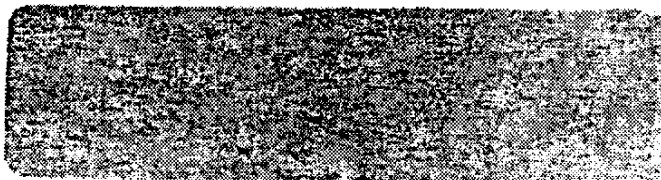


99'er Online

April 1986

p.o. box 11983
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada T5J3L1

to:



99'er ON LINE... is the news letter of the Edmonton 99'er Computer User's Society published ten times a year. Unless otherwise stated, all material contained in this news letter may be published in other news letters provided that source and author are identified. We welcome correspondence from all TI User Groups and we will credit authors quoted in 99'er ON LINE.

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OFFICERS: PRESIDENT--PAUL HELWIG, VICE PRES--TOM HALL, TREASURER--SUSAN LIVINGSTON, SECRETARY--ROGER LOTEN

DISCLAIMER: All information published in this news letter is, for the most part, the fruits of the labors of amateurs; therefore, we cannot guarantee that the information presented is always correct.

REGULAR MEETINGS... of the Edmonton 99'er Computer User's Society are held on the second Tuesday of each month in room 849 of the General Services building of the University of Alberta from 7:00 till 10:00 PM and are open to all members in good standing. Non-members may attend their first meeting free of charge. The Executive Committee meets monthly. Members may attend these meetings as observers or to address a particular issue. Arrange with one of the officers listed above if you wish to attend.

ADVERTISING... Commercial space is available in this news letter at the following rates: FULL PAGE--\$20.00, HALF PAGE--\$15.00, 1/4 PAGE--\$10.00. Discuss your needs with JIM MULLIGAN at 467-6021, at the next meeting, or send "photo ready" copy to the P/O Box above. Members may advertise their personal computer related items for free but are asked to limit their ads to about 50 words. Mail your ads to the EDITOR'S ADDRESS or hand it to him at the general meeting; newsletter deadline 3'rd Tuesday of the month.

MEMBERSHIP FEES: FAMILY---12 MONTHS, \$20.00, 6 MONTHS, \$15.00. STUDENTS---12 MONTHS, \$15.00, 6 MONTHS, \$10.00. New member initiation, \$20.00.



Date / /
 New Membership Application
 Renewal of Membership
 Change of Address

Name last first initial
 Address
 City Province
 Postal Code Telephone

† Please note that if you are a NEW member, there is a ONE TIME fee of \$20 for the purchase of hardware and software for the club computer.

† May we release your name, address and telephone number on a club roster to companies, other clubs and other members?
 YES NO

Single or Family membership \$20 (12 months)
 \$15 (6 months)
 Student membership \$15 (12 months)
 (please have I.I. card) \$10 (6 months)
 Out of town membership \$20 (12 months)
 \$15 (6 months)
 Hardware Fee \$20 (Life-time)

OFFICE USE ONLY

Membership # Amount Tendered \$ Date filed

Card Issued Yes No Authorized Signature

The Edmonton 99'er Computer Users' Society

1986 Nomination Form

Please follow the six steps below to ensure that your nominations are valid:

1. Include your name as the nominator.
2. Confine with your nominee that he/she will stand for election.
3. Make sure that your nomination reaches the nominating committee by MAY 6, 1986.
4. Nominate one person only for each position.
5. To be eligible, both the nominator and your nominee must be members in good standing of the society.
6. Please PRINT!

Nominator's Name	Incumbent	Nominee
President	Paul Helwig	
Vice President	Tom Hall	
Treasurer	Susan Livingston	
Secretary	Rodger Loten	

Please remember that this form has to be returned to the Nominating Committee by the May General meeting, by mail or in person.

