

One of our newer members, Dave Russell, is an amateur radio operator. He has a program for his TI to keep track of a listing of other operators. This program works fine until he inputs 120 names, then it locks up. He thinks that the memory is full at this point.

Dave's system consists of Extended Basic, 32K Expansion, Disk Drive, etc. The inputs consist of: Call Sign, Amateur Class, Name, Street Address, City-State-Zip, and Phone. Each of these strings are dim'ed at 200. We counted all the characters in one set of entries and came up with 56 characters. With 120 entries of similar length he should be using aprox. 6.72K of memory, not enough to fill his system.

If anyone out there has any ideas about what is happening, why don't you give Dave a call at (317) 662 8621 or write to 414 W. 4th Street, Marion, Ind. 46952. I'm sure Dave will be happy for any assistance that you can offer!

XBASIC sold *

A Lubbock, Texas, software company has obtained the rights to produce the Extended BASIC cartridge. SunWare Ltd. president Charles Roberts confirmed that the company has purchased the rights to the cartridge from TI. Plans for continued distribution, as well as the production rights to other TI cartridges, is not known at this time.

New catalog out *

Tenex Computer Marketing Systems has issued a new edition of its "Everything Book for the TI Home Computer." The magazine-sized catalog includes 48 pages of TI and third-party products. The catalog will be sent free to anyone who asks for it, according to the company. For more information, contact Tenex at 1-800-348-2778 (219-259-7051 in Indiana). Or write to the company at P.O. Box 6578, South Bend, IN 46660.

Changing shape *

Tired of that plain, blinking square called a cursor? Like to see something in a designer cursor? Perhaps in the shape of the state of Texas? According to the Columbus (Ohio) 99/4A Users Group, you can do this with a series of CALL LOADs. (We recommend caution when using any CALL LOADs as results in some cases may be unpredictable). This transformation requires a memory expansion and Extended BASIC. Here's the program:

Enter RUN and the program loads the redefined cursor into high memory where it will remain until you QUIT or type BYE. Other Extended BASIC programs may be loaded and the cursor will remain in its redefined shape.

Line 4 carries the workload here. CALL LOAD(12288,0,0,0,0,0,0,252) results in a flat line cursor. Deleting line 4 results in an invisible cursor. Now, that could be amusing.

```
1 CALL CLEAR :: CALL INIT
2 CALL LOAD(8196,63,248)
3 CALL LOAD(16376,67,85,82,83,79,82,48,8)
4 CALL LOAD(12288,48,48,63,255,254,124,24,12)
5 CALL LOAD(12296,2,0,3,24,0,2,1,48,0,2,2,0,8,4,32,32,36,4,91)
6 CALL LINK("CURSOR") ::
END
```

Lower-case letters *

As you know, the difference between a lower-case and upper-case letter in TI BASIC or Extended BASIC is a matter of scale. Everything is in upper-case. TI uses small-scale upper-case letters to serve as lower-case letters. The following listing comes from the Johnson Space Center Users Group of Houston, Texas. The data statements re-define the lower case letters, though not with true descenders. (Perhaps with a little time you could create DATA statements

that would produce true descenders.) Will let you decide how to use the statements in your programs. We'll illustrate easy via a GOSUB and listing to improve the appearance of a number of programs.

```
100 INPUT A$
110 REM GOSUB 5010
5010 DATA 0000038043C443C
5020 DATA 0040407844444478
5030 DATA 0000003C4040403C
5040 DATA 0004043C4444443C
5050 DATA 000000384478403
5060 DATA 0018242020702020
5070 DATA 0000304838082810
5080 DATA 0040404078444444
5090 DATA 0010001010101010
5100 DATA 0004000404042418
5110 DATA 0040485060504848
5120 DATA 0010101010101010
5130 DATA 0000002854444444
5140 DATA 0000007844444444
5150 DATA 0000003844444438
5160 DATA 0000704870404040
5170 DATA 00001C241C040404
5180 DATA 0000005864404040
5190 DATA 0000003C40380478
5200 DATA 0000207020202418
5210 DATA 0000004444444438
5220 DATA 0000004444442810
5230 DATA 000000444444546C44
5240 DATA 0000004428102844
5250 DATA 0000442418102040
5260 DATA 0000007C08102070
5300 RESTORE 5010
5310 FOR I=97 TO 122
5311 READ A$
5312 CALL CHAR(I,A$)
5313 NEXT I
5320 REM RETURN
5325 GOTO 100
```

