



CLEVELAND AREA TI-994/A USER GROUPS NEWSLETTER DECEMBER, 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 DECEMBER 15 JANUARY 19 FEBRUARY 16 MARCH 16 APRIL 13 MAY 18
SECRETARY	CHUCK POULIN 731-6473	DENNIS LIKENS 842-9627	
LIBRARY(DISK)	MARTIN SMOLEY 1-257-1661	HARRY HOFFMAN 631-2354	
TAPE & MODS)	FRANK JENKINS 283-8526	JOHN PARKEN 331-2830	
HARD COPY)	DICK ALDEN 1-352-9172		

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE WE ARE AT THE END OF ANOTHER YEAR! WE HAVE BEEN ORPHANED SIX YEARS NOW, AND EVERY YEAR THERE ARE RUMORS THAT THE TI IS DEAD, BUT WE KEEP PLUGGING ALONG. BOTH CLUBS ARE GOING TO NEED OFFICERS NEXT MONTH, AND IF YOU WANT US TO PLUG ALONG ANOTHER YEAR, PLEASE VOLUNTEER. EXCEPT FOR THE LIBRARIAN AND NEWSLETTER POSITIONS, YOU PROBABLY WON'T BE EXPENDING MORE THAN A COUPLE HOURS A MONTH ON CLUB ACTIVITIES. IT'S UP TO YOU IF YOU WANT TO SEE US MAKE IT ANOTHER YEAR OR NOT!

SEE THE NOTE ON THE INSIDE THAT TRITON IS NO LONGER SELLING TI PRODUCTS. I AM TOLD THAT IF YOU CALL THE 800 NUMBER WE HAVE LISTED, YOU WILL RECEIVE AN "OLD" TRITON CATALOG. IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO GET YOURSELF ON THE MAILING LIST AND LET THEM KNOW WE ARE STILL INTERESTED.

I KEEP SEEING RUMORS IN THE NEWSLETTERS THAT PERHAPS MYARC IS NOT PRODUCING ANYMORE 9640'S AND SOME EVEN WONDER ABOUT THE HARD DISK CONTROLLER CARD. IT IS SAID THAT THERE MAY BE ONLY ABOUT 15 GENEVE'S LEFT THAT YOU COULD PURCHASE. IT IS TOO BAD THIS MACHINE COULD NOT HAVE COME TO MARKET THE FIRST FALL AFTER THE TI BAILOUT. THERE WERE ENOUGH ACTIVE USERS AT THAT TIME TO HAVE MADE A SUCCESS OUT OF IT. BY THE TIME IT DID COME OUT, MOST OF US HAD A HOE HUMATTITUDE AND THE PROMISED SOFTWARE NEVER MATERIALIZED.

I HAVE PUT FUNNELWEB 4.13 ON AND AS CHARLIE GOOD SUGGESTS THAT IF FOR NOTHING ELSE, IT IS NICE TO HAVE THE QUICK DIRECTORY WHERE YOU CAN MARK A FILE FROM THE FORMATTER. I HAVEN'T GOTTEN USED TO THE DISK REVIEW SO STILL HAVE DM1000 ON MY RANDISK. I STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT OUR CLUBS AGAIN ASK FOR FAIREWARE MONEY FOR THE MCGOVERNS FOR THIS UPDATE. IT HAS BEEN SEVERAL YEARS AND SEVERAL UPDATES SINCE WE DID THIS.

I ORDERED MULTIPLAN 4.01 FROM ART GREEN, AND IF YOU ARE A MULTIPLAN USER, I STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT YOU GET THIS. ART AS DONE FOR MULTIPLAN WHAT THE MCGOVERNS DID FOR TI WRITER. THE CURSOR MOVEMENT AND CALCULATIONS ARE MUCH MUCH FASTER. IT IS ALSO NICE TO BE ABLE TO CUSTOMIZE YOUR PRINTER, SCREEN COLORS, AND DATA DRIVE AND NOT HAVE TO DO THIS AFTER YOU GET INTO THE PROGRAM EACH TIME. THE FAIRWARE CONTRIBUTION FOR THIS IS ONLY \$10. I WILL DISTRIBUTE THIS ONLY IF YOU WILL

DONATE \$10 TO THE NORTHCOAST 99ERS WHICH WILL THEN BE FORWARDED TO ART GREEN AND WILL HAVE SEVERAL COPIES AT THE NEXT NORTHCOAST MEETING.

DAVE PHILLIPS OF SANFORD, FL HAS WRITTEN A PROGRAM CALLED "GRAPHIC ICON CONVERTER" WHICH WILL CONVERT IBM PRINTMASTER AND PRINTSHOP, AND TRS80 POSTMASTER FILES TO TIPS FORMAT. NOW WE HAVE AN UNLIMITED SUPPLY OF THESE GRAPHICS. I HAD 9 FILES ON MY IBM COMPATIBLE THAT HAD 600 ICONS EACH WHICH WOULD BE 6,300 PICTURES. WITH A PRINTMASTER UTILITY, I HAVE BROKEN THESE DOWN INTO MANAGEABLE FILES FOR THE TI OF ABOUT 100 OR SO EACH. THESE HAD BEEN PORTED TO THE IBM FROM SOME C64 FILES. I DID NOT INCLUDE A LOT OF THE C64 ICONS WHICH I FELT WE WOULD NOT USE. ALSO, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE, NOT TO DUPLICATE, BUT WHEN I RECOGNIZED ICONS I KNEW WERE ALREADY IN OUR LIBRARIES, I SKIPPED THEM. I WILL PROBABLY STILL HAVE CLOSE TO 5,000 WHEN I FINISH.

THE PROGRAM IS IN ASSEMBLY AND WORKS VERY QUICKLY. ANYONE COULD DO THIS IF THEY HAD A FRIEND WITH PRINTSHOP OR PRINTMASTER GRAPHICS. IF YOU HAVE PC TRANSFER YOU CAN TAKE THEIR DISKS AND TRANSFER THEM TO THE TI WITH THE DF128 OPTION. THE OTHER WAY WOULD BE IF YOU BOTH HAVE MODEMS, TO SEND THEM ACROSS WITH XMODEM. THE LATEST VERSION OF TIPS HAS BECOME MY FAVORITE GRAPHICS PRINTING PROGRAM, BAR NONE, WITH ITS COLOR PRINTING CAPABILITIES!

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A02FLOAT

ASSEMBLY FLOATING POINT ROUTINES CALLED FROM XB

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

A02FLOAT/X is an Extended BASIC program which demonstrates how variables in an array can be shared by both XB and Assembly. It also shows that Assembly can be used to do the floating point mathematical calculations in a program, while the XB program is used for the screen displays and data inputs and outputs. By combining the ease of programming in Extended BASIC with the speed of Assembly, your programs can be both fast and easy to write.

This program prompts you for two numbers and then whether you want to add, subtract, multiply or divide the first number by the second. This portion is done in XB because the speed of the program getting this information is determined by your keystrokes and therefore is relatively slow. Once your input is completed, the program LINKS to Assembly to do the calculation. In this example the Assembly routines are simply adding, subtracting, multiplying or dividing, but could in other programs be routines which require hours to execute in XB, but only minutes to run in Assembly. Control transfers back to XB to display the answer on the screen and prompt for new input.

If you have a program written entirely in Assembly, then the floating point routines are accessed using BLWP, branch and load workspace pointer, which loads the XMLLNK utility. When you LINK to Assembly from XB, however, you cannot use the XMLLNK so to use these routines a BL, branch and link, instruction is used. The disadvantage of using the BL instruction is that the subroutine will use the same workspace registers that are being used by the calling routine and these registers may have values changed by the subroutine. To avoid this problem you must first save any register values that you will later need, then call the subroutine, then restore your workspace registers. Examples of this in A02FLOAT/S are the registers RTXB and RTL where register R11 is saved prior to the subroutine call.

To run this program, type in the A02FLOAT/S source code and save it. Assemble this code, using A02FLOAT/O as the object code filename. Use only

the "R" option during assembly because XB cannot LINK to an object file which was compressed with the "C" option. With both the XB and Assembly programs on disk in drive 1, run the XB program. It will load the Assembly program, and you will be able to +-* / two floating point numbers.

901117WR

```
100 REM A02FLOAT/X
110 REM WESLEY R. RICHARDSON, NOVEMBER
    1990
120 REM TI-99/4A EXTENDEX BASIC
130 REM NORTHCOAST 99ERS, CLEVELAND, OH
140 CALL CLEAR :: CALL INIT :: DISPLAY
    AT(4,9):"A02FLOAT/X"
150 DISPLAY AT(6,2):"FLOATING POINT IN
    ASSEMBLY" :: DISPLAY AT(8,2):"LINK
    FROM EXTENDED BASIC."
160 DISPLAY AT(12,2):"LOADING ASSEMBLY
    FROM:" :: DISPLAY AT(14,7):"DSK1.A0
    2FLOAT/O"
170 CALL LOAD("DSK1.A02FLOAT/O")
180 DIM A(3),B(4)
190 B(1)=43 :: B(2)=45 :: B(3)=42 :: B(
    4)=47
200 CALL CLEAR :: DISPLAY AT(4,2):"THIS
    PROGRAM CAN ADD," :: DISPLAY AT(6,
    2):"SUBTRACT, MULTIPLY OR"
210 DISPLAY AT(8,2):"DIVIDE FLOATING PO
    INT" :: DISPLAY AT(10,2):"NUMBERS I
    N THE ASSEMBLY"
220 DISPLAY AT(12,2):"ROUTINES."
230 REM MAIN LOOP
240 DISPLAY AT(14,1):"": "": "": "": "": ""
    PRESS A KEY"
250 CALL KEY(0,K,S):: IF S=0 THEN 250
260 CALL CLEAR
270 DISPLAY AT(6,2):"NUMBER 1?" :: ACC
    EPT AT(6,15)VALIDATE(NUMERIC):A(1)
280 DISPLAY AT(8,2):"NUMBER 2?" :: ACC
    EPT AT(8,15)VALIDATE(NUMERIC):A(2)
290 DISPLAY AT(14,2):"1=ADD 2=SUB 3=MUL
    4=DIV" :: DISPLAY AT(15,2):"5=END"
300 DISPLAY AT(17,2):"YOUR CHOICE?"
310 CALL KEY(0,K,S):: IF S=0 THEN 310 E
    LSE C=K-48
320 IF (C<1)+(C>5)THEN 310
330 ON C GOSUB 360,390,420,450,480
340 CALL HCHAR(8,15,B(C)):: CALL HCHAR(
    9,15,95,13):: DISPLAY AT(10,2):"ANS
    WER IS: ";A(3)
350 GOTO 230
360 REM ADD
370 CALL LINK("FPADD",A())
380 RETURN
390 REM SUB
400 CALL LINK("FPSUB",A())
```