MARCH MEETING

The March meeting was attended by 25 members, two of whom were new comers. The minutes of the February executive meeting were read:

1. As part of our library "tryware" policy, and as a nod to those who have not sent contributions to the authors, we are publishing a list of freeware programs, their authors' and addresses, and suggested contribution in this issue.
2. Free diskettes! Bob Pass distributed free diskettes to five members. Naturally, there is a catch: the diskettes must be returned next month with one or more articles or programs for the newsletter. When the author's material is published, he or she will receive their free disk, no strings attached. This will become a regular feature at every meeting.
3. We have started a programming project. Bob Pass submitted a basic game program package he wrote some time ago which he feels can be spiffed up substantially. The package includes a program disk, a documentation disk, program listing, a cross reference, and a detailed explanation, all in a neat binder. The package is given to one person for a month who then does what he can to improve the program and/or documentation. Next month, the entire package, with old and new versions, is given to someone else for a month. The idea is to come up with a good program for the library, develop programming skills, and have some fun. If it works, we'll get another package circulating. Jim Beck has first crack at developing (are you ready?) **PASSMAN**.
4. Nomination forms for executive election are to be prepared for the April newsletter issue; elections to take place at the June general meeting.

Susan Livingston reports that our bank account now stands at \$490.17

The meeting then broke for coffee and about 45 minutes worth of free time.

The final two hours were devoted to another in our series of assembly language programming workshops. This month's was again presented by Michal Jaegermann who reviewed the results of the "homework" programming project assigned last month. He spent most of the sessions discussing the problems encountered.

The meeting wound up at 11:00 PM.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting, our eighth of the season, is scheduled for Tuesday, Apr. 8'th at 7:30 pm in room B49 of the 1st of A's General Services building on 116 St at 90'th Ave. Doors open at 7:00 PM; meeting starts at 7:30 sharp.

A Tom and Gerry Show! Tom Hall and Gerry McCarthy will demonstrate the Gram Kracker from Miller's Graphics.

Looking for a printer that performs but won't dry clean your budget? Don Bessette will bring along and demo the Centronix GLP printer that retails for under \$300.00.

Michal Jaegermann will continue with his E/A workshop and tutorials.

If any of you have outstanding materials on loan, please remember to return them so that others may share the resources of the Users' Group.

Jim Beck: don't forget to return the programming project package.

USER GROUP NEWS

RAM DISK... A special interest group is being set up by Bob Pass for those interested in building the Horizon Ram Disk (see your March issue). The purpose of the group is to pool knowledge, expertise, and equipment to aid those who would not be willing to try something of this nature on their own. Also, if we build enough boards, we can probably get quantity discounts on components making the project more economical. The group will not build boards for you; you must be willing to get your hands dirty and learn something. If you are interested, please get your name and phone number to Bob Pass ASAP.

PROGRAMMING CONTEST... a reminder that the programming contest under way to develop a letter head for our Users' Group closes as of the April meeting (or April 15'th if mailed). Please submit your entries by then. See your February newsletter for details.

TRADING POST... don't forget to bring in your surplus software or hardware for swapping and/or sale.

BOOKS... and while you are not forgetting to bring in stuff for the trading post, we would appreciate any donations of reading material for the library.

VOLUNTEERS... helping to keep the group running are many people who are in many ways the soul of this User's Group: Bob Pass, Jim Mulligan, Ron Hohmann, Ken Godbeer, and Gord Bradlee. If you see something that needs doing, or with your help something could be done better, how about volunteering your services at the next meeting?

BULLETIN BOARD... a BBS service is operated for us by Tom Hall. To get on line, dial (403) 424-3258. In addition to news and the usual BBS offerings, there are programs available for downloading to your TI machine.

ADVERTISING... don't forget that members can advertise their noncommercial, computer related merchandise in this news letter for free! Give your ad to Bob Pass or Jim Mulligan by phone, mail, or at the next meeting. See the fine print on the newsletter fly leaf for further info.

THE EDITOR THANKS... Michal Jaegermann and Tom Hall for contributing to this month's edition of 99'er ONLINE. And also Ken Godbeer who is not only doing a great job in organizing the disk library but also contributed three articles this month!

ADJUSTING AN ACOUSTIC MODEM

By George Lempeotis

Reprinted from the March 1986 issue of the newsletter of the K3 TI USERS GROUP in Kankakee, Illinois.

I have had a slight problem with my TI Acoustic Modem since I bought it a year ago. I would get unexpectedly disconnected while calling a Bulletin Board; this would happen periodically and for no apparent reason.

About a month ago the problem got worse, now I could not get connected for more than a few minutes without getting disconnected. After talking to the board's Sysop and recalling a magazine letter about a similar problem, I thought the problem might be in the signal strength adjustment inside the modem.