For anyone who is considering upgrading their present Texas Instruments Computer systems with some of the new Corcomp equipment, please note that we have two members that either now have, or soon will have Corcomp equipment. Jerry Rowe has the new 9900 Disk Controller Card that he will soon be using in the TI F E Box along with the Foundation 128K Memory Expansion Card. Jerry Clasby advised us that he has just placed an order for Corcomp's 99000 Expansion System (the big one).

Jerry Rowe has found that the new disk controller card will not work with the 128K card but advises that Corcomp is aware of the problem and will make the necessary corrections in approx. two weeks. From looking through the manual, however, he is very excited! He uses a IBM PC at work and says the Corcomp card is better than anything that IBM has to offer. If you want to talk to Jerry about this card or the 128K card catch him at the next meeting or give him a call at (317) 664 1974.

Our second Jerry advises that his 99000 system is on back order because production has not started on this item yet. Corcomp says that this expansion system will be available in September or October and they plan on shipping orders to User's Groups first. Jerry Clasby can be reached at our meetings also or by calling (317) 981 2068.

See how handy a User's Group can be?

CHECK YOUR INSURANCE

Last month we recieved our yearly reminder from our insurance company to let us know that it was time to pay the premium on our homeowner's insurance. Included in the envelope with the premium notice was a very interesting slip of paper. It seems that our company (State Farm) has extended it's coverage to include \$3000 for home computer coverage. This coverage covers both hardware and software.

It probably would be to your advantage to see how your insurance company's coverage is written. Home computers are probably a hot item for robbers and we all know what fire or water would do to our little toys. In my case this coverage is not costing me any extra so I think I'm finally getting a pretty good deal.

FOR SALE

Texas Instruments Expansion System with: 32K memory, RS232, parallel printer cable, TI disk controller, (2) Teac 558 half-height dsdd disk drives, Multiplan, Editor Assembler, Forth, Super Debugger. - All for \$700.00 (or just \$400.00 with (1) TI ssdd Shugart disk drive.)

Home Budget Management cartridge - \$5.00
Editor Assembler manual - \$5.00

Call or write: Tom Weir (317) 472-3192
254 W 5th St.
Peru, IN 46970

New Monitor from Sears

I have been using my computer for word processing for some time now. My set-up includes a 13 inch standard color television set. Resolution with this set-up is not the best, but I did not realize how bad it was until the family's TV went into the repair shop.

I relocated the color set from the computer to the family room and borrowed my son's "\$30.00 Special" 12 inch black and white for the computer. "TI Writer" was handy so I loaded a file to take a look. After trying a couple of foreground/background combinations I was amazed! Finally I could read what was on the screen!

Not wanting to go to the trouble of having one set for color graphics and another for text, I put the color set back on the computer when it became available. Since then, however, I came across something that would seem to combine the best features of both sets.

Sears is advertizing a combination TV set and color monitor. This unit is a 13 inch color set with the latest in high resolution electronics and screen. Input jacks are provided so your computer can bypass the tuner giving an even better display. These features should make for an excellent color graphics display.

This set has two additional features that should make word processing a more pleasant task. First there is a compression switch that compresses the images 30 percent making text sharper and more readable. Secondly there is a "green switch" that turns on a special all green display just like those high priced computers and word processors.

At \$339.99 this set is priced nearly the same as other TV/monitors but a true monitor (without tuner) would probably be somewhat less expensive. For more information take a look on page 611 of sears' "Wish Book 84".