...A02FLOAT

410 RETURN
420 REM MUL
430 CALL LINK("FPMUL",A())
440 RETURN
450 REM DIV
460 CALL LINK("FPDIV",A())
470 RETURN
480 REM END
490 CALL CLEAR :: END

* A02FLOAT/S SOURCE
* A02FLOAT/O OBJECT
* A02FLOAT/X EXTENDED BASIC
* WESLEY R. RICHARDSON
* NOVEMBER, 1990

* CALL LINK("FPADD",A())
* CALL LINK("FPSUB",A())
* CALL LINK("FPMUL",A())
* CALL LINK("FPDIV",A())

DEF FPADD,FPSUB
DEF FPMUL,FPDIV

*
FSUB EQU >007C
FADD EQU >0080
FMUL EQU >0E88
FDIV EQU >0FF4
NUMASG EQU >2008
NUMREF EQU >200C
FAC EQU >834A
ARG EQU >835C

*
RTXB DATA >0000 RETURN
RTLT DATA >0000 RETURN

* FLOATING POINT ADD *

*
FPADD MOV R11,@RTXB SAVE RETURN
BL @SETUP SET UP
BL @FADD FAC=ARG+FAC
B @KEEP KEEP ANSWER

* FLOATING POINT SUBTRACT *

*
FPSUB MOV R11,@RTXB SAVE RETURN
BL @SETUP SET UP
BL @FSUB FAC=ARG-FAC
B @KEEP KEEP ANSWER

*

* FLOATING POINT MULTIPLY *

*
FPMUL MOV R11,@RTXB SAVE RETURN
BL @SETUP SET UP
BL @FMUL FAC=ARG*FAC
B @KEEP KEEP ANSWER

*

* FLOATING POINT DIVIDE *

*
FPDIV MOV R11,@RTXB SAVE RETURN
BL @SETUP SET UP
BL @FDIV FAC=ARG/FAC
B @KEEP KEEP ANSWER

*

* SUBROUTINE TO BRING IN *
* FLOATING POINT NUMBERS *
* TO FAC AND ARG *

SETUP MOV R11,@RTLT SAVE RETURN
LI R0,1 ELEMENT 1
LI R1,1 POINT TO A()
BLWP @NUMREF READ IN A(1)

*
FACARG LI R2,FAC
LI R3,ARG
TRANS LI R4,4 MOVE FLOATING
TRAN1 MOV *R2+,*R3+ POINT NUMBER
DEC R4 FROM FAC
JNE TRAN1 TO ARG

*
LI R0,2 ELEMENT 2
LI R1,1 POINT TO A()
BLWP @NUMREF READ IN A(2)

*
MOV @RTLT,R11 RESTORE
RT RETURN

*

* SUBROUTINE TO SAVE *
* FLOATING POINT NUMBERS *
* FROM FAC TO THE ARRAY *

*
KEEP LI R0,3 ELEMENT 3
LI R1,1 POINT TO A()
BLWP @NUMASG SAVE IN A(3)

*
MOV @RTXB,R11 RETURN TO XB
RT RETURN

*
END

901117WR

**100 AND ONE WAYS TO USE YOUR TI
BY JOHN PARKER TI CHIPS**

LET US SAY YOU ONLY HAVE A CONSOLE. I GUESS YOU'RE NOT TOO IMPRESSED! REMEMBER IT IS LIKE HAVING A SPACESHIP WITH NO ENGINE! YOU DO NOT NEED A P BOX TO HAVE A PRINTER. SEVERAL MANUFACTURES MAKE A INTERFACE WHICH PLUGS DIRECTLY INTO THE CONSOLE. THE CABLE FROM THIS INTERFACE THEN PLUGS INTO THE CENTRONICS (PARALLEL) CONNECTOR ON THE BACK OF THE PRINTER. A MINI WRITER CARTRIDGE, CASSETTE RECORDER, AND CABLE PUTS YOU IN THE WORLD OF WORD PROCESSING. THERE ARE LOTS OF OTHER PROGRAMS THAT COULD BE USED FROM CASSETTE. YOU WON'T WASTE YOUR MONEY BECAUSE THIS PRINTER WOULD WORK ON ANY IBM COMPATABLE YOU MIGHT HAVE FUTURE THOUGHTS OF BUYING. OF COURSE, SOMEDAY YOU MIGHT RUN ACROSS A GREAT DEAL ON THAT P BOX WITH A DISK DRIVE AND RS232 CARD IN IT.

**HAVE YOU REALLY LOOKED AT THE TI CHIP LIBRARY CATALOG LATELY?
BY CLYDE WACHTER TI CHIPS**

FIRST OF ALL, LET ME SAY, A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF TIME AND EFFORT WAS, AND STILL IS, BEING PUT INTO ITS CREATION. ITS FORMAT IS VERY GOOD. IT IS THE FINEST PIECE OF INFORMATION ABOUT PROGRAMS I HAVE SEEN.

IT REMINDS ME SOMEWHAT OF THE OLD SEARS CATALOG IN ITS DESCRIPTIONS OF THE VARIOUS PROGRAMS. IT IS MY TI PROGRAM BIBLE. IF ANYONE HAS A PROBLEM RUNNING ANY OF THE FINE PROGRAMS, IN MOST CASES THE CATALOG WILL HELP.

THERE ARE MANY HINTS GIVEN SUCH AS , CASSETTE USE ONLY OR TWO CASSETTES NEEDED. E/A, MX, JOYSTICKS, 2-PLAYER GAME, DISK, SPEECH, PRINTER, MINIMEMORY, TEII, PRK REQUIRED. USE CALL FILES, READ DOC, RUN "XXXX" FOR INSTRUCTIONS AND THE NUMBER OF SECTORS USED. MUST BE UNARCHIVED, CALL LOAD, CALL LINK, ECT.

FOR THE INEXPERIENCED IT CONTAINS A WEALTH OF INFORMATION WHEN CLOSELY CHECKED AND STUDIED. FOR FOLKS LIKE MYSELF, A SO CALLED EXPERT, IT PROVIDES MANY GUIDE LINES TO FOLLOW WHEN RUNNING AND USING A PROGRAM.

I HAVE REFERRED BACK TO IT MANY TIMES AND THRU-OUT THE YEARS BROWSED THRU-IT. YOU WILL ALWAYS FIND A PROGRAM OR SOMETHING YOU'VE MISSED. IT IS MY CHRISTMAS CATALOG.

TO THE FOLKS WHO PUT IN SO MANY HOURS OF FREE TIME IN ITS CREATION, I'M VERY GRATEFUL AND APPLAUD YOU FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

I STRONGLY RECOMMEND EVERYONE WHO HAS THE LIBRARY CATALOG TO STOP, SIT DOWN AND REVIEW IT PROGRAM BY PROGRAM, PAGE BY PAGE, FOR EACH PROGRAM HAD TO BE RUN BY SOMEONE, RATED AND CHECKED.

TO THOSE OF YOU WHO DO NOT HAVE ONE, GET ONE, BECAUSE YOU ARE MISSING OUT ON A GREAT DEAL. IT ALONE IS WORTH THE MEMBERSHIP DUES.

IN CLOSING I THANK JOHN PARKER, HARRY HOFFMAN FOR THEIR PUTTING UP WITH ME. MANY THANKS TO ALL.

**EXECUTIVE NOTES - NORTHCOAST
11/23/90**

SURE HOPE NO ONE PAID TOO CLOSE ATTENTION TO MY GOOF IN LAST COLUMN, WHICH SAID I'D SEE YOU AT THE NOV. 20TH (!?!?) MEETING. I THINK I HAD A LEFTOVER THERE FROM LAST MONTH THAT I FAILED TO CHANGE, BUT DOUBT THAT ANYONE WOULD HAVE COME ON TUESDAY?? ANYWAY, THE NOV. 17 MEETING HAD 19 PEOPLE SIGN IN. MY RECORDS NOW SHOW WE'VE HAD 32 DIFFERENT PEOPLE

ATTEND THE LAST 3 MEETINGS, WITH 9 COMING ALL 3 TIMES, ANOTHER 9 COMING TWICE, AND THE OTHER 14 COMING ONCE. I RECEIVED AN UPDATED MEMBERSHIP LIST FROM FRANK JENKINS THAT SHOWS A NEW TOTAL OF 95 MEMBERS, DOWN A FEW FROM THE LAST LIST. TOPICS FROM THE MEETING INCLUDED: -WE WENT OVER LAST MEETING'S MINUTES, PAUSING TO DISCUSS COMPATABILITY WHEN USING MORE THAN 1 RAMDISK IN A SYSTEM. SEVERAL PEOPLE SEEMED KNOWLEDGEABLE IN REPORTING THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM DOING THIS; ASK AROUND IF YOU ARE HAVING ANY PROBLEMS IN THIS ARENA.

