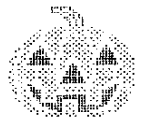




BITS BYTES AND PIXELS



LIMA AREA TI USERS GROUP
VOLUME 1 NO.3 OCTOBER 1985

COMMENTARY

What follows, friends, may sound like a lecture and we don't intend for it to be one. Our message is simple "Why don't you come out for the meeting?"

For the TI99/4A owner we have one of the best arrangements available. Maybe we need to remind you that we have over 2000 pieces of software, that is freeware, in our library. We have a group of well informed, dedicated TI'ers with whom you can share ideas, solve problems and enjoy the company of persons with common interests.

It was kind of sad last month when only 4 persons showed up. Charlie had put together another of his superb demonstrations, Dave had lugged all of his equipment from home, for only 4 persons!

If we are to continue to be a support group for each other we have to support our user group. It can really improve your skills and make computing more fun.

Summer is over and the frost is on the pumpkin, now is the time for computer plunkin. (with apologies to James Whitcombe Reilly)

Mark your calendar now for the 3rd saturday of each month at 9:30 to 11:30.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The attendance is reported elsewhere in this issue. Charlie presented a display of music programs that were spectacular in both sound and graphics. A copy of these now resides in the library. Dave reviewed a superb program called "Disk Fixer" this, too, is in the library. It is also reviewed elsewhere in this issue of BB&P.

TIPS

Again we are pleased to present "Tips From The Tiger Cub" This one, number 27, was sent to us from the author, Jim Peterson. Jim is the energetic publisher, writer of software and an ardent supporter of the TI. He is one of the reasons TI lives on.

AN INVITATION

Actually writing this newsletter is fun, that is, until the well of ideas begins to run dry. The well is being drawn down. In short, we need help, your help.

Maybe your well is full and you need an outlet. Well, our friend, we have the outlet! Let us know when and what you have to offer. We have the space.

TI WRITER

If you are a user of TI Writer the "Wandy Dandy TI Users Reference Guide" may be an answer to your needs. Every time we hold the humungous TI note book in our lap we think there must be a better way. Maybe this is it. Thanks to the Hoosier User's Group for providing this.

MISCELLANY

"May I help with your son, Sir?" the waiter asked.
"What do you mean 'help me' - I don't need any help."
"Sorry, Sir. From the sound, I thought you might wish to be dragged ashore."

CHARLIE SAYS

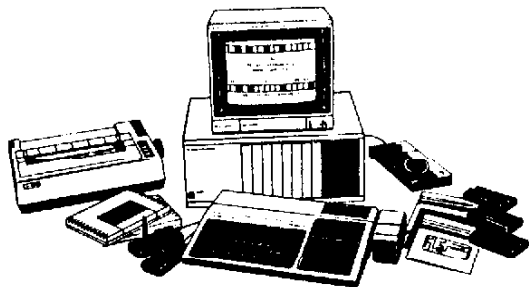
From Bill Sager of the New Horizons User Group comes the following information that is current as of September 1985. "The TI parts department is selling GROM chips for the EDITOR ASSEMBLER & MINI MEMORY module if any of your members want one as a back up or to do some messing around like the building of the "Super Cart. Call TI at 906-762-7451 Ask for E/A GROM PART#1015960-1204 or M/M GROM PART#1015960-0215. They are priced \$3.50 and \$3.90 respectively.

The balance of "Charlie Says" will be found on page three of BB&P.

DUES DUE!

We have been reviewing the club's financial status and we find that it is good, BUT, it could be better. There are large number of members who have not paid their current years dues. Life access to the Kingdom you have to pay your dues! The library is open only to dues paying members. If you haven't paid please send your check to Tim Martin, our treasurer.

COME COMPUTE WITH LIS



WEATHER

OR NOT...

Are you tired of the TV weather person's razzle dazzle that doesn't really tell you whether it is going to rain on your picnic?

Look no further than your TI keyboard. WEATHER FORECASTING, a product of the fertile mind of Gary Cox of Memphis, Tenn for \$5.00 you can have a reliable forecaster at your fingertips.

While we have not gotten into the program it would appear that the is based on the principle of synoptic forecasting..

This type of forecasting uses a series of data known to produce certian types weather based on long range studies. Accordngly, if in the area where the forecast is sought a falling barometer and a north wind can indicate the arrival of a front and the tempature reading can be an indicator of the type of percipitation.

This program allows entry of the data and after analysis prints out the forecast. We have tryed it and have found that it is pretty accurate.

For \$5.00 and a letter to Gary Cox 3174 Melborne, Memphis TN, 38127 you can find out for yourself.



"Realistic graphics, huh?"

CHARLIE SAYS:

~~DISKO (in our library), DISK FIXER, and ADVANCED DIAGNOSTICS (demonstrated~~
 at our August and Sept. meetings) allow you to read and alter the information
 on individual disk sectors. You can actually see the program in the format it
 is stored on the disk. This allows you to alter programs that would otherwise
 be difficult to change such as assembly language programs or adventure game
 files.