I took apart the modem and found three adjustment pots, after some experimenting I found the pot under the speaker cup to be the signal strength adjustment. All I had to do to reach the pot was pry off the speaker cup (the cup that takes the part of the phone you talk into). With the cup off, I was able to reach the pot with a small screwdriver. The pot is located off to the center of the modem, turning the pot counter-clockwise seems to increase the signal. I turned the pot all the way to the left (increased the signal) and the modem worked fine. In a month of use I have not been unintentionally disconnected from a BBS.

I think the signal adjustment is there to compensate for noisy or weak phone lines (like mine), the worse the line the stronger the signal needed. On a cleaner and stronger phone line too high a signal could cause a feedback problem, the better the line the lower the signal needed. I would suggest experimenting with the adjustment, until you find the setting that works best and corrects any problems you might have.

Happy Board Hunting.

Editor's note: A "pot" is electronicese for potentiometer. And that is gobbledey-gook for an adjustable resistor. The one referred to here is located at about the 5 o'clock position relative to the upper phone cup. It is blue, slightly smaller than a dime, and the circuit board is stamped "XMT LEVEL" just above the pot. MAKE CERTAIN YOU HAVE REMOVED POWER TO THE MODEM BEFORE POKING AROUND!

George's last paragraph is basically correct; however, if you turn the level too high, you will only distort the transmitted signal making it unintelligible to the distant computer. Also it may be possible to start inducing your signal onto other telephone lines if your level is too hot. Therefore, there is a limit as to how much noise or poor telephone line level can be compensated for this way. Being involved in the telephone transmission business, and having had to find many noise troubles on telephone circuits, I recommend that you follow a different procedure than above to avoid inducing "cross-talk" on adjacent telephone circuits in your transmission path.

First of all, eliminate the obvious. Make sure nobody else at either your end or the other is picking up an extension to make a call. That will nearly always drop you off. You can have a device installed to automatically disconnect extensions when your modem set

is off hook. If you have a call waiting feature on your line, incoming calls will cause you to drop off. If you have phone jacks try switching your phone set. Are you on a party line? If so, get a private line. Has the person at the other end experienced many troubles? Maybe it's his equipment; suspect this if you are having troubles to only one other computer.

Next, if you believe your phone line is not up to standard, request your telephone company to inspect and test your line; the problem may be a poor connection anywhere from your set to the exchange. A sure indication of line trouble is an increase in noise after heavy rains or during high winds. Ask for the test measurement results from the phone company. Your line should have less than 25 dBNC noise and a loss of 10dB or less at 1 KHz. If these minimum standards are not met, insist that your service be brought up to standard; you are paying for it and should get it. The advantage to having this done is that you may gain a better grade of service for your voice communications; also, why doctor the modem when the problem is elsewhere and likely to get worse?

If the above specs are met, then the problem likely is in the modem. Locate the pot per above and, using a dab of "white out" or nail polish, mark the pot so you will know where it is set initially. Now, adjust the pot by turning it counter clockwise 1/8 turn and test by calling up the computer with which you most frequently experience troubles. Repeat these two steps until the problem just disappears. If you get to the point where the pot is fully counter clockwise or the problem gets worse, then perhaps your originally your signal was too strong. Reset the pot to the initial position and start again with 1/8 turns the opposite way. If neither of these tricks work and your line is clean, take your modem to a repair shop and have it set up to spec on a scope. And if all else fails, try to borrow a direct connect; if that fixes you up, go ahead, treat yourself! If you went through all of the above, you will deserve it by now.

TI-TRIVIA

by: Jim Mulligan and Bob Pass

Troubles always come in threes so the saying goes. Here is a triplet of puzzlers for you to ponder!

1. Is TI console ROM actually RAM?
2. Can you place XBasic file protection on cassette files?
3. Scenario: Using TI-Writer, you have created a table in the screen mode, ie you did not use the F111 formatter command as you want the printout to appear just as it does on screen. Your printout is perfect but you notice that a word used several times in the table is misspelled, you left out one letter consistently. So, cleverly, you reload the file and use replace string (RS) to correct all occurrences using option "A". You then save the file under it's original name and print it out using the formatter. To your horror, your table is now scrambled hopelessly.

Why did this happen? Why does your newsletter editor have egg on his face?

