

NEWJUG 99ER'S NEWS

SEPTEMBER 1991

Son, It's your teacher.
She saw your math
grades from last year
and wants to know if
you would like to
attend a special
class on Saturdays?



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08871-1463

FROM:

NEWJUG 99ER'S UG
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POSTAGE
GOES
HERE

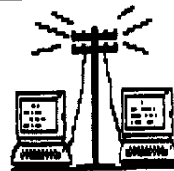
TO:

AFFIX MAILING LABEL
HERE



BBS SCENE

By Dan Gazzy



Last month's column was perhaps one of the longest columns I ever wrote and it spanned the news of a one month period. This month we have another bonanza size column, so I won't have to worry about filler articles. Rather than wasting more time, let's start off with one of the hottest items in the 4a world, the 99/4a accelerator and other projects.

ACCELERATOR

Rather than just provide you with the latest news update posted by Don O'Neil, I decided to post all the threads leading up to the latest update. Not only is Don interested in producing hardware enhancements for the 99/4a, he's also interested in the opinions of the user community. Based on the feedback he receives, determines what ideas are actually pursued. Also, note that some ideas and concepts for hardware enhancements change dramatically within a matter of a few short weeks. While some of the projects may turn out to be vaporware, I think that whatever does come of all this work will be worth the wait.

21-JUL 21:05 99/4A
Projects
From: DONEIL To: ALL

I would like to make a survey of TI-99ers about what new devices they want for their 99/4a. I will use the results as a guide to what I will release as new hardware into the market.

I have many plans, and each costs money to bring to market, and since I am not a millionaire I cannot do them all. I will be definately be releasing the accelerator shortly, it's cost \$250 US. As you have seen from previous messages, it runs BASIC faster than a Geneve. Another product I will definately be releasing is a memory card for the standard or accelerated 4a. It goes into the p-box and uses IBM or MAC SIMM DRAMs. It has a capability of up to 4 Mb and has 5 modes of operation. 1 mode is 100% RAMBO compatible, the other four are not. The other modes allow the card to be mapped into 1 of the four 8K blocks of standard 32K. The card has built in 32K ram, and 4 SIMM slots for DRAM. I anticipate a cost of about \$150-\$175 for a 256k mode with standard 32K. The following projects have an unknown fate: Replacement P-Box interface card; 32K, Clock, Co-Processor, 8Mb RAM as options. I am not sure of this one because of costs. A stripped unit that functions only as a replacement interface card would cost \$100. One with all options could cost as much as \$800, too much for the current market I think. (that would be with all options and 8Mb RAM. RAM is \$55 a Mb.) A whole new machine that has

the 99105, up to 8Mb RAM, GRON's, no CART port, regular joystick port, no cassette port, and a new backplane for peripherals (16 bit). A graphics card would go on a new card and would contain a 9958 or 9990 video chip. A P-Box interface card would also be included to go to a regular P-Box until RS232 cards and Disk controller cards could be developed. Any regular P-Box card that only addresses DSR or 8K memory mapped peripherals block would work, IE no Myarc or Rave RAMDISK would work, but Horizon would. The reason is that the memory map is slightly different, you have the same restrictions as a Geneve, except for the GRAM access. I would have 3 operating modes, 1 99/4a with modified SCB o/s, 2 Geneve mode, 3 New o/s mode when ready. Do you think that this is a better solution than retro fitting the 99/4a to do this? It would be alot faster, the architecture would be cleaner using modern fast components. The cost would be in the \$600-\$800 range for the base unit with 2 Mb RAM, 9958 video card w/ composite output, Stereo sound (2 9919's), and 99/4a P-Box interface card (so you could boot). It would be packaged in a slimline case 11.5 inches wide, 13.08 deep, and 1.75 high. The case has 4 slots, 1 for motherboard, 1 for video board, 1 for p-box board, and 1 available. It also has space for 1 3.5 inch floppy drive and 1 3.5 inch hard drive. Is this a good solution? Future devices would be a hard/floppy controller, and GRAM emulating software, and a 9990 video card (next chip after 9978. The 9978 was canceled by Yamaha. This chip has only a few new features, none known at this time, I will update when I get more info). What do you think about these products? Are they usefull to you? Is there any thing you have always wanted but nobody ever made? PLEASE give me some feedback, I need to know what the market can handle. I am not in this to make money, just to not loose any! Thanks, Don O'Neil

