BugBytes

Editors Note

Dennis Remmer

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And out of the blue comes another sporadic edition of
BugBytes! As usual lots of bits and pieces, particularly from out
there on the Internet. There's an awful lot of information and
resources now available on line for the TI. I've included a
comprehensive list of TI related web sites that you can explore.
Thanks also to Col for sending some of his useful links.

The next meeting, the Xmas Dinner, will be at Spinnakers,
Woody Point on Thursday, 18th November at 7pm.

Welcome Bill Post as a new member of the group!

This will be the last newsletter of 1999, and indeed this century!
I wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year – may
we all enjoy peace, health and success.

Micropendium Archived

Charles Good

cgood@nicsweb.com

The collection of scanned Micropendium magazines on
ftp://209.172.89.40 is now complete. I uploaded the last
missing issue today. *(Ed: They are in the magazines/micropendium
subdirectory on the aforementioned site).*

Now what I need are Micropendium software disks. I
don't have any. I would like to convert these to PC99
format and put them on Don O'Neil's ftp site.

Remember that the Micropendium publishers have in effect
placed the entire contents of the magazine, including
software published therein, in the public domain. If some
of you folks would be willing to send me your
Micropendium disks I will get them converted and return
your disks promptly.

*Editor's note: I checked this out, and the resource is excellent. The
whole FTP site is amazingly rich with material. Elsewhere on the site
(the articles subdirectory) I found a previously unknown official TI
document entitled "TI Extended Basic Assembly Language Code
Programmer's Guide."... Here is some more information on how to
use these files...*

mpxxxx.max are scanned images of Micropendium
magazine. This publication had the longest publication run
of any 99/4A/Geneve magazine, from Feb 1984 through
June 1999. Each volume starts with the month of
February. For example, vol. 1 goes from Feb 84 through
Jan 85. Most years' publication was monthly. Explicit
permission has been giving by the publisher to post
Micropendium on the Internet and make it available for
free, in effect placing Micropendium and all software
published therein in the public domain. We hope to
ultimately make all software published in Micropendium
available in PC99 format in the PC99.FILES directory.

You need to install the Paperport viewer to view and print
*.max files. This is available in the /pub/magazines
directory.

*.pdf files in this directory contain the text of all
Micropendium articles and full color screen shots of all

software reviewed by the magazine. They do not contain the magazine advertisements. You need to install the Adobe Acrobat Reader to view and print *.pdf files. This is available at http://www.adobe.com/acrobat

FunnelWeb FTP

Charles Good

cgood@nicsweb.com

I have uploaded the complete 40 column Funnelweb set as PC99 disks to Don O'Neil's ftp server at ftp://209.172.89.40 in the /pub/pc99/funnelweb directory. I also uploaded all the 40 and 80 column FunnelWeb documentation files as *.txt PC files. If you want to know what this software does you can easily read these docs.

I have not uploaded the 80 column Funnelweb system files because PC99 doesn't emulate 80 columns.

Microsoft Flight Simulator?

(Ed: No wonder Microsoft programs use so much disk/memory space these days... try this...)

If you have Microsoft Excel '97, follow the instructions below, it's really amazing!!

1. Open a fresh Microsoft Excel sheet

2. Press F5

3. Type X97:L97

4. Press ENTER on OK

5. Press TAB once

6. Press Shift & Ctrl together and click on the CHART WIZARD Icon (Note: ALL AT THE SAME TIME)

You will see a fantastic view. Move your mouse left/right to fly over the surface of a moon. See if you can find the developers' pyramid!

Software Company Watch...

Source Unknown

New York -- People for the Ethical Treatment of Software (PETS) announced today that seven more software companies have been added to the group's "watch list" of companies that regularly practice software testing.

"There is no need for software to be mistreated in this way so that companies like these can market new products," said Ken Grandola, spokesperson for PETS. "Alternative methods of testing these products are available."

According to PETS, these companies force software to undergo lengthy and arduous tests, often without rest, for hours or days at a time. Employees are assigned to "break" the software by any means necessary, and inside sources report that they often joke about "torturing" the software.

"It's no joke," said Grandola. "Innocent programs, from the day they are compiled, are cooped up in tiny rooms and "crashed" for hours on end. They spend their whole lives on dirty, ill-maintained computers, and are unceremoniously deleted when they're not needed anymore."