MICROPENDIUM

For those of you who are not satisfied with the publications now available for the TI Home Computer, I would suggest that you take a look at Micropendium. This monthly publication comes to our Group and is available to any member.

Micropendium is devoted entirely to TI/994A Home Computers and their compatibles. The publication is printed on newsprint and is folded bookstyle in an 8-1/2 x 11 size. It is delivered monthly (and you do get one every month, unlike some others) by third class mail unless you pay extra for first class delivery.

Each issue seems to grow a little thicker with the current issue at 32 pages. They predict that 40 pages is not too far away. Contents include: Editorial material, Product reviews (with space for rebuttals from the manufacturer), news items, and letters from readers.

Subscription costs are \$12 for 12 issues by third class or \$15.50 for first class. I think that if you will take the time to look over a few issues (we have them in our correspondence library) you will agree that this is a very low price for a fine product.

Dave remember at Proppel's note the three questions. The first question was regarding a "random" problem with his console. It seems that on occasion it would "lock up" during program execution. At other times the unit would perform normally. He replaced the console but a diagnostic check indicated that it was O.K.. The question is: Why did this faulty unit check out O.K.?

Intermittent problems are the most difficult to diagnose. You just cannot find a problem if it goes away. A trouble-shooter must try to force the problem to re-occur or just wait for it to happen. If the problem does not re-occur during diagnostic checks then the unit will check out O.K..

Second question: How can he protect his unit from a static zapp?

Here are a few steps that may help:

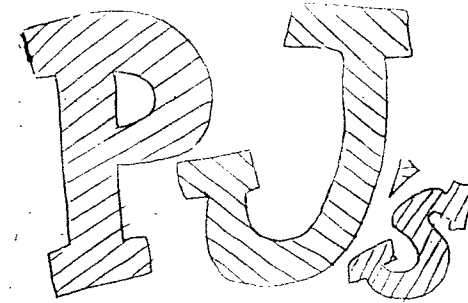
1. Buy a humidifier. Dry air helps promote static charges; a real problem in winter months. The more humid the air, the more difficult it is to accumulate a static charge.
2. Treat the work area with a commercially available anti-static spray.
3. If you use a metal desk touch it before you touch any of your equipment. Also run a ground wire from your desk to a metal water pipe or similar earth ground.
4. Consider an anti-static mat for under your work area. These are available from many computer and office supply dealers. Some of these products, however, are quite expensive.
5. Take your shoes off before you walk over to your computer. Your body will not be as well insulated and will not as readily hold a static charge.

Last question: How can one of those nasty static charges get through a plastic (insulating) keyboard and into a computer's sensitive circuits?

A plastic keyboard may provide insulation for a couple thousand volts. A short walk across your living room carpet can produce charges of 20,000 to 30,000 volts. This great a charge can travel between the keys in the keyboard or through any crack in the computer case. Only 10 to 15 volts need reach some computer components to cause permanent damage.

Keep the questions coming!!! Send all correspondence to: Paul L. Johnson, c/o Miami County Area 99/4A Home Computer Users Group, P.O. Box 1194, Peru, IN 46970

CONSOLE



COMMENTS

```

ALPHABET*
270 T=0
280 A=1
290 CALL MATH(K,K,1)
300 IF 15(K1)+(K*5)+(K*9)T
MEN 290
310 IF K<K2+1 THEN 330
320 T=T+1
330 PRINT #1:T*(K-64,1):T*(K
-64,2)
340 CALL MCHAR(12,17,K)
350 K2=K
360 IF K<90 THEN 290
370 IF T=25 THEN 390
380 GOTO 270
390 FOR K=25 TO 90
400 CALL MCHAR(12,17,K)
410 PRINT #1:T*(K-64,1):T*(K
-64,2)
420 NEXT K
430 PRINT #1:T*(1,1):"NOW I'
E":T*(3,1):"SAID MY":T*(5,1)
:"A B":T*(3,1):"SEEZ"
440 PRINT #1:T*(8,1):"WONT Y
OU":T*(10,1):"COME AND":T*(1
2,1):"PLAY WITH":T*(1,1):"ME
"
450 GOTO 270