How to Quiet Down Your Peripheral Expansion Box

by: Ken Godbeer

Are you tired of listening to that great roar of your P-Box fan as you type a letter or play Munchausen on your TI-99/4A? Are you a bit handy with tools? If the answer to these two questions is yes, here's a project for you.

After reading several articles recently in MICROpendium about changing out the fan in the P-Box for a quieter one, I decided one Friday evening to go for it! The first thing you need is a new fan. I picked one up at Radio Shack (catalogue number 273-242) for \$19.95. Before you go down to the store, check if they have it in stock. I tried four stores before I finally found one at the Bonnie Doon Store. You can probably get one elsewhere, as long as it is a three inch fan (the mounting holes are 2.81 inches apart). Before you start, you will need a small Philips screw driver, a pair of long nosed pliers and a wrench, socket or whatever capable of gripping a 7/32" nut. You might also need a soldering iron and some electrical tape or heat shrink.

Unplug the P-Box and wait the recommended two to three minutes, then disconnect all of the cables and move the P-Box to a convenient work surface. After removing all of the cards in the P-Box you will have to remove your disk drive(s). Take out every screw you can see on the back, bottom and sides except the two holding the clips that lock the top onto the box (I think there are about 15 of them). Don't worry about getting them mixed up, they are all the same. Once you have all of the screws out slide the cover of the box forward and remove it. Then loosen the two screws holding the circuit board on the left side of the power supply and slide it back out of the way so you can get at the lower left nut holding the fan in place. Remove the old fan by removing the four nuts and washers on the studs fastened to the back wall of the P-Box. Disconnect the quick connect terminals and remove the fan. I was able to salvage the two connectors on the wires connected to the old fan and put them on the new fan's connecting wires, but if you can't, just make sure the wires are covered after being connected. Now fasten the new fan in place and tighten the nuts. Make sure the fan is positioned so that the air flow is out of the P-Box. On the Radio Shack model I used this means placing it so the Decal is against the back wall of the P-Box. I put a thin gasket between the fan and the metal, but I really don't think it was necessary. Also the threaded studs are not that long so you might have difficulty getting the nuts on if you do this.

Now you are ready to reassemble everything. Before you put the cover on, make sure the fan wires are secured out of the way so they don't stray into the fan blades accidentally. Put all the screws back in and reinstall the disk drive(s) and cards.

The whole job took me about an hour and the only difficulty I had was trying to reuse the old quick connect terminals on the fan wires. I probably should have bought some new ones but I didn't know what size to get. Oh yes, if anybody needs an extra screw for your Expansion Box I have one spare; I can't for the life of me figure out where it came from! If you are concerned about the cooling capacity of the new vs old fan one article suggested measuring the room air and discharge air temperatures before and after changing fans. Also the Radio Shack Fan states that it uses 12 watts of power while the one I removed from my P-Box uses 14

watts so I don't think power consumption is a problem.

The final result is a Peripheral Expansion Box that makes about half of the noise of the original. Have fun!

Group Disk Library New Additions

by: Ken Godbeer

Since my last article in the February Newsletter we have had a number of excellent additions to the Library.

On the Disk Manager 1000 disk there is now a complete set of documentation.

On the Games I disk there are three programs reviewed earlier: Wordpuzzle and write Spell-it by Earl Toman, and Sandy, the pin up calendar from Roger Loten.

HBMPrint is an excellent piece of Shareware written in TI-Forth by Bob Lawson which allows you to print out the files from the TI Household Budget Management Module.

Jim Mulligan has compiled all of the programs from the first edition of the 99'er Magazine onto a disk titled 99'er Vol.1 No.1.

It's Income Tax Time and the new addition from Greg Kivell should help you calculate your 1985 Taxes.

PRBASE is a very promising new piece of Freeware from William Warren. 24 pages of documentation print out when you run the Load program on Side two. This program is designed to run on Gemini or compatible printers. As an added incentive to send in your money if you like the program he advised me that Version 2 is almost complete and all registered users will be notified when it is ready and get updates by sending him a blank disk.

On the disk containing Ptera and Xmodeac we have added Mytera, a freeware terminal emulator written in Wycove Forth by Tim MacEachern. It has a 64 column display and is intended to be used with Hayes Smartmodems or Compatibles.

Tom Hall passed on a copy of SuperBug II written by Edgar L. Dohmann which is a Freeware improved version of the original Super Debugger and will replace it in the Library.