22-JUL 23:59 99/4A
RE: Projects (Re: Msg 24960)
From: DONEIL To: LEIGHTVM

In my earlier ideas I had considered a multi bus configuration, 16 bit and 8 bit. But due to hardware incompatibilities and complexity, I threw it out. The interface card is the only 'cheap' solution for the short term, intents are to make the whole series of 16 bit cards to replace the existing ones. Of the cards I would make are a 4 serial, 2 parallel port card, IDE hard/floppy controller, SCSI card, and IEEE-802 networking card. I do not want to have everything on the motherboard because that runs up costs for a basic system. The motherboard should have only the processors dependant items, like memory, sound, and backplane communications. I will not attempt to put a co-processor in the first version, too much cost involved. As for speech, there is not a very large market for it. I would see people buying the RAVE card and sticking it in their P-Box. The video card should be separate and not a 'daughterboard' for ease of upgrade and space. Signal lengths are not an issue if the thing is properly designed to begin with. As for the AMIGA being a cheaper device? WRONG! If you were to compare the systems, you would need at least a AMIGA 2000 for CPU performance, and the graphics would never live up to the 9990's 640x480

with 32,767 colors, compared to the AMIGA's 640x400 by 4096 colors in HAM mode. I just want to make a machine for the masses, and not one highly devoted to running the 4a O/S or the GENEVE's, and that is why I structured it the way I did. I do agree that it should not need the P-Box, but I cannot design every-thing at once. Plus it gives people a cheap way to upgrade, and they don't have to buy a whole new disk controller, GRAM card, RS232 card, RAM disk... Am I making sense?

26-JUL 05:03 89/4A
RE: Projects (Re: Msg 2500E)
From: DONEIL To: MARCLEVINE

Marc, I agree on some of your points but not all. If you want a MS-DOS machine go buy a cheap \$200 XT clone. We are thinking about making a SOFTWARE emulation of a PC but not an actual Co-Processor Hardware solution. As for the video digitization, Ron Walters is working on that, and you can get the Imagewise digitizer now that works with both a 4a and Geneve. As for the Scanner, that is a software issue and not a hardware one. I'm a hardware guy when it comes to the TI. SCSI is in my plans, but if ESD makes their HFDC, I think it is a viable solution for the short term. Don.

15-AUG 02:24 99/4A
PROGRESS REPORT
From: DCNEIL To: ALL

****ACCELERATOR UPDATE****

It's been a while since I left an update of the accelerator's progress, so here is one...

We have been having problems with Extended Basic and the P-Box. As of last night we cleared up XB a bunch, originally we were having problems with XB scrolling the VDP, now that problem is gone. We have discovered where the problem lies in the P-Box and the solution is on the horizon. I am very pleased with the progress on the last few bugs, when we try something it only gets better and NEVER worse! It's just a matter of the right combination.

SOMETHING ADDED!

Gary and I have discussed the problem of SOB and the accelerator. They both compete for space in the console, and thus are hard to get to fit. HOWEVER, Gary has been planing an upgrade to SOB that would not be easy without the accelerators accessibility to the address lines. SO SOB is now INCLUDED on board the accelerator in a new form! SUPER SOB!!! This new SOB allows access to MORE GROM and will have a FULL DISK MANAGER built in to it! This solves the SOB space issue and gives you MORE FOR YOUR BUCK! Those that already own a TIM and SOB, we will probably have some sort of a discount for trade in of your SOB.

SOMETHING NEW!

Because of the COST and lack of interest, I have officially canned the new p-box interface card. INSTEAD of this card I

will be developing a NEW P-BOX!!!! This new p-box will have 4 16 Bit slots for new cards and at least 6 8 Bit slots for existing TI cards. The box will be a FULL SIZE AT case with a 200W Power supply to power all your cards and drives. You will have to jumper/remove your regulators on you existing 4a cards to use in the box, this will keep the heat down. The box will house the 4a console, Accelerator (if you have one), TIM (if you have one) and your floppy and hard drives. There will be a BUILT IN IBM KEYBOARD INTERFACE! You will not have to buy anything but a IBM AT KEYBOARD to use the new box! An adaptor card will be provided for the standard console to have access to the 16 Bit bus slots. The Cartridge port will be mounted in a drive bay for EASY ACCESS from the front! No prices set yet for this gem, but I would anticipate around \$300.

ANOTHER UPDATE!

My 4MB memory card (4a MEMEX) is nearly complete. All schematics are done and I'm in the process of wire wrapping the prototype. This card plugs into a STANDARD P-BOX with any console (accelerated or not) and gives you up to 4 MB of PROGRAM MEMORY! The card has 5 modes of operation, RAMBO and 4 others. That means it will be 100% COMPATIBLE with any RAMBO programs, like MIDI MASTER 99 V3.0!!!! The card can be placed at ANY CRU ADDRESS, so those wanting special interrupt routines can develop them! No firm price yet, but it will most likely be \$175 for a 256K version. The card is user upgradeable to 4MB, each MB costing around \$50. SO you can have 4MB FOR LESS THAN \$400! Much less than a RAMBO'd Horizon RAM disk. This card does not function as a RAM disk.

COMING SOON!