```

Terry Atkinson's routine to redefine the cursor has aroused some interest, so I fiddled around and came up with this version to change the cursor automatically to whatever character, normal or redefined, that you input.

```

100 !CURSOR CHANGER by Jim P
eterson
110 INPUT A$ :: A=ASC(A$)::
CALL CHARPAT(A,A$) :: FOR J=1
TO 16 STEP 2 :: M$=SEG$(A$,
J,2):: CALL HEX DEC(M$,D)::
I=T+1 :: H(T)=D :: NEXT J ::
120 CALL INIT :: CALL LOAD18
196,63,248)
130 CALL LOAD(16376,67,95,82
,83,79,82,48,8)
140 CALL LOAD(12298,H(1),H(2
),H(3),H(4),H(5),H(6),H(7),H
(8))
150 CALL LOAD(12296,2,0,3,24
0,2,1,48,0,2,2,0,8,4,32,32,3
6,4,91)
160 CALL LINK("CURSOR")!THAN
KS TO TERRY ATKINSON
170 SUB HEX_DEC(M$,D):: N$
:: DEC=0

```

```

180 FOR J=1 TO LEN(M$):: A$=
SEG$(M$,LEN(M$)-J+1,1):: IF
ASC(A$) < 32 THEN A$=ASC(" ")
ELSE A$=VAL(A$)
190 DEC=DEC+MATH :: N=N*16 ::
NEXT J
200 IF DEC<32768 THEN D=DEC
ELSE D=-((65536-DEC)
210 SUBEND

```

And of course you can always color the cursor with CALL COLOR(0,5,11) or whatever colors you like.

Most folks don't seem to know, and some folks refuse to believe, that the Memory Expansion can't store strings. If you are one of the disbelievers, plug in your Memory Expansion and try this -

```

100 FOR J=1 TO 255 :: M$=M$
CHR$(J):: NEXT J
110 DIM A$(100):: X=X+1 :: A
$(X)=M$ :: PRINT X :: GOTO 1
10

```

Now RUN that. On my console, I get MEMORY FULL when I=43 although the SIZE command shows I have 24399 bytes of program space free (in the Expansion) - but only 204 bytes of free stack (in the console). Without the Memory Expansion I can get I up to 51, and in Basic to 53.

This can be a serious handicap if you are running a program which reads in a large number of strings from DATA statements, or generates strings while running.

Of course, when the Memory Expansion is attached, the program and the numeric variables are stored in the Expansion, leaving all the console memory available for strings - but if you do not generate strings, the console memory remains unused, because numeric data cannot overflow into it!

If your program generates more numeric variables than the Memory Expansion can hold, you can however store them in the console by converting them to strings, using STR\$, and convert them back to numbers with VAL. This will allow you store an additional 700 to 900 or more numbers. Try this -

```

100 DIM A(2000)-51,0000:: F
C=1: I=1 TO 3000 :: M$=M$ ::
NEXT I :: NEXT I
110 M$=M$+CHR$(I)
120 PRINT I :: GOTO 110

```

When you get MEMORY FULL, type SIZE.

Dave Hankenberger sent me a neat little routine, and I played around with it a bit. For you who are not football fans, I'd better explain that the wave is performed at football stadiums when the cheerleaders get the fans to stand and cheer, one seating section at a time, across the stadium - and those drunks on the roof are usually out of sequence.

```

90 !THE WAVE by David Hanken
berger/modified by Jim Peter
son
100 CALL CLEAR :: CALL SUBE
N(4)
110 A$="the wave!!"
120 DISPLAY AT(4,14-LEN(A$)/
2):A$
130 E$="press any key to sto
p"
140 DISPLAY AT(22,14-LEN(E$
)/2):E$
150 E$="99EAC3C3C3C3C3C3C3C3"
160 A$="00001818181818181818"
170 FOR CH=1 TO 118 :: CALL
CHAR(CH,A$):: M$=M$+CHR$(CH
):: NEXT CH :: FOR A=8 TO 12
:: DISPLAY AT(R,1):M$ :: NE
XT A
175 FOR T=1 TO 26 STEP 5 ::
DISPLAY AT(22,T):SEG$(M$,T,1
):: NEXT T
180 FOR CH=91 TO 123 :: CALL
CHAR(CH,E$):: CALL CHAR(CH-
5,A$):: CALL SOUND(1-7,7,5
7AND):: CALL KEY(3,A,S):: I
= STR$(T) THEN STOP
190 NEXT CH :: GOTO 180