As any of you who have read some of the past Newsletters know, Michal Jaegermann knows a lot about Forth. He has contributed an enhanced version of TI-Forth incorporating improvements, many of which have been written up in past issues.

Finally I have consolidated a couple of existing programs, Disk Library and Greg's Spreadsheet plus some new additions on a disk called Utilities I. Code-print, Hex-dec-2 and Ln-extract are useful utilities written by Bob Burley. Canmort, Quickmort, Canmortap and Canmort3ap were written by Bob Chapman. The last four allow you to work out your mortgage "The Canadian Way". Canmortap and Canmort3ap are TI-Multinlan files while the other two run in Basic or Extended Basic. Also on this disk is Funlwriter, a Public Domain Extended Basic loader for TI-Writer which also supports the Show Directory command, and user changeable screen colors and printer defaults by editing the loader.

If you have any contributions for the Library please try to include all documentation on the disk and bring it to me at the meeting. If you put your name on the disk I will copy it and return the disk to you at the following month's meeting.

Many of the programs in the Disk Library are Freeware and if you use them you are expected to contribute the suggested payment directly to the author or to the Club who will forward it for you. If you mail it directly please mention that you got a copy from our Library; that way authors will keep us in mind if they have any other Freeware available.

TI-TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. In a way, yes. ROM means Read Only Memory and RAM means Random Access Memory. By those definitions, TI console ROM is RAM because you can randomly address bytes in ROM for read out.

2. Yes, by saving your file using the following command:

```
SAVE CS1,PRDTECT
```

3. Several mistakes were made here which led to the disaster. First, lets review the poor practices, then the cause and fix.

First of all, after the RS(A) was done, the screen display should have been checked. The scrambling would have been most apparent and the file could have been reloaded from disk for another try. Secondly, it is good practice to save your modified files under a different file name so that in this kind of situation, you can go back to your original version. Now, why this happened in the first place. When RS tried to replace the old word, it found that the new word was longer than the original. Therefore, it removed the old word, split the line, inserted the new word, AND THEN REFORMATTED THE TEXT! If there had been a carriage return at the end of each line, the damage would have been eliminated or minimal at worst. But there is another answer. Before executing the RS command, hit CTRL O to go into "FIXED" (hollow cursor) mode. This prevents reformatting but you may lose some characters off the end of the lines where replacements occurred. Whether you use the carriage return method or fixed mode, you should still follow the safety precautions listed above.

Why is your editor embarrassed? This happened to me in last month's newsletter but I didn't even know it till after it was mailed out. I used RS to change some transliterations in Michal Jaegermann's Forth Screens and scrambled the listing. Some detective work by Michal revealed the cause and I've learned something else about TI-Writer! Listed below is the correct screens for last month's Forth article.

