\$2.00

R/D COMPUTING

VER 23

VOLUME 2 · 1987

MAY

Dedicated to TI 99/4A and 9900 Computer Systems

210 MOUNTAIN STREET, HALIBURTON, ONTARIO KOM 1S0 (705) 457-2774

WELCOME ABOARD:

Rvte

We have some new personnel on board. I would like to welcome Joe Warder of Regal Capital, Bill Weiler and Michael Jarman of Helix Circuits, as well as Henri Schlereth and Judi Beckett for Ryte Data South.

Growing from start-up in publishing to software publishing to hardware on a cash only basis has been VERY tough. Here only the tough survive. In the TI market, most of the players have left for greener pastures. The companies that remain are tenacious survivors and visionaries who BELIEVE in the TMS 99xx technology. They do deserve your support.

Then again, all of YOU have proven to be supporters. The ones we need to reach are 'out in the cold'; owners who do not belong to users groups, owners who have closeted their machines, owners who have yet to upgrade their "home" computer and others who are not aware of the power contained in their consoles.

INDUSTRY NEWS:

The announcements of the new machines from Apple and IBM have created a wave of optimism in the computer industry. This is good news for computer users, support companies and manufacturers. With all the high powered hardware being introduced, the choices open to computer users are increasing.

Many believe that the MacIntosh SE and the MacIntosh II are THE products to watch. The Mac II incorporates far reaching technology, expansion slots, IBM 8088 co-processors and true cross system connectivity (one of the new buzzwords).

Stay tuned, this is the arena.

This issue is a collection of various hardware projects, tips and the like that have some very good results. We have found that the improvements are both valuable and quite noticeable. With the extended memory maps and new card based projects, it is possible to transform the TI on a user basis!

We would like to encourage owners to this type of electronics attempt modification. With the price of spare consoles at an all time low, there is relatively little danger of doing Get out vour irreparable damage. soldering iron and parts, try Some projects and get the results.

Of particular note is the very simple resistor change suggested by Bob Lawson. This two cent change gives a clearer video display... something else that TI "should" have done in the basic design.

HARDWARE GROUP:

The response to the hardware SIG coordinated by Bob (Tony) Wagner is moving right along. Over three dozen people have responded to the call. I believe this group has more talent than even TI could muster. Several projects are in motion which will have far reaching effects over the next

several months. Hardware inputs from the group promise to give all TI 99/4A owners some astounding results.

As with anything that contributes to support of our orphan, the your support is both welcome and ABSOLUTELY essential. Nothing occurs in a vaccum. Even more to the point, æ little participation goes a long way in providing the "afterlife" phenomena we witness in the 4A world. One of the major challenges facing a hardware group is that of financing the work This will have a done. telling influence on the progress.

The top priority project (in my book) is an extended memory specification. A modification to the operating system would be required - but would allow the 99/4A to access and USE additional memory... the key component for more sophisticated software.

CO-PROCESSORS:

Abbh! Now this is a timely focus... William Borchardt of the Sun City 99ers writes that he is working on a co-processing system that will allow the removal of the GROMs from the console. This would entail altering the 99/4A clocking system to allow an increase in speed from the machine. The intent is to allow either the GPL approach or a user built operating system to be put into the co-processor to be accessed from the 99/4A in the same fashion that the GROM interface works - only at a higher clock speed. It looks as if the basic design is finally coming together.

This is the type of project that would work very well in a group format. There is always a LOT of work to do in order to develop a project. Monty Schmidt tells me that he has an 8088 'co-processor' project up and running for his university class. Interfaces through the 8k DSR space on the DSR RAM CARD. THIS type of project 'could' provide. true IBM . compatibility mode with bus to bus information transfer. Only a large amount of money, time and talent would produce a commercial project. It does

sound interesting.

OTTAWA TI FAIRE 1987

Having missed the New Jersey and the Boston TI Faires (sorry folks), we did manage to make the Ottawa show on May 16th at the Merrivale High School. With the holiday weekend, the turnout was a bit light. The number of vendors was down from last year and the number of TI owners also seemed to be shy of last years event.

We set up next to Myarc - with Lou Philips and Walt Howe showing the Geneve 9640 computer. We had our 99AT Expansion Systems on display along with Monty Schmidt's COMMAND DOS (also now shipping).

I can personally verify that Myarcs 964Ø is ALL that it is supposed to be and more. In fact, some of our own subscribers and Canadian TI 99/4A owners now HAVE this new machine in their possession. Steve Michelson of the Toronto 9T9'ers walked out with one under his arm. Disk Only Software was selling and taking orders for Myarc's Geneve 964Ø computer system.