Grandola said the software is kept in unsanitary conditions and is infested with bugs.

"We know that alternatives to this horror exist," he said, citing industry giant Microsoft Corporation as a company that has become successful without resorting to software testing.

TI List Server Future OK

Tom Wills

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No matter what the membership of the SouthWest Ninety Niners User Group decides in the next few months, the TI99 e-mail list is not going away. It WILL remain in business!

The list server, which has been in existence for over three years now, has become a integral part of the TI-99/4A computer community.

I have kept this list server on-line due to the fact it is a well used by such a wide range of members to the TI99 community.

No matter what happens to the SouthWest Ninety Niners User Group, be it disbanded or reformed into a different mold, TI99ers can rest assured that I will keep the list server on-line for as long as needed.

To me, the $5.00 a month is worth it when I see the use the list server gets. I have found great satisfaction in the list server, and I really enjoy doing my part for the TI99ers. If it wasn't for the TI99/4A and Geneve 9640, I wouldn't be

doing what I am for a living.

This is just my way of saying **Thank You!** to the TI99er community and the computer that have done so much for me.

- Tom Wills - Moderator of the TI99 List Server
- Sponsored by the SouthWest 99ers U.G.
- www.theriver.com/Public/sw99ug/

How Hot Is It In Hell?

A True Story: Source Unknown
A thermodynamics professor had written a take home exam for his graduate students. It had one question:

- Is Hell exothermic (gives off heat) or endothermic (absorbs heat)?
- Support your answer with a proof.

Most of the students wrote proofs of their beliefs using Boyle's Law (gas cools off when it expands and heats up when it is compressed) or some variant.

One student, however, wrote the following:

First, we need to know how the mass of Hell is changing in time. So, we need to know the rate that souls are moving into Hell and the rate they are leaving. I think that we can safely assume that once a soul gets to Hell, it will not leave. Therefore, no souls are leaving. As for how many souls are entering Hell, let's look at the different religions that exist in the world today. Some of these religions state that if you are not a member of their religion, you will go to Hell.

Since there are more than one of these religions and since people do not belong to more than one religion, we can project that all people and all souls go to Hell.

With birth and death rates as they are, we can expect the number of souls in Hell to increase exponentially. Now, we look at the rate of change of the volume in Hell because Boyle's Law states that in order for the temperature and pressure in Hell to stay the same, the volume of Hell has to expand as souls are added. This gives two possibilities:

1) If Hell is expanding at a slower rate than the rate at which souls enter Hell, then the temperature and pressure in Hell will increase until all Hell breaks loose.

2) Of course, if Hell is expanding at a rate faster than the increase of souls in Hell, then the temperature and pressure will drop until Hell freezes over.

So which is it? If we accept the postulate given to me by Ms. Therese Banyan during my Freshman year, "That it will be a cold night in Hell before I sleep with you," and take into account the fact that I still have not succeeded in having sexual relations with her, then 2 cannot be true, and so Hell is exothermic.

The student got the only A.

Legal Weirdness

Source Unknown
Recently reported in the Massachusetts Bar Association Lawyers Journal, the following are questions ACTUALLY asked of witnesses and, in certain cases, the responses given by insightful witnesses.

The following are things people actually said in court, word for word:

Q: What is your date of birth?
A: July 15th

Q: What year?
A: Every year.

Q: What was the first thing your husband said to you when he woke that morning?
A: He said, "Where am I, Cathy?"

Q: And did that upset you?
A: My name is Susan.

Q: And where was the location of the accident?
A: Approximately milepost 499.

Q: And where is milepost 499?
A: Probably between milepost 498 and 500.

Q: Trooper, when you stopped the defendant, were your red and blue lights flashing?
A: Yes.

Q: Did the defendant say anything when she got out of her car?
A: Yes, sir.

Q: What did she say?
A: What disco am I at?

Q: The youngest son, the twenty-year old, how old is he?

Q: Were you present when your picture was taken?

Q: Was it you or your younger brother who was killed in the war?

Q: Did he kill you?

Q: How far apart were the vehicles at the time of the collision?

Q: You were there until the time you left, is that true?

Q: How many times have you committed suicide?