-WE DID NOT RESOLVE THE NEED FOR NEW SECRETARY AND NEWSLETTER EDITOR. I'LL BE DISCUSSING HOW TO PROCEED WITH OUR MEMBERS.

-A REPLY TO MY REQUEST FOR A DEMO OF THE NEW HARD/FLOPPY DISK CONTROLLER CARD FROM ESD WAS DISCUSSED. IT SEEMS THAT ONE OF OUR OWN MEMBERS, JOHN DRENNEN, IS BEING SET UP TO CONDUCT JUST SUCH A DEMO, WHICH SHOULD BE AT EITHER OUR DECEMBER OR JANUARY MEETING. THE LETTER SAID THAT JOHN OR ESD WOULD CONTACT ME IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO SET UP SPECIFICS.

-THE TREASURER'S REPORT WAS READ, SHOWING A SLIGHT INCREASE OVER THE LAST 2 MONTHS. WE ARE VERY HEALTHY HERE AT THIS TIME.

-SOME VERY INTERESTING INFORMATION WAS DISCUSSED ABOUT COLOR CAPABLE DOT-MATRIX PRINTERS. DEANNA SHOWED AN AD THAT HAD STAR'S JUST UPDATED NX1020 RAINBOW, A 9-PIN 7 COLOR PRETTY FAST PRINTER WITH AUTOMATIC PAPER POSITIONING, ETC. FOR ABOUT \$190. I NOTED THAT THE WHOLESALE CLUB IN ELYRIA HAD THE SAME ITEM FOR \$200, AS WELL AS THE 24-PIN, NON COLOR NX2410 FOR \$240. IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING UPDATING YOUR PRINTER, YOU MAY WANT TO TRY ONE OF THESE.

-FINALLY, WE PROCEEDED TO NOT ONE BUT TWO DEMOS: I HAD BROUGHT MY GENEVE SYSTEM, AS MENTIONED IN THE NEWSLETTER, TO RUN SPEED COMPARISONS IN SOME TYPICAL APPLICATIONS OF OUR COMPUTER. WE SAW THAT BEFORE STARTING UP A GIVEN MODULE (XB, EA, OR WHATEVER), ONE CAN SET THE GENEVE FOR SPEEDS FROM 1 TO 5 (FASTEST). WE FIRST TRIED A COUPLE OF GAMES. "ROBOCHASE", A STRATEGY/PURSUIT GAME, TOOK 12 SECONDS TO COMPLETE 1 SECTION WITH THE 4A IN XB. WITH GENEVE SPEED 1, THE SAME THING TOOK 15 SECONDS; AT SPEED 5, 6 SECONDS. "SNAKES AND LADDERS", A GRAPHICS INTENSIVE GAME, TOOK THE 4A 33 SECONDS; THE GENEVE 22. OF COURSE MANY ARCADE-TYPE HIGH SPEED GAMES ARE SIMPLY TOO FAST AT SPEED 5 AND MUST BE SLOWED TO MAINTAIN THE FEEL OF THE ORIGINAL GAME. WE THEN MOVED ON TO A GENERAL CATEGORY, USING A TI PROGRAM CALLED "LOAN AMORTIZATION" FOR STUDYING VARIATIONS IN LOANS FOR HOME, AUTO, ETC. IN SIMILAR OPERATIONS, THE 4A TOOK 28 SECONDS, THE GENEVE 16. WE THEN LOADED THE FUNNELWEB VERSION OF TI-WRITER, AND SAW LITTLE DIFFERENCE IN SPEED; THE 4A WAS IN 40 COL. MODE, THE STANDARD DISPLAY. DON'T KNOW IF 80 COL. WOULD HAVE AFFECTED IT. NEXT WE LOOKED AT TI-BASE 3.0, DOING A SORT OPERATION ON THE IDENTICAL FLOPPY DISK FILE. IT TOOK 2:00 MINUTES ON THE 4A AND 1:04 ON THE GENEVE. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON MULTIPLAN, IT WAS LOADED ON THE GENEVE AND CLEARLY SHOWED A MUCH FASTER PERFORMANCE, BUT AS WE WERE RUNNING OUT OF TIME NO DIRECT COMPARISONS WERE MADE. THE GENERAL CONCLUSION, AS I HAD HOPED WE MIGHT SEE, IS THAT IN REAL OPERATIONS, THE GENEVE IS UP TO TWICE AS FAST AS THE 4A; THIS MAY BE IMPORTANT FOR THOSE THAT SPEND MANY HOURS ON THEIR TI SYSTEMS.

THE SECOND DEMO WAS BY DEANNA SHERIDAN ON TIPS (TI PRINT XMAS CARDS ON HER STAR XR-1000 RAINBOW (OLDER VERSION OF PRINTER MENTIONED ABOVE). RUN THRU XB ON THE GENEVE SYSTEM, IT WORKED VERY NICELY ONCE WE GOT THE PRINTER PLUG ORIENTED PROPERLY IN MY ORIGINAL TI RS232 CARD. THIS IS A

QUITE POWERFUL PROGRAM; NOTE THAT IN ORDER TO USE IT, YOU MUST HAVE PICTURES (IMAGES) TO PRINT. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, TIPS DOESN'T DO DRAWING BY ITSELF. A NUMBER OF MEMBERS PICKED UP THE COPIES OF THIS PROGRAM THAT DEANNA HAD BROUGHT, SO THOSE OF YOU THAT USE IT: PLEASE BRING IN SAMPLES OF YOUR WORK FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

-FINALLY, I DID HEAR FROM THE GROUP THAT THERE IS INTEREST IN A NEWSLETTER TUTORIAL SERIES ON MULTIPLAN. SEE ELSEWHERE IN THIS NEWSLETTER, AND THANKS FOR THE INPUT.

SEE YOU ON DECEMBER 15TH! BY THE WAY, IT LOOKS AS IF OUR MEETING THEN WILL HAVE TO BE IN THE SMALLER PART OF OUR USUAL BIG MEETING ROOM, SO DON'T BE TOO SURPRISED.

STEVE

TUTORIAL 1.0 BY STEPHEN S. BAGSTAD
NORTHCOAST 99'ERS - NOVEMBER 24, 1990
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AS WITH MARTY SMOLEY'S TI-BASE ARTICLES, I AM RESERVING COPYRIGHT ON THIS MATERIAL. I WILL ALLOW THE COPYING OF IT BY ANYONE UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS: (1) IT MUST BE COPIED IN ITS ENTIRETY WITH NO CHANGES, (2) IF RETYPED, CREDIT MUST BE GIVEN TO MYSELF AND THE NORTHCOAST 99'ERS, AS ABOVE, AND (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 FRIENDS AS LONG AS IT'S FREE.

INTRODUCTION TO MULTIPLAN

AMONG THE "CRITICAL" USES OF COMPUTERS WE PROBABLY COULD COUNT KEEPING TRACK OF, AND BEING ABLE TO MANIPULATE, THREE TYPES OF INFORMATION: WORDS, NUMBERS, AND GENERAL. PROGRAMS THAT DO THESE THREE THINGS HAVE COME TO BE KNOWN AS WORD PROCESSORS, SPREADSHEETS, AND DATABASES. MULTIPLAN (TO BE FROM NOW ON ABBREVIATED MP), A SPREADSHEET LICENSED BY TI FROM MICROSOFT (THE PROGRAMMING BIGGIE), COULD BE THOUGHT OF AS A BUNCH OF EMPTY BOXES ARRANGED IN ROWS AND COLUMNS THAT LETS ONE MANIPULATE INFORMATION IN THE BOXES. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THERE IS MORE THAN A LITTLE OVERLAP BETWEEN THESE TYPES OF PROGRAMS; FOR SMALL USES, ONE COULD PROBABLY GET A JOB DONE WITH ANY OF THE THREE TYPES IF EFFICIENCY WAS NOT A BIG CONCERN. MP THRIVES ON WORK INVOLVING NEED FOR CALCULATIONS, SUCH AS STATISTICS, PERCENTAGES, COSTS, INVESTMENTS, AND EXAMINING ALTERNATIVES. IT IS LESS WELL SUITED TO WORD PROCESSING OR LARGER DATABASES. ALTHOUGH QUITE INEXPENSIVE NOW, MP IS FULLY CAPABLE OF MUCH OF THE WORK DONE ON MUCH MORE ELABORATE (AND EXPENSIVE!!) COMPUTERS RUNNING PROGRAMS SUCH AS THE INFAMOUS LOTUS 1-2-3 (IBM), QUATTRO (IBM), EXCEL (IBM/MAC) (MICROSOFT'S SUCCESSOR TO MP). NOTE ANY OF THESE PROGRAMS GOES IN THE MULTI-HUNDRED DOLLAR RANGE ONLY FOR THE SOFTWARE!

IN ORDER TO RUN MP, ONE NEEDS THE PACKAGE (MODULE AND DISK), 32K MEMORY EXPANSION, AND DISK SYSTEM. IN THEORY, A PRINTER IS OPTIONAL, BUT TO MAKE GOOD USE IT BORDERS ON ESSENTIAL. A SECOND DISK DRIVE IS ALSO DESIREABLE. WITH THE GENEVE, THE MODULE IS PUT ONTO DISK; WITH A DS DRIVE, BOTH MODULE AND PROGRAM WILL FIT ON THE SAME DISK. MYARC FILES MODIFY THE TI PROGRAM FOR 80 COLUMN USE, A VERY DESIREABLE OPTION. I DO NOT KNOW IF THIS WOULD WORK ON AN 80 COLUMN 4A, WHICH MAY BE RESTRICTED TO 40 COLUMN USE.