Myarc is shipping the machine with full 350 page manual. All software Ι that is specified to work - WORKS. saw a number of modules downloaded to This means that software IS run. and more new software available... available. f a150 become will personally know of several programmers who are releasing packages SOON - if not before.

For us the show was important in that we were able to determine exactly how much power the card pulls from the card bus. Very critical in determining the total compatibility of the 99AT Expansion System.

Scott Darling, the SYSOP of GENIE was at the show. GENIE has come to Canada through connection nodes in several cities. Try calling 1(800) 638-9636 for more information. We also met many other TI 99/4A luminaries and supporters.

Adding a Real Time Clock to the 8K DSR Card John Clulow (6Enie address J.CLULOW) (419) 874-8838

This project adds the National Semiconductor HMS8167 clock to the 8K DSR RAM card. Before you attempt to add the clock, you must complete the non-DSR 8K addition. Make sure the card is working properly. Double check the wiring of the data lines in the 74LS245. D0 - D7 aust be wired to the edgecard connector exactly as shown in the schematic. While the memory will work with any order of data line connection, the clock will not.

To complete this project, you will need a 74LS04, 74LS30, NH58167 clock, 32.768 K Hz microwatt crystal, 1N914 diode, 200K ohm resistor, and two small capacitors. Dne capacitor is fixed and should be around 20 pF. The other is a variable capacitor with a range of 3 to 30 pF. Digi-Key (800-344-4539) is one source of these parts.

Wire the circuit as shown in the diagram. The address lines and DBIN need not be connected to the edgecard connector; you can refer to the BK card schematic and use appropriate pins on the 5264 or 138, for example. For DO' to D7², use the 74LS245 pins 2 through 9, and make sure the corresponding input pins (1B - 12) are properly connected to the edgecard connector. The anode end of the 1N914 diode should be connected to the junction of the anodes of the two diodes used in the AND gate you made in the non-DSR RAM project (see step 6). It could also be connected to pin 15 of the 74LS265.

When you purchase your clock IC, obtain a data sheet. Here is a partial list of addresses used in working with the clock:

8680	.001 sec	8686 minutes	868C day of month
8682	.01 sec	8688 hours	868E months
8684	seconds	868A day or week	86A8 status 86A4 reset

Software for the clock is available from the SEnie library.



TI-99/4A OWNERS SURVEY DATE:_____ PLFARF_UISF_A_DARK COLORED FELT PEN_THANK-TOUL YOU MUST SELECT ONLY I ANSWER, NO EXCEPTION ALL WAT IS YOUR AGE COUPT TO RUNDER _ 19-74_ 25-34_ 35-44_ 45 AND OVER _ A200 MAN LS YOUR AGE COUPT TO RUNDER _ 19-74_ 25-34_ 35-44_ 45 AND OVER _ A201 MAN LS YOUR AGE COUPT TO RUNDER _ 19-74_ 25-34_ 35-44_ 45 AND OVER _ A201 MAN LS YOUR AGE COUPT TO RUNDER _ 19-74_ 25-34_ 36-764_ 760 A010 MUST A COMPUTE AT NORE _ 100 CLAR _ INFIT COLLAR _ PROFESSIONAL _ RETIRED _ A302 DO YOU USE A COMPUTE AT NORE _ 100 CLAR _ 12_ 2_ 30 RINGE _ A403 MOL MENT TS-YAA OR AS DO YOU OMA _ 1_ 2_ 2_ 30 RINGE _ A404 MOL MENT TS-YAA OR AS DO YOU OMA _ 1_ 2_ 2_ 30 RINGE _ A404 MOL MENT SEVEND YOU OMA _ 1_ 1_ 2_ 2_ 30 RINGE _ A405 MICH MEDRY LSANA _ 100 MUST _ 100 FM DE _ 11_ 200 MUST _ A115 MICH MEDRY LSANA _ 100 MUST _ 100 FM DE _ 11_ 200 MUST _ A116 MICH MEDRY LSANA _ 100 MU LSS NEL _ 20 MEG _ 30 RINGE _ A116 MICH MENT SEVEND _ 100 MU LSS NEL _ 20 MEG _ 30 RINGE _ 000 MUST _ 100 MU LSS NEL _ 200 MUST _ 100 MUST _ 100 MU LSS NEL _ 200 MUST _ 100 MUST _ 100 MU LSS NEL _ 20 MEG _ 30 RINGE _ 000 MUST _ 100 MU LSS NEL _ 100 MUST _ 100 MU LSS NEL _ 20 MEG _ 30 RINGE _ 000 MUST _ 100 MU LSS NEL _ 100 MUST _ 100 MU LSS NEL _ 100 MUST _ 100 MUST _ 100 MU LSS NEL _ 100 MU LSS NEL _ 200 MUST _ 100 MU LSS NEL _ 100 MUST _ 100 MU LSS NEL _ 100 MU LSS NEL _ 100 MUST _ 100 MU LSS NEL _ 100 PLEASE USE A DARK COLORED FELT PEN, THANK-YOU You must select only 1 Answer, no exceptions. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THIS SURVEY? VERY POOR __ POOR __ OK __ GOOD __ VERY GOOD __ AC\$(3) THE NEXT 2 QUESTIONS ARE DEMOGRAPHIC. IF YOU ARE IN USA OR CANADA WHAT IS YOUR TELEPHONE AREA CODE. ALL OTHERS ENTER CITY: 2C\$(3) IF YOU ARE IN USA OR CANADA PLEASE ENTER YOUR ZIP CODE. ALL OTHERS ENTER COUNTRY: FOR COMMENTS, PLEASE WRITE A BRIEF LETTER & ENCLOSE IT WITH THE SURVEY.