If you are having trouble with an adventure game (Scott Adams, Infocom,
 etc.) stored on disk, you can start reading disk sectors and see all of the
 text messages for the entire game. These messages are not necessarily in a
 logical order, but they do give you some idea of the game contents. I can tell
 you from personal experience that such disk sector reading will not by itself
 allow you to solve the game, but it is a help when you get stuck.

Another thing you can do with disk sector read programs is make minor
 alterations in assembly language programs, even if you know almost nothing
 about assembly programming. An assembly language program on a disk looks like
 gibberish, except for the text portions of the program. The usual way of
 altering an assembly program is to go back and change the source code, then
 reassemble the program and store it back on disk. But what if you don't have
 the source code, but instead only have the object code (the actual assembled
 program that runs from disk). Then you have to disassemble the object code
 into its source (we have 2 disassembler programs in our library), alter the
 source code, and reassemble into object code. This is not easy. For one
 thing, disassembly programs do not always work completely. Also, you must have
 some assembly language knowledge to rewrite the source code prior to
 reassembly.

With disk sector readers such as DISKO you can directly alter assembly
 object code right on the disk. Any text portions of this code can be changed
 to other text simply by typing over the original text, as long as the new text
 is no longer than the original. Shorter text is OK, but text longer than the
 original requires alteration and reassembly of source code (not easy). If the
 assembly program is designed to output to a printer, but not your particular
 printer, this can often be fixed. Usually all you have to do is alter the
 printer device name. I recently obtained a graphics program that would
 automatically print to an RS232 printer. The program wouldn't work for me
 because I have a PIO printer. I searched the disk sectors where the program
 resided until I found the following ASCII code:
 B R S B 2 3 B 2 . B L K followed by 4 blank spaces (each blank was hex 20).
 This looked to me like RS232.CR with an extra B after each two letters. I
 changed this with DISKO to read B P I B O . B C R B followed by 7 blanks, and
 the program now works with my PIO printer. Those of you with AXIOM, PIO, or
 RS232 printers that don't work with some assembly language programs, take note!

Brunner News Agency, 217 Flanders, Lima OH (phone 419-225-5826) has 50% OFF ALL
COMPUTER BOOKS. On October 1, they had 10 titles in stock about the TI99/4A.
 Brunner also has 20% off of all computer magazines. Among their regularly stocked
 titles HOME COMPUTER MAGAZINE and COMPUTE both support the TI99/4A.

A MANDY DANDY TI-WRITER USERS REFERENCE GUIDE

SUBMITTED BY BOB STEPHENS

The following handy TI-WRITER commands are reprinted for the June issue of the 99'er News published by the TI Users Group of Will County, Romeoville, IL. This puts the most used commands on one page for handy access at your computer.

=====		EDITOR COMMAND FCTN CTRL		EDITOR COMMAND FCTN CTRL		EDITOR COMMAND FCTN CTRL		=====	
Back tab		T	Ins. Blank line	8	O	Quit	=		
Beginning/line		V	Insert character	2	G	Reformat			2orR
Command/escape	9	C	Last paragraph		6orH	Right arrow	D	D	
Delete character	1	F	Left arrow	S	S	Roll down	4	A	
Del. end of line		K	Left margin rel.		Y	Roll up	6	B	
Delete line	3	N	New page		9orP	Screen color		3	
Line #'s(on/off)	0		New paragraph		8orM	Tab	7	I	
Down arrow	X	A	Next paragraph		4orJ	Up arrow	E	E	
Duplicate line		S	Next window	5		Word tab			7orW
Home cursor		L	Oops!		1orZ	Word wrap/fixed			0

Load files: LF (enter) DSK1.FILENAME (load entire file)
 LF (enter) 3 DSK1.FILENAME (merges filename with data in memory after line 3)
 LF (enter) 3 1 10 DSK1.FILENAME (lines 1 thru 10 of filename are merged after line 3 in memory)
 LF (enter) 1 10 DSK1.FILENAME (loads lines 1 thru 10 of filename)

Save files: SF (enter) DSK1.FILENAME (save entire file)
 SF (enter) 1 10 DSK1.FILENAME (save lines 1 thru 10)

Print Files: PF (enter) PIO (prints control characters and line numbers)
 PF (enter) C PIO (prints with no control characters)
 PF (enter) L PIO (prints 74 characters with line numbers)
 PF (enter) F PIO (prints fixed 80 format)
 PF (enter) 1 10 PIO (prints lines 1 thru 10)

NOTE: The above assumes PIO, DSK1.FILENAME, and RS232 are also valid!
 To cancel the print command press FCTN 4.

