

CLEVELAND AREA TI-994/A USER GROUPS NEWSLETTER MAY, 1990

OFFICERS	NORTHCOAST	TI-CHIPS	MEETING DATES
CO-PRESIDENT	STEVE BAGSTED 1-933-5977	MATT ANDEL 676-9759	NORTHCOAST 1:30 P.M. TI-CHIPS 10 A.M.
CO-PRESIDENT	BOB KAGY 1-255-2609	GLENN BERNASEK 238-6335	EUCLIDIAN ROOM N.ROYALTON LIBRARY
TREASURER	FRANK JENKINS 283-8526	LIN SHAW 235-3912	EUCLID SQUARE MALL STATE RD & RT 82
MEMBERSHIP	CHUCK POULIN 731-6473 361 E. 280TH ST. EUCLID, OH 44132	JOHN PARKEN 331-2830 4172 W. 217TH ST. FAIRVIEW PARK, OH 44126	THIRD SATURDAY THIRD SATURDAY MAY 19, 1990 JUNE 16, 1990 JULY 21, 1990 AUGUST 18, 1990 SEPTEMBER 15, 1990 OCTOBER 20, 1990
SECRETARY	CHUCK POULIN 731-6473	DENNIS LIKENS 842-9627	
LIBRARY(DISK)	MARTIN SMOLEY 1-257-1661	HARRY HOFFMAN 631-2354	
(TAPE & MODS)	TOM NELLIS 475-4067	JOHN PARKEN 331-2830	
(HARD COPY)	DICK ALDEN 1-352-9172		

Again, remember that May 26 is the annual Multi- User Group conference in Lima. Rather than take up space in the newsletter with the schedule and directions for getting there, I will have available at both clubs copies at the May meetings. We have three tables reserved, so if anyone wants to set up for any "for sale" items, there should be plenty of room.

You need to plan to get there early, however, if you want to attend the first presentation which starts at 8:30. For the first time, there will be a Dutch Treat pizza party after the meet at a local restaurant from 8 p.m. until? If any of you are planning to stay overnight, give me a call as I have a list of local motels and rates.

The Lima newsletter states that Tony McGovern has just about finished V4.30 of Funnelpub. The changes are mostly in the DISK REVIEW area which seems to have become a full-fledged disk manager for the GENEVE people. He may not be able to add the same features for the TI because of memory limitation. Charlie Good will be demonstrating 4.30 at Lima.

From the Lima newsletter from a tape from Lutz Winkler is a suggestion for improving the keyboard control of the falling pieces in Alexander Hulpke's TETRIS which allows two-handed keyboard operation. The left/right vertical movement of falling pieces is moved from numbers 8 and 9 to the arrow keys (S and D). Rotation of the pieces is moved to the (period) key. With a sector editor change:

Sector 13, byte 214 - change to 53

Sector 13, byte 238 - change to 44

Sector 14, byte 8 - change to 2E

Dennis Likens of Chips mentions a good buy on a modem, but I think that I can go one better. The latest flyer from NICO Center in Columbus has a 1200 baud external modem for \$39.95. It is Hays compatible with automatic answer, redial and voice/data switching. Prices are good

through June 2. Phone (614)481-8041.

If you didn't pick up the Computer Buyer's Guide last month, I would urge you to do so. The April TI column was an introduction and information type column for people who purchased the magazine and possibly didn't know the TI was still a viable computer. This month Barry Traver reviews TI-Artist Plus, TIPS, music from Harrison Software and tells about two Diskazines for the 9640. In case, you haven't heard about them, Beery Miller of 5455 Marina Cove #1, Memphis, TN 38115, at a cost of \$25 per volume and 5 issues per volume. The other is produced by the famous Regena and features Myarc Advanced BASIC (Regena, 928 Cedar Knolls West, Cedar City, UT 84720). Her's is a monthly publication and the cost is \$6.00 per issue. There were subscription specials of \$15.95 for 12 issues and \$22.00 for 24 issues. The April issue was 179 pages and the May issue was over 200 pages. They state they will be expanding the CLASSIC COMPUTER sections in coming months, so evidently have had a good response.

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE NOTES - TI-CHIPS.....	2
EXECUTIVE NOTES - NORTHCOAST.....	2
THE MISSING LINK - TERRY VACHA - TI-CHIPS.....	2
MISC RAMBLINGS - STEVE BAGSTAD - NC.....	3
FRACTAL EXPLORER V.3 - WES RICHARDSON - NC.....	4
TI-BASE TUTORIAL - MARTY SMOLEY - NC.....	6
TI-BASE 3.0 - MARTY SMOLEY - NC.....	6
GIPFY 99 - DEANNA SHERIDAN - NC.....	9
MACFLIX PROFESSIONAL - DEANNA SHERIDAN - NC.....	9
ARTIST PRINT SHOP - DEANNA SHERIDAN - NC.....	9

TI-CHIPS 21 Apr. 1990

The April TI-CHIPS meeting was called to order at 10:15 am. by President Matt Unduly. Minutes from the March meeting were read and approved. We had a nice turnout but just a few less than at the last meeting. Guess Spring cleaning just had to be done.

Looks like all those memberships that were to expire this month were renewed. We have 9 members up for renewal for the next couple of months so check your memberships expiration date and stay with use folks. Welcome to a couple of new members, you'll be identified next month cause I seem to have temporarily misplaced your names, SORRY.

Speaking of members, John Parken reports we have 52 members at present. John also has info on getting Des/D.E. drives full or half the for \$15. Yes they are used so you take a chance when you buy them but if your faith is greater than your wallet, give him a shout, also 20mg hardwares at a low price can be purchased also. If you rather have new stuff, I posted some info on free net, 2400baud modem for \$79 (new). But check with Ron of Reincarnate computers first, he may be able to get the same deal if not better and you wont have to wait for the mailman.

Harry Hoffman reports he now has an answering machine. So those who need disks can call him and leave a message. PLEASE leave your name, phone number, type disk system you have and most important, the DISK NUMBER of listed in the library of the disk(s) you want. He reports some new additions. One noteworthy program is SECTOR PATROL. A game that Harry says has him hooked. Now this came from a man who plays few games so its gotta be good.