Q: So the date of conception (of the baby) was August 8th?
A: Yes.

Q: And what were you doing at that time?

Q: She had three children, right?
A: Yes.

Q: How many were boys?
A: None.

Q: Were there any girls?

Q: You say the stairs went down to the basement?
A: Yes.

Q: And these stairs, did they go up also?

Q: How was your first marriage terminated?
A: By death.

Q: And by whose death was it terminated?

Q: Can you describe the individual?
A: He was about medium height and had a beard.

Q: Was this a male, or a female?

Q: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice, which I sent to your attorney?
A: No, this is how I dress when I go to work.

Q: Doctor, how many autopsies have you performed on dead people?
A: All my autopsies are performed on dead people.

Q: All your responses must be oral, OK? What school did you go to?
A: Oral.

Q: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?
A: The autopsy started around 8:30 p.m.

Q: And Mr. Dennington was dead at the time?
A: No, he was sitting on the table wondering why I was doing an autopsy.

Q: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?
A: No.

Q: Did you check for blood pressure?

A: No.

Q: Did you check for breathing?
A: No.

Q: So, then is it possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?
A: No.

Q: How can you be so sure, Doctor?
A: Because his brain was sitting in a jar on my desk.

Q: But could the patient have still been alive nevertheless?
A: It is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law somewhere.

Computer Gender

Source Unknown

A language instructor was explaining to her class that French nouns, unlike their English counterparts, are grammatically designated as masculine or feminine. Things like 'chalk' or 'pencil,' she described, would have a gender association although in English these words were neutral.

Puzzled, one student raised his hand and asked, "What gender is a computer?"

The teacher wasn't certain that it was, and so divided the class into two groups and asked them to decide if a computer should be masculine or feminine. One group was comprised of the women in the class, and the other, of men. Both groups were asked to give four reasons for their recommendation.

The group of women concluded that computers should be referred to in the masculine gender because:

1. In order to get their attention, you have to turn them on.

2. They have a lot of data but are still clueless.

3. They are supposed to help you solve your problems, but half the time they ARE the problem.

4. As soon as you commit to one, you realize that, if you had waited a little longer, you could have had a better model.

The men, on the other hand, decided that computers should definitely be referred to in the feminine gender because:

1. No one but their creator understands their internal logic.

2. The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else.

3. Even your smallest mistakes are stored in long-term memory

for later retrieval.

4. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck for accessories

Useful General Web Sites...

Here are some useful and interesting web sites suggested by Col. I'd welcome any other sites that you find useful for future issues...

Ansett Australia's Travel Desk:
http://www.ansett.com.au/travel/

QANTAS's Home Page:
http://www.qantas.com.au/

The Online White Pages:
http://www.whitepages.com.au/

The Online Yellow Pages:
http://www.yellowpages.com.au

An Online Street Directory / Map Search:
http://www.whereis.com.au/search.asp

An Email Address Search Facility:
http://www.whowhere.com/

PC World's Shareware Site:
http://www.pcworld.com/fileworld/

Norton's Anti-Virus Home Page:
http://www.symantec.com/region/reg_ap/product/nav

Internet Software Collection:
http://www.tucows.com/australia.html

Useful TI Web Sites...

Here is a textual reproduction of Rich Polivka's excellent TI site link page at http://99er.interspeed.net/links.html

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/MEMdeGier/

1999 International TI Faire - With photos

http://www.hepplewhite.freeserve.co.uk/

Richard's Web Page - TI section has equipment info, more to come.

http://www.mrmoon.communitech.net/ti994a/

Mr. Moon's TI-99/4A Page -Web page of the owner of Moonbeam Software. Has a *great* searchable archive of the TI listserver.

http://members.aol.com/swim4home/

The Richard Bell Home Page -Richard is selling 99/4A, Geneve, CC40, and Rave 99 items.

http://www.cc.gatech.edu/gvu/people/Phd/Reid.Harmon/htw/

Play 'Hunt The Wumpus' on the Internet -This Java game states that it is based on the TI version of HTW.

http://home.switchboard.com/RogersTiPage
Roger Price's TI Page

http://www.nouspikel.com/ti99/titech.htm

The TI-99/4A Tech Pages - Thierry Nouspikel's web site. Has tons of technical information on topics such as processors, cartridges, pinouts, peripherals, and the console. Also has free software.