The following three screens for poor souls with only one drive Do not forget to install a word : *EOF STAT 1 AND 0= : before loading.

```
( SCREENS TO FILE AND BACK - ONE DISK # MJ 9Feb86 )
BASE->R HEX -FILE 0 VARIABLE BUF 4E ALLOT
PABS @ 2 + BUF 1400 FILE #CP #CP
```

```
: WAIT ( -- f )
CR ." Press <C> to Continue, <Q> to quit" CR
BEGIN KEY 5F AND DUP 43 = OVER 51 = OR 0= WHILE DROP REPEAT
51 = IF QUIT ENDIF ;
```

```
: MSGSCNS CR ." insert Forth disk " CR WAIT ;
: MSGFILE CR ." insert File disk " CR WAIT ;
```

```
: BUFFERS ( scn# cnt -- scn# cnt )
MSGSCNS OVER OVER OVER + SWAP DO I BLOCK DROP LOOP MSGFILE ;
```

```
R->BASE -->
```

```
( SCREENS TO FILE AND BACK - ONE DISK # MJ 9Feb86 ) BASE->R HEX.
: GETFILE CR ." Filename: " PAD 40 20 FILL \ <enter> for old na
PAD 1+ 30 OVER OVER EXPECT -TRAILING 2- -DUP
IF #CP SET-PAB VRBL 50 REC-LEN DUP ROT 1- C!
1+ PAD PAB 9 + ROT VNBW ELSE DROP APPND ENDIF ;
```

```
: (SCNS)FILE ( scn# cnt -- ) BUFFERS OVER + SWAP DO I BLOCK
400 OVER + SWAP DO I BUF 20 MOVE BUF 40 -TRAILING 1 MAX WRT
DROP 40 +LOOP LOOP ;
```

```
: (FILE)SCNS ( scn# cnt -- ) BUFFERS OVER + SWAP
DO *EOF IF I BLOCK UPDATE 400 OVER OVER BLANKS OVER + SWAP
DO *EOF IF RD BUF I ROT CMOVE ELSE LEAVE ENDIF 40 +LOOP
ELSE CLSE MSGSCNS FLUSH ABORT
ENDIF LOOP MSGSCNS FLUSH ;
```

```
R->BASE -->
```

```
( SCREENS TO FILE AND BACK - ONE DISK # MJ 9Feb86 )
BASE->R HEX 5 CONSTANT BBSIZE 0 VARIABLE SCFL
```

```
: S<>F ( scn# cnt -- ) GETFILE OPN BBSIZE /MOD -DUP
IF ROT >R R SWAP BBSIZE # + SWAP OVER R)
DO I BBSIZE SCFL @ EXECUTE BBSIZE +LOOP
ENDIF SCFL @ EXECUTE CLSE ;
```

```
: SCNS)FILE ( scn# cnt -- )
[ ' (SCNS)FILE) CFA ] LITERAL SCFL ! S<>F ;
: FILE)SCNS ( scn# cnt -- )
[ ' (FILE)SCNS) CFA ] LITERAL SCFL ! S<>F ;
```

```
: RECORDS #CP INPT OPN 0 DO *EOF IF CR BUF RD TYPE PAUSE
ELSE 1 ENDIF IF LEAVE ENDIF LOOP CLSE ;
R->BASE
```

Continued on Page 7.

```

MAIN, 7 DEC, 6TE WHILE, \ while still something to move - do
  DECT, \ make room on stack
  #IP+ 6 MOV, 6 8 SRL, \ move storage offset to R6
  STORE 6 @ (?) #SP MOV, \ get item on stack
  REPEAT, IP INC, NEXT, \ fix return address and return

```

Instruction IP INC, in the last line of this screen deserves some comment. IP (Interpretative Pointer) normally contains an address of the next word to execute. (STACK) is using it to pick up consecutive bytes needed for execution. Since all addresses in TI are words aligned on even boundary, a value in IP maybe one too small if a nuber of used bytes was odd. So we need increment it by one. What will happen if a nuber of used bytes was even and a value in IP is correct - before IP INC. ? Nothing wrong, since the next instruction which will try to fetch something from an address pointed to by IP, will disregard the lowest bit anyway, so its value is imaterial anyway, as long as high 15 bits are correct. This uses addressing properties of 9900 chip and for sure is not portable. But assembler is not portable anyway.

And here, for a Forth hackers - a promised high level verison of (STACK).

SCDA CONSTANT STORE

```

: (STACK)
  R C@ DUP + 0 DO I STORE + ! 2 +LOOP
  R> 1+ COUNT 2DUP + =CELLS R
  -DUP IF OVER + SWAP DO I C@ STORE + @ LOOP
  ELSE DROP
  ENDIF ;

```

Continued from Page 4.

Less to type and smoother operation for owners of two drives or RAM-drive. Same remark on ^EOF as above still applies.

```

( SCREENS TO FILE AND BACK MJ 10Jun85 ) 0 CLOAD RECORDS
BASE->R HEX 43 CLOAD ^EOF 0 VARIABLE BUF 4E ALLOT
PABS @ 2 + BUF 1400 FILE #CP #CP
: GETFILE CR ." Filename: " PAD 40 20 FILL \ <enter> for old na
  PAD 1+ 30 OVER EXPECT -TRAILING 2- -DUP
  IF #CP SET-PAB VRBL 50 REC-LEN DUP ROT 1- C!
  1+ PAD PAB @ 9 + ROT VMBW ELSE DROP APPND ENDIF ;
: SCNS>FILE ( scn# cnt -- ) GETFILE OPN OVER + SWAP DO I BLOCK
  400 OVER + SWAP DO I BUF 20 MOVE BUF 40 -TRAILING 1 MAX WRT
  DROP 40 +LOOP LOOP CLSE ; \ to append, <enter> for fname
: >SCNS ( scn# cnt -- ) GETFILE OPN OVER + SWAP
  DO ^EOF IF I BLOCK UPDATE 400 OVER OVER 20 FILL OVER + SWAP
  DO ^EOF IF RD BUF I ROT CMOVE ELSE LEAVE ENDIF 40 +LOOP
  ENDIF LOOP CLSE ;
: RECORDS #CP INPT OPN 0 DO ^EOF IF CR BUF RD TYPE PAUSE
  ELSE 1 ENDIF IF LEAVE ENDIF LOOP CLSE ; R->BASE