Matt demo'd a program that converts GIF files to TI-ARTIST(+) by Barry Boone. This was only a demo program. The real one can be had from Barry. All docs are on the demo disk and Barrys address.

Les demo'd an XB program that designs cones. Yes cones. Ever wanted to design a base for a WOK or some type of stand? Well this program can assist you in doing so. Also a good program for those learning geometry. Ron from Ramcharged Computers demo's a couple of commercial software programs. One is from Asgard, St's in module form so nothing other than a bare bones system is needed but speech can also be used if you have the synthesizer. This program is a educational game for the younger folks but as Ron demonstrated, it can be a challenge to older folks too. This model has a game that has you flying a spaceship pushing a letter of the alphabet, your mission is to connect this letter with it's twin. The only pitfall here is it's twin is flying around on the screen also. The higher the level, the faster the letters move. Level is selected at the start of the game. Also a typing tutor game is there and a game called GIVING. It teaches the young folks that being nice and giving pays off. All three games are on the module so 1 module, 3 games. The other game was ROCK RUNNER. This game uses the resolution of the bit map graphics (the newly discovered part of the 99 we see in Nintendo type games. You move around underground collecting diamonds. TI-RUNNER cant even come close to this one. Needs E/A and joysticks. Also uses speech.

Remember folks, May 26th is the Lima fair. The Cleveland area 99'ers have 3 tables reserved. Further details, call Glenn Bernasek. Till may 19th, seeya.

Dennis Likens TI-CHIPS

EXECUTIVE NOTES - NORTHCOAST

The April 17 meeting was attended by about 25 people. I missed all but a brief portion of the meeting, so will not report in great detail on it. Items of interest included:

-the Lima Faire will be May 26, the Saturday after our regular meeting. 3 tables are reserved for our Cleveland groups, so if anyone definitely wants to attend, please let me know. I am personally leaning toward attending- perhaps we can set up car pool(s?) at the May meeting.

-we received and distributed the 2-hour videotape by Lima of configuring FUNNELWEB; 2 copies were put into circulation (with Chuck Poulin and Ray Chown), and hopefully everyone interested will see it before too long. Please, once you receive it, try to keep it no longer than 1 week and then call the next person on the list to let them come get it. Thanks- it's not exactly exciting, but explains pretty well.

-I must apologize, as I had planned to bring the ribbon reinker to the meeting. I WILL have it present for the May meeting!

-Howie Winkler demo'd a new 64k SuperCart that can hold up to 8 modules- built in Chicago- feels he may be able to duplicate it for about \$25 with your E/A module as a base. Contact him if further interested, and perhaps he can update us as he does any. -the main demo was Bob Kagy with his MFDC/hard drive hardware setup, and was another interesting story of eventually overcoming difficulties to end up with a very nice system upgrade.

I want to say 'THANKS' to renewing members Earl Blewitt of Mentor, Milly Kantor of Cleveland Heights, and Howard Winkler and Raymond Yanosko of Cleveland. Also, to new members Gary Carr of Beloit, John Robinson of Cleveland, and Norbert Sitter of Erie, PA.

For the upcoming meeting, I don't know what was set up. There is much new software we should be looking at, and if nothing more pressing is planned, that's what we will do in May with whatever we can get. I know of 'The Missing Link', and many more such as TI-Artist +, that we should be able to see.

For the meeting, we'll try to put together the approximate cost of each of the hardware upgrades demo'd in recent meetings for possible changes you may wish to consider in your pursuit of most effective use of your TI system. See you on May 19 at 1:30!!

Steve

THE MISSING LINK by t.vacha TI-CHIPS - CLEVELAND, OHIO

The title of the program is a nice play on words since it is full of Call Link commands that should have been in Extended Basic, but are missing. The demo which I put in the CHIPS files sells the program. If you don't like programming the computer, then this program IS NOT for you. You'll find it just one more confusing "technical thing".

However, if you do enjoy fussing with programming to either be productive and create things or just like to see what you can make the TI do, then this program will

deelight you!

The Missing Link is sort of a combination Draw and Plot, Enhanced Display Package, etc., but in my opinion, nicer, easier than these programs.

The entire program is in Bitmap mode, so there is no switching between modes. TML comes with a resident screen dump that works by hitting the FCTN and CNTL keys simultaneously. Everything is dumped to an Epson compatible except sprites(which always seem invisible to printers). One drawback is that this screen dump is a small size, only about 4 inches wide.

You can work in 16 color mode, or if you need more memory, 2 color mode. You can load TI-Artist pictures, or save your screen in TI-Artist picture format. You can have sprites moving on your Artist picture while music is playing. This should be great for the "game" programmers.

"PIXEL", "LINE", "CIRCLE", and "BOX" commands along with commands to raise and lower your "pen", change its color or reverse its effect should be great commands for both the math oriented and the game programmers. Some turtle graphics commands are also included.

The text handling is very nice. First note that these old commands do NOT work with TML: PRINT, DISPLAY AT, INPUT, ACCEPT AT, HCHAR, VCHAR. However, it appears to me that you can do all of the same things except scrolling, that you could do before.

When using text, the main commands are "PRINT", "INPUT", "WINDOW", again remembering that these are all CALL LINK commands. Windows can be of a variety of sizes, colors, and many can be on the screen at the same time. Drawing, printing text, can be inside any window you want. Text can be printed in multiple SIZES and COLORS all on the screen AT THE SAME TIME! How about them apples!

Two demos, written in Extended Basic, come with TML. These can be used in any fashion by the purchaser. So the demos give nice examples of most, maybe all, of the new TML commands. Although I've bungled up some programming with TML, I must say that I personally find TML very easy to use.

You also get a program to make your own alphabet for the screen. I foresee someone using these to make specialty characters such as math symbols, arrows, etc to enhance the screen.

I'd like to see a larger screen dump, and at least one MACRO key to use like EZ-Keys, that is, to aid in program running as you write new programs.

If you buy programs later which use multiple text sizes, TI-Artist pictures, etc., the addition of a ram disk to your hardware will really enhance your fun with TML.