TO START THE PROGRAM, LOAD THE CARTRIDGE. YOU WILL BE

ASKED TO INSERT THE PROGRAM DISK (INTO DRIVE 1) AND HIT ENTER; THE PROGRAM ITSELF WILL BE READY TO GO ONCE THIS IS DONE. NOTE THAT THE PROGRAM DISK MUST BE NAMED "TIP" OR IT WILL NOT WORK. ONCE LOADED, YOU WILL SEE A SCREEN FULL OF THINGS, WITH NUMBERS 1-4 (1-7 GENEVE) ACROSS THE TOP AND NUMBERS 1-18 (1-21) DOWN THE LEFT SIDE. TOWARD THE BOTTOM IS THE COMMAND MENU WITH A BUNCH OF WORDS. ON THE NEXT TO LAST LINE IS THE MESSAGE LINE, WHICH FOR NOW SHOULD READ "SELECT OPTION OR TYPE COMMAND LETTER". ON THE LAST LINE IS THE STATUS LINE, WHICH SHOWS LOCATION, SPACE REMAINING, AND THE FILE NAME YOU ARE USING FOR YOUR WORKSHEET (INITIALLY TEMP). THE LEFT SIDE OF THE STATUS LINE WILL SHOW R1C1 (ROW 1, COLUMN 1), AND THE "AREA" CORRESPONDING TO ROW 1 (LEFT SIDE) AND COLUMN 1 (ALONG TOP) IS HIGHLIGHTED.

A FIRST EXAMPLE

WE'LL BEGIN A VERY EASY EXAMPLE FOR THIS TIME WE CAN GET INTO MORE AS WE GO ALONG. ONE USE THAT IS INTERESTING IS TRACKING UTILITY BILLS, SO LET'S TRY THAT FOR ELECTRICITY FOR STARTERS. GET OUT OUR LAST THREE ELECTRIC BILLS, AND LET'S SUPPOSE WE HAVE TO WORK WITH THE FOLLOWING: FOR SEPT. '90, 781 KWH, 32 DAYS, \$100.09; AUG., 684 KWH, 30 DAYS, \$87.70; AND JULY, 898 KWH, 30 DAYS, \$114.17. TYPE "A" (JUST THE LETTER A, NOT THE QUOTES) TO TELL MP THAT WE WANT ALPHANUMERIC INFORMATION IN THE CURRENT CELL (R1C1); THE MESSAGE LINE CHANGES TO ALPHA; AND WE CAN TYPE "JUL" AND HIT ENTER. JUL SHOULD APPEAR IN R1C1. BY THE WAY, MISTAKES CAN GENERALLY BE CORRECTED BY EITHER TYPING OVER NEW INFORMATION INTO A "CELL" OR HITTING CANCEL (CT-C). USE THE RIGHT ARROW (FC-D) TO MOVE TO THE RIGHT TO R1C2. TYPE "898" AND ENTER, NOTING THAT FOR ENTRY OF NUMBERS, A LETTER FOR COMMANDS IS NOT NEEDED. MOVE RIGHT TO R1C3 AND TYPE "30", AND TO R1C4 AND "114.17". YOUR SCREEN SHOULD NOW LOOK LIKE THIS:

	1	2	3	4
1	JUL	898	30	114.17
2				
3				

MOVE DOWN TO ROW 2 WITH THE DOWN ARROW (FC-X), AND BACK TO THE LEFT WITH LEFT ARROW (FC-S) TO R2C1. ENTER "AUG", "684", "30", "87.70" IN ROW 2, THEN "SEP", "781", "32", AND "100.09" IN ROW 3. WE'LL DO OUR FIRST CALCULATION, THEN STOP FOR NEXT TIME. MOVE TO R4C4, UNDERNEATH OUR LAST BILL. WE'D LIKE TO SEE THE TOTAL SPENT FOR THESE THREE MONTHS IN THIS SPACE. TYPE "V" OR "=" TO BEGIN ENTERING THE SUM. TYPE "SUM(" TO TELL MP WE WANT TO ADD UP SOME THINGS. USING ARROW KEYS, MOVE UP TO R1C4; ONCE THERE, HIT ":" (THIS TELLS MP WHERE TO BEGIN IN ADDING A COLUMN OF VALUES). MP WILL RETURN TO R4C4, SO MOVE UP ONE CELL TO R3C4 AND HIT ")" THEN ENTER TO TELL MP THE ENDING VALUE. THE RESULT WILL LOOK LIKE THIS:

	1	2	3	4
1	JUL	898	30	114.17
2	AUG	684	30	87.7
3	SEP	781	32	100.09
4				301.96

WE'VE SEEN A FAIR AMOUNT SO FAR, SO WE'LL STOP FOR NOW. TO PRINT THIS INFO, TYPE "P" FROM YOUR COMMAND LINE FOR PRINTER, "O" FOR OPTIONS, AND TAB (CT-A) TO SETUP. TYPE YOUR PRINTER SETUP "PIO" OR WHATEVER ELSE IT MAY BE AND ENTER, THEN ENTER TO PRINT. SAVE YOUR WORK WITH "T" FROM THE COMMAND LINE FOR TRANSFER, "S" FOR SAVE, AND FILENAME "UTILITY". BE SURE YOU HAVE A SUITABLE DATA DISK IN DRIVE 1, AND HIT ENTER. WE'LL CONTINUE TO BUILD THIS FILE IN NEXT

MONTH'S INSTALLMENT. FEEL FREE TO EXPERIMENT, ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE THE TI MP BOOK. THE STRIP OVERLAY THAT TELLS YOU WHAT KEYS ARE WHAT, AND THE "QUICK REFERENCE" CARD THAT CAME WITH IT ARE ESSENTIAL; IF YOU DON'T HAVE THESE, BORROW SOMEONE'S AND COPY IT (OR CALL HELP FROM THE COMMAND MENU AND MAKE UP YOUR OWN).

CHICAGO TI FAIRE REPORT
By GARY W. COX - MID SOUTH 99ER USERS GROUP

THE CHICAGO TI FAIRE HAS NOW COME AND GONE LEAVING A VARIABLE ARRAY OF NEW SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE PRODUCTS IN THE HANDS OF ENTHUSIASTIC TI'ERS WHO ATTENDED THE EVENT!

AMONG THE MOST INTRIGUING HARDWARE PROJECTS WAS THE TI-IMAGE-MAKER (T.I.M.) BY GARY BOWSER OF OPA. TI-IMAGE-MAKER IS A DEVICE WHICH IS INSTALLED IN THE TI99/4A CONSOLE AND ALLOWS THE USE OF 80 COLUMNS ON THE SCREEN AS WELL AS HIGH RESOLUTION GRAPHICS, INCLUDING GRAPHICS MODES ALLOWING 256K COLORS WITH EACH PIXEL CAPABLE OF DISPLAYING A SEPARATE COLOR. T.I.M. MAKES USE OF THE V9958 VIDEO DISPLAY CHIP WHICH HAS ON BOARD 192K VIDEO MEMORY PROVIDING DISPLAY CAPABILITIES COMPARABLE TO THE GENEVE 9640. T.I.M. IS SAID TO BE COMPATIBLE WITH ALL SOFTWARE WRITTEN FOR OTHER 80-COLUMN CARDS AS WELL. T.I.M. COMES WITH A VARIETY OF SOFTWARE WHICH WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT. THE SOFTWARE INCLUDES AN 80-COLUMN FUNNELWEB, 80-COLUMN TELCO AND A SPECIAL GIF VIEWER TO VIEW GIF PICTURES IN HIGH RESOLUTION MODE, AMONG OTHER PROGRAMS. T.I.M. CERTAINLY IMPRESSED ME AND LOOKS LIKE A GOOD UPGRADE FOR TI99/8A OWNERS! T.I.M. REQUIRES AN RGB MONITOR AND SELLS FOR A SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE OF \$179. GARY BOWSER ALSO HAD ON DISPLAY WHAT HE CALLS "GISMO" A DEVICE WHICH WAS SHOWN LAST YEAR AT THE FAIR THAT ALLOWS MANY DIFFERENT CARTRIDGES TO BE ATTACHED AT ONE TIME HAVING THE ABILITY TO SWITCH BETWEEN THEM VIA SOFTWARE. FURTHERMORE, GISMO ALLOWS THE ABILITY TO ACCESS ROUTINES IN ONE CARTRIDGE WHILE USING ANOTHER SUCH AS USING THE SPEECH CAPABILITIES OF THE TE2 CARTRIDGE WHILE IN EXTENDED BASIC. GISMO USES A FEATURE BUILT INTO MANY CARTRIDGES KNOWN AS "REVIEW MODULE LIBRARY" WHERE TI HAD PLANNED SUCH A DEVICE BUT NEVER IMPLEMENTED IT.

THE NEXT NEW ITEM WAS THE PE/2 BY RAVE 99. THE PE/2 IS A NEW EXPANSION BOX SYSTEM FOR THE TI99/4A OR GENEVE 9640. THE PE/2 IS ACTUALLY AN IBM CLONE EXPANSION BOX ADAPTED BY RAVE 99 FOR USE BY TI AND GENEVE 9640 EQUIPMENT. THE PE/2 COMES IN TWO MODELS, ONE FOR JUST THE TI99/4A (CONSOLE SYSTEM BOARD IS INSTALLED IN THE BOX AND A RAVE 99 KEYBOARD MUST BE USED) AND ONE FOR THE GENEVE 9640 AND/OR TI99/8A WHERE EITHER OR BOTH CAN BE INSTALLED IN THE BOX TOGETHER. IN THE LATTER, BOTH THE GENEVE 9640 AND TI99/8A CAN OPERATE AT THE SAME TIME (WITHIN REASON AND WITHIN MANY LIMITATIONS), AND THE USER CAN SWITCH BETWEEN THEM BY A SWITCH ON THE FRONT PANEL. THE BOX PROVIDES 200 WATTS OF POWER PLUS VARIOUS OTHER FEATURES NOT TO MENTION THE CONVENIENCE OF ALMOST EVERYTHING BEING ABLE TO BE INSTALLED IN ONE BOX.