```

10 Golden Rules

Many DP managers have dismissed the statements of the technical press, and in so doing have been fired from their exalted positions—basically, for having forsaken the 10 golden rules.

Rule One: Thou shouldst mount the package in an environment of great test to obtain that, which is often elusive—operational know-how.

Rule Two: He, who amendeth the package and lacketh great understanding is doomed.

Rule Three: He, who desireth to amend the package and possesseth great understanding should speak to the merchant of his desire.

Rule Four: He, who believeth in short cuts should also knoweth of the vacancies in the DP managers' special graveyard.

Rule Five: Thou shalt not underestimate implementation time.

Rule Six: Thou shalt not redesign the package, for it shouldst be remembered that the package has travelled far and wide and worketh well in many places.

Rule Seven: Packages doeth many things but do not maketh coffee.

Rule Eight: Murphy existeth and will exist in perpetuity.

Rule Nine: The base criteria shouldst cover all needs and desires—ommissions breed disputes and disaster.

Rule Ten: Before dispensing denarii remembereth—caveat emptor is fully operative.

ONE LINERS ON LINE

by: Anon Murphy

Make it possible for programmers to program in plain english and you will find that programmers cannot write in english.

ONE LINERS ON LINE

by: Anon Murphy

Program complexity grows until it exceeds the programmers comprehension.



FREEWARE SOURCES IN THE LIBRARY

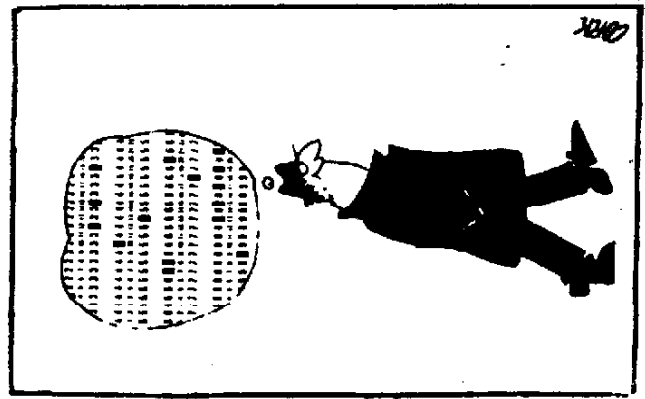
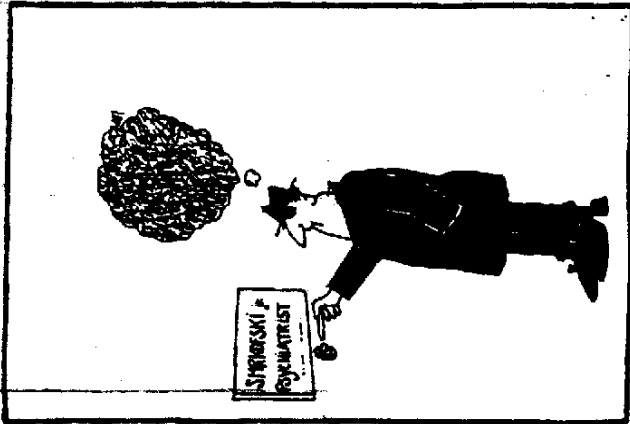
By Ken Godheer

<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>SUGGESTED PAYMENT</u>
Clint Pulley 38 Townsend Avenue Burlington, Ontario L1T 1Y6	CS99	\$20
The Ottawa TI-99/4A User's Group P.O. Box 2144 Station "D" Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5N3	Disk Manager 1000	\$10
Stephen Lawless 2014 Maple Ave, Cedars Wilmington, Delaware 19808	Mass Copy	\$10 (U.S.)
Bob Lawson 16223 Mill Point Dr. Houston, Texas 77059	IBMPRINT	\$10 (U.S.)
C. Richard Bryant 417 E. Alpine Street Altamonte Springs, Florida 32701	Item	\$10 (U.S.)
Tim MacEachern P.O. Box 1105 Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 4B8	lytera	\$10
Edgar L. Dohmann Rt. 5 Box 84 Alvin, Texas 77511	Superbug II	\$3-5 (U.S.)
William Warren 2373 Ironton St. Aurora, Colorado 80010	PRBASE	\$10.00 (U.S.)