You've probably noticed that I am biased in favor of The Missing Link, but only for those who enjoy programming. The Commands included are:

Clear Screen Pixel Color Screen Color
Pen Color Pen Down Pen Reverse
Pen Erase Pen Up Window Size
Reverse Window Fill Window
Print Input Char patterns Charac size Format output
Turn on Pixel Draw line
Draw circle Draw box Suppress arcs
Turn turtle Move turtle Move Pen

Find pen position Define Sprites
Create Sprites Delete sprites
Freeze sprites Thaw sprites
Get sprite position Sprite distance
Load TI-Artist picture
Save TI-Artist picture Dump screen

MISCELLANEOUS RAMBLINGS - STEVE BAGSTAD - 4/29/90

This is just a mishmash of topics I felt might be of general information for TI users. So, here goes...

I have spent quite a few hours perusing exchange newsletters lent me by Deanna. I would like to pass on notes from this review in three areas: general info, hardware, and software. Will plan to comment on any of these of interest in upcoming meetings, particularly for those we can't demo.

GENERAL: TI repair service is available from TI itself. A list of TI vendors publishers is available. Hints on fixing "blown" floppy disks. Two cuties from PA MUG: Q. What's the difference between used car and computer salespeople? A. At least the used car one knows when he's lying. (ouch) and Q. What's the difference between hardware and software? A. Hardware BREAKS if you play with it long enough; software WORKS if you ... TI ceased production of the TI-99/4 ON 3/28/84. Some groups offer a "Disk of the Month" to meeting attendees, a policy I'd like to see us adopt. Lima Faire map. TI Fest West (Tucson) success. Standardized presentation/demo format. Groups welcome new members.

HARDWARE: Long list. Zenoboard- amazing. Memex. 8-bank SuperCart (12/89 MicroPendium?). Myarc sells 3 Geneves, 8 HFDC's at Fest West. Magnavox BCM515 monitor. Geneve and HFDC prices. Asgard Mouse. Dallas UG upgrading all disk users to at least DS. RAMBO board for RAMDISKS.

SOFTWARE: Even longer list. Exec. Remind Me! Harrison Word Processor. Geneve Windows. War Zone. Living Tomb. XNI. Boot. Geneve System Software. "Press". Unreleased TI Modules. T-Shell. Adventure Compilation. JUMPBOOT. Golf. Cribbage. Contract'Bridge. The Missing Link. The Printer's Apprentice. Spell It! TI Artist Plus.

Mail order shopping notes (con't from last month):

TIPS WHEN ORDERING BY PHONE: Note the time and date of your conversation and the name of the person you talked with; Make a record of your order, the price, its promised availability and the components to be expected; Save all correspondence associated with your order, including your cancelled check or a copy of the money order, and any written confirmation sent by the Seller.

QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD CONSIDER ASKING: Does the advertised item come with all necessary parts and accessories? Are they from the same manufacturer? Is it available for immediate shipment? If not, when will it be available? Is the advertised price correct? What warranty does the item carry? Who provides the service? What is the Seller's return/refund policy? With whom should you correspond if there is a problem? (MORE NEXT MONTH)

Steve

FRACTAL EXPLORER V.3

PROGRAM by MARK SCHAFER
BLUEGRASS 99 COMPUTER SOCIETY, INC.

REVIEW by WESLEY R. RICHARDSON
NORTHCOAST 99ERS, CLEVELAND, OH

FRACTAL EXPLORER version 3.00 is an Assembly Language program which allows you to enjoy the beauty and complexity of the Mandelbrot set on the TI-99/4A. You do not need to understand the mathematics of fractals, but for those who are interested, a brief explanation is given at the end of this article in the appendix.

The minimum system requirements for running FRACTAL EXPLORER are a SSSD disk drive, 32K memory and either the Editor Assembler module, or an E/A #3 loader such as Funnelweb. A printer and color monitor are desirable, but not required.

Examples of two fractal images are shown on the following page, although on screen the images are displayed in multicolor mode with 48 by 64 positions. The program options include creating new fractals, loading previously saved images from disk, printing images, and the most fun, zooming. With a fractal on the screen, whether previously created or loaded from disk, pressing Z for zoom will cause a small corner cursor to appear on the fractal. This cursor is set to the upper left corner of the area you wish to zoom in on, and then another cursor is used to set the remaining three corners of the zoom area. The program will then calculate the new fractal, displaying on the screen as it goes. Each zoom will reveal new features, depending upon your position and magnification size.

Mark Schafer, author of FRACTAL EXPLORER version 3.00, has increased the speed of the program by 2.5 times over that of version 2.00, and nearly 5 times that of Steve Langguth's version 1.00. Mark has also added many features and refinements to the program. The most impressive to me was Mark's writing of the binary fixed point routines for the calculations instead of the TI floating point routines. The binary fixed point increases the accuracy of the calculations as well as the speed, and is based on an article by Steve Ciarcia in Byte magazine.

Although they currently are only a mathematical curiosity, I am fascinated by fractals and perhaps you will be too. Mark Schafer has done a great

job in improving FRACTAL EXPLORER and making the enjoyment of fractals available to the TI community.

The FRACTAL EXPLORER program is available from:

