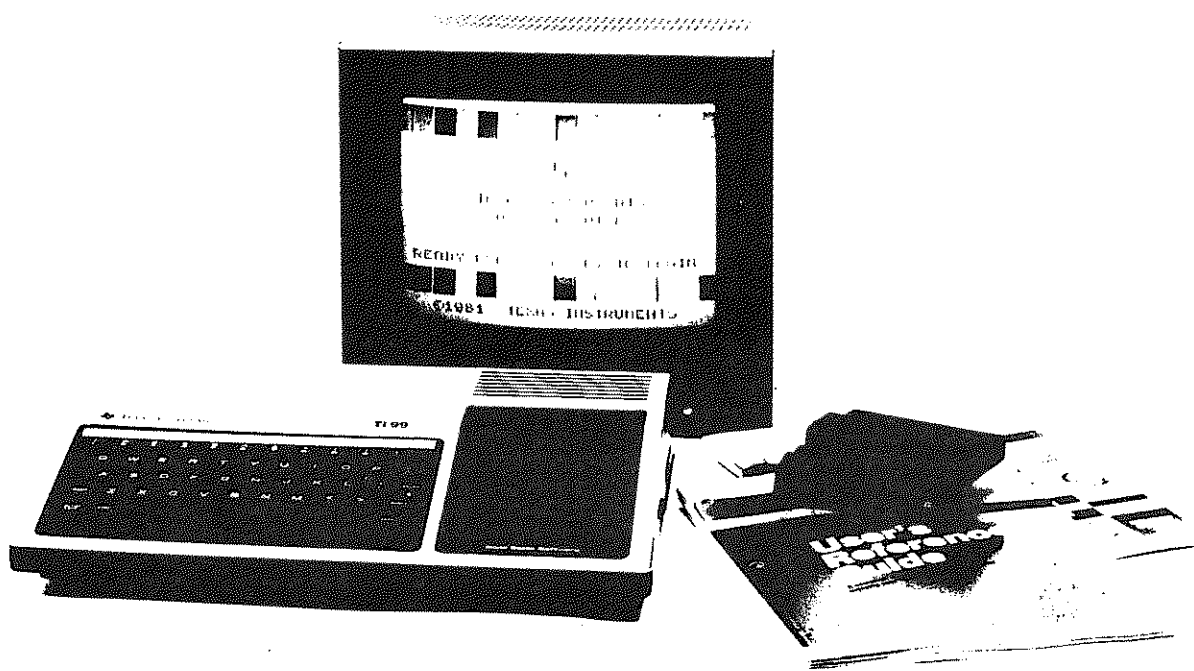


TEXAS INSTRUMENTS
AUSTRALIA LIMITED

HOME COMPUTER SERVICE CLUB
NEWSLETTER



This newsletter has been prepared
with the aid of the T.I. WRITER
and the Model 850 Printer

VOL 3 NUMBER 1

THE T.I. WRITER

A WORD PROCESSOR FOR THE 99/4A

What is a Word Processor? Well, basically, a WP is a device for manipulating words and letters within a document. The document can be a book or a simple letter. The WP will insert, delete, reformat sentences, paragraphs or even whole pages.

The next question is, do I need a Word Processor? The answer to that question is this. If you use a typewriter, apart from the odd letter, then the T.I Writer will make life much easier for you.

The T.I. Writer is a relatively inexpensive word processor, and yet has many of the features of the larger and much more complex systems. Of course, for more complex you can read more expensive. One of the particularly good features of the T.I. Writer is the documentation.

T.I. Writer is on Diskette and module, and comes packaged with a most comprehensive manual that includes tutorial sections on the Text Editor and Text Formatter. Also included in the package is a quick reference card showing the basic functions, and an overlay strip for the keyboard. The purpose of this article is not to replace the T.I. Writer documentation, which is excellent, but to demonstrate many of the features and show how simple it is to use.

The T.I. Writer needs more than the basic 99/4A before it will operate. As well as the Peripheral Box it requires a disk unit and controller, an RS232 interface and a 32K Memory expansion. It also needs some sort of hard copy printer such as th T.I. Impact Printer or the T.I. Model 850.

The manual that comes with the Writer is comprehensive, and quite large physically. This leads some to believe that it must therefore be complicated and difficult to learn how to operate.

Not so! The Writer is simple to use, and you could be creating a document within minutes of switching on. It is a complex package of software that will require many hours of study and use before its full potential can be utilised, but I propose only to get you started and mention some of the more important features.

There are three basic programmes:

1 THE TEXT EDITOR

This is where our document is created and edited. It is where we store and retrieve our data. Because we spend more time with the TEXT EDITOR there is a facility to adjust the

screen colour. This is very useful feature, and one that will find acceptance with anybody who has to spend a long time in front of a screen. There are five combinations of screen and print colour, and they can be changed at any time.