http://sass.retrogames.com/

The Speak & Spell Simulator - Download a Windows simulator of a TI Speak & Spell. Pretty neat, and it's free!

http://www.jfalcon.com:8080/

Classic Computer Community - Join to access their TI-99/4A area.

http://www.covert.org/~mike-tom/ti.htm

Thomas Charnota's TI-99/4A Home Page

http://angelfire.com/ar/texas/index2.html

D-Zone - Spanish site. I don't know what it says, but there's a pic of the 4A startup screen, and I see the word 'v9t9'.

http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Haven/1236/pinouts.htm

Nick's Pinouts Collection - Includes TI pinouts as well as other computers. A great resource!

http://home.att.net/~byatesiii/

Ben Yate's Home Computer Page

http://www.rdg.ac.uk/~shs97rma

Ryan-Web -TI-99/4A Nostalgia section has great scans and screen shots of TI software.

http://www.mp3.com/artists/10/the_texas_instruments.html

Pirate Adventure - Believe it or not, this is a song by a group calling themselves 'Texas Instruments'. A TI-99/4A is listed as one of the instruments used, and you can hear the squeal of a

cassette-saved TI program throughout the whole song!

http://members.stratos.net/harryhoffy/newsletter/

Cleveland Area TI-99/4A User Groups - Newsletter, officer list, TI MUG`99 info, Jim Peterson achievement award info.

http://www.2bits.simplenet.com/chips/tms5220.html

The TMS5220 Series Speech Synthesizer - Data sheets on the TMS5110/5220 series speech chips; Used in the 99/4A speech synthesizer.

http://www.videogameconnection.com/t_i.htm

Video Game Connection -Scans, carts for sale, rarity list

http://www.spies.com/arcade/simulation/processors/index.html

TMS9900 Family Processor Info - Instruction set, reference data

http://www.btinternet.com/~shawweb/stephen/book.htm

Getting Started with the Texas Instruments TI99/4A - Web version of the 1983 book by Stephen Shaw, TI-99/4A Information, Download TI Programs for PC99