After the new p-box and memory card are available, I will be developing a 16 Bit version of the 4a MEMEX! This card will be functionally identical to the 8 Bit version but will have up to 8MB of RAM and run a 0 WAIT STATES! It will be ideal for the ACCELERATOR owner who really wants their system to SCREAM!!! Prices should be the same as the 8 Bit version.

IN CLOSING!

As you know, things can change, so the final products may be different than described here, maybe BETTER! Please don't hold it against me if something happens and a particular product is not released. I am trying to provide this information as a service to you, letting you know that the 99/4a IS NOT DEAD! If you would like more information, or want to find out how something is progressing, please call Bud Mills Services at 419/385-5946. Bud will be happy to answer your questions on prices and availability of all his and OPA's products available now and in the future. Thank you, Don O'Neil

19-AUG 00:47 99/4A
RE: PROGRESS REPORT (Re: Msg 25597)
From: DONEIL To: JNCKECHANIE

There are a number of reasons why to make a new P-Box: 1) The RAVE p-box is not designed correctly to utilize a 0-wait 16 bit Bus, it never will be able to have E and 16 bit cards co-exists in the same box. 2) Cost, the RAVE p-box costs around \$300 for the box, at least \$150 for the keyboard and interface, for a total of \$450 to put a standard 4a console in it, mine will cost around \$300 including the keyboard interface. 3) Functionality, the RAVE p-box can NEVER hold a 4a with a TIM card or an Accelerator card, there is NO ROOM! If you want 80 columns in a RAVE box with a 4a you HAVE TO HAVE an AUPC. 4) RAVE has never consulted any hardware developers on their products usefulness and design, bad idea if you want people to use it, especially if you design it wrong. 5) My P-Box will utilize the Accelerator to it's fullest potential, allowing 0-wait peripherals and memory on the 16 bit bus as well as 8 bit peripherals running like they do in the TI P-Box. I have no intention to pool my resources with somebody who is not willing to. When I started my accelerator project I approached John and asked if he wanted to fund the production and development of it, he turned me down, so I went to Bud. John has always been closed minded to other peoples projects, probably because of money. Don't get me wrong, Jon Mc Devitt (rave) is a wonderful company and his products are excellent, however I do not feel that he would represent or utilize my projects to their fullest. Don O'Neil

- PAGE PRO'S FUTURE

Quite awhile ago, Ed Johnson had a conference on DELPHI. At that time, Page Pro was just becoming popular with the TI community. At the time, both Asgard and Ed Johnson spoke of enhancements to Page Pro and additional utilities. Since then, some things have changed and the following messages will bring you up-to-date on the future of Page Pro.

24-JUL 22:14 Announcements & News
 ED JOHNSON
 From: CVNTHIA To: SSLICER

got a letter in the mail today from Ed Johnson (along with menus he promised to send me soon ago). He says that he hasn't heard much from anyone since he's put his programming on hold. Says he had to drop his subscriptions to DELPHI & Comuserve so he could get some bills caught up. He still has GENIE, though. He tells me he bought a Packard bell 386sx with hard drive, 5.25 and 3.5 hd floppies, SUGA and 2400 baud modem. He also has a hand scanner. He also says he spends about half his time working on developing some stuff for work and the other half playing. He is talking about making some changes with work because "nearly 10 years of running a restaurant is starting to take its toll." then he says (which should interest you) "Don't hold your breath on any updates to Page Pro. I've pretty much decided that I can't devote the time it will take to do a significant update. I hope you and others understand that money was never my motivation for developing software. I'd

be in the poor house if it were! I did it strictly as a hobby. I still have a strong desire to continue to learn more and more about programming, but to be honest, I think I'll be writing software for the PC if I ever get back into it. I've enjoyed every minute of the time I've spent with the 4A/9640 and don't regret spending the ton of money I have invested. I just really needed to get a computer that is more "main-stream" so I can try and give my career a boost." I think that pretty much says it all, don't you? I don't think I am wrong in saying that is why so many of us are feeling frustrated with our "white elephants"... It's not that the 9640 or the 4A isn't good. Lord knows it is! And believe me, more fun than any computer I have used to date, and I have used most of them. What has hurt the TI/Geneve community more than anything else is the lack of software development, particularly in the area of a stable operating system. We have been waiting for what seems like forever to get something that programmers can use as a basis for developing the kinds of applications that would make us all happy. What also hurts is the attitude(s) of certain key people, and I think you know who I am talking about. Anybody can walk into a computer store and buy software. The challenge has always been in the tremendous potential and which is limited only by imagination, of the 4A and the Geneve which has a lot going for it. A damn shame to see either end up as a bookend or a paper weight! <CB>

26-JUL 17:49 Announcements & News
 RE: ED JOHNSON (Re: Msg 25013)
 From: SSLICER To: CVNTHIA

I am saddened to hear what Ed revealed in his letter. I have had the PATCH16-S for a long time (I love it!) and it was my understanding that it was the forerunner of a menu-driven config that would appear in a future version of Page Pro. I guess the -good- news is that Page Pro 99 is an excellent program "as is" right now, and Ed truly made a significant contribution to the 4/A & Geneve community by writing Page Pro and all the wonderful PP utilities that he placed in Public Domain and also Fairware. His most recent product written with Paul Scheidemantle, Page Pro Effects, is another -excellent- exceptionally helpful program. No matter what he may or may not do in the future he's still tops in my book!