Delete file: DF (enter) DSK1.FILENAME

Setting Margins and Tabs: (16 tabs maximum)
 L - Left margin R - Right margin I - Indent T Tab
 Use ENTER to execute or COMMAND/ESCAPE to terminate command.

Recover Edit: RE (enter) Y or N

Line move: M (enter) 2 6 10 (moves lines 2 thru 6 after line 10)
 M (enter) 2 2 10 (moves line 2 after line 10)

Copy: same as move except use C instead of M.

Find String: FS (enter) /string/ (will look for string in entire file)
 FS (enter) 1 15 /string/ (will look for string in lines 2 thru 15)

Delete: D (enter) 10 15 (deletes lines 10 thru 15 in memory)

EXPLORER

YOUR WINDOW INTO THE 99/4A

Have you ever wondered how CALL SOUND, CALL SAY or the GPL Interpreter actually works? Or how Parsec sets up and scrolls its bit mapped screen? Or exactly what Extended Basic is doing when you type in LIST or RUN and it executes a program? Or how about the Interrupt Routines?

Imagine what else you could LEARN if you had an instrument that gave you total control over the microprocessor in your computer and you could stop and start it at will, at any point in a program or module and it allowed you to examine and change memory, or any of the registers or Cru Bits.

Well stop imagining because the Explorer turns our 99/4As into that powerful Instrument and Learning Tool! The heart of the Explorer is a machine language interpreter that thinks its a 9900 microprocessor. This allows you to be in TOTAL CONTROL of the application program so you can watch the Explorer's Main Screen with all of its dynamic information or flip to the ACTUAL Program Screen running in slower motion under YOUR control.

Along with ALL the other items on the Main Screen, You can also track up to 3 Dynamic Memory Windows for any area of CPU Memory, VDP Memory or GROM/GRAM Memory, in any one of 4 sizes. You can also Track, Display, Edit and Search any area of memory in Hex, ASCII and in ASCII with Basic Bias. This powerful interpreter also allows you to look in Break Points for ROM or RAM, Any VDP Write or Read and Any GROM or GRAM Memory access. And, at any time, You can easily modify any of the items on the Explorer's Main Screen or, with the aid of the Explorer's Registers Screen, the GPL Status and VDP Registers.

The number converter on the Explorer's Options Screen uses the same mathematical logic as the 9900 microprocessor. It will Add, Subtract, Multiply, Divide, AND, OR, XOR or NOT numbers in all three, Decimal, Hexadecimal and Binary, number bases at the same time so you can easily calculate what's going to happen next, before it happens. And, yes, it will convert negative numbers and numbers into their CALL PEEK or LOAD addresses.

To further assist you, and help explain what is going on, the actual 9900 source code for the next instruction to be executed is displayed. Also, the ENTIRE Main Screen is Dynamically updated after each and every instruction is executed, so you can examine, learn and control it step-by-step or TURN IT ON and watch it GO!!

This is an extremely easy utility Instrument to use with its function and Control Keys, Binary Switches, and its Full Screen Edit Control fields. It also includes a function key strip and an extensive 100 pages of documentation complete with Step-By-Step Explorations, Memory Maps, Register Information and Cru Bit Assignments.

• However, its only fair to warn you!

Millers Graphics has determined that the EXPLORER is very hazardous to your sleep!

- Expanded System Requirements -
Extended Basic or Editor Assembler or Mini Memory
Memory Expansion and a Single or Double Density Disk Controller System.
(currently not compatible with Myarc's MPES -Mini Peripheral System)
Price 24.95 Order Number UT02

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THE 99000 MICROPROCESSOR Architecture, Software & Interface Techniques.

This book features assembly language, programming and hardware interfacing techniques for TI's 99000 Microprocessor, the big brother to the 9900 Microprocessor. At 24 MHz, with Instruction prefetch, Macro store and a larger instruction set, this thing really flies. This is an in depth look into a powerful micro and its instruction set and it also provides some insight to the 9900 micro. Since it is upwardly compatible with the 9900 micro it could easily be used in a computer that would be compatible with the 99/4A!

Order Number B004 Price 14.95

AGRICULTURE COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

This book explains how to use your computer for Agricultural applications, as well as providing a practical approach, with examples.

Order Number B003 Price 11.95

GETTING ON-LINE

This book is a Guide to using Microcomputers to access data bases and information services, such as Compu-Serve and the Source. If you are just getting started with modems and information services this book will prove to be quite usefull.

Order Number B002 Price 14.95

ILLUSTRATED MULTIPLAN DICTIONARY

A time saving reference guide that is organized into alphabetical modules. It gives you quick access to detailed descriptions, varied applications, and hundreds of illustrations that explain how to run Multiplan to streamline everyday financial calculations. It also includes descriptions of Multiplan file types and mathematical and logical operators. The step-by-step keystroke sequences serve as a quick brush up for the avid user or a friendly learning tool for the novice.

Order Number B006 Price 16.95

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MG