http://www.nashscene.com/~jmoses/contemplate/technico/

Technico SS-16 Page

http://www.iec.net/ti99/ti99.html

IEC 4A Items For Sale

http://members.tripod.com/~genehitz/maug.html

Milwaukee Area Texas Instruments Users Group

http://www.dtihcg.org

The Dallas TI Home Computer User's Group

http://members.tripod.com/~TI99/Index.htm

The United Kingdom TI99 Users Group

http://www.ultranet.com/~mike-tom/munch.htm

Massachusetts Users of the Ninety-nine and Computer Hobbyists

http://perso.club-internet.fr/pytheas/english/TI99.html

MacV9T9 - A TI99 Emulator for the Macintosh, by Raphaël Nabet

http://members.aol.com/rottencat1/homepage.html

The Assembly Guru -Bruce Harrison's Home Page

http://pw1.netcom.com/~bcostin/cc_ticc40.htm

Bryan's Basement -CC40 Page

http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Sector/2944/

TiSHUG Home Page

http://www.bricktop.demon.co.uk/bricktop/

Bricktop's Home Page

http://pw2.netcom.com/~mjmw/index.html

CaDD Electronics -Authors of the PC99 Emulator

http://www.trailingedge.com/ti99/

The Trailing Edge's TI-99 Pages

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/MEMdeGier/

Tijdingen -The magazine of the Dutch TI-Usersgroup

http://www.oldcomputers.com/

Jason Whorton's oldcomputers.com

http://lcs.www.media.mit.edu/groups/logofoundation/Logo/Logo.html

What Is Logo? - History of Logo, makes mention of the TI-99/4

http://members.xoom.com/ti994a/

V9T9- TI-99/4A Emulator for DOS

http://calvin.ptloma.edu/~spectre/tomy/

The Little Orphan: Tomy Tutor - Cameron Kaiser's tribute to this TI-99 clone

http://www2.cybernex.net/~tvisitor/ti994a.html

TI-99/4A Emulator Page

http://www.interdine.com/ti/

Interdine Design's TI 99/4a Items For Sale Home Page

http://www.lysator.liu.se/adventure/machines/TI-99_4A.html

Adventure Games for the TI

http://mntnweb.com/oldcomputers/TI994A/TI994A.HTM

A v9t9 Page

http://homepage.usr.com/d/dfletcher/

David Fletcher's TI Tech Pages

http://www.rdrop.com/users/tedpet/

Portland Users of Ninety Nine

http://webusers.anet-stl.com/~dain/ti/mbxmain.html

Dain's MBX Tribute Page

http://www.insset.u-picardie.fr/museum/english/pages_museum/ti99.htm

Museum of Dead, Gone, and Obsolete Computers - TI Page

http://www.nwlink.com/~theraven/ti994a/

TI-99/4a Page

http://www.oznet.com/mall/ti99.html

Ozark 99ers User Group

http://www.vex.net/~guru/ti/ti994nota.htm

The TI99/4 (*NOT* 4A) Page - Great Page! Covers the one that came before the 4A. Really Interesting!

http://www.trailingedge.com/~dlw/comp/comphave.html

World of Discarded Computers- 99/4A Page

http://www.heydon.org/kevan/collection/

Kevans Computer Bits

http://www.14software.com/icwhen/

I.C. When- The Chronology of Video Games and Computers

http://www.cplus.fr/musee/micro/TEXAS/ti99.htm

Le Texas Instruments TI99/4A

http://holeinthewall.com/ti994a.htm

The Hole In The Wall TI-99/4A Page

http://www.hh.schule.de/hhs/computer/english/ti994a.htm

The History of the Home Computers TI-99/4A Page

http://www.gj.net/~lucky7/

The TI-99/4A Web-Site - by Bill Gaskill

http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/2761/mug1998.html

The 1998 Lima Multi User Group Conference - May 15-16, 1998

http://pages.prodigy.com/waite/

Waites' Web World

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/byatesiii/

The Home Computer - 99/4A Specs, Screen Shots, Links

http://www.siconic.com/vcf

First Annual Vintage Computer Festival -The TI-99/4A and many other classics!

http://members.aol.com/lapinkult/home.htm

Lapinkult´s TI99/4A Page -Screen shots and Freeware to download!

http://robpatton.com/ti994a.htm

Rob Patton's TI-99/4A Pages -I thought that these pages were gone, but here they are! Includes Rob's great MBX page.

http://personal.riverusers.com/~twills/fw98.html

International TI Fest West '98

http://www.theriver.com/Public/sw99ug/

Southwest Ninety Niner User Group

http://home.earthlink.net/~jkoloen/

MICROpendium Magazine -The ONLY TI-99/4A Magazine

http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/7382/tiemu.htm

Ryan's TI-99/4A Emulator Page

http://www5.zdnet.com/cshopper/content/9706/cshp0046.html

Whatever Happened To... Texas Instruments' Home PC? -Originally published in the June 1997 issue of Computer Shopper

http://www.enter.net/~bsnyder/

TI Chat Page -This is a link to Brad Snyder's TI page. From there, he has a link to his TI chat page.

http://www.concentric.net/~Alxevans/ti99_4a.html

Alexei Ivanovitch's TI Page -Pinouts and instruction set summary for the TMS9900 Processor

http://www.ecn.ou.edu/~peberrym/ti99/ti99.html

Information Page on the TI-99/4A

http://www.ti.com/calc/docs/994a.htm

Texas Instruments -Repair and technical support information.

http://www.enter.net/~bsnyder

Snyder's Software for the TI-99/4A</A>-Page by Brad Snyder. Had a download of an XB Christmas music program.

http://www.geocities.com/Athens/7374/ti.html

TI-99/4A Shrine - by John F. McDonnell, a really great TI page. Great graphics and very organized.