5-AUG 22:38 Announcements & News
 RE: ED JOHNSON (Re: Msg 25013)
 From: C-BOBBITT To: CVNTHIA

Cynthia, Asgard plans to continue development of Page Pro and related products even if Ed doesn't. There are too many people with too much knowledge about the product for it to die now - in fact, we will be releasing around 10 new titles for it in the next 3-4 months alone! As for lack of software development for the 9640 and 4A, I agree, there is a problem. One of the reasons that I have teamed up with Harry is so I can devote more time to development at Asgard. I think in the next 6 months our

users will see a marked increase in the number of titles from us.

As for the machine ending up a paperweight - I've been in this business now for (aged) 8 years. I've seen many programmers come and go. It started up a hobby for me personally, and it probably will end up as one, but I'm still challenged by programming the 99/4A and 9640, and bored stiff with doing it on a PC or Mac. It's more of a challenge on the 4A, and all of the wrinkles of the machines make for some interesting tricks that aren't possible elsewhere - almost elegant ones. The Mac and the PC get things done with brute force - I'll take grace over force anyday myself.

One devoted user like myself does not a development community make, I know, but I think the community is undergoing one of its periodic shakeups - we are losing the people that held onto a tiny illusion of fortunes to be made, and will be left with people who do it purely for the fun and challenge of it. Oh, you can make a few bucks if you are talented and astute (right place at the right time), but all in all, I think we will be down to a core of people who are still trying to see exactly what this little machine can do.

Don't give up the ship - the ride stands to be interesting for a while yet longer.

---Chris

24 Pin Printers

I purposely placed this item directly after Page Pro mainly because there are references to the use of Page Pro with a 24 pin printer in the dialog. I own a KXP1124 and use modified version of Page Pro (print routines are for a 24 pin printer) to produce this newsletter. The standard version (1.6) of Page Pro will work with the 24 pin printer, but the printed pages (66 lines) extend about 1-2 inches beyond the perforation in the page.

31-JUL 22:45 General Information
 RE: printers (Re: Msg 25150)
 From: JHWHITE To: SSLICER

Shirley: The problem with 24-pin printers--Ed Johnson and I had a long talk on this quite some time back--is that the "ESC A n" (>18 41 n, 27 65 n) sequence which selects n/72" line spacing on 9-pin printers supporting standard Epson graphics selects n/60" line spacing on 24-pin printers in Epson LQ mode. Thus, the problem is the way Epson defines the 9-pin and 24-pin graphics differently, if ever so slightly.

However, in IBM Proprinter emulation mode, the "ESC A n" sequences will set n/72" variable line spacing on 24-pin printers, but the spacing is not selected until an "ESC 2" (>18 32, 27 50) is sent.

Page Pro uses Epson graphics modes. Therefore, the slight changes in 24-pin Epson graphics lengthens a page. I have complete doc's on 24-pin Epson LQ, IBM Proprinter, and Toshiba/Qume emulations if anyone has questions on them.

Barry Boone

Not owning a 9640, I'm not sure whether the following message posted by Barry is of any significance to the average owner. In any case, I'm passing it on. If it's of help, show your appreciation by sending Barry Boone a short note.

20-JUL 15:16 9640 GENEVE
 MDOS V1.14 programming consideration...
 From: BBOONE To: ALL

Anyone developing MDOS code to run with V1.14 (non-F) of MDOS should know that ANY DSRLNK ACCESS INVOLVING THE HFDC should be followed by a routine to Set Video Register 14 (>0E) to 0... Apparently, an HFDC access leaves the current video page set to page 7... this causes lock-ups, screwups, and the like... I have already been able to use Clint Pulley's ASM v1.6 with the HFDC, the MDOS text editor, and several other things which would not work before, by making appropriate patches... note that LOADING a program from the HFDC has this same effect... this means that the first thing an MDOS program should do is set v14 to 0... else there can also be problems.

This does not apply to GPL mode, just MDOS native mode.

JP Software

JP SOFTWARE

In the past I've tried to keep JP Software out of this column as much as possible. Mainly because much of the press they've been receiving, is negative. The following messages may provide a stop-gap situation for those who have felt like they've been stuck between a rock and a hard place!