5

C99 PART THREE

by Ron Albright Jr.

Last time we touched on what c99 is, and what files come on the disk - plus 0745 what some of the more important This time we'll actually do some do, Code. As we progress, we will stress some sort of style in how we enter programs. I am no expert on style (or c99 for that matter), but since c99 is so free-form and has no line numbers to follow, it can be very difficult to read programs if you don't follow some rules. These rules are not universally agreed upon, but we'll try to develop some sort of easy to read style of our own. I will make a few Assumptions to start:

First, I will assume that you have a single drive system with only single sided capability. Second, I will assume that you have a basic understanding of the Editor/ Assembler package, i.e. you know how to use the Editor and run programs out of either Option 3 or Option 5.

I will further assume, that you have assembled at least one source code file with E/A. If these assumptions are incorrect, let me know and we'll touch on the Editor Assembler more next time. Let's get started.

Take a clean disk and copy the following c99 files onto it:

D/F 8Ø	12	SECTORS
D/F 8Ø	14	SECTORS
PROGRAM	33	SECTORS
PROGRAM	33	SECTORS
PROGRAM	29	SECTORS
	D/F 8Ø D/F 8Ø Program Program Program	D/F 8Ø 12 D/F 8Ø 14 PROGRAM 33 PROGRAM 33 PROGRAM 29

Next, from the Editor/Assembler disk, copy these files to the same disk:

ASSM1 PROGRAM 33 SECTORS ASSM2 PROGRAM 20 SECTORS EDIT1 PROGRAM 25 SECTORS

If my addition is correct, that gives you 199 sectors on our work disk. Now we are ready to proceed. Keep our work disk in the drive and insert the Editor/Assembler cartridge. From the menu, load the Editor and go into the Edit mode.

Type in this program:

/* c99 The smallest c99 program */

main() /# a comment #/

{
 /# we aren't going to do anything?
#/

}

Congratulations! You have just entered your first, valid c99 program. Let's look at it. The first line is nothing more than a "REM" statement. Instead c99 recognizes anything of REM. enclosed within "/# #/ as a comment and ignores it when compiling. You can put anything between these comment delimiters, and it will survive compiling without error. Use them frequently as you program. As we mentioned, c99 programs are difficult to read at best and REM statements are useful to remind yourself, as well as others reading the program, what you had in mind. As shown on the next program line, the /* can be used on the same line as compilable code, so comment each step of your code for clarity.

A routine called "main" is required each and every c99 somewhere in program. Typically, it is the first block of code, sets things up and calls the other routine(s) to take over. When the compiler sees "main()" (or anything else with the "()" after it - like "first()", "setup()" - it labels this as a function. A function is similar to a subroutine in Extended Basic. A string of functions make up a program. They are just like using "SUB routine" in XB. It is run when its name ("main", "first", "setup") is 'called'. The "main" routine is run whether it is called or not called (quess that is why they call it *main*). More on this later.

think of c99 as simply a For now. series of "calls" to blocks of modular code called functions with each functions labeled with "name()". Each function is enclosed with a pair of braces - it starts with an open brace (() and ends with a closed ()). This tells the compiler brace where this block of code starts and Everything within those braces ends. is part of that function. In our first program, the only thing in the main function is a "REM" statement, so will 'do' nothing. It it i 📾 compilable though. A function may include a call for another function. Look at this example:

main()
{
 doit();
}
/* doit doesn't do anything! #/
doit()
{
/* see! Nothing here to do! #/
}