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/addatex

Addatex Software - TI-99/4A programs written by Malcolm Adams. The software is available for download, and there are complete descriptions as well as screen shots.

http://people.delphi.com/eicher/

Dan Eicher's TI Files Page - Includes a CC-40 Information Compendium and a TI Archive file.

http://www.uni-frankfurt.de/~zapf/tigene.html

Michael Zapf's TI and Geneve Page - Has TI related documents, and files available for download.

http://www.whtech.com/ti/index.html

Western Horizon Technologies - Repairs, Downloads, Peripherals, Info.

http://www.zdnet.com/cshopper/filters/9609/punwha.html

What Ever Happened To... the TI 9900 CPU? - Article from the September 1996 issue of Computer Shopper

http://www.datalynxil.com/orgs/99ers.htm

Decatur 99er H.C.U.G

http://www.mgl.ca/~jvweelie/index.htm

99'er Classic Home Computer Page

http://www.startext.net/homes/calthar/columns/sn0996_1.htm

Dallas 99 Interface - Dallas TI Home Computer Group Newsletter

http://www.dcs.ed.ac.uk/~axc/MACHINE-ROOM/

The Machine Room - Old computer database, including the TI-99/4A

http://www.netten.net/~garycox

Gary W. Cox's Homepage - How to repair a TI, using a modem with a TI, TI gatherings, more.

http://ti994a.home.ml.org

Kerry Lee High's TI-99/4A Page

http://sys00.ti6.tu-harburg.de/~ti6hk/hobby/

The TI-99/4A & TI-Parallelcomputing Page - I believe that this is the original TI-99/4A WWW page.

http://www.ncsc.dni.us/fun/user/tcc/cmuseum/cmuseum.htm

The Obsolete Computer Museum. Lots of photos and history.