18-AUG 21:34 General Information
 JP SOFTWARE
 From: JERRYC To: ALL

On Thursday, August 15, 1991, Peter Hoddie and I reached an agreement in principle that will permit me to

DISTRIBUTE JP SOFTWARE TITLES!

This agreement owes a great deal to the good offices on Wayne Stith, author of GEN-TRI. If Peter is able to meet the preliminary schedule, I will have all I need to begin shipping GEN-TRI in about a week to ten days. Availability of other titles will be announced as soon as I receive the masters and other materials from Peter.

I will try to work with buyers who have unfulfilled orders as follows:

- 1) If you have evidence of actual payment, e.g., a cancelled check, send me xerox copies of checks, statements, (whatever) and full details so I can ship the software as soon as the masters reach me!
- 2) If your check was never deposited, then please send a new order and I will arrange with Peter to void any

previous checks that may turn up.

I will be using the same old address for this new venture -

Jerry Coffey
9119 Tetterton Ave
Vienna, VA 22182.

Since this is a very low overhead operation, please make any correspondence as complete as possible so I will have enough information to act immediately.

Jerry

P.S. I have been talking to Jeff about re-opening the Credit Card order line for JP Software. But this will not happen until I actually have software in hand (no point paying the extra credit card fee unless I can ship the stuff out immediately, right?).

MY WORD PATCHES

The following info comes to us courtesy of Jeff White, a regular on DELPHI and may be of use to many a Geneva user who isn't overly thrilled with some of the things that MY-Word does to your documents.

31 JUL 22:36 99/4A
RE: Header lines (Re: Msg 24846)
From: JHWHITE To: JPLESIE

Jonathan: In the MY-Word file FORMAT, you can remove the extra lines at the beginning and end of a page by modifying sector 27 of the file. Search and replace the following HEX strings in the first column with those of the second.

```
0203000206A0BA62 --> 1003012306A0BA62
02030005         --> 02030001
0203000106A0BA62 --> 1003012306A0BA62
```

The first string replacement removes the blank lines about the header (set with dot command HE). The second string replacement lengthens the pages so that up to 62 printed lines (64 with header and footer) can be put on a single page. The last string replacement removes the blank line before the footer (set with dot command FO). You will have to suffer the blank line at each top and bottom of the effective 64-line page unless you want to use HE and FO dot commands to add text there.

If you want MY-Word to "break page" at line 66 instead of line 65, replace the second string with 02030000 or 04C31000. In the first and third replacements, I used 0123 as a marker which helps me find the strings that have been replaced.

Oh, if you set page length (with PL dot command) to other than 66, the page will lengthen as expected. I.e., setting page length to 70 will print 66 (or 68 with header and footer) nonblank lines on a page that breaks at line 69.

TIM UPDATES

For those of you who were contemplating getting the TIM (80 column) device, I've collected the following messages on the subject. As you'll see from the messages, there have been some changes. Of the few complaints publicly aired, OPA has been busy resolving them.

4-AUG 18:24 Trading Post
RE: Bud Mills (Re: Msg 25297)
From: DONEIL To: SSLICER

Gary Bowser now has the composite adaptor working for the TIM. The one used is the AMIGA one, instructions on how to hook it up are in the TIM manual. I hope that this will encourage more people to buy the TIM as you no longer need to buy a RGB monitor right off the bat. I hope you enjoy the TIM! Dcn.

4-AUG 18:29 99/4A
RE: TIM monitor (Re: Msg 25306)
From: DONEIL To: GERRYUISEL

Gary now has the composite adaptor working with TIM. It uses the AMIGA composite adaptor that can be purchased at any Commodore dealer. Instructions on how to hook it up to TIM are included in the docs with TIM. Now you can hook up any composite or TV to the TIM. 80 column displays should be quite legible on your monitor with a little fiddling of controls. I am not sure if that monitor is a RGB analog or not. There is no way of telling without any docs. Don.

10-AUG 23:33 99/4A
RE: TIM monitor (Re: Msg 25426)
From: TINET To: GERRYUISEL
(NR)

It makes it not directly compatible with TIM as it sounds like it only has composite (VIDEO) inputs. But recently OPA has found the Commodore Amiga 500, A520 mod with a simple cable allows you to convert the 25pin RGB signal from the TIM board to the Video, Audio and/or RF outputs for use in running composite on a monitor like yours, to using a normal TV set. We found 80col display using the A520 mod is readable on most color composite monitors and perfect on monochrome ones. And on TV's over 12" it is well readable, plus even better if you turn down the color control to B/W on a Color TV. The docs with building a A520 mod cable to TIM is now included with all TIM manuals, current TIM owners should be getting their new manual shortly. Plus within a few days I will upload a copy for all to read/study. The A520 mod is about \$35 U.S. from Amiga dealers, I myself sell the unit with cable for \$50 Can.