This time, main calls up the second function, "doit" which, also, doesn't do anything. You can see how programs are built. Typically, (but not necessarily) the main function will include all the calls to the functions that make up a whole c99 program. Its like having an XB program that is nothing more than a series of "GOSUB"s (really a series of "CALL SUB* routines). Each function call does its own task and returns control back to the main, or controlling program. The good c99 program will break large programs into smaller ones and write a function for each. If a function can stand alone (has nothing in it unique to a single program) the programmer eventually develops a 'toolbox' of useful small routines (functions) that can be combined in different ways to solve problems. That is just one of the beauties of c99.

So, let's compile this program. After typing it in, hit FCTN 9 twice, get

the EDITOR menu and elect to save it to disk. Your main work disk should have plenty of room without disk swapping, After saving to Disk 1, hit FCTN 9 again to get the main E/A menu. Chose Option 5 to "RUN PROGRAM FILE'. The three compiler files, which I have renamed UTIL1, UTIL2 and UTIL3 run out of Option 5, not Option 3 (which runs When you are prompted D/F8Ø files). for "Program Name:" you only have to hit enter since you have changed your compiler files to UTIL1 - 3. The default name for E/A 5 is UTIL1 and files will he loaded those You see why I renamed automatically. them. You will then be prompted by the c99 compiler (prompts will vary depending on which version of c99 you use) for an input file name. Type "DSK1.filename" (filename being generic for whatever you called the file you typed in and saved to disk). You will then be prompted for an file output name. Cali it "filename/C", just to remind yourself that it is a compiled file. Then, hit ENTER and you are off and running. The compiler will flash each function name on the screen as it is compiled to show you where you are in the You should see only "main" program. if you are compiling the first program and "main" then "doit" if you are compiling the second program. If an error is encountered, you will be told. We'll assume that you typed these short routines in without error for now. It shouldn't take long. You are told to press enter to continue after the compiler is done.

Now what? If you catalog your disk now, you should see the initial source code file you typed in and saved with a second filename called "filename/C". Both should be D/V80. You have one more step to do before the program can be run. What the compiler produced language source code. was assembly Like all source code, it has to be assembled. Get to the main E/A menu and choose Option 2, Assemble. When asked to "Load Assembler?" hit "Y" to load the E/A assembler files (ASSM1 and ASSM2). Since we placed these on the work disk, they should load right in without swapping disks. You are

File the *Source for then prompted Type in "DSK1.filename/C" (NOT Name". the program you typed in and saved. compiler's output filename). but the Name", T *Output File For an to let me know. this "DSK1.filename/0" ENTER for hit is object code. Then each of the next two assembler prompts The ("List File Name" and "Options"). should start right up and ausembler process. the embly finish with your You disk again. Now, catalog addad third file should "filename/O". This time. it is not D/V8Ø, but D/F8Ø... assembly language produced an You have OBJECT code. assembly language program. How do you run this 'do nothing' program you have written? Go back to the main E/A Choose Option 3 from the menu. menu. When asked for "File Name". tyne in enter. hit "DSK1.filename/0". Then "File prompt again You get the same time, type "DSK1.CSUP". Name". This This c99 support file MUST be loaded Hit load ANY C99 program. after VBU. prompt for the enter. When you get hit enter third filename. Just the the asked for time. When this "Program Name", type in "START". A11 c99 programs run with the program name Your do nothing, super- duper START. now assembly language program should "run". You then immediately get the and continue" message "Hit enter to you have finished.

i t feel to have Well, how does an assembly language program generated the "big boys"? Next time, like iust little something will do . will create More substance. ue demonstrate wi11 simple menu, which "printf", and the keyboard input "puts" and "getchar" functions. But. I just wanted to go through now. for running c 99 mechanics of the get system. Till the next tutorial, manual that COMPE C book, read the send for the newest with c99 itself, compiler (Day version [3.0] the of Clint) and we'll progress further next time.

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Nemory Access Indicators

For SK DSR Non-DSR Card

SK Cord Demign By J.Cluiow LED Upgrade ---By 8.Tuorto

This project is designed to be easily installed on John's OK card. When added to your card this upgrade will. at a elance, tell you exactly what block your computer Rendry 1 It displays the entire accessing. memory map from >88888->FFFF. This is done using 8 LEDs each connected to 1 6k block. The display board has been deviened to be removable (disconnects easily) from the 8K card. The completed assembly can be easily affixed to the rear of the computer console. NO drilling or modification of the console is required!