Mark Schafer
539 Whitaker St.
Morehead, KY 40351

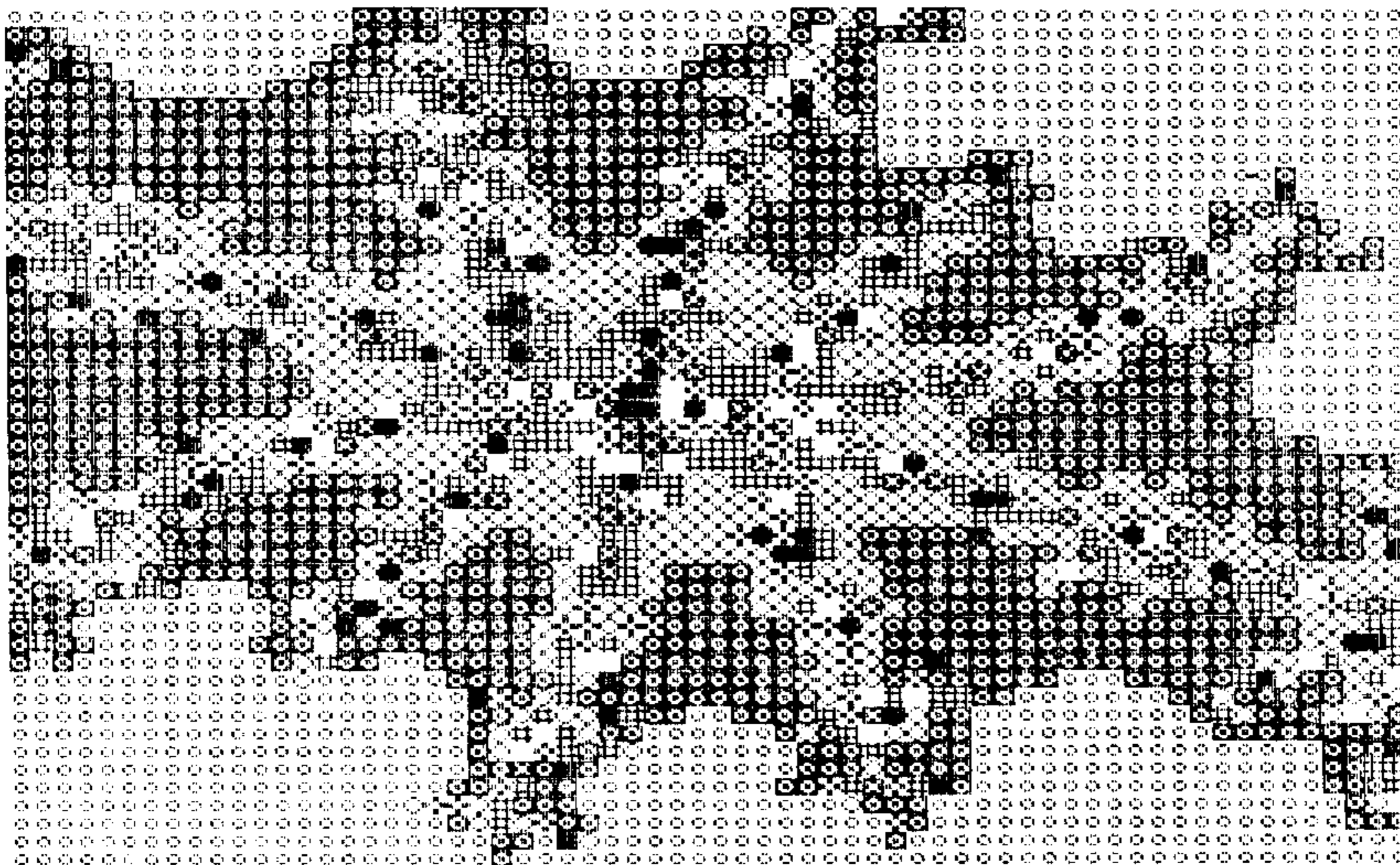
Requests for copies of FRACTAL EXPLORER must include 2 formatted diskettes (SSSD), a diskette mailer, return postage, and a suggested donation of \$10.00. You will receive the program, documentation, several fractal images, and the complete documented assembly source code. Instructions for modification of the source code for printers other than the Gemini 10X is also given.

APPENDIX

The next two paragraphs are a brief explanation of fractals and the Mandelbrot Set. A fractal can be described as a mathematical concept for shapes which are best defined as having a fractional dimension. A plane has two dimensions, and a volume has three dimensions, but a fractal may have 1.3154... dimensions, for example. One characteristic of a fractal is that as you increase the magnification with which you examine the shape, the complexity continues to increase. Physical objects reveal additional features and detail with increasing magnification, thus fractals may one day be used to model nature.

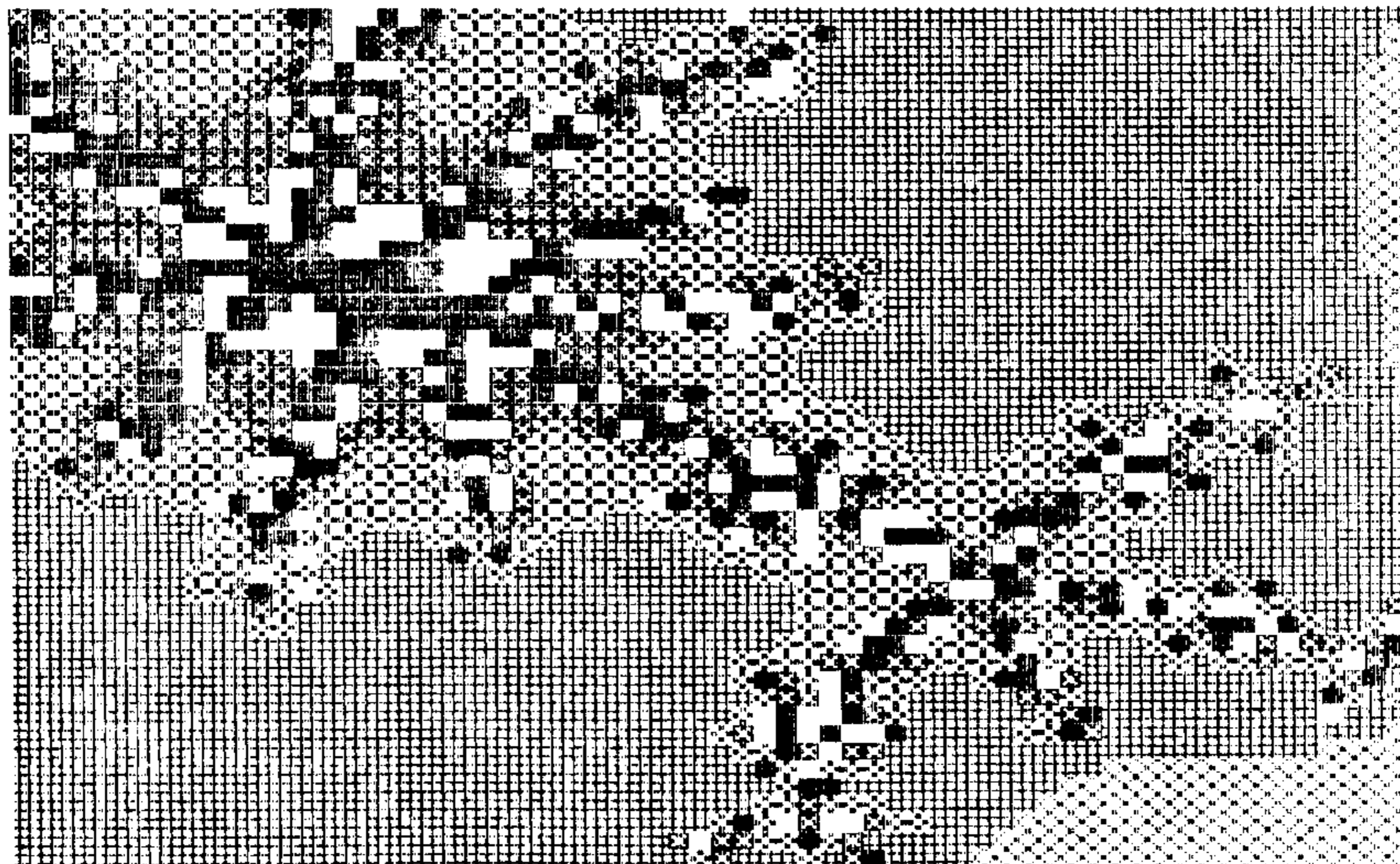
The Mandelbrot Set is a specific fractal developed by Benoit Mandelbrot. To generate this fractal set, a point on the complex plane is selected, represented by Z. The Z value is squared, a constant, C, is added, and the distance to the origin is determined. If the distance is greater than 2, then stop the iteration process and color the point based on the number of iterations completed. If the distance to the origin is less than 2, then set the new Z value equal to Z^2+C and increase the loop count. If the loop counter reaches some arbitrary value, say 100 before Z reaches a distance of 2, then color the position black. In this manner, each point in an area of interest is colored according the number of times the loop is completed for each point. The FRACTAL EXPLORER documentation further explains the mathematical concept of fractals and how the calculations are done.