TTVL

--(Gary Bowser / OPA)-- ----
416-968-0925 8am-11pm EST/EDT

BBBB RETURNS

For those who were saddened to here that Bob Fowler decided to call it quits with the BBBBS, it appears that he's had a change of heart. At least, temporarily. Bob has his bbs running again, but on an XT clone. It's the same old number (301) 292-1482. Give it a call.

CLEARINGHOUSE BBS

This last item is just a brief update on the status of the National Clearinghouse BBS proposed by the LINA UG. I'm sure that quite a few of the user groups are just a bit curious as to what's currently going on.

Re R#3576 Clearinghouse BBS
To Justin Dcwing
From IRWIN FOTT-COLUMBUS OHIO

I will check to see if we received your check, but I think that we did. We will be sending info along with initial user numbers and passwords when we are ready to start. We have a Myarc Disk controller which is being tested now. I have much of the software written but not tested. I am not really sure how many boards are using the TI-Echo. I have not seen many Echo msgs in my wandering around BBS's.

**JOKE
OF THE
MONTH**

An animal lover was browsing in a pet store when he noticed a beautiful myna bird in a cage. "Hello, pretty bird," he chirped.

"Screw you, buddy," squawked the bird.

The manager went over to apologize, explaining that the bird was hopelessly foulmouthed.

"Let me take him home for a week," the customer said, "and I promise he'll be trained and polite when he returns."

A week later, the customer took the myna back and assured the manager that he had trained the bird with the help of

strings tied to each of its legs. "try pulling the string on the right leg," he suggested.

The manager tugged at the string and the bird said, "Good morning, sir." He gave a little jerk to the other string and the bird said, "Lovely day, sir."

"That's amazing, just amazing!" the manager exclaimed. "What would happen if I pulled both strings?"

"I'd fall on my ass, you stupid schmuck!" the bird screeched.

**99/4A &
9640
VENDORS**



Alboes Computer Supplies
6298 Hamilton Rd.
36 Main Street Village
Columbus, Ga 31909
(404) 327-4900

Asgard Software
P.O. Box 10306
Rockville, Md 20850
(703) 255-3005
Catalog Available

Braatz Computer Services
719 East Byrd Street
Appleton, Wisc 54911
(414) 731-3478
(414) 731-4320 after 6pm
Catalog #2

Bud Mills Services
166 Dartmouth Dr
Toledo, Ohio 43614
(419) 385-5946

CaDD Electronics
52 Audubon Rd.
Haverhill, Ma 01830
(603) 895-0119

Competition Computer
2629 W National Ave
Milwaukee, Wisc 53204
(800) 242-7982 in Wisconsin
(800) 662-9253 all others
Catalog #1

Comproline
1949 Evergreen Ave.
Fullerton, CA 92635
(714) 990-4577 12-9pm PT

Computer Shopper
P.O. Box F
Titusville, Fl 32781

CorComp
2211-G East Winston Rd.
Anaheim, Ca 92806
(714) 956-4450

Dijit Systems
4345 Hortensia St
San Diego, Ca 92103
(619) 295-3301 voice
(619) 270-0155 bbs

Disk Only Software
P.O. Box 244
Lorton, Va 22079
(310) 340-7179

Genial Computerware
835 Green Valley Dr.
Philadelphia, Pa 19128
(215) 483-1379

Great Lakes Software
804 E. Grand River Ave.
Howell, Mi 48843
(517) 546-0566

Harrison Software
5705 40th Place
Hyattsville, Md 20781
(301) 277-3467

Hunter Electronics
4 N. 370 Pine Grove
Bensenville, Il 60106
(312) 766-9503

Inscobot Inc.
P.O. Box 29160
Pt Orange, Fl 32029

Jim Leshar
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Dallas, Tx 75354-2526
(800) 422-3892 in Texas
(800) 527-7438 all others

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1521 Ferry St.
Lafayette, In 47904
(317) 742-8146

McCann Software
P.O. Box 34160
Omaha, Ne 68134

Micropendium
P.O. Box 1343
Round Rock, Tx 78680
(512) 255-1512

Midwest Engineering
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Vernon Hills, Il 60061
(312) 362-9034

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Suite 502
Toronto, Ontario
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(416) 960-8925

Pilgrims Pride
5 Williams Ln.
Hatboro, Pa. 19040
(215) 441-4262

Program Innovators
4122 Glenway
Wauwatosa, WI 53222

Quality 99 Software
1804 Columbia RD #1021
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 667-3574

Queen Anne Computer Shoppe
4102 Roosevelt Way NE
Seattle, Wa 98115
(206) 522-6558

Ramcharge Computers
6467 E. Vancey Dr.
Brookpark, Oh 44102
(216) 243-1244 evenings

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Vernon, Ct 06066
(203) 871-7824