ESD CORPORATION WAS TAKING ORDERS FOR THEIR NEW YARD DISK/FLOPPY CONTROLLER CARD. WITH THEIR CARD ALMOST ANY MFM HARD DRIVE CAN BE USED AS WELL AS UP TO 4 FLOPPY DRIVES IN FORMATS INCLUDING 90K 4 1/4 INCH DRIVES TO 1.44MB 3 1/3 INCH DRIVES. THE ONLY LIMITATION IS THAT THE CARD CURRENTLY ONLY OPERATES ON A TI99/4A SYSTEM.

NEW FROM ASGARD SOFTWARE ARE MANY NEW PROGRAMS! THE NEW GAMES INCLUDE ROCK RUNNER DESCRIBED AS HAVING "WONDERFUL MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS", TOURNAMENT SOLITIARE INCLUDING 7

DIFFERENT GAMES AND WATERWORKS DESCRIBED AS A 99 SCREEN ARCADE GAME USING DIGITIZED SOUND EFFECTS. FOR THE ADVENTURE MODULE CASTLE DARKHOLM AND RATTLESNAKE BEND WERE AVAILABLE. LOOKING MORE TOWARD UTILITY PROGRAMS, ARTIST FONT MAKER WAS RELEASED ALLOWING THE USER TO CONVERT ANY PICTURE INTO A CHARACTER OF TI ARTIST OR TI ARTIST PLUS, AMONG MANY OTHER FEATURES. PLUS ALSO NEW WAS SPORTS PICS WHICH ARE A COLLECTION OF PICTURES FOR TI-ARTIST, TI-ARTIST PLUS AND PAGEPRO 99. FURTHERMORE, YET ANOTHER PAINT PROGRAM WAS AVAILABLE CALLED "YET ANOTHER PAINT PROGRAM" OR YAPP FOR SHORT. YAPP REQUIRES AND TAKES ADVANTAGE OF 80-COLUMN CARDS OR THE GENEVE TO PROVIDE "SPECTACULAR GRAPHICS CAPABILITIES". OTHER NEW UTILITIES FOR USE BY PAGE PRO 99 INCLUDE BANNER MAKER, BOARDERS 1 AND 2, SIDWAYS PRINTER, FONTS 1, 2, AND E, HEADLINE MAKER, HEADLINE FONTS, PRO PICS, POSTER MAKER, TEMPLATES AND UTILITIES. LAST BUT NOT LEAST, A NEW VERSION OF BATCH IT WAS AVAILABLE, PLUS A NEW TERMINAL PROGRAM IN A CARTRIDGE CALLED LINK PROVIDING BAUD RATES UP TO 4800 BAUD, XMODEM FILE TRANSFERS AND WILL WORK IN A BASIC CONSOLE (32K AND DISK SYSTEM NOT NEEDED). ASGARD SOFTWARE ALSO DEMONSTRATED THEIR NEW MIDI INTERFACE FOR THE TI OR GENEVE 9640.

AT THE FAIRE FLYERS WERE PASSED OUT ABOUT TM DIRECT PRODUCT MARKETING'S PURCHASE OF THE TI99/4A PORTION OF BUSINESS FROM TRITON PRODUCTS COMPANY AS OF OCTOBER 29, 1990. THEIR PHONE NUMBER IS 1-800-336-9966.

COMPRODINE SOFTWARE INTRODUCED SEVERAL NEW SOFTWARE PRODUCTS, INCLUDING A GAME SIMILAR TO THE OLD BREAKOUT GAME CALLED BACKSTEINE, BUT HAVING MANY MORE FEATURES. ALSO NEW WAS ARTIST CATALOG PROVIDING AN EASY WAY TO PRINT OUT A PICTURE CATALOG OF YOUR INSTANCES AND FONTS. COMPRODINE SOFTWARE ALSO WAS SELLING GREAT LAKES SOFTWARE PRODUCTS PLUS COPIES OF TI-BASE TIPS WHICH IS A SOON TO BE PUBLICATION BY BILL GASKILL ON TI-BASE TIPS.

WHILE J.P. SOFTWARE WAS NOT PRESENT, THEY WERE REPRESENTED BY TOM FREEMAN OF T AND J SOFTWARE AND INFORMATION WAS DISTRIBUTED AS TO SOME OF THEIR NEW PRODUCTS. THESE NEW PRODUCTS INCLUDE GEN-TRI, A NEW SPELL CHECKER WRITTEN BY PETER HODDIE PROVIDING MULTIPLE FEATURES. ALSO NEW IS DISK ONE DESCRIBED AS A COMPLETE REWRITE OF JOHN BIRDWELL'S DSKU PROGRAM. NEXT WAS FIRST BASE UTILITIES ONE WHICH WAS RELEASED MONTHS AGO PROVIDING MANY DIFFERENT UTILITIES FOR FIRST BASE USERS. FINALLY GEN-TRI WAS ANNOUNCED PROVIDING A TERMINAL EMULATOR, DISK MANAGER AND WORD PROCESSOR ALL TOGETHER IN ONE PACKAGE FOR GENEVE 9640 USERS. FROM T AND J SOFTWARE, TOM FREEMAN DEMONSTRATED HARDBACK, A NEW HARD DISK BACKUP PROGRAM.

BERRY MILLER OF 9640 NEWS WAS SELLING SUBSCRIPTIONS TO 9640 NEWS, A MAGAZINE ON DISK FOR GENEVE 9640 USERS. EACH ISSUE INCLUDES AN ASSORTMENT OF PROGRAMS WRITTEN SPECIFICALLY FOR THE GENEVE 9640. NEW FROM 9640 NEWS WAS \$\$\$CRASH\$\$\$, A STOCK MARKET ANALYSIS PROGRAM CAPABLE OF TRACKING TWENTY STOCKS INTO A SPREADSHEET PLOTTING OUT ALL DATA OVER A ONE-YEAR PERIOD. \$\$\$CRASH\$\$\$ RUNS UNDER MDOS. BERRY ALSO DEMONSTRATED A MYART SCROLLING DEMO CAPABLE OF STORING 42 MYART PICTURES IN MEMORY AND SCROLLING THEM OVER THE SCREEN. PLUS, BEERY RELEASED A NEW PROGRAM CALLED GLOBAL WARS WHICH IS A NEW GAME THAT RUNS OUT OF ADVANCED BASIC.

KEN GILLILAND OF NOTUNG SOFTWARE HAD A VARIETY OF SOFTWARE INCLUDING MANY MUSIC PROGRAMS. KEN MENTIONED THAT IN THE WORKS IS A STAR TREK CALENDAR CONTAINING DIGITIZED PICTURES OF STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION CREW MEMBERS. ALSO NEW PRODUCTS ON THE WAY INCLUDE A BOOK ON TPA, A TI CASINO GAME AND A COMPANION FOR CERTIFICATE 99.

LARRY CONNER OF L.L. CONNER ENTERPRISES HAD A VAST ASSORTMENT OF EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE INCLUDING HARD TO FIND CC40 AND HEXBUS EQUIPMENT, PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARDS (PCB'S) FOR CARTRIDGES AND PEB CARDS PLUS VARIOUS PARTS AND CHIPS FOR THE TI99/4A.

COMPETITION COMPUTER ALSO HAD A VARIETY OF SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE AVAILABLE INCLUDING SOME UNUSUAL 1/3 HEIGHT 45 1/45 INCH DRIVES OF WHICH THREE WILL FIT IN THE EXPANSION BOX (IF THE POWER SUPPLY IS MODIFIED FOR POWER REQUIREMENTS OF 3 DRIVES).

BARRY BOONE WAS REPRESENTING TEXAMENTS DEMONSTRATING HIS NEW GIF MANIA PROGRAM CAPABLE OF DISPLAYING GIFI PICTURES ON THE TI99/4A. PLUS NEW FROM TEXAMENTS WAS CHECKTRACK DESCRIBED AS A "POWERFUL" CHECKING ACCOUNT DATABASE.

ON DISPLAY FROM LEE BENDICK WERE THE TI 99/2 AND 99/8, TWO COMPUTERS THAT TEXAS INSTRUMENTS MADE SOME TEST MODELS OF. PLUS LEE HAD ON HAND AN IEEE INTERFACE CARD OF WHICH TI ALSO MADE A PROTOTYPE.

VARIOUS USER GROUPS WER SET UP SELLING HARDWARE, BOOKS AND DISKS FROM THEIR LIBRARIES. JEFF GUIDE OF DELPHI WAS PRESENT SELLING SUBSCRIPTIONS; H AND H COMPUTER SUPPLIES PROVIDED MANY GENERIC COMPUTER PRODUCTS; BARRY TRAVER OF GENIAL TRAVELER, GENIE TI SYSOP AND AUTHOR FOR VCM WAS PRESENT, AS WELL AS BRUCE HARRISON WITH MUSIC PROGRAMS, PLUS MANY OTHERS.

IN THE NEWS

BY GARY COX - MID SOUTH 99ERS USER GROUP - NOVEMBER, 1990

TERRY MILLER, FORMER OWNER AND CO-FOUNDER OF TRITON PRODUCTS COMPANY ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAS COMPLETED THE PURCHASE OF THE TI99/8A BUSINESS FROM TRITON PRODUCTS. MILLER'S NEW COMPANY, TM DIRECT PRODUCT MARKETING WILL BEGIN MARKETING HARDWARE, SOFTWARE AND ACCESSORIES FOR THE TI99/4A AS OF OCTOBER 29, 1990. TRITON PRODUCTS DISCONTINUED SALES OF TI99/4A PRODUCTS ON OCTOBER 15, 1990.