The idea for this project was from an article in the West Penn 99er's The article was about neweletter. drilling and installing 4 LEDS in the console to show 32K memory expansion ACCORS. The original article was by John Willforth of the West Penn (Editor's 99er's. note: John Willforth is working on having a PEB card designed to make these, and other, projects easier. Write if you are interested in a card based kit!]

With exception of the 74LSI36 chip_t a)1 parts are available at Radio Shack.

PARTS LIST

RTY	PART NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
1	74L\$139	I.C.
8	274-833	Freenal LED
1	271-017(.5w)	Resistor 339
z	276-1978	16 pin socket
1	276-1995	DIP Header
1	3-ft. 9cond.	Ribbon cable
L	276-149	P.C.B.
T	44-2343	DELaided tape

Misc. Silver paint-wirewrap wire-tape

BK (IAK) DSR-NON-DSR PCB



Connect the 74LSI38 as follows:

Pin 41 to 41(A2). Pin 42 to 44(A1), Pin 43 to 43(A8). Pin 44 to 56(Mem.s)of the 68 pin connector.

Pin W5 and W8 to Ground(-) Pin W6 and W16 to +5v

Pin #7 to header socket #8.

Next on the header mocket solder pins 1-7 to the 24LS130 (15-9). Same method as used with the dip sw. 1 pin down and connect it to the IC.

Finally connect Pin #9 of the header socket to the 330 ohm resistor to +5v

This completes the modification of the SK board.



DISPLAY								
	1	7	3	4	5	6	7	8
L								R
-			•					
				:				
				1				
:	-	-	-	- *	-	•	-	- 1
2	~	~~		~~	~~	~~~	•*•	:
1		F	De	m	Te	i pe		÷
1	~							1
1	_	t	pp.		id		_	;
-	_							_

Note: The muthor painted the PCB surface silver to match the console.

Nount the LEDS so that the FLAT edges face down toward the bottom of the PCB.

Connect the leads at the top of the board together in 1 line.

Now you are ready to wire the DIP MEADER as follows.

New using a ribbon cable connect one end to the beader pins 1-8 and last PIN N9 (+3v), if possible use a different color for this Pin (red).

The other end of this cable is connected to the Display PCB. Left right numbers 1,2,3,4,5,4,7,8 and finally connect pin 9 to the top line of the LEDS.

Now affix piece of double mided foam tape to the murface of the PCB but do not remove adhesive cover from the mide facing you.

Cover the rear side of the board at the LED connections with a piece of electrical tape to insulate them from possibly shorting against some metal object.

Also using a piece of wire wrap wire tie down the ribbon cable to the display PCB, this will help prevent any wires from being pulled free. As a procaution, with the cable plugged into the socket you enough check for any shorts between pin #9 and any other pin on the Dip Header socket.

The muthor placed the displayboard on the rear surface of the console with the LEDS about 1/4 to 1/2 inch above the silver trim.

TI-99/4a Memory Map

LEDM	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION
*		
1	>00000->1FFF	Console ROM
2	>2 <i>668-</i> >3FFF	Low Exp Мел
3	>4 <i>000-</i> >5FFF	DSR Space
4	> ▲@#@~> 7FFF	Cart, Mem
5	>8088->9FFF	Console Ram
		Sound Chip
		VDP R/W
		Speach R/W
		GRÖM R/W
6	}A#Ø#~>BFFF	High Exp 1
7)C000-)D000	High Exp 2
8	>EDOD->FFFF	High Exp 3

ENJOY!



If you have any questions :

Stephen J. Tuorto 19-Chimney Lane Bayshore, New York 11706

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Include description and price requested for item. See listing sbove.

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> Contect: Steve Maly King's Edgehill School Windwor, Nove Scotie BØN 270

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- V18 Power Supply, RAVE 99 Keyboard, Year Review.
- V19 Geneve, c993.0, RAM Diek backup, HI-Speed cassette.
- V20 99AT, T.O.D., Horizon modification, Rapid Copy 32k project, GRAM card software, etc.
- V21 Expansion system, 8k DSR RAM Project, C99 by R. Albright, Ti Writer in Memory, AE1 etc.
- V22 EEPROMS, C99 part II, File Utiliter, Command DOS, 8k DSR RAM part II.
- V23 Hardware group, co-processors, Improved Video, Real Time Ciock, C99 part III, Memory LED's.
- V24 Triple Tech project, 80 Column Diaplay II, RGB Conversion Project Part II, 64k
- V25 German GRAM CRACKER, Co-processor update, Proto Board, Console Calc., etc. 64k on the bus project.



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