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Clifton, NJ 07012

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South Bend, In 46660
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Patchogue, N.Y. 11772
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(516) 475-5463 bbs

Tex-Comp
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(818) 366-6631
Catalog #2

The Bungalow Group
P.O. Box 62323
Colorado Springs, Co
80962-2323
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Tigercub Software
156 Collingwood Ave.
Columbus, Oh 43213
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TM Direct Product Marketing
1650 Broadway
Redwood City, Ca 94063
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Catalog Available

Triot Software
P.O. Box 114-A
Liscomb, Ia 50148

9640 News
c/o Eeery Miller
5455 Marina Cove #1
Memphis, Tn 38115

NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE

Right after we trimmed the distribution list, we have to alter it once again. The latest, Broward

Computer Group, puts out a quality newsletter called NovelI News. If you don't exchange with them, your club should.

We look forward to hearing from any group wishing to initiate an exchange and encourage others to use this list for communication with other groups. If you know of any UG (not on our list) that would like to exchange newsletters, we'd be very interested in hearing from you via the comments and suggestions on the cover page.

North Jersey TI IBM UG
16 Judith Ann Dr.
Ringwood, NJ 07456-1863

Central Garden State UG
61 Country Lane
Hamilton Square, NJ 08690

QB99er's User Group
c/o Frank Crotty
Queensborough Comm College
Bayside, NY 11364

LIT: 99er's UG
93 Myers Avenue
Hicksville, NY 11801-2424

Twin Tiers UG
c/o R. Sass
97 Fir Tree Point Rd.
Rock Stream, NY 14878-9707

Pittsburg User's Group
P.O. Box 8043
Pittsburg, PA 15216

Erie 99'er User Group
2812 West 33rd Street
Erie, PA 16506

Nittany Users of TI
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State College, PA 16803

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Broward Computer Group
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Sunrise, Fl 33313-3950

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Worthington, OH 43085

N.W. OHIO 99'ers User Group
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Toledo, OH 43606
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Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

Lima 99/4a Users Group
P.O. Box 647
Venedocia, OH 45894

Great Lakes Computer Group
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Rosaville, MI 48066-0152

Milwaukee Area Users Group
4122 N. Glenway
Wauwatosa, WI 53222

Siouxland 99er's
c/o Bob Daggitt
4606 Bluestem Circle
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Chicago TI User's Group
P.O. Box 578341
Chicago, IL 60657

Kansas City TI99/4a UG
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No. Kansas City, MO 66416

Dallas TI Home Computer
P.O. Box 29863
Dallas, TX 75229

Net99er HIUG
P.O. Box 534
Hurst, TX 76053

Houston Users Group - HUG
c/o R. Lumpkin
11610 Inga Lane
Houston, TX 77064

JSC TI99 User Group
c/o John Owen
2321 Coryell Street
League City, TX 77573

The FRONT RANGER
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Colorado Springs, CO
80932-9572

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West Jordan, UT 84084

Southwest Ninety Niners
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Tucson, AZ 85738

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P.O. Box 26307
Las Vegas, NV 89126-0901

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Torrance, CA 90504

North County 99ers UG
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Escondido, CA 92025

UGOC
c/o Earl G Raguse
17161 Edwards
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

WORDPLAY
The PUNN Newsletter
P.O. Box 15037
Portland, OR 97215

ST9 User Group
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Toronto, Ontario
CANADA M6M 1C9

B.C. 99er Users
c/o Ron Warfield
216 18th Ave
New Westminster, B.C.
CANADA V3L 2B2

DEZIP VER 1.1

BY DAN GAZSV

A few months ago an archived file called "DEZIP" appeared on some of the services and TI bbs's. The program is designed to UNZIP or UNARCHIVE files that appear on IBM PC type bbs's. The reason the author wrote this program was to expand on the number of sources to obtain text files and graphics cl.pert.

The easiest way to review this product is to describe what files are on the disk. Those familiar with the unregistered version, know that it comes with a DEZIP program (Version 0.8), a text converter to change DF128 to DV88 files and documentation for both programs.

The disk I received from Ben Yates was a floppy. In addition to the previously mentioned files, it also contained a registered copy of DEZIP (version 1.1) which has a list feature and was capable of "exploding" an imploded file. For those not familiar with PKZIP, you'll soon find out that most, if not all the zipped files, are imploded. As an added bonus, Ben also provides a convert utility which will unzip TI related files. While these aren't that common, you'd most likely find them on an IBM clone bbs that contained a SIG for 99/4a and Geneva users. Three additional archived files are: GIC13ARK (Graphics Icon Converter v1.3), TRSARK (Graphics show program) and PIXARK (Graphics Library) will let you convert or view IBM type graphics.