"I AM EXTREMELY EXCITED THAT I AM GOING TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE THE STRONG RELATIONSHIP WE BUILT WITH TI99/4A USERS OF THE LAST 4 YEARS," SAID MILLER. "A COMPUTER AS GOOD AS THE TI99/4A IS AND USERS AS LOYAL AS TI OWNERS ARE, DESERVE GREAT SUPPORT AND THAT'S WHAT TM DIRECT PRODUCT MARKETING IS GOING TO GIVE THEM."

THE DEAL CALLS FOR THE REFERRAL OF ALL ORDERS AND INQUIRIES OF TRITON PRODUCTS COMPANY FOR TI99/4A PRODUCTS TO BE FORWARDED TO TM DIRECT PRODUCT MARKETING. TM DIRECT PRODUCT MARKETING'S NEW TOLL FREE NUMBER IS 1-800-366-9966. THE ADDRESS IS 379 BEACH ROAD, BURLINGAME, CA 94010.

TM DIRECT MARKETING IS LOCATED JUST SOUTH OF SAN FRANCISCO. THE COMPANY IS DEDICATED TO PROVIDING TI USERS WITH THE BEST SELECTION OF HARDWARE, SOFTWARE AND ACCESSORIES AVAILABLE FOR THE TI99/4A AT TREMENDOUS VALUES.

THE NEW FEATURES OF FUNNELWEB V.4.31

BY CHARLIE GOOD, LIMA UG - DECEMBER, 1990

(NOTE: WE RECEIVED COPIES OF V4.31 FROM BOTH CHARLIE AND HARRY HOFFMAN, ALMOST AT THE SAME TIME. THANKS TO THESE PEOPLE FOR HELPING DISTRIBUTE THIS SOFTWARE.)

IT'S HERE! IT'S WHAT ALL 40-COLUMN USERS HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR ALL THEIR 99/4A LIVES.

I KNOW THERE ARE MANY 40-COLUMN USERS WHO HAVE NOT BOTHERED TO UPGRADE TO MORE RECENT VERSIONS OF FUNNELWEB

BECAUSE THE ENHANCEMENTS ADDED SINCE V4.21 HAVE LARGELY BEEN AVAILABLE ONLY TO 80-COLUMN USERS. NOW ALL 99/4A USERS CAN HAVE ACCESS TO THE FULL RANGE OF FEATURES AVAILABLE FROM FUNNELWEB, PARTICULARLY FUNNELWEB'S SPECIAL UTILITY CALLED DISK REVIEW (DR). FUNNELWEB'S 40 AND 80 COLUMN DISK REVIEW POPS UP IMMEDIATELY UPON ENTRY TO THE FUNNELWEB ENVIRONMENT. THE NEW FEATURES OF V4.31 MAKE IT WORTHWHILE FOR ALL FUNNELWEB USERS TO UPGRADE FROM PREVIOUSLY FUNNELWEB VERSIONS, AND UPGRADING IS EASY. LOAD YOUR PREVIOUS VERSION'S SYSCON FILE INTO FUNNELWEB V4.31'S CONFIGURE BY PRESSING S(SYSINFO) AND THEN L(LOAD). THEN PRESS BACK AND I(INSTALL) YOUR OLD SYSCON DATA INTO V4.31'S LOAD AND FW FILES. YOU CAN USE YOUR PREVIOUSLY CONFIGURED USER LISTS (FILES UL AND D1) UNMODIFIED WITH THE NEW FUNNELWEB.

40 AND 80-COLUMN DR NOW CONTAINS A COMPLETE SET OF DISK MANAGEMENT FUNCTIONS. DISKS CAN BE FORMATTED (S,D, OR QUAD DENSITY), VALIDATED, RENAMED, AND SWEEPED. WHOLE DISKS CAN BE AUTOMATICALLY COPIED, FILE BY FILE, TO MULTIPLE DRIVES. YOU CAN PUT YOUR MASTER DISK IN DRIVE 1, PRESS A COUPLE OF KEYS AND COPY ALL THE FILES TO DSK2, DSK3, AND DSK4 WHILE YOU GO HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE. YOU CAN COPY A FILE BACK ONTO THE SAME DISK UNDER A DIFFERENT NAME. YOU CAN ALSO COPY FILE BY FILE USING A SINGLE DRIVE WITH PROMPTS FOR INSERTING MASTER AND COPY DISKS. SINGLE DRIVE COPYING IS A FEATURE NOT AVAILABLE ON THE 80-COLUMN VERSION OF DR. FILE COPY USES A 46-SECTOR BUFFER AND PROCEEDS FASTER THAN FILE COPYING USING DSKU AND A LITTLE SLOWER THAN DM1000.

INDIVIDUAL FILES CAN BE PROTECTED, UNPROTECTED, DELETED, AND (IF ACCIDENTALLY DELETED) RECOVERED. IF YOU HAVE A MYARC RAMDISK, YOU CAN CALL PART AND CALL ENDK FROM WITHIN FUNNELWEB'S 40 OR 80-COLUMN DR. IF YOU HAVE AN HORIZON RAMDISK WITH ROS 8.1 OR HIGHER YOU CAN DN AND AO/AF FROM WITH DR. IF YOU HAVE THE AUSTRALIAN QUEST RAMDISK, YOU CAN DO AON AND AOP FROM WITHIN DR.

FUNNELWEB'S 40 COLUMN DR ALSO INCLUDES A FULL FEATURE SECTOR EDITOR THAT DOES EVERYTHING THE 80-COLUMN DR SECTOR EDITOR DOES EXCEPT DISPLAY THE SECTOR SIMULTANEOUSLY IN ASCII AND HEX. THERE JUST ISN'T ROOM ON A 40-COLUMN SCREEN FOR THIS TYPE OF DISPLAY. YOU JUST MOVE THE CURSOR NEXT TO A FILE NAME IN A DISK DIRECTORY AND PRESS I FOR (INSPECT). YOU ARE THEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE AND EDIT THE SECTORS OF THE FILE OR TO SEARCH FOR A STRING (ASCII OR HEX STRING WITH WILD CARD OPTION) WITHIN THE FILE. YOU CAN ALSO SEARCH A WHOLE DISK FOR A STRING, OR EXAMINE AND EDIT SECTORS BY ABSOLUTE DISK SECTOR NUMBER. THIS IS A VERY FULL FEATURED EASY TO USE SECTOR EDITOR. V4.31 OF FUNNELWEB NO LONGER CONTAINS DISK PATCH FOR SECTOR EDITING, BECAUSE DISK REVIEW IS SO MUCH BETTER.

THE NEW 40 OR 80-COLUMN DR GIVES DIRECT ACCESS TO BOTH OF FUNNELWEB'S CENTRAL MENUS DISPLAYED SIMULTANEOUSLY ON SCREEN. JUST MOVE THE CURSOR NEXT TO A CENTRAL MENU ENTRY, PRESS <ENTER> AND BOOT THE INDICATED PROGRAM.

YOU CAN, OF COURSE, DO ALL OF THE NEAT STUFF ALREADY AVAILABLE IN THE V4.21 40 COLUMN DR. YOU CAN BRING UP A DISK DIRECTOR, MOVE THE CURSOR NEXT TO THE NAME OF A RUNABLE FILE, PRESS \$ AND RUN THE PROGRAM. THIS CAN BE DONE FOR ANY KIND OF RUNABLE PROGRAM, INCLUDING XB STUFF THAT LISTS AS IV254. YOU CAN VIEW ANY FILE ON THE SCREEN BY MOVING THE CURSOR NEXT TO THE FILE NAME AND PRESSING V. THE VIEW BUFFER HAS BEEN REDUCED TO 8K IN ORDER TO MAKE ROOM FOR ALL THE ADDITIONAL FEATURES DESCRIBED IN THE PRECEDING TWO PARAGRAPHS. UNLIKE THE V4.21 40 COLUMN DR, WHEN THE V(IEW) BUFFER OF V4.31 IS FULL, VIEWING STOPS. YOU CAN THEN EITHER EXAMINE WHAT IS IN THE V(IEW) BUFFER OR CONTINUE TO VIEW THE RESET OF THE FILE AND OVERWRITE THE TOP OF WHAT IS ALREADY

IN THE V(IEW) BUFFER. YOU ARE ABLE AT ANY TIME TO PRINT PART OF ALL OF THE CONTENTS OF THE V(IEW) BUFFER TO A PRINTER OR TO A DISK FILE.

BESIDES THE GREATLY ENHANCED 40-COLUMN DR, V4.31 HAS OTHER NEW FEATURES. IT IS NOW POSSIBLE TO BRING UP QUICK DIRECTORY (BY PRESSING AID, FCTN/7) AND MARK A FILE WITH THE SPACE BAR FROM WITHIN THE FORMATTER AND ASSEMBLER. IN THE CASE OF THE FORMATTER, THE NEWLY MARKED FILE DOES NOT APPEAR ON THE FORMATTER SCREEN UNTIL YOU MOVE THE CURSOR ONE SPACE WITHIN THE WORK FILE NAME AS IT IS DISPLAYED ON THE FORMATTER MENU. THIS PROCEDURE IS STRANGE, BUT IT DOES WORK, AND IT IS CERTAINLY BETTER THAN BEING TOTALLY UNABLE TO MARK FILES FROM WITHIN THE FORMATTER.