900427WR



Beginning Real Value : -0.5645949641 Length of Side : 0.0038169051

Beginning Imag Value : -0.6439161859 Filename : 5645949641



Beginning Real Value : -0.5644962696 Length of Side : $.26823E-071$

Beginning Imag Value : -0.6436629922 Filename : 5644962696

TI-BASE - From INSCEBOT
TUTORIAL 18.1.2 By Martin Smoley
NorthCoast 99'ers - April 21, 1990
Copyright 1990 By Martin A. Smoley

Another possibility would be to use RECOrd 1 to blank the previous on-screen entries and set the length of each entry. That would allow you to create a universal input screen that would change its characteristics depending on the database that was opened. Changes could be handled by a Sub-CF that was called by a number stored in the 0 RECOrd and the use of a DOCASE. If this is a little too much for you, just use INPUT as a simple data entry CF and forget about the extra junk. Entering the data into the screen is more user friendly than using EDIT and I like to be able to use upper and lower case letters for commands. The CF will keep you posted as to what it is doing and it will automatically assemble an ID number for a name which is saved. The only automatic feature is the creation of NM by the INPSC CF. You will notice that it finds the last value for NM and makes the newest entry one number higher than that. This keeps the last entries at the end of the Db, no matter what their sort order should be. At the end of an entry session you should run the CF named INP'RN. This CF will sort our Db on Last Name, First Name, renumber the NM field and then re-sort on the NM field. This is the way I like TNAME\$90 sorted, you may have another idea. You should note that I have placed one blank space at the beginning of many of the RECOrd 0 fields. This will return that record to the head of the Db when sorting on those fields.

ENTER INFORMATION	INSTRUCTIONS
First Name ... MI Last Name	
> (<) (<)	< Enter the data between the greater than ">" and less than "<" signs. Press ENTER after each item is entered, First Name (<E), Middle Initial (<E), Last Name (<E), etc. When all the data is entered you can select Save, Print, SavePrint, Redo or Quit. When you make a single character entry, the character must be to the left and the blank space must be to the right.
Street Address	
> (<)	
City ST Zip	
> (<) (<) (<)	
Phone	
> (<)	
SELECTIONS	
Q or q Quit	
S or s Save	
P or p Print	
SP or sp Save Print	
R or r Redo	
Selection ==> R	

```

*****
* renumber NM field INP'RN/C
CLOSE ALL
LOCAL NUM N 4 0
USE DSK1.TNAME$90
SORT ON LN, FN
TOP
WHILE .NOT. (EOF)
  REPLACE NM WITH NUM
  MOVE
  REPLACE NUM WITH NUM + 1
ENDWHILE
SORT ON NM
CLOSE ALL
RETURN Copyright Martin A. Smoley 1990

```

```

* INPSC/C
SET HEADING OFF
SET RECNUM OFF
FIND 0
WRITE 1,12,"ENTER INFORMATION"
WRITE 3,2, FN
WRITE 3,19, MI
WRITE 3,23, LN
WRITE 7,2, SA
WRITE 11,2, CT
WRITE 11,24, ST
WRITE 11,28, ZP
WRITE 15,2, PH
WRITE 15,20,"SELECTIONS"
WRITE 17,20,"Q or q Quit"
WRITE 18,20,"S or s Save"
WRITE 19,20,"P or p Print"
WRITE 20,20,"SP or sp Save Print"
WRITE 21,20,"R or r Redo"
RETURN Copyright Martin A. Smoley 1990

```

```

* INPSV/C
WRITE 22,16," ..... SAVING DATA ..... "
LOCAL INM N 4 0
LOCAL FIN C 1
LOCAL LIN C 1
LOCAL PZ C 2
LOCAL AS C 2
BOTTOM
REPLACE INM WITH NM
APPEND BLANK
REPLACE NM WITH INM+1
REPLACE FN WITH IFN
REPLACE MI WITH IMI
REPLACE LN WITH ILN
REPLACE SA WITH ISA
REPLACE CT WITH ICT
REPLACE ST WITH IST
REPLACE ZP WITH IZP
REPLACE PH WITH IPH
REPLACE FIN WITH FN
REPLACE LIN WITH LN
REPLACE PZ WITH ZP
REPLACE AS WITH SA
REPLACE ID WITH FIN ; LIN ; PZ ; AS ; PH
RETURN Copyright Martin A. Smoley 1990

