD NOT SORT on this field at ALL !
   When I changed the name of the FIELD to DEVIA% everything worked fine.
   The moral of the tale is to avoid the underline character in your FIELDNAMES. TIBASE vsn 3.01 does NOT like it.
   I found the same thing happening in other databases and fixed them with a simple name change.
   Hope this helps you in your databases.
   Although there seems to be some bugs in TIBASE vsn 3.01, I have heard that there are versions out there >3.01. If you have one >3.01 drop me a line.

TI BASE PRINTER VSN 3.01 PROBS

Here's another thing that I learned about TI-BASE; maybe you have run across the same type of problem.

I created a database of student names, homerooms, and general information. One of the things that this database could then do was to generate class lists. I wanted an alpha list of students with their homerooms and a series of squares to either record their attendance or put in marks. This I accomplished by using a simple command file called LIST. However, what I got was 'flawed'. The list was OK for most students but at the second last student for some reason the print out left a separating line out. In other words two student names appeared between lines instead of just one.

This was strange I thought and probably some hardware problem with my printer; I had already triple checked the LOGIC in the command file. However, the same problem occurred in a different class list, but at a different student (not the second last one).

I changed printers (both are EPSON compatible), and still the problem persisted. It was NOT HARDWARE related.

Finally, I thought, what is happening could be caused by the characters in the record FIELD. Maybe, there was a PRINTER CONTROL symbol (which would be undetected by viewing since there ASCII value is less than 32). I simply RETYPED in the STUDENT NAMES and made sure that the remaining BLANK spaces were black spaces (use the space bar to do this).

I went to DO the COMMAND FILE list again and wouldn't you know it, IT WORKED ! There must have been some printer command characters in the name field. I think they could have sneaked in by accidentally pressing the CTRL key when I typed in the name. The other thing that I did do with my database was to DELETE several records. Maybe the deletion and subsequent rePACKing of the file caused these control character problems. Whatever was the cause, I am glad I found them at last. It took a lot of thinking as to what the possiblities could be to solve this strange phenomenon.

By the way, this is NOT the first time that I have run across this problem. PR-BASE also had this same problem. So if your print-outs in PR-BASE don't come out right, then maybe you have this problem as well.

Hope this helps someone besides me.

Tom.

RAVE RD ODDITY

The other day I was having trouble loading a program on my RAVE RAM DISK. The program would NOT BOOT from option 3. It came up with a "BAD NAME" error. It was an XBASIC programme.

However, when I went to go into XBASIC via the 'C' prompt from the RAVE MENU, to my surprise, this programme booted up and ran !

I though that this might have been a fluke, but it happened again. I don't know why either. Anyway, maybe this will interest some RAVE RAM DISK users. This was from RAVE OPERATING SYSTEM 1.3B, with a TI disk Controller.

8 bit DIGITIZED SOUND !

***** ANNOUNCING * * * *
(downloaded from DELPHI
Oct.4,1991)

D I G I T A L S O U N D

THE TI 99/4A AND MYARC
GENEVE!

NEW FROM OPA and Don
O'Neil is the D I G I - P O R
T digital sound adaptor and
player!

This unique cable plugs
into your 99/4a's or Geneve's
PARALLEL port (TI,Myarc, or
CC) and allows you to play
INCREDIBLE 8 BIT DIGITIZED
SOUNDS from the IBM, MAC,
AMIGA, ATARI ST, SOUND
BLASTER and many more!
The software suppled
allows play- back of the
sounds from 0 Khz to 80 Khz
either through the suppled
PIO adaptor cable or through
the 4a's built in 9919 sound
generator (The 9919 plays
sounds only at a 5 Bit
accuracy, whereas the PIO
cable plays at 8 Bits
accuracy). With a standard
4a you can play up to 10
seconds of sound at 5Khz.
BUT If you own a SUPER CART,
80 COLUMN CARD, RAMBO MEMORY
CARD, 4a MEMEX CARD, or a
GENEVE you can play even
longer sounds, up to 10
minutes and more!!!
Here is the available
memory for the different
system configurations:

Standard 99/4a: 24k
4a W/ Supercart: 32k
4a W/ 80 Columns: 112k or
176k

4a W/ RAMBO/MEMEX: 0-16 Mb
Geneve: Any remaining RAM

INCLUDED IN THE PACKAGE
ARE:

1 PIO Adaptor Cable
(requires external amplifier
to hear sound)

1 Program disk with
DIGI-PORT Software

1 Of the following disk
configurations
(Select for your
particular drive/memory
capacity):

PART # DP01
10 SSSD Disks containing
24k or smaller sound files
(Standard 4a)

OR

PART # DP02
10 DSSD Disks containing
112k or smaller sound files
(4a w/ 80 columns)

OR

PART # DP03
10 DSDD Disks containing
360k or smaller sound files
(4a MEMEX /RAMBO /GENEVE)

OR

PART # DP04
10 DSQD Disks containing
720k or smaller sound files
(4a MEMEX /RAMBO /GENEVE)

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HOW WE PUBLISH (part 1)

A while ago I asked newsletter editors to include in their newsletters for some details as to how they publish their clubs newsletters.

I would like to thank the newsletter editors who have passed on this information in their newsletters.

I will try to explain how I put this newsletter together.

start here

1. We use about 1000 lines of text (DV80 file) 74 characters in length. (I leave 6 blanks lines for each article) The text can come from any member, but every newsletter editor knows that there are probably 1 or 2 real sources.

2. The first line of text in the first file (I usually have 2 main files a month;TI-OCT-91) is:
.LM 0;RM 28;IN 3;FI
This makes all the text 28 columns wide for PAGE PRO 99.

3. If I have time, the file is run through SPELL IT! to correct most spelling error.

   The old file is erased and the Spell-checked one is renamed to the old one.

4. The text file is run through the FORMATTER of FUNNELWEB(TI-writer) and PRINTED to DSK with a file name of TI-OCT91

5. The FORMATTED file is loaded back into the editor and ALL NEW PAGE symbols are removed and the text is joined to make articles one long, continuous part of the file. This is done manually (ie.use FCNT 3)

6. Then ALL "lf" symbols are removed by SAVING through PF(not SF) using C DSKx.TI-OCT91. The C removes the line feeds.

7. Make a note of the articles (NAME and line length).

   DO STEPS 4-7 for all FILES.

8. One scrap paper using about 60 lines pre page design out where the articles are to go.

9. In the Editor still,load the first page LEFT side lines.

   Remember that you can load discrete LINES thru LF eg. 045 067 DSK1.TEXT loads lines 45-67 only.

10. SAVE the LEFT SIDE of page 1 using PF as file DSKx.P-01L

11. Repeat step 9 and 10 using text for the RIGHT hand side of page 1. Save as file DSKx.P-01R.

    Continue to do the rest of your pages until you finish.

12. Fire up PAGE PRO 99 from ASGARD. Start in column 1 of line 3 and IMPORT text DSKx.P-01L. Then move over to line 3 column 32 and IMPORT text DSKx.P-01R.(*NOTE:page 1 has a PIC and only 60 lines of text) Fine edit the text and ADD PICTURES as you wish at this point.

13. SAVE this PAGE in PAGE PRO FORMAT BEFORE printing. Just to be SAFE.

14. PRINT the PAGE.

15. Continue in this manner (steps 12-14) until all pages are done.

OshTI meeting
NEXT
THURS OCT 24th

AT TOM'S
See map >>>

GARY BOWSER
OF OPA
DEMONSTRATES
NEW TI99/4A
HARDWARE

```
                    TO PORT PERRY   ^N

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  ^     |               |
  ^   S | Winchester Rd.| Given
  ^   i |    (6th)    R | ↵Rd.
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      S | Conlin Rd.    | (5th)
      t |             R |
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      N |             . |
        |               |
        | Taunton Rd.   | 5 PT.
        |               | MALL

  - O - S - H - A - W - A -
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OSHAWA TEXAS INSTRUMENTS HOME
COMPUTER USERS' GROUP

CHAIRMAN: RAY BLODGETT
                 (579-1767)

VICE CHAIRMAN: JOHN EASTHAM
                 (728-9994)

TREASURER: GUY LAFONTAINE
                 (576-5910)

LIBRARY/SEC.:   DOUG BURLEIGH
                 (579-5109)

NEWSLETTER   TOM JAKABFY
EDITOR: (725-7298)

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: ----------

MEETING TIMES:

The OSHAWA TI USERS' GROUP
(OSHTI) meets between the
hours of 7:30 and 10:30 pm
Location to be named in the
newsletter.

OshTI

The OSHTI Users' Group is a
Non-profit organization
dedicated to encouraging the
continued use of the TI/994A
for education, entertainment
and data management. The club
also supports the MYARC 9640
or GENEVE(TI compatible)
computer.