```

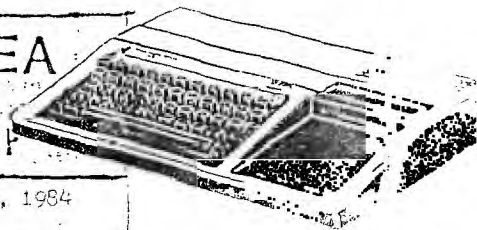
MEMORY FULL

Happy hacking!

Jim Peterson

MIAMI COUNTY AREA 99/4A 'HOME' COMPUTER USER'S GROUP

Volume 2, No. 4 P.O. Box 1194 December, 1984
Peru, IN 46970



Texas Instruments vendors slash software prices*

Those who have waited until now to buy TI cartridges may find that the wait was worth it.

Vendors of TI software are slashing prices on many items, particularly game and educational cartridges produced by Texas Instruments. Games such as Parsec that one retailed for about \$40 are

now selling for \$5-\$9. The price cuts do not affect a number of applications packages, including Extended BASIC, which is not readily available in many places.

The price cutting was at the direction of Texas Instruments. Though the company is not directly involved in the sale of home computer pro-

ducts, much of the outstanding inventory of its software is on consignment to dealers throughout the country. Prices charged by dealers depend largely on the price TI charges the dealers. By cutting the amount it expects to receive from dealers, the dealers are able to reduce prices so as to be able to sell off remaining TI inventories.

CorComp reorganizes again*

Cor-Comp Inc. undertook its second corporate reorganization of the past year recently following what one company executive called "a very slow summer."

Don Scofield, CorComp's chief of engineering, said in mid-September that the reorganization "will make the company stronger." He noted that the reorganization affected "a little bit of everything."

The company's 9900 expansion

system is expected to be on dealer shelves by October, Scofield said. The design of the small box was changed somewhat during the summer. Initially, the box contained an RS232 card with one serial and one parallel ports. A second board is now available that contains 32 k-bytes of RAM memory and a double-sided, double-density disk controller. The major change in the board is the substitution of a 40-pin connector for a 28-pin connector that

eliminates the need for alignment procedures.

Scofield also noted that the company's 99000 expansion system, is still in the testing stage but that expansion boxes and front plates are already in stock. Scofield said a release date on this system will be announced at a later date. It does not seem likely at this point that the 99000 will be ready before the end of the year.

NEW CATALOG FROM TRITON

All of you should have received the Fall '84 catalog from Triton Product Company. As you remember, Triton is now the outlet for all of TI's remaining software. They are now sending catalogs to all those on TI's huge mailing list.

If you are one of those who put off buying that special piece of software until the price dropped a little lower, you are in luck. Many of the more popular Cartridges are now priced at \$5.95. Parsec, Home Financial Decisions Munchman, Tax/Investment Record Keeping, etc. seem like pretty good buys at this price to me.

This catalog has a nice selection of new hardware also. There are several expansion systems shown as well as modems, tape recorders, monitors, etc.

If you have this catalog and have put it aside, you might want to take another look. If for some reason you do not have this catalog it would be worth your effort to locate one from someone else or by writing to Triton at P.O. Box 8123, San Francisco, Ca. 94128.

* Reprinted from MicroCompendium

FM
JAN 9
1985

Christmas USA 20c



© 1984 by the U.S. Postal Service, National Gallery

Edmonton 99ers Users Group
P.O. Box 11983
Edmonton, Alberta,
Canada T5J-361