```

```

* INPLBL/C
SET PAGE=000
LOCAL TEMP C 40
WRITE 22,16," ... Printing Label ..."
PRINT (Drft), (E), (LF)
REPLACE TEMP WITH TRIM(IFN) ; " " ;
; IMI ; " " ; ILN
PRINT TEMP
PRINT ISA
REPLACE TEMP WITH TRIM(ICT) ; ", " ;
; IST ; " " ; IZP
PRINT TEMP, (LF), (LF)
RETURN Copyright Martin A. Smoley 1990

```

**TI-BASE - From INSCEBOT
TUTORIAL 18.1.1 By Martin Smoley
NorthCoast 99'ers - April 21, 1990
Copyright 1990 By Martin A. Smoley**

I am reserving the copyright on this material, but I will allow the copying of this material by anyone under the following conditions. (1) It must be copied in its entirety with no changes. (2) If it is retyped, credit must be given to myself and the NorthCoast 99ers, as above. (3) The last major condition is that there may not be any profit directly involved in the copying or transfer of this material. In other words, Clubs can use it in their newsletters and you can give a copy to your friend as long as its free.

This months project is quite insignificant as far as innovative programming techniques are concerned, but it concerns a utility which I have wanted to create for a long time. This is the simple ability to type in the data for a mailing label and print the label and/or save the data for later use. I know this sounds untrue, but as many times as I have thought to myself that I should whip something up to do this task, I haven't! So this month I'm going to take care of my problem and drag you along for the ride. NOTE: There are some other reasons for this project which I will try to explain later.

I whipped up INPUT/C, which you see to the right. For those of you who are still struggling, it was not nearly as easy as I make it sound. It took forever to get those IF statement to work the way I wanted, and I kept using more LOCALs than I was allowed. I would also add that every CF I have, should be called a semi-finished product. Almost every time I use a CF I can see something I'd like to change. Here are a few tricks I used in INPUT that you might find interesting. First I set up LOCALs to handle the keyboard input. This allowed me to print a label even if I didn't save the data to the Db. Next, I used the data from RECORD 0 as headings for the input screen. The use of RECORD 0, coupled with the fact that the only direct connection between INPUT and your Db is made in the Sub-CF(INPSV) means that it should be quite easy to adapt INPUT to any Db you may be using.

FIELD	DESCRIPTOR	TYPE	WIDTH	DEC	
1	NM	N	004	00	I have modified our old standby database TNames to accommodate thoughts for future projects. It is not necessary for you to make these changes. The CFs should work fine with the original Db. You can change the name of the Db used in INPUT and let it go at that. I will not place more than a few names in our DEMO Db so a conversion can be made at any time.
2	LN	C	015		
3	FN	C	015		
4	MI	C	002		
5	NL	N	004	00	
6	SA	C	025		
7	CT	C	020		
8	ST	C	002		
9	IP	C	005		
10	PH	C	012		
11	XP	D	008		
12	ID	C	007		

000 1 TNames9000000/00002

**CONTINUED
NEXT PAGE**

Database TNames90

REC	NM	LN	FN	MI	NL	SA	CT	ST	IP	PH	XP	ID	
0000	0	Last Name	First Name	...	MI	Street Address	City	ST	Zip	Phone	/XP/	ID No.
0001	1	Smoley		Martin		A.	6149 Bryson Drive	Mentor	OH	44060	216-257-1661	/ /	MS44612

```

* INPUT/C
CLOSE ALL
SET TALK OFF
CLEAR
WRITE 9,4," .. LOADING .. "
LOCAL IFN C 15
LOCAL IMI C 2
LOCAL ILN C 15
LOCAL ISA C 25
LOCAL ICT C 20
LOCAL IST C 2
LOCAL IZP C 5
LOCAL IPH C 12
USE DSK1.TNAMES90
* you can use the original TNames
LOCAL INP C 2
DO DSK1.INPSC
WHILE (INP<>"Q ").AND.(INP<>"q ")
WRITE 5,1,"> <> <"
" > <"
WRITE 9,1,"> <"
WRITE 13,1,"> <"
" > <> <"
WRITE 17,1,"> <"
READSTRING 5,2,IFN
READSTRING 5,19,IMI
READSTRING 5,23,ILN
READSTRING 9,2,ISA
READSTRING 13,2,ICT
READSTRING 13,24,IST
READSTRING 13,28,IZP
READSTRING 17,2,IPH
WRITE 22,2,"Selection ==> R ";
" "
READSTRING 22,16,INP
WRITE 22,16," ..... PROCESSING ..... "
IF (INP="Q ").OR.(INP="q ")
CLOSE ALL
RETURN
ENDIF
IF (INP="S ").OR.(INP="s ")
DO DSK1.INPSV
ENDIF
IF (INP="P ").OR.(INP="p ")
DO DSK1.INPLBL
ENDIF
IF (INP="SP").OR.(INP="sp")
DO DSK1.INPSV
DO DSK1.INPLBL
ENDIF
WRITE 22,16," "
REPLACE INP WITH "R "
ENDWHILE
CLOSE ALL
SET HEADING ON
SET RECNUM ON
SET TALK ON
RETURN Copyright Martin A. Smoley 1990

```

TI-BASE - Version 3.0
INSCEBOT inc. Preview
P.O. Box 291610 By Martin A. Smoley
Pt. Orange, FL 32119

Yes, I said Version 3.0

First I must do a little explaining about tutorial 18.1.1 and 18.1.2. The CFs in that series are OK and should be quite useful, but my presentation and explanation were a little short. The situation was, that I had already decided on a major direction change for the tutorial subject matter and had completed a large portion of the work on the first tutorial when I received the new version 3.0 of TI-Base for beta-testing. After looking over the new material I decided that I could not publish even the first segment of the new tutorial without including and testing the newest release of TI-Base. So I threw the INPUT Tutorial together to allow myself more time to work with the new TI-Base. I hope I have not disappointed our readers.