If you've ever used PKUNZIP on a 386 class machine with at least 2MB of memory, you would be impressed with the speed at which it functions. Using Ben's product, a zipped file of 768 sectors, which uncompressed to 11 files of 1388 sectors, took approximately 75 minutes. This isn't a ball of fire by IBM standards, but if you don't have a 386, the main point is that the program works! The graphics file you unzip will most likely be a PCX, IIF, GIF, GEM, IMG or MAC formatted file. Of the six I mentioned, only MAC and GIF formats are convertible to TI type format. Hopefully, soon Asgard will be releasing a product which will convert PCX files. While the graphic files in these formats are generally quite good, they also tend to be quite large.

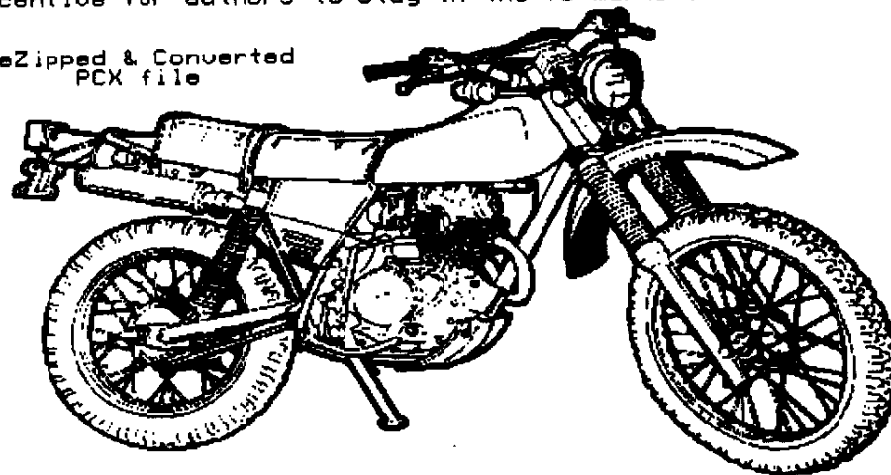
Most of them are usually 480x640 in size (80 columns wide and 48 rows long) and often too large to be used with a product like Page Pro without reduction. Until other products arrive that will let us make use of these graphics, the popularity of DEZIP (registered or unregistered) will remain limited. Hopefully some of the other graphics file formats listed above will be convertible (and SOON).

There are only two real complaints I have about the registered copy. First, it makes use of the screen saver inherent in the TI. If you are not DEZIPPING all the files, the screen will eventually go blank before the file is completely unzipped. Any keystroke at this point is interpreted as a Yes/No reply and requires no terminator, such as the ENTER key. As a result, the next potential file to be unzipped is a mystery to the user till after you respond. In my opinion, that's much too late.

Second, the registered copy will not load from most third party memory image loaders (FunWeb, etc.). In Ben's haste to make the program more versatile with the different cartridge environments (E/A, X8, etc.), he added an additional memory image module (>2000 - >2676) to insure that the necessary E/A utils are available. The main problem with this is that the next to last module, loads in very high expanded memory (>FF00 range). Before the last module can load from an environment such as FunWeb, the console locks up. I did find a work-around for this problem; simply copy all the modules except the last. You'll have to edit the last module to insure that it doesn't attempt to load additional modules. After that, FunWeb will have no problems.

For some this program will have limited use until the conversion utilities for PCX, IIF, IMG, etc., show up. Right now, I am registered owner number 13 and worth the \$12 it cost me. The one thing that bothers me is that only twelve others have registered the product. Not much of an incentive for authors to stay in the TI market, huh?

DeZipped & Converted
PCX file





COMING EVENTS



SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
<p>September 21</p> <p>The Tacoma II Fair will be held at the South End Pool Center at 402 E 56th Street in Tacoma, Wa. Show hours 8am to 5pm. Admission is FREE. For Additional info call (206)546-1205 (voice) or (206) 546-1865.</p> <p>September 21</p> <p>The NJ Computer Show & Fleamarket will be held at William Patterson College in Wayne. Over 400 tables of computer products will be featured. Show hrs are 10am. to 3pm. Admission is \$8 for adults; free for children under 10. Call 1-800-631-0062 or (908) 297-2526.</p> <p>September 29</p> <p>Philadelphia Area Computer Show and Fleamarket will be held at the Valley Forge Convention Center off Exit 24 of the Pennsy Tpk in King of Prussia. Over 400 tables, show hrs are 10am. to 4pm.</p>		<p>November 1-2</p> <p>Chicago Int'l World Fair. Elk Grove Holiday Inn, Elk Grove Village, Ill. Contact Chicago II Users Group, P.O. Box 578341, Chicago, Ill 60657.</p>

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS

DETACH THIS PAGE FROM THE NEWSLETTER AND SUBMIT IT TO THE EDITOR AT THE NEXT CLUB MEETING YOU ATTEND OR MAIL IT TO: NEWJUG 99ER'S USER GROUP
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