2 TEXT FORMATTER

This is basically the software that processes the document to the printer, with instructions that have been inserted by the Text Editor. The TEXT FORMATTER can also call up files from the disk for inclusion in a printed document.

3 UTILITIES

This is reserved for other programmes that can be run with the T.I. Writer.

Let's get started. First of all we are going to look at the easy way to use the Writer. I am assuming that you have not bothered to read the manual at this point.

Switch on the equipment and select the WRITER FROM THE screen menu. Another menu now appears :

- 1 TEXT EDITOR
- 2 TEXT FORMATTER
- 3 UTILITIES

Insert the program diskette and select 1

We are now in the Text Edit mode. The cursor flashes under a line of commands:

EDIT, TABS, FILES, LINES, SEARCH, RECOVER, EDIT.

Any of the commands can be called by using the first letter of the command. We are going to create a document so type E.

The cursor now moves down to the first line of a document we are going to create. At this point we could just type our document or letter as we would on a normal typewriter, and then print it. But before we do that I want to show you how simple it is to access other parts of the Text Editor.

Let's go back to the Command line by typing FCTN=, or Quit. We can do this at any time. Now type T for Tabs.

You'll notice that the cursor flashes on the letter L. This stands for Left Margin. Let's set this at 5. Space out 5 spaces on the Space Bar and type L. If we are going to create a letter we will want to indent all new paragraphs, say 3 spaces. Space out 2 characters. The cursor is under 8. Type I for Indent. There just remains the right margin to be set. Hold down the Space Bar until the end of the line comes in the window. Space out the R at the end of the line, and type R where you want the right margin to be set. Now press ENTER. Our left and right margins will remain, with the paragraph indent, until we change them.

We can now start typing. Before you do that, however, I'll just mention a couple of features that you may find handy. First, there's a feature called Word Wrap. This enables you to type away without worrying about margins. When a line is filled the next word goes to a newly created blank line automatically. You need never worry about running over a

margin again. Oh yes, and if you make a mistake, just back up over the error with the FCTN <- -> keys and type the correction over the error. Or, if you have missed out a letter, or a word or more, just press FCTN 2 (insert character) then type in the letters or words you missed. You'll notice that the line split when you pressed FCTN 2. After you have made the correction the line can be closed up by pressing CTRL 2(reformat). Easy, isn't it!

Now finish the letter and press FCTN =. This puts the cursor back in the command line. There are many commands we can give, but at this stage our objective is to get the document or letter that we have created on to paper, so press PF and ENTER. This stands for Print File. The cursor blinks, waiting for the device name of our printer. If we are using the T.I. impact printer set at 4800 Baud, we should type RS232/1.BA=4800 and ENTER. The printer will print the document exactly as it appears on the screen.

If that was all we intended using the T.I. WRITER for it would be like employing a chef and then asking him to make the tea, so let's look at some of the other things the WRITER can do.

Our letter is still on the screen. Let's make some alterations to it. First of all the right margin looks a bit ragged. Well, that's only natural you say. All words are not the same length and it is always uneven in the right margin. Maybe in your letters, but not in mine. Not when I use the T.I. Writer. The Text Formatter will tidy that up, but it needs some instruction. We have already set the right and left margins, and we don't want to alter them. To give the Text Formatter an instruction to adjust the right margin we need a blank line at the start of our document. If there is not one available, then we should create one by pressing FCTN 8. Now insert .AD and ENTER. This tells the Formatter to justify the right margin. Remember we have already set the margin with the TAB command at the beginning of the document. When the margins are justified a character is used to fill the odd spaces, so we need .FI (for fill) as well. Adjust will not work without fill. That takes care of the margins.

Our T.I.impact printer, or the Model 850 printer, is capable of much more than just printing characters. It can print enlarged, condensed, emphasised or double strike characters. We just have to tell it what to do. We can do that in the text of our document. Supposing we want enlarged print for the title. Just before the title we include the command to the printer, which happens to be a control character 14. By pressing CTRL U we obtain a different cursor, which indicates that the next character will be a control character. SHIFT N will give us character 14. With the FCTN-> space over the title. Then press SHIFT T. This places character 20 after the title, which tells the printer to revert to normal printing. (See page 145 for all the ASCII codes)

We can insert all the commands needed for type styles, underlining, page numbers and headers etc. in the Text Edit mode. When we are satisfied that our document is correct, we save it on diskette.

Exit the Text Editor by pressing Q in the command mode, then E for exit. This will bring up the original menu. You should now insert the T.I.Writer diskette and press 2. The Text Formatter mode is entered, and the first thing requested is the File Name. This is the name you gave your newly created document when you saved it on diskette. After you enter this you are asked for the printer device name. This is the same as you used earlier, RS232/1.BA=4800.LF. Notice the inclusion of LF. This turns off the automatic line feed option of the printer. The Text Formatter will put in the line feeds where necessary. We are now asked if we are using a mailing list. Y or N. The T.I. Writer will merge a mailing list if required. Press ENTER. Same with the other requests, number of pages, pause after each page etc..