Now let me give you a little idea of what's coming in the new TI-Base version 3.0. The Device directive, such as DSK1.TNAMES90, has been expanded to 29 characters. This is important if you are using a hard drive. The use of variables has been expanded. If you place the number 8 in a variable named A, you can now use MOVE A as a valid expression, etc. TIB will now search for a sub-string within a string and return that string if the sub-string is matched. TIB now has a LENGTH function that will count the number of characters in a string variable. This is big, "SUBSTR(VARIABLE,START,LENGTH)". SUBSTRING will extract part of a string, STARTing at a specified point and continuing for a specified LENGTH. This is like SEG# in Extended Basic. You can now DELETE RECORD ;FOR (?=?). And, you can SUM or AVERAGE (yes AVERAGE) to a variable, (SUM SUBTOT TO TOT ;FOR SUBTOT>50.00). "This is really the biggest news so far." The ability to set up a special database as a REPORT form. Within this database you can have sections that tell TIB what you want it to do. In the SETUP section you can tell TIB to SELECT several different slots and USE several different databases. You can reSET the status (SET RECNUM=OFF, etc.) and initialize variables (LOCAL PA 4, etc.). Then TIB will move to HEADER which can print a letterhead, page number or other items as a heading for the report. TIB will then print up to three BODY fields, each of which can contain as much data as you can extract from the records current in the slots that are in use. This means, if you had opened 5 databases in the 5 slots and aligned them with FIND directives, and if each database had 17 fields, you could print any of the 85 pieces of information available in each of the 3 BODY functions of the report. "Not Bad!" The NEXT function allows you to MOVE and re-align all the Dbs before another pass through the BODY section. NEXT BODY 1, BODY 2 and BODY 3 will be repeated until an EOF is encountered. FOOTER will print footnotes in the same manner as HEADER and CLEANUP will CLOSE ALL and reSET the STATUS to whatever you wish at the end of the report. I will restrict myself to a half page for this 3.0 review so there are many things I can't tell you about, like MACRO instructions stored in VDP RAM or direct keyboard input of Control Codes from 0 to 255, or even MODIFY STRUCTURE without losing all the data in the database. 3.0 should be out in May so if you use TI-Base get ready to buy this new version.

Good Luck. Marty.

OK, so I can't wait. I've got to tell you a little more about Version 3.0. Macro Instructions have got to be one of the big new features in TI-Base. A Macro, or Macro Instruction is roughly, the ability to execute a large command, or a large group of command, with a single keystroke or a very short key input. TI-Base Version 3.0 has that capability. It's a little repetative to set up a large number of Macros, but once you've done it the rewards are great. Dennis has set up a usable area in VDP RAM which is handled by the phrase INSTALL. You should think of the word INSTALL more as the name of the area and not as a command. The things which you can do to the INSTALL area are CLEAR, ADD, REMOVE, CATALOG, LOAD and SAVE. You must create a command file on disk for each Macro Phrase you want to use. For example, I entered MODIFY COMMAND DSK1.\MC. This created the CF named "\MC" on disk drive #1. When the Edit screen appeared I entered two words "MODIFY COMMAND" and I pressed <FCTN 8> to save the CF. I did not enter any comments or place RETURN at the end of the CF. Then, at the dot prompt I entered INSTALL ADD DSK1.\MC. TIB retrieved the CF named "\MC" from DSK1 and placed its contents (MODIFY COMMAND) in the INSTALL area under the name "\MC". This allows me to execute that command by simply typing \MC at the dot prompt. This may not seem like much at first, but here's the big picture. TIB can execute many individual command from VDP by their names and a Macro can be as large as a Command File. I created each of the Command Files you see here under their individual filenames and used the ADD directive to place them all in VDP at the same

```
filename \MC
MODIFY COMMAND

filename \DS
DISPLAY STRUCTURE

filename \DST
DISPLAY STATUS

filename \IC
INSTALL CATALOG

filename \RES
SET DATDISK=DSK6.
SET PRGDISK=DSK5.
SET PRINTER=PIO.CR.LF
SET PAGE=000
SET HEADING ON
SET TALK ON
SET SPACES=01
SET RECNUM ON
SET LSPACE=256
CLEAR LOCAL
SET CURSOR=02
SET CRLF ON
CLEAR
DISPLAY STATUS
INSTALL CATALOG

filename \DSPA
PRINT (Drft),(E)
DISPLAY STRUCTURE
SNAP
PRINT (Drft),(f)
PRINT ALL
```

time. After that I entered INSTALL SAVE DSK6.INST. TIB SAVED the complete INSTALL group to DSK6.INST, with the suffix "/I". Next, I added the line "INSTALL LOAD DSK6.INST" to my SETUP CF. This tells TIB to automatically LOAD all the commands when TIB is powered up. I haven't tried it yet, but I think that you should be able to stack up your ADD commands in a CF to make it easier to modify the overall INSTALL package. The number and size of Macros placed in VDP are only limited by space, which is currently 2546 Bytes. With everything you see here loaded into INSTALL I still have 2082 Bytes left. "Not Bad!" This Macro package means a lot to non-ramdisk users, because the execution is very fast compared to disk access. You could load several large CFs, which you use often, into INSTALL and execute them when needed. If you're doing anything with TI-Base now you will love the newest version. It's twice as big as when it started.

If you would like to update your current TI-Base or purchase it for the first time, you can write directly to:

INSCEBOT inc.
P.O. Box 291610
Pt. Orange FL 32129

GIFFY99

Deanna Sheridan, NorthCoast 99ers, Cleveland, Ohio

As mentioned in a recent newsletter, Barry Boone of Archiver fame has written a program which will allow us to view GIF files on our lowly TI99. GIF files are high-resolution pictures with up to 256 colors. Normally they can only be viewed on the very expensive VGA monitors on other machines. Those in the TI world who have Geneve's have also been able to view these pictures, but the rest of us have only been able to wonder about them.

The program Barry has written loads the GIF file and translates the various colors into the most suitable 16 colors available to us. These pictures can then be saved in TI-Artist format and anyone who has that program can make use of them.

I was very impressed with the two files saved in Artist Format in his advertisement and immediately ordered the program. I have available an almost unlimited amount of GIF pictures on my IBM Bulletin Board (See they are good for something) and started downloading pictures in anticipation of receiving the program. It came a couple of weeks ago, and I have found it very interesting. It is a novelty item as there isn't too much you can do with the pictures but look at them.