A REALLY NICE NEW FEATURE IS THE ABILITY TO USE ANY ALTERNATE CHARACTER SET WITHIN THE EDITORS. THIS ALLOWS YOU TO USE A FOREIGN LANGUAGE CHARACTER SET IN PLACE OF FUNNELWEB'S C1 AND C2 CHARACTER SETS TO DISPLAY FOREIGN LANGUAGE CHARACTERS ON SCREEN. TO SPECIFY A SPECIAL CHARACTER SET, GO TO A FUNNELWEB CENTRAL MENU AND PRESS FCTN/4 (BACK). ANSWER N TO THE QUIT? PROMPT, AND THEN YOU WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPECIFY THE FILENAME OF ANY ALTERNATE CHARACTER SET. SUCH FILE NAMES MUST BE TWO CHARACTERS LONG AND THE CHAR FILES SHOULD ALREADY BE IN THE APPROPRIATE TIV OR E/A FUNNELWEB DRIVE OR SUBDIRECTORY. WE HAVE INCLUDED SOME PUBLIC DOMAIN FOREIGN LANGUAGE CHAR FILES WITH OUR DISTRIBUTION OF V4.31 FOR USE IN THIS WAY. THE LITTLE USED KEYSTROKES THAT NORMALLY DISPLAY SUCH THINGS AS !{()}\\ display instead foreign characters with these files. THESE ADDITIONAL CHAR FILES ADDED BY US ARE NOT PART OF THE OFFICIAL FUNNELWEB 4.31 PACKAGE AS RECEIVED BY US FROM TONY MCGOVERN. C3=FRENCH; C4=SPANISH; C5=GERMAN; C6=ITALIAN; C7=SWEDISH.

THOSE WITH 80-COLUMN SYSTEMS (GENEVE, OR 99/4A WITH 80-COLUMN DEVICE) CAN NOW USE THE 80-COLUMN DR TO VIEW MYART PICTURES IN UP TO 256 COLORS. JUST MOVE THE CURSOR NEXT TO A PICTURE NAME IN A DR DISK DIRECTORY, PRESS V(IEW) AND THE PICTURE POPS UP ON THE SCREEN. THE BACKGROUND COLOR OF THE PICTURE CAN THEN BE ALTERED TO ENHANCE VIEWING PLEASURE BEFORE FINALLY RETURNING TO THE DISK DIRECTORY. MYART PICTURE VIEWING, AND A SIMULTANEOUS ASCII/HEX SECTOR DISPLAY ARE THE ONLY TWO FEATURES OF THE 80-COLUMN DR THAT ARE LACKING IN THE NEW 40 COLUMN DR.

THIS IS A MAJOR UPDATE, PARTICULARLY THE ENHANCED 40-COLUMN DR. IF YOU USE THE NEW FEATURES OF 40-COLUMN DR, YOU SHOULD SEND THE MCGOVERNS AN ADDITIONAL FAIRWARE DONATION (CASH, TRAVELER'S CHEQUE, OR INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDER) OVER AND ABOVE WHAT YOU HAVE ALREADY PAID FOR OTHER PARTS OF FUNNELWEB. TONY MCGOVERN WRITES THAT HE IS PLANNING TO GET AN AMIGA AND START PROGRAMMING FOR THIS DEVICE. WILL MCGOVERN ALREADY HAS ONE. SOME \$\$ AND AN ACCOMPANYING LETTER OF APPRECIATION WILL HELP MAINTAIN THE MCGOVERN'S INTEREST IN THE 99/4A.

ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 11, 1990
GENIE NETWORK FEATURING CHRIS BOBBITT OF ASGARD SOFTWARE

(NOTE: THESE CONFERENCES AS DOWNLOADED ARE VERY DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW. I AM SUMMARIZING THIS BY USING THE QUESTIONS POSED AND CHRIS' ANSWER. BESIDES IT TOOK ABOUT 10 PAGES TO PRINT OUT. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO READ THE ENTIRE TRANSCRIPT, I HAVE UPLOADED IT ON THE FREENET.)

QUESTION: WILL THERE BE A FIX FOR COLUMNIZING IN PAGE PRO?

ANSWER: THE COLUMNIZER INCLUDED WITH PAGE PRO IS DECIDEDLY OF THE "QUICK AND DIRTY" VARIETY. SINCE I WROTE IT MYSELF, I WAS PLANNING ON UPDATING IT IN THE NEXT VERSION OF PAGE PRO - WHENEVER THAT COMES OUT.

QUESTION: WHICH NEW PAGE PRO SUPPORT MATERIALS IN THE NEW CATALOG ARE NOW AVAILABLE, AND WHICH TO COME?

ANSWER: CURRENTLY THE FOLLOWING PAGE PRO COMPATIBLE PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE:

PAGE PRO BORDERS #12
PAGE PRO SIDWAYS PICTURE PRINTER
PAGE PRO FONTS #1-3
PAGE PRO HEADLINE MAKER
PAGE PRO HEADLINE FONTS #1
PAGE PRO PICS #1-15
PAGE PRO TEMPLATES #1-12
PAGE PRO UTILITIES.

I EXPECT PAGE PRO POSTER MAKER WILL BE DONE THIS WEEK (ED IS JUST POLISHING IT AT THE MOMENT), AND P)PAGE PRO BANNER MAKER SOMETIME THIS MONTH.

QUESTION: COULD PAGE PRO SIDWAYS PRINTER BE USED TO PRINT OUT CHURCH BULLETINS?... (MANY OF WHICH ARE 8 1/2" X 11";, BUT PRINTED SIDWAYS AND FOLDED).

ANSWER: WITH PP SPP YOU CAN PRINT OUT TWO PAGES IN 8 1/2" X 14 FORMAT, BUT 8 1/2" BY 11" FORMAT JUST CAN'T BE DONE WITH THIS VERSION DUE TO PRINTER RESOLUTION. I HAVE FIGURED OUT A WAY AROUND THAT PROBLEM, BUT IT WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE BANNER MAKER IS DONE BEFORE I TRY IT.

TWO QUESTIONS: WHERE IS THE MOUSE DEVELOPERS PACKAGE AND IS BATCH IT 2 READY?

ANSWER: THE "MOUSE DEVELOPERS PACKAGE" IS STILL "UNDER DEVELOPMENT". UNFORTUNATELY MIKE GOT SO INVOLVED IN WORKING ON MIDI, HE HASN'T HAD A CHANCE TO FINISH IT UP. WE DO HAVE 1/2 THE ROUTINES DONE THO AND IT MAY BE FINISHED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. AS FOR BATCH IT! 2.0, I JUST HAVE TO SET THE MANUAL. IT SHOULD BE DONE THIS MONTH, ALONG WITH THE NEXT REFLECTIONS/ASGARD NEWS.

QUESTION: WHY SHOULD WE WAIT FOR THE ASGARD (MECHATRONICS) VIDEO SYSTEM INSTEAD OF OPA'S TI-IMAGE-MAKER WHICH WAS RELEASED FIRST? HOW IS THE ASGARD UNIT TO BE SUPERIOR?

ANSWER: THE ASGARD UNIT IS DIFFERENT AS FOLLOWS: (1) THE EGI CAN BE INSTALLED WITHOUT MAKING ANY PATCHES TO THE MOTHERBOARD; (2) THE EGI CAN BE INSTALLED WITHOUT CUTTING A HOLE THROUGH THE RFI SHIELDING; (3) THE EGI IS 100% COMPATIBLE WITH ALL EXISTING 80-COLUMN SOFTWARE; THE TIM UNIT ISN'T, EVEN BY OPA'S LITERATURE; (4) THE EGI HAS OVER 1000 UNITS INSTALLED AND IS A PROVEN SAFE AND EFFECTIVE PRODUCT WITH MANY MORE HOURS THAN CAN BE COUNTED OF "BURN IN" TIME; (5) THE 9938 IN THE EGI IS COMPATIBLE WITH COMPOSITE MONITORS OFF THE SHELF; (6) IT CARRIES A LONG WARRANTY - 1 YEAR WITH PARTS AND LABOR. IT WILL BE AVAILABLE SOMETIME EARLY NEXT YEAR, ALL THE FINANCING IS DONE AND THE ONLY THING REMAINING TO BE DONE IS HAVING A SMALL PATCH MADE TO THE MOTHERBOARD. THERE IS A PRICE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE UNITS, BUT THE ASGARD EGI IS A PROVEN

DEVICE WITH A RELATIVELY WIDE SOFTWARE BASE. AS A STAND-ALONE DEVICE WITH A UL APPROVED POWER SUPPLY, IT IS SAFE TO USE. IT DOESN'T FEED OFF THE CONSOLE POWER SUPPLY. PLUS, SINCE IT IS PACKED IN IT'S OWN CASE, IT IS WELL RFI SHIELDED. IT WON'T MESS UP YOUR PORTABLE PHONE.

QUESTION: ISN'T THE EGI TO BE PARTIALLY REDESIGNED TO ALLOW A GENLOCK DEVICE, ETC., AND/OR USE THE 9958?

ANSWER: THE MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH THE ORIGINAL MECHATRONICS WERE: (A) IT WAS GENERATING A PAL COMPOSITE SIGNAL ONLY; (B) THERE WERE A FEW BUGS IN THE ORIGINAL EPROM. I SPENT A LOT OF TIME THINKING ABOUT MAKING IT 9958 FRIENDLY, BUT DECIDED AGAINST IT FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS: (1) THE CURRENT DESIGN COULD BE ADAPTED RELATIVELY EASILY TO THE '58 AS IS; (2) THE 58 HAS NO SUPPORT FOR COMPOSITE OUTPUT. THE PROBLEM WITH TIM USING THE 58 IS THAT NOT ONLY DOES THE USER HAVE TO BUY HIS DEVICE (\$180 OR SO NOT INCLUDING THAT ASIC THAT IS SUPPOSED TO MAKE IT MORE COMPATIBLE), BUT THE USER HAS TO IMMEDIATELY SPEND \$300 OR MORE FOR AN ANALOG RGB MONITOR - THE REAL PRICE IS CLOSER TO \$500. WITH THE EGI YOU CAN USE IT OUT OF THE BOX WITH AN EXISTING COMPOSITE MONITOR. THE REAL UPGRADE PRICE IS THE COST OF THE BOARD ALONG. AS FOR GEN-LOCK, I HAVE BEEN WORKING ON A SOLUTION TO THAT PROBLEM.

QUESTION: WHAT DOES TIM NEED BESIDES A SPECIAL MONITOR TO "MAKE IT MORE COMPATIBLE"?