The printer now prints your document. Notice how the title is in large double sized characters, and all the words end exactly at the right margin.

That is just a quick view of the T.I. WRITER. There are many other features that I will not go into, but just list a few to give you an idea of the versatility.

Text Editor

- * Locate words or phrases in the text buffer
- * Load parts of file to text buffer.
- * Merge files with text buffer.
- * Move lines of text or blocks of text to another point in the text buffer
- * Purge contents of the text buffer.
- * Recover all but the first line of the text buffer after purging.
- * Replace words or phrases automatically, in the text buffer.
- * Display lines in the text buffer.
- * Show directory of diskettes on screen
- * Delete characters or lines.
- * Insert characters or lines.
- * Duplicates lines
- * Scroll up, down or right.
- * OOPS. This is a very useful feature which enables you to recover text that has been deleted by Delete line, Delete Character etc.. It will recover any deletion provided that ENTER has not been pressed.

Text Formatter

- * Allows up to 99 variables to be assigned from a value file for Stock Letters and mail lists.
- * Allows comments in the text that are not printed with the document.
- * Enables Footers and Headers and page numbering.

* Has facility for overstrike and underscore.

BEST SELLING HOME COMPUTER SOFTWARE

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS showed well in the best selling 25 software titles, as tracked by "Audits Surveys"

T.I. had 12 out of 25 from a list shared by ATARI, COMMODORE AND TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

THE TITLE FROM TEXAS INSTRUMENTS ARE:-

POSITION.....TITLE

- 1.....PARSEC
- 6.....MUNCHMAN
- 11.....TEACH YOURSELF BASIC
- 12.....HOUSEHOLD BUDGET MANAGEMENT
- 13.....PERSONAL RECORD KEEPING
- 14.....T.I. INVADERS
- 16.....A-MAZE-ING
- 17.....CAR WARS
- 18.....HUNT THE WUMPUS
- 19.....FOOTBAL
- 22.....HOME FINANCIAL DECISIONS
- 24.....EARLY LEARNING FUN

WHAT IS LOGO

There are many things that can be said about LOGO. Much has already been said and written, and more will be said and written in the future. LOGO attracts that sort of attention.

T.I.LOGO is a graphics oriented computer language, developed by Texas Instruments and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It is derived from Professor Seymour Papert's LOGO, a language based on a philosophy of education, where a child's development takes place in a series of stages.

LOGO can be as simple or as complex as necessary. It allows experiments with concepts of shapes, position, colour, direction and speed in an understandable language, using words familiar to children.

Communication with the computer is made easy with T.I. LOGO. The computer understands a language that is readily learned by the student. This means that there is no lengthy beginning process, where the student has to learn a new language before using the computer.

Within a very short time students are creating their own procedures, rather than simply responding to the demands of the computer. And this applies equally to the physically and mentally handicapped students.

LOGO is a unique language in that it can be used to create other languages that fill a particular need. Just watch a child using T.I. LOGO, and see the traditional roles of computer aided education reversed. The student becomes the teacher and the computer becomes the student, as the child "teaches" the computer ne procedures.

The child is in control of the computer, and having fun. Without realising it the child is discovering communication, logic and sequential thinking; vital skills in the learning process.

Although T.I. LOGO is essentially an educational tool, it is nevertheless a powerful language. Some say more powerful than BASIC. Certainly LOGO is richer in statements than BASIC. Each one unambiguous and similar to English in meaning. This means more memory is required, and consequently, more expensive computers to run LOGO.

This is where the T.I. Home Computer comes into its own:

The T.I. Home Computer will run BASIC on a system costing \$499.

It will run T.I. LOGO on a system costing \$1237.

The difference in hardware costs to operate BASIC and LOGO on other computers can be up to 10 times the standard cost.

NOTICE #

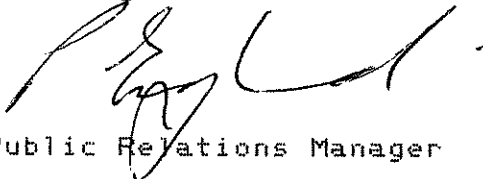
The CC40, about which much has been written in the United States, particularly in the 99ER magazine, is not available in Australia, Yet!

I made an announcement to the press on the 8th. of June in which I said that the CC40 will be available in the fourth quarter 83. The announcement was made in good faith, and based on information to hand at the time. Unfortunately the release date in Australia has now slipped, due to circumstances over which we have no control.

When the product becomes available, or we have news of it, you will be advised.

To the many people who have replied in answer to the announcement, a letter has been sent advising the situation. Another letter will be sent when the product becomes available.

Paul England



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