Freeware Donated by Members

The following programs were donated by members with the stipulation that if you found them useful you should make an appropriate donation to the Edmonton 99'er Computer User Society.

- Mars
- Ian Denny
- Super Croak
- Ti-Binghy
- Unidup
- Ken Butler
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Software developers cut prices, allow copying, to curtail piracy

TORONTO (CP) — Canada's software developers are out to stop piracy.

In a bid to create a mass market, many of Canada's software developers have started to remove copy protection from personal computer programs, industry spokesmen say.

Developers are also cutting software prices — a trend expected to continue as more companies enter the market.

The elimination of copy protection (coding in the programming which prevents the software from being copied) is a "healthy trend and the direction in which the software industry will be going in the next few years," said Reuben Lando, chairman of the Software Developers Association.

The practice is counter-productive "if you're trying to get into the mass market," said Lando. The industry will grow if programs can be easily copied, he added.

To be successful in the volume market, a product's name must be familiar to users. Because copy protection prevents copying and lending, it encourages the public to purchase pirated software instead of the original program.

For example, if the purchaser cannot copy a \$200 software package and the product is later damaged, he has lost the value of his purchase, said Michael Reichmann, president of Batteries Included Inc. of Richmond Hill, Ont.

"That's a disservice to the end user."

A year ago, Reichmann's company decided to move away from copy protection. Now that customers can make copies, they don't have to fear losing a program and money.

For the manufacturer, unbridled copying is "the best form of advertisement you can get," Lando said. Knowledge of the product translates into higher sales volume and customer loyalty.

For example, Batteries Included produced its first unprotected package last year and "we sold significant volumes of the product," said Reichmann.

Today, the company sells 50 software packages, compatible with major brands of hardware. Only three are protected and "we try to price our products as inexpensively as we can."

Because companies are pricing their products aggressively, they can sell twice as many software packages at half the usual price and still make the same money.

"We've dropped prices to the point where it's not worth copying," said Raj Manucha, president of MSR Inc.

After the company removed copy protection last year, its sales tripled.

When software is priced so low, it "cuts the pirates out because you're giving it away," said Peter Sprung, associate director of the department of computing services at the University of Waterloo.

The pirates are also cut out by the new "shareware" concept in which some manufacturers sell their unprotected product to user groups for as little as \$5, said Bruce Hampson, general manager of the Canadian Computer Dealers Association.

But the manufacturers still turn a profit. For a fee of about \$75, users can register with the developers and receive such extras as printed manuals, updates and access to a hotline. Because copying is encouraged, the number of users can be quite large.

System compatibility tackled

NEW YORK (AP) — The biggest U.S. computer companies will meet later this month to plan a major effort to enable their machines to communicate with each other, an organizer of the plan said Monday.

Planners hope to make pieces of computer equipment as easy to interconnect as stereo receivers, speakers and tape decks made by different companies, said A.G.W. Biddle, president of the Computer and Communications Industry Association.

Incompatibility of brands of equipment is the biggest headache of data managers because it obstructs the flow of information inside their companies, such as from the shop floor to the accounting department to the front office.

"This initiative is a very important step in the history of this industry," Biddle said. "It should free up a tremendous amount of resources for innovation."

The eighteen companies spearheading the standardization drive have invited about 50 others — in-

cluding industry leader International Business Machines Corp. — to attend a Jan. 23 meeting to discuss their plans.

The 18 hope to persuade IBM and the others to join them in a non-profit organization called the Corporation for Open Systems that will specify standards and test equipment for compliance.

The organization would start with a budget of \$8 million to \$10 million a year, Biddle said. Each founding member would put up \$125,000 in 1986.

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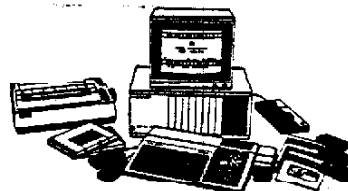
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