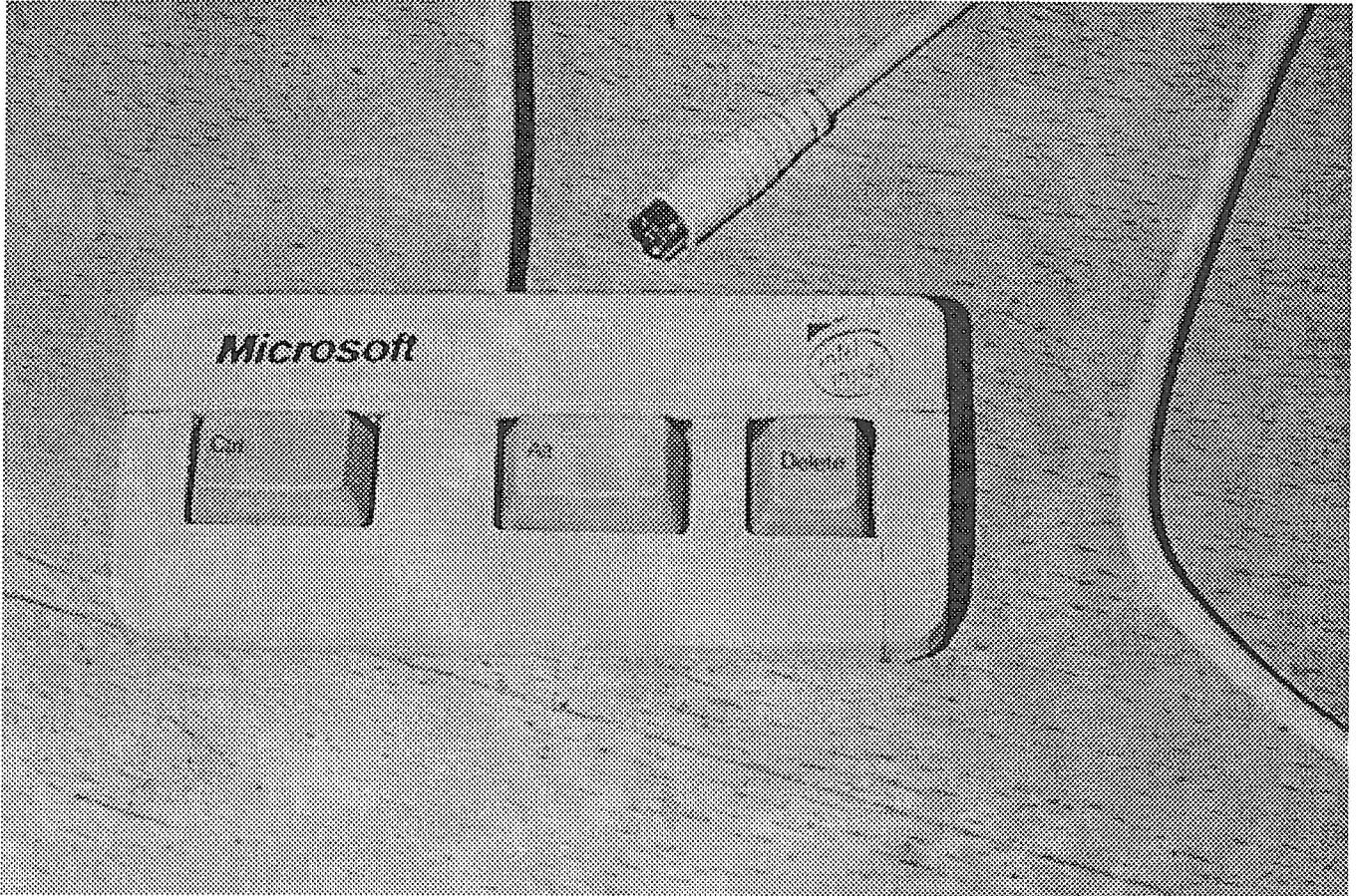http://www.freeflight.com/fms/comp/

Computer History & Emulation - Check under the Old Computer List for the TI.
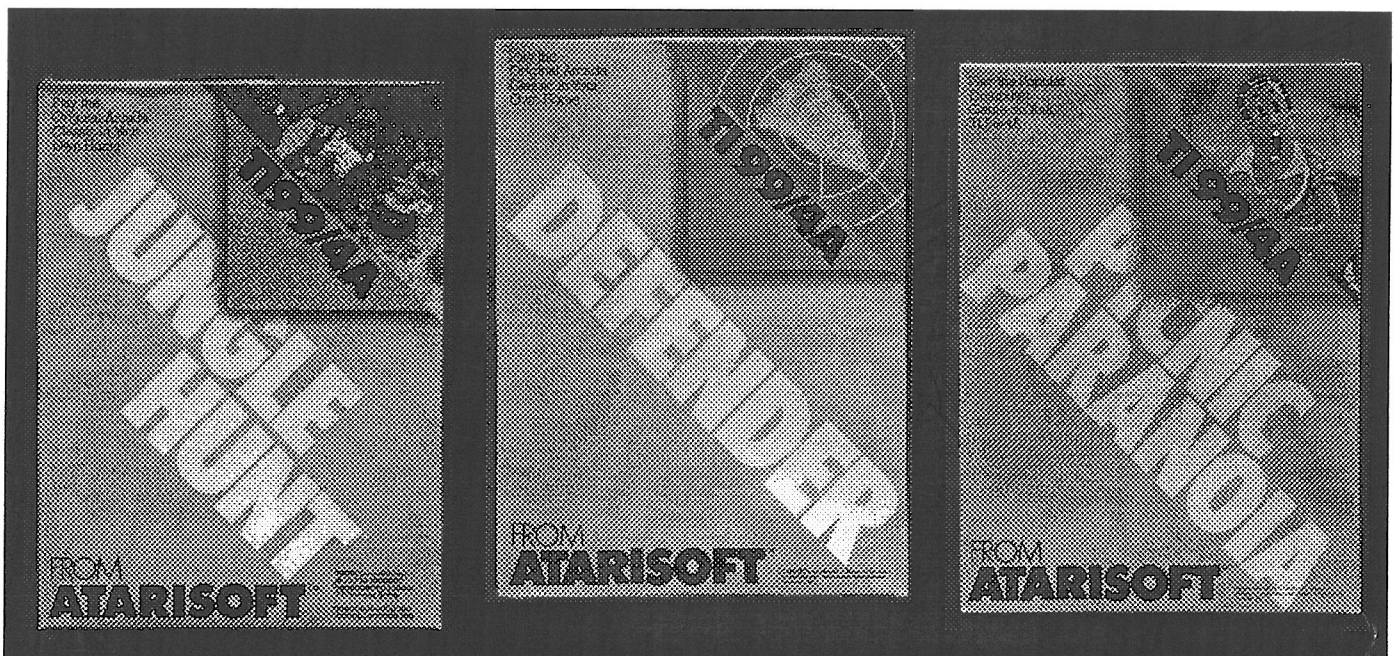
New Peripherals...

Here's the first in a new series, which looks at the latest useful technology to hit the streets. This issue, the fabulous new Microsoft all-in-one keyboard:

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