ANSWER: ACCORDING TO OPA'S LITERATURE, THE TIM NEEDS AN ASIC TO REMOVE ANY SOFTWARE COMPATIBLE PROBLEMS WITH OLD SOFTWARE WRITTEN FOR OLD VIDEO CHIPS.

CLARIFICATION: ASIC STANDS FOR APPLICATION-SPECIFIC INTEGRATED CIRCUIT.

ANSWER CONTINUED: THE EGI WILL RETAIL FOR \$250 PLUS SHIPPING. BACK TO GEN-LOCK. ANOTHER GENTLEMAN I KNOW HAS BEEN WORKING ON A 9938 DAUGHTERBOARD THAT REDUCES THE COST OF ADDING GENLOCK TO A '38 OR EVEN AN 18A. WE'LL PROBABLY OFFER THAT AS AN OPTION TO THOSE PEOPLE INTERESTED IN THAT SORT OF THING.

NOTE FROM BARRY TRAVER: I HATE TO SOUND IGNORANT, BUT WHAT IS GEN-LOCK?

ANSWER: GENLOCK IS THE ABILITY TO "SYNCH" AN EXTERNAL VIDEO SOURCE (VCS, CAMCORDER, ETC. TO THE PICTURE GENERATED BY THE VIDEO CHIP. WITH THE PROPER SOFTWARE YOU CAN THEN DO VIDEO TITLING, SIMPLE ANIMATION, ETC. BACK TO THE ORIGINAL QUESTION, "WHY WOULD ANYONE BE INTERESTED IN THE EGI WHEN THEY CAN HAVE THE TIM?" THERE IS ROOM IN THE MARKET FOR BOTH, I THINK. THE EGI IS FOR THE USER THAT DOESN'T WANT TO "FOOL WITH IT". IT IS MUCH SIMPLER TO INSTALL AND WORKS STRAIGHT OUT OF THE BOX WITH EVERYTHING, SINCE IT IS BASED ON THE DESIGN THAT WAS THE ORIGINAL STANDARD. THE TIM IS FOR THE USER THAT IS MORE TECHNICALLY ORIENTED. PERHAPS ONE WHO DOESN'T MIND THE "BLEEDING EDGE".

QUESTION/NOTE FROM BARRY TRAVER: I'M A HARDWARE KLUTZ MYSELF, SO I HAVE ANOTHER AMATEURISH QUESTION...DOES THE ASGARD EGI REQUIRE ANY MODIFICATION TO THE CONSOLE? WELL, IT DEPENDS ON HOW YOU DEFINE MODIFICATION. TO INSTALL THE EGI, YOU MUST OPEN THE CONSOLE, OPEN THE RFI SHIELDING (THE METAL CASE AROUND THE MOTHERBOARD), PRY UP THE SOCKET MOUNTED 9918A WITH A FLAT-EDGED SCREWDRIVER, AND PLUG IN THE SPECIAL

PLUG PROVIDED. THE SPECIAL PLUS IS ATTACHED TO A RIBBON CABLE WHICH YOU STRING OUT THE SIDE OF THE CONSOLE AND GOES INTO THE EGI, WHICH IS PLUGGED INTO THE SIDE OF THE CONSOLE.

QUESTION: NO SOLDERING INVOLVED?

ANSWER: NONE. FOR TOTAL TECHNOPHOBES WE'LL DO INSTALLATION FOR \$10 PROVIDED THE PURCHASER SENDS A CONSOLE.

QUESTION FROM BARRY: WHEN I WAS DOING AN XXB D DEMO (TRYING TO SHOW TEXT MODE) AT THE LIMA FAIRE THINGS LOCKED UP BECAUSE THE SYSTEM HAD A DIGJIT AVPC CARD. I THINK SOMEONE SAID IT WAS BECAUSE THE 9938 CHIP DOESN'T HAVE SOME REGISTERS AUTOMATICALLY SET TO ZERO THAT THE 9918A DOES. IS THAT SORT OF THING LIKELY TO BE ENCOUNTERED WITH ALL 9938 DEVICES?

ANSWER: NO, THAT PROBLEM WAS PECULIAR TO THE DIJIT, AND POSSIBLY THE TIM DEVICE. YES, THE 9938 STARTS UP WITH ITS REGISTERS INITIALLY SET TO DIFFERENT VALUES THAN THE 9918A LIKES. HOWEVER, THE MECHATRONICS CARD, THE EGI, AND THE 9640 CORRECT FOR THAT IN BUILT-IN SOFTWARE OR THE OPERATING SYSTEM (IN THE CASE OF THE 9640). THE DIJIT CARD PARTIALLY CORRECT FOR IT, BUT HAD OTHER PROBLEMS BECAUSE IT INTERFERRED WITH SIGNALS USUALLY RESERVED FOR THE RS232 CARD. THE TIM, BECAUSE OF ITS DESIGN, CAN'T USE AN ON-BOARD EPROM TO CORRECT FOR THE PROBLEM (NOT WITHOUT DOZENS OF JUMPERS HAVING TO BE INSTALLED). THE ASIC CONCEIVABLY COULD FIX IT (AT SOME COST WHICH GARY PERHAPS HASN'T FACTORED INTO HIS PRICE YET), OR WITH A BOOTUP PROGRAM THE USER WOULD HAVE TO USE EVERYTIME THEY STARTED THE SYSTEM, OR PERHAPS WITH BOTH. TO MAKE A SHORT STORY LONG, THE MECHATRONICS AND THE EGI WERE DESIGNED TO BE TRANSPARENT TO THE SYSTEM. THE COST IS A MORE EXPENSIVE DESIGN.

FROM BARRY TRAVER: CHRIS, MY SON, ENJOYS ASGARD'S TRIS! PROGRAM, BUT EVEN THOUGH IT RUNS ON A GENEVE, IT LOOKS LIKE STANDARD 9918A GRAPHICS. ANY PLANS IN THE WORKS FOR GAMES THAT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF 9938 DEVICES (LIKE THE EGI)?

ANSWER: 80-COLUMN GAMES WOULD BE WONDERFUL. I HAVE A NUMBER OF 80-COLUMN PRODUCTS IN THE WORKS RIGHT NOW, AND I JUST RELEASED A WONDERFUL PAINT PROGRAM (YAPP BY ALEXANDER HULPKE) WHICH REALLY SHOWS OFF AN 80-COLUMN CARD OR A 9640.

QUESTION: HOW MUCH IS YAPP?

ANSWER: \$29.95. INCLUDES A VERY NICE BINDER AND 50-PAGE MANUAL. IT WORKS IN 4 MODES - 256x212, 256x424, 512x212, AND 512x424. IT WORKS WITH AN ASGARD MOUSE, MYARC MOUSE, MECHATRONICS MOUSE, DIJIT MOUSE, OR WITH A JOYSTICK. IT IS COMPATIBLE WITH ARTIST FONTS, BUT NOT INSTANCES AT THIS POINT. IF YOU HAVE PICTURE TRANSFER, YOU CAN MOVE ART INTO MY/ART FORMAT, WHICH IT READS ALONG WITH GIF (PROVIDED YOU HAVE 192K OF VDP RAM FOR THE LATTER). A NICE ARTICLE ON UPGRADING A 9640'S VIDEO RAM TO 192 IS INCLUDED.

QUESTION: I AM INTERESTED IN THE STATUS OF THE MIDI PRODUCT. WHEN WILL BOTH /4A AND 9640 VERSIONS OF MIDI MASTER BE AVAILABLE?

ANSWER: WELL, MIKE SAID HE'D FINISH THE 4A VERSION AT LEAST THIS MONTH. I'M PERSONALLY MORE INTERESTED IN MAKING SURE IT'S DONE RIGHT INSTEAD OF ON A PARTICULAR SCHEDULE. I WOULD CERTAINLY LIKE TO RELEASE IT THIS MONTH THO.

QUESTION: ANY IDEA ON WHEN JIM REISS'S LINK MAY BE READY TO GO?

ANSWER: ACTUALLY, IT HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY FINISHED FOR ALMOST A YEAR NOW. THE ONLY THING THAT HAS YET TO BE PERFECTED WAS THE XMODEM TRANSFER TO CASSETTE. WE HIT UPON A WAY TO DO IT AT CHICAGO (WHERE WE HAD MORE CHANCE TO CHAT), AND THAT PROBABLY MEANS HE'LL FINISH IT BEFORE THE YEAR IS OVER. JIM IS PLANNING TO ALLOW DOWNLOADS OF UP TO 32K USING THE 32K AS A BIG RAMDISK, AND THEN THE RESULTING FILE CAN BE SAVED TO CASSETTE OR DISK. ESSENTIALLY, MIST 1 FILE PROGRAM ASSEMBLY AND XB PROGRAMS ARE LIKELY CANDIDATES FOR TRANSFERS WITH LINK. IT SHOULD BE PRETTY FAST TOO SINCE IT'S ENTIRELY TO RAM.

QUESTION: SO THE FILE WOULD BE DOWNLOADED TO 'RAMDISK' WHILE ON LINE, AND TRANSFERRED TO CASSETTE (OR DISK) WHEN OFF-LINE?

ANSWER: YES, TO BOTH.

QUESTION: MORE THAN ONE FILE TO RAMDISK?

ANSWER: THOUGH XB PROGRAMS WOULD PROBABLY BE 12K OR SO, THERE IS NO I/V 254 FORMAT TO CASSETTE. I DON'T THINK HE WAS PLANNING ON MORE THAN ONE FILE PER RAM-DISK, BUT THE USER CAN DUMP TO CASSETTE WHILE STILL ON-LINE.

(MOST OF THE REST OF THE CONFERENCE WAS ABOUT SOME OF THE HARDWARE FOUND IN EUROPE AND SOME PROBLEMS WITH MYARC EQUIPMENT. READ IT ON THE FREE-NET!)

DM

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