I found the GIF files on my Board come in a variety of colors, 2, 16, 32 and 256. I have have varying degrees of success, and mostly am amazed at how well the translation is made without losing a lot of resolution. However, I am often disappointed in the 256 color pictures as there are so many shades that must be cut down to the 16 best, that a lot of detail is gone. Therefore, I have been getting mostly 26 and 32-color pictures.

The program is extremely simple to use. After loading, you are given several color selection choices (I/D/G/M) 'I' stands for intensity and 'D' stands for deviation. The software wants to find out how to choose which of the TI's colors should be matched to each of the GIF picture's colors. 'G' is for Grey Scale and 'M' is for mono in case you would like to save the picture in Artist Format for printing later. If using color, he suggests going with the 'I' first.

The next choice is Black Line Mode (Y/N). This is a boundary handling mechanism. On my first try, I usually go with the 'I' and 'Y' and if the picture doesn't look right, reload and try the 'D' and 'N'. Some pictures look much better in one mode and you have to experiment.

You can condense the picture which allows the software to automatically reduce and proportionalize a picture than was much larger than the TI's screen. I usually choose to condense so that if I like the picture especially well, I can save it into TI-Artist format. Saving a picture is as easy as choosing a filename and hitting enter.

It depends on the size of the file how fast it loads. GIF pictures can be just a few sectors in size up to hundreds. If the details don't seem just right, you can reload the picture, this time trying 'D' in place of 'I' and 'N' in place of 'Y'. Sometimes it makes a lot of difference and sometimes none. You have to play around with these

combinations until you get the best detail and resolution. I am amazed at the quality of some of these pictures.

So far, I have about 15 DSSD disks of GIF files and 4 DSSD disks of pictures I have saved in Artist Format and put together a slide show with TASS.

If you like this type of novelty program, it is available from Barry Boone, P.O. Box 1233, Sand Springs, OK 74063. The cost is \$15.00 plus \$2.00 S&H. He is still working on improvements and will notify paid users of updates and cost.

MACFLIX PROFESSIONAL

Deanna Sheridan - NorthCoast 99ers - Cleveland, Ohio

The popular MacFlix program was updated last fall and is now called MacFlix Professional.

Previously you were limited in the size of MacPaint files you could load into MacFlix because of memory limitations. Some of these limitations were overcome for owners of a Supercart as the program could access that extra memory to load larger files. The update does not use the Supercard; instead it only loads in part of the file at a time and accesses the rest as needed. This is also true when printing a file. Now you can view and print an entire file without the Supercart.

Previously you saved a screen in TI-Artist program format and then if you wanted to 'clip' certain parts you went to TI-Artist, made the changes and saved back as an Instance. Now you can save directly to an Instance and can outline just the area you wish with a box, similar to the method used by PixPro.

When printing a picture, you can set the number of overstrikes to get the density you desire, especially if the printout is to be used for some type of reproduction.

In addition, a new file has been added called MacFlix Tools which give you several more options. You can Batch Print an entire disk of pictures if you wish.

Transform lets you actually alter the size of the picture. It can be shrunk horizontally, vertically, or it can be mirrored from left to right, and also inverted.

Convert takes a TI-Artist picture and converts it to MacPaint format. Thus, those of us with IBM compatibles can take some of our fine TI-Artist artwork and use it in PFS First Publisher and other graphic programs on the other side.

MacFlix Professional is available from JP Software, 2390 El Camino Real, #107, Palo Alto, CA 94303

ARTIST PRINT SHOP

Deanna Sheridan, Northcoast 99ers, Cleveland, Ohio

Paul Coleman, who has given us Designer Labels and Giant Artist Posters introduced another package at the Chicago Faire last fall. This new offering probably has not received the recognition it would have if PagePro99 had not become so popular. Paul's fine program has gotten 'lost' in the shuffle.

Artist Print Shop consists of three disks and three separate programs. These are the Stationary Maker, Banner Maker and Sign disks.

The best of the three is the Sign Maker. Briefly, the Stationary Maker allows you to have a graphic (Artist Instance) to the left, right, or both sides of your text. You are restricted to the size of the graphic, but they can be larger than were allowed with the CSGD letterhead program. You can load two fonts at a time, one large and one, one character high. You can have a line under the letterhead or not.

The program automatically centers the text and this is the only option you have for design. If you will note a lot of the newer stationary styles feature the letterhead and a logo to the left margin. So, I guess the only complaint I have about this program is that you have no choice of layout. If you like the old standard of a centered letterhead with or without a graphic image, this is a very good program.

The Banner Maker allows you to use text in a TI-ARTIST font up to 80 characters long. Graphics (Artist instances) can be placed to the right, left, or both sides of your banner text in normal or mirror image. Text and graphics can be automatically centered or adjusted up or down on the page. Choice of magnification will go as high as will fit on the page and printing can be done in single or double

density. This is an excellent banner making program with a wide variety of choices.

The heart of his software offering is the Sign Maker Program. It is NOT a "What You See, What You get" like Jiffy Flyer and PagePro99. You have a variety of choices in designing and sign and must keep a running tab of the rows and columns you have used for the graphics and text to know where you want to place each. This isn't nearly as difficult as it sounds. The program has an option that allows you to review what you have entered. The PAGE BUILDER starts at the top of the page and works its way down displaying on the screen exactly what has been entered, i.e., if you have a graphic of a bear as the first item on the page, it tells you that, how many you have chosen to be printed across the page, and the number of lines needed, if Text is next, it does the same. The graphics can be single or double sized as can be the text.

The sign is saved for future use or editing.

As with other programs of this kind, you should let your imagination be your guide. You can use it for certificates, announcements or any use you would have for a full page display of text and graphics.

The manual is very professionally done and a demo file is included of a sample sign. The cost of this three-program package is \$24.95 from Comprodine, 1949 Evergreen Avenue, Fullerton, CA 92635.

CLEVELAND AREA 99/4A USERS GROUPS
C/O DEANNA SHERIDAN
20311 LAKE ROAD
ROCKY RIVER, OH 44116



CHECK YOUR EXPIRATION DATE.
THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST ISSUE!

Exp Date: 90/07

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS