New

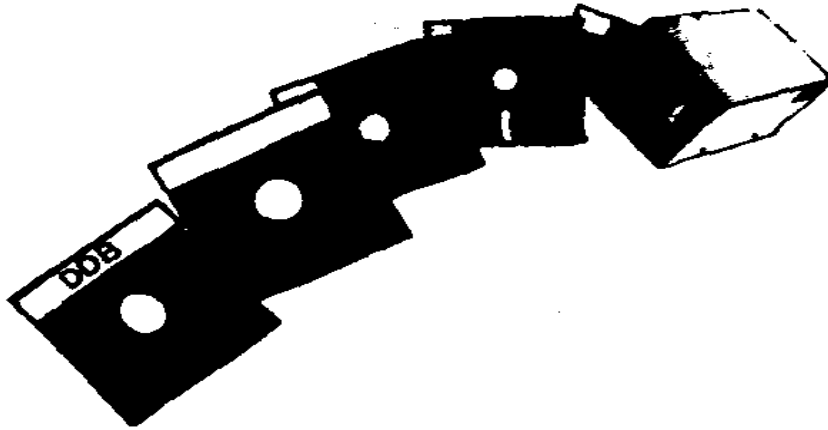# *Disk Data Base*

DISK DATA BASE is the most complete, versatile and
flexible disk managing software available for the 99/4A.
It features:

o   The ability to keep a catalog of up to 12,500 different filenames
    on a single data disk.
o   A full range of options for deleting and finding entries in the
    catalog.
o   Options for sorting and printing the catalog by filename or disk-
    name, or the option of printing out the catalog as it was entered into
    the catalog!
o   An option for searching through the whole catalog and selectively print-
    ing every entry with a user-defined string in it.
o   The option of printing a catalog in blocks of 250 entries – only print as
    much as you need and avoid wasting reams of paper!
o   Special printer options for maximum control over your printer's special
    functions.
o   A utility for transfering Master Disk File data to DDB.
o   A user-friendly "HELP" file, and prompts in ENGLISH where they belong!
o   Assembly language routines for speedy sorts and snappy screens

NO data monster is too large to be tamed by DDB, so isn't it time
you tamed yours?

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DISK DATA BASE-

I   Introduction:

    Disk Data Base is a tool for managing your disk collection. This program
doesn't guarrantee instant organization, but instead provides the tools for
the user interested in maintaining lists of filenames, locations, sizes and
file types. The user is required to actually enter this data themselves, one
disk at a time.

    As recompense, DDB provides the user with numerous tools for analyzing
and printing, as well as utilizing this data. The user can sort and print
blocks of 250 records (or even resave them for later printing) by either
diskname or filename. For conveniance, the user can optionally print out a
collection as it is entered, again by blocks or all at once. The block
feature is both an advantage and disadvantage - it was implemented due to
the large quantity of data that must be handled (up to 12500 filenames), but
as it turns out it IS a rather conveniant way to handle such a large quantity
of information, and unlike other such programs, allows you to more or less
selectively print out parts of a catalog instead of wasting paper and ink.

    DDB also provides utilities for customizing the printout, transefering
data from "Master Disk File" to DDB, and various database managing tasks.

    DDB is not a true database manager in that it doesn't permit more than
one active catalog at once, however, it does have multi-file capability (and
in fact permits easy movement from one file to another). Because of the
potential quantity of data that each file can hold, it really isn't very
neccessary to have more than one file active at once!

II   Program Structure:

    The functions found in Disk Data Base are divided into four areas:
DATABASE UTILITIES, SYSTEM ENVIRONMENT, OUTPUT OPTIONS (and for lack of a
better name) MISCELLANEOUS UTILITIES. Generally speaking, DATABASE UTILITIES
includes those functions for adding, seeing and deleting data in a database
file; SYSTEM ENVIRONMENT contains utilities for changing the system default
information, creating and changing database files, and for cataloging disks;
The OUTPUT OPTIONS contain all the sorting and printing routines, as well as
the on-line "help" file; and finally off to the side are the MISCELLANEOUS
UTILITIES, which are those that didn't exactly fit in any of the preceeding
three.

The programs overall layout is similar to an unpruned and inverted tree:

```
                    LOADING PROGRAM
                          |
                      MAIN MENU
         _____|_____
         |            |            |       -       |
     DATABASE       SYSTEM       OUTPUT          MISC.
     UTILITIES    ENVIRONMENT    OPTIONS        UTILITIES
         |_____|_____|
```

Notice that the three most commonly used blocks, DATABASE UTILITIES, SYSTEM
ENVIRONMENT, AND OUTPUT OPTIONS are connected together, so that the user
need never go to the main menu to do almost everything! This effectively
solves one of the shortcomings of a menu driven system - the inability for
the experianced user to jump around in the program easily. However, it does
make menues larger, and probably slows them down imperceptably.

III Program Requirements:

   Disk Data Base requires the following equipment:

                    TI-99/4A console
               32K memory expansion unit
                    Extended BASIC
            One disk drive and controller

   For optimum performance, the user should additionally have:

                   Two more disk drives
               DSDD disk drive controller
                 RS232 card and printer

   This program can also utilize the space on a hard disk drive subsystem.
A single disk drive system makes the program somewhat cumbersome to use, while
a double drive system is very adaquate (very few disk swaps, and none if no
data is being entered into a database and the program is configured correctly)
while a three drive system is pure luxury. A printer is almost neccessary,
but the non-printer user can have files printed to a disk file, where they
can be reviewed with TI-Writer (or it's clones), or the Editor/Assembler's
Editor. A double-density disk drive controller is neccesary for using a
database with over 5700 entries (DSSD). A SSSD disk can hold approximently
2500 entries, a DSSD/SSDD disk can hold 5700, and a DSDD can hold around
12500.

IV Getting Started:

The first time the program you use this program, you must "initialize" it
for use by your system. It is absolutely neccessary to answer EVERY
question the program asks. Your answers will be placed in a special disk
file, where they will be called up every subsequent time the program is
used. It is pertinent that the program disk and any copies DO NOT have a
write/protect sticker over the notch! It is recommended that you make a
back-up copy, and store the original in a safe place with a steady climate
and temperature to insure disk integrity. Use the back-up.

When initializing the program for a one disk system, answer the prompts for
the catalog/program/data disk drive number with "1". For a double drive
system, it is recommended that the program and catalog drive numbers should
be designated as "1", and the database drive number as "2". For any other
combinations, remember that the program disk MUST always be drive one (though
it doesn't have to be there at all times). It is useful to note that the
program keeps track of your disk drive configuration, and will prompt you for
disk swaps.

The output device should be designated as "PIO" or "RS232/n" (see appropriate
printer manual for more information on your printer's name), or if you do
not have a printer, it should be designated as a disk file (exa. "DSK1.
OUTPUT"). For a disk file, the printer size should be entered as "80" to
create a file compatible with TI-Writer. For a printer, consult the
appropriate printer manual for information on the carriage size. For an
Epson or Gemini printer (or any other with condensed print), "120" may be
specified, as long as a printer code file is created with the utility of
the same name found in the MISCELLANEOUS UTILITIES, and this file is loaded
in with the first option of the OUTPUT OPTIONS menu prior to printing.

The date should always be entered in MM/DD/YY format.

After the program is loaded, you will be faced with the main menu directing
you to each option on the 'tree'. Operating the menues may seem funny at
first, but once you get the hang of it, it is surprisingly simple and fast.
With the <ALPHA LOCK> depressed, use the "E" and "X" arrow keys to high-
light in inverse characters each menu option. Notice that the highlighted
area wraps around (IE if you go down too far it starts at the top of the
list again). To choose an option, simply press <ENTER>. The option will
flash momentarily, and then the function, or branch will load and execute.
All the menues operate in this fashion. The small box at top will always
tell you where you are, or which option you are in, or which you just
activated.

The best place to start is in the SYSTEM ENVIRONMENT. Here you can review
and change the options you entered at system initialization, and enter more
information (screen colors, etc.) to further personalize the program.
Select this option at the main menu, and follow the prompts at the two-line
area at the bottom of the screen from now on. Good luck..

See the description following accompanying each option, function and
utility for further information on usage and operation.

V   Function Descriptions:

DATABASE UTILITIES- The utilities in this section are those that directly
                    deal with maintaining the data in a database. These
                    functions can be reached via the main menu, or from
                    two other sections: SYSTEM ENVIRONMENT and OUTPUT
                    OPTIONS.

D.U.1 - Catalog Disk for Database

This is the utility for placing data into the database file. This is also
historically the slowest part of any disk management software, because the
bottleneck is in the disk drive controller, not the program.

The operation of this function is simple. After selecting this option, you
will be prompted to place the disk to be added to the database in the
appropriate drive, and to press <ENTER>. This utility is the reason that
the designated database and catalog disk drive numbers should be different.
This utility is simple to use if you follow the on-screen prompts. It auto-
matically finds the filenames on a disk, and adds them to the database disk.

D.U.2 - Find file in Database

If you want to locate a particular disk name or filename, or for that
matter a file size, than this is the utilityfor it. At the prompt "filename",
enter the characters that you want the program to look for. The program will
search every entry until it finds the entry with the characters you
entered in it. These characters can be anything, from a letter of the
alphabet to a diskname or filename. The program doesn't care, and will
search for the match of ANY string you enter. If the program cannot
find a match, it prompts you to press <ENTER> to return to the previous
menu. If it finds a match, it displays the information for the entry
where it found it. Again, follow the on-screen prompts at the bottom of
the screen for best results.

D.U.3 - Delete file in Database

This utility is used to physically delete an entry in the database file.
At the prompts, you must enter the filename or diskname of the entry to
be deleted, and the entry number in the database if known. If unknown,

the program automatically searches the database for the entry matching
the string you entered. When found, the program asks you if you are
sure you wish to delete the entry, and if "no" it returns you to the
previous menu.

If "yes", the entry is physically over-written with blanks. When printing
a block containing deleted entries, the output options will automatically
skip over and not print entries that have been deleted, but will note
however that a whole block of entries, deleted and undeleted was read.

SYSTEM ENVIRONMENT - The options in this menu deal with the actual
                     circumstances that the program operates under. With
                     some options, this information can be changed and
                     saved, while with others it can only be seen.

S.E.1 - Set System Defaults

This option allows you to alter information crucial to the operation of
DDB. The information entered at program initialization can be changed,
as well as new information that optimizes DDB for your computer system.

In addition to the information mentioned in the "Section IV, Getting Started",
the user can also enter the desired foreground and background screen colors (a
digit from 1 to 16 in either case), and a user comment to be placed on
printouts (exs. "Public domain disks #1-20", etc.).

To operate this section, use the "E" and "X" arrow keys (with the <ALPHA
LOCK> key depressed)to move the wrap-around arrow up and down, press
<ENTER> to change the data at the prompt that the arrow is pointing to, and
press <BACK> (FCTN "9"), while in the arrow moving mode, to save your changes
on the program diskette. *NOTE* Change all information completely, because
the program takes literally ALL information entered!

S.E.2 - System Utilities - These functions are primarily concerned with the
                           database, and with disk management.

S.E.2.1 - Catalog Disk

This option functions much as the "Catalog Disk" option of the Disk
Manager II cartridge. It is used to simply find out exactly what is on a
given disk - useful if you are trying to find a particular database file
diskette.

The utility will catalog the disk in the drive number specified (regardless
of if it's the designated catalog disk drive or not - that drive number is
concerned with disks being cataloged for the database), and direct the
output to either the screen, or to the designated output device and the screen
at once.

S.E.2.2 - Create Database

This option is used to create database files. However, because of it's
extensive disk interaction, it is extremely slow - approximently 30-45
minutes to create a database file on a DSDD disk! For this reason,
database disks in all formats are provided - the user should simply copy
the appropriate disk onto another data disk, and save the master database
disk as is. The copy can be renamed to something else. This option is
provided as a backup, in case a master is destroyed.

Operating this function is simplicity itself. After entering the name of
the database disk, the program automatically creates a file on the disk in
the designated database disk drive to fill all the open space on the disk.
The more disk space available, the larger the file created! The disk in the

drive must be initialized and empty - Asgard Software is not responsible for any damage that may result from using an uninitialized disk, or from using a disk that isn't completely empty.

S.E.2.3. - See Database

When selected, this utility automatically tells you the name, size, amount used, and the last date data was added to the database file in the designated database disk drive. It's operation is merely a matter of following on-screen prompts, and it is useful for finding the amount of entries remaining free on the current database disk.

S.E.2.4. - Change Database

This option allows you to change the current date and the name of the data-base file in the designated database disk drive. The current date is normally stamped on the database disk every time data is added to it. Simply follow the on-screen prompts to operate this utility. This is primarily useful for renaming data disks copied from the provided masters.

S.E.3 - Quit from Program

In order to insure data integrity on the database disk, it is advisable to use this option to quit from DDB. Operation is a matter of following the prompts at the bottom of the screen.

OUTPUT OPTIONS - The options in this sub-menu are primarily concerned with the output of data entered with the other options. The only exception, the dictionary of terms, is also concerned with the output of information to the user.

O.O.1 - Load Printer Codes

This utility is used to send the printer control characters entered with the "Set Print Characters" option of the MISCELLANEOUS UTILITIES to the designated output device. These characters are special codes that cause your printer to perform certain actions, such as printing in condensed print, etc. See "M.U.2 - Set Print Characters" for more information on printer control characters. Operating this utility is a matter of following the prompts at the bottom of the screen.

O.O.2 - Print Database

This option is used to print the database as it is actually stored. If, when entering the data into the database with the "Catalog Disk for Database" option, you entered disks in a particular order, you may want to print out the database with this option because it's faster this way.

You have the option of either printing out the database in blocks, or all of it at once. Each block of 250 entries has a designated number depending upon what order it occurs in the database file. You cannot print out an unfilled block (one that is only partially filled). You can, however, print such a block out by entering "A" at the prompt. Using this option is merely a matter of following the prompts.

O.O.3 - Sort Database Block - These three options are used to print out a database in a particular order.

O.O.3.1 - Sort by Filename

This option sorts the block of entries desired by filename. Once sorted, you have the option of printing the block to the designated output device, or

if you don't want to do that, the option of re-saving the block to the database disk as it is sorted, for future printing. Simply follow the on-screen prompts.

0.0.3.2 - Sort by Diskname

This option is functionally the same as "Sort by Filename", except that it sorts the block by diskname instead of filename. Read previous section for more information.

0.0.3.3 - Search and Print

This function operates much the same as the "Find file in Database" option of the DATABASE UTILITIES, except that it prints all the entries in the whole database that contain characters matching those entered at the prompt. This is useful in finding all occurances of a given file in a database, or the location of a desired file or set of files. Simply follow the on-screen prompts.

0.0.4 - Dictionary of Terms

This on-line dictionary is provided as a supplement to this documentation, and is not meant to be used in lieu of the documentation. It is provided as a convenient way for you to find the meanings of certain terms without searching this documentation. To operate this function, enter the all the characters of the desired subject in the list that are highlighted, in regular characters. The utility only searches the list for the upper-case letters only. Spaces in inverse should be entered with the <SPACE BAR>. Follow the on-screen prompts for operating the rest of the utility.

MISCELLANEOUS UTILITIES - These utilities are mostly after-thoughts, and options that didn't quite fit into any other section. This doesn't make them any more or any less useful than any other options. More of these utilities will be provided to owners of DDB as the uses of this program are explored. If you have any suggestions of useful utilities, please write.

M.U.1 - Enlarge Old Database

If you upgrade your computer to larger capacity disk drives, you can use this option to make existing database disks larger to fill the new space. First, however, before using this option, you must copy the database files onto a disk initialized in the new size (IE, if you were to purchase a double-density disk controller for your SSSD disks, initialize a disk SSDD, and then copy the database file onto the new disk). Enlarge the new copy. Operation of this utility is a matter of following the on-screen prompts. When it is finished (which can take quite some time) your database disk will still have the entries on it used, but it will have many more available.

M.U.2 - Set Print Characters

If you want to send printer codes to your printer for certain fonts, or special printing effects, this is the option to use. Consult your printer's manual for the precise codes. At each underline, enter an integer number representing the code. Enter a "0" to quit entering codes and save them on the program disk. You may enter up to 70, 3-digit codes to send.

M.U.3 - Transfer MDF to DDB

This option is used to copy a file used with "Master Disk File", the only disk file managing software in really wide use, to a file useful with DDB. This option requires two disk drives, an empty (but set-up) DDB database disk, and of course the MDF disk. The transfer can be performed with one disk drive, but up to 2500 disk swaps would have to be performed. Operation is as simple a

following the on-screen prompts. The created file can be used in all DDB
utilities. More conversion utilities will be added on request.

M.U.4 - Empty Database

This function clears an existing database, in effect re-initializes it, to
be used for another file, without erasing the file structure. Use this
option to clear an out-of-date file while still leaving a file usuable without
re-creating it. *WARNING* Once a database disk is emptied, the data is for
all purposes lost forever.

VI Special Notes on using DDB:

1. Do not place a write/protect sticker on the notch of any DDB disk.
2. Blocks always consist of 250 entries
3. The "Print Database" option in (A)ll mode will not print partial blocks
4. The "Find File in Database" option will search entries for a match of
   any string entered.
5. When using the "Set Defaults" option fill all prompts completely.
6. Quiting from the program by turning off the computer is hazardous.
7. Printer size is determined in multiples of 40 columns.
8. The "Empty Database" option is irreversable.
9. If you cause a disk error, re-load the program.

VII Appendix A: Terms

Designated Output Device: The output device named in the "Set Defaults"
                           option that is the destination of all output
                           functions.
Designated Catalog Drive: The disk drive that is supposed to contain the
                           disk that will be cataloged in the "Catalog Disk
                           for Database" option of the DATABASE UTILITIES.
Designated Program Drive: The disk drive number of the program - must always
                           be "1" for moving between menues.
Designated Database Drive: The disk drive number of the database disk. Ideally
                           this should be different from the designated
                           catalog drive number.
Diskname: The name given a disk during the initialization process.
Entry: A record in the database file. Database file size is measured in the
       number of entries (each consisting of filename, diskname, file size,
       file type and protection status) a file can hold.
Filename: The name given a file located on a disk.
Printer Size: The number of columns, in multiples of 40 columns, that the
              printer can accomodate (should de designated 120 if using
              condensed print on an 80-column printer).

VIII Special Keys:

"E" - The up arrow key. Useful for selecting menu options
"X" - The down arrow key. Again, for selecting options.
<ENTER> - Key used for selecting options, at the ed of prompts, etc.
<BACK> - Key pressed to leave certain situations; to save default values.
<ALPHA LOCK> - Key must always be depressed for upper-case letters.

IX Notices:

Asgard Software doesn't guarrantee this program meets the needs of the user
or even functions as stated. Asgard Software disclaims all damage that may
occure while using this program, or the result of it's use.

Asgard Software only warrantees the physical contents, defined as the
diskette itself, the documentation, and the packaging from harm for a
period ending 90 days after purchase of Disk Data Base.

Asgard Software will provide users of Disk Data Base free program updates,
when such updates are announced, to verified owners, provided the owners
pays for all postage resulting from the returned disk, for a period ending
in 4 years after purchase of Disk Data Base.

NOTICE: To swap database disks while the program is in operation, the
         user can simply remove the old disk and put the new one in, outside
         of the DATABASE UTILITIES. When in the DATABASE UTILITIES, DO NOT
         swap disks, the result will be the destruction of data! To change
         disks when in the DATABASE UTILITIES, return to another menu
         (the MAIN MENU for instance), replace the current database disk,
         and then go back to the DATABASE UTILITIES.

         Do not remove a disk in use, the program will crash and the disk
         possibly destroyed.

         Do not place the wrong disk in the wrong drive, the program WILL
         crash, and all data will be lost. If the program crashes, simply
         re-boot from the start. If this crash is not due to obvious user
         error, please report your difficulty to Asgard Software. You will
         receive re-imbursement for mailing your report.

Data disks in the following formats are provided with your Disk Data Base package to be duplicated and renamed for your own catalog:

Single Side, Single Density (360 sectors)
Single Side, Double Density (720 sectors)
Double Side, Double Density (1440 sectors)

Due to low demand, a data disk is provided in the Double Side, Single density (720 sectors) to only those that request it.

To receive a single copy of this disk, send $3.00 for the disk and postage to:

User Services Dep.
Asgard Software
P.O.B. 10306
Rockville, MD 20850

Additional disks in the other data formats may be also obtained for the same fee upon request.

Disk Data Base

Today there are more programs available for the TI-99/4A than ever before. There are so many that yesterday's best disk cataloging programs just can't keep up. How many user's groups and individuals around the world can boast libraries in the thousands? The numbers are staggering, and until DISK DATA BASE, there was no way of easily keeping track of such an enormous amount of data. DISK DATA BASE is the only program you will ever need for organizing your disk library. Whether you have 100 or 10,000 files in your collection (DDB will store a catalog of up to 12,000 files on a single DSDD disk!), DISK DATA BASE is your tool for organization. DISK DATA BASE has more features than any of it's ancient competitors. With DDB you can now sort and print out your catalog by either diskname or filename,, print it out unsorted, or selectively print out all entries that contain a string you enter (for instance, you can have it print out all your files named "LOAD"). You can also break up your catalog into blocks of 250 entries for easy management - no longer will you have to print out parts of a catalog you don't need. You can even convert data files from Master Disk File to DDB's data format, so your investment in time is saved! DISK DATA BASE features assembly language routines for speedy sorts and snappy screens, a helpful on-line dictionary of terms for when you are confused, numerous prompts in English, and more ease-of-use than you can shake a stick at. Even if you only have a small collection, DDB is the program for you. Not only will it let you be organized from the start, DDB will also let you expand database files to fill new disk capacity. So if you upgrade your disk drives or controller, DDB will let you easily enlarge your database disk so it can handle a larger catalog. A more flexible program for maintaining your program collection doesn't exist! DISK DATA BASE requires Extended BASIC, a 32K memory expansion unit, and a disk drive and controller. A printer and second drive are recommended, but not required. DISK DATA BASE is an excellent value at $15 - not only does it include 3 disks and a eight page manual, it also comes unprotected so you can legally back up your investment. No data monster is too large to be tamed by DDB, so isn't it time you tamed yours?

$15.00

Send for a free catalog of our other fine products

Asgard Software

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