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REPORT OF THE 1995 LIMA MUG CONFERENCE
by Charles Good

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Here are the directories of the three video tapes we have of the recent Lima Multi User Group Conference. There are approximately 16 hours of viewing on these tapes, with some neat title screens created by Bruce Harrison and displayed using his VIDEO TITLER software. I already have orders for about 25 sets of tapes and will take orders from anyone else who wants a set. I have 3 VCRs hooked up in such a way that I can put a master tape in one and make simultaneous copies in the other two. Thus, I can make approximately two sets of these videos (three 6 hour tapes copied in real time) per day.

ANYONE who wants a set of these videos can send me a check for \$15, which includes the tapes and book rate postage within the United States. Please send a little more money for airmail delivery to foreign locations. This offer is not limited to members of the Lima user group, although our members will get priority.

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Here is a short report of the Conference:

114 people signed the sign in sheet. 120 name tags were used. I know of several people there who didn't sign the sheet. These include my 14 year old son and his friend, both there for over 6

hours, and a well known Canadian visitor. Some members of the public came in and wandered around without signing in. I think it is safe to claim an attendance figure of 125.

The Super AMS card, 128K or 256K of bank switched memory for the 99/4A was shown and orders were taken by the Southwest 99er user group. A production run of 100 is scheduled for the week of May 1. The 256K card with several DSSD disks of software costs \$100.

Working SCSI hard drive demonstrations were video taped using systems working on a Geneve and a 99/4A. The /4A right now is limited to OLD, SAVC, and DELETE programs from BASIC to and from the hard drive. Now that David Nieters has a working SCSI card, rapid additional progress is expected for /4A SCSI. The Geneve version is largely complete except that there is yet no DSK1 emulation and no way to boot MDOS directly from the SCSI drive. There are advanced disk managment and sector editor tools available, and these are shown on the video tapes.

The latest Funnelweb editor for 80 columns gives you your choice of one 128K text buffer, or 2 64K buffers, or 4 32K buffers with the ability to cut and paste between buffers.

It is now possible to load the SCSI version of MDOS into and auto boot from a flashdisk on a Geneve. Before the MUG Conference this was not possible. Contact CECURE Electronics about this. 800-959-9640

I demonstrated TERM 80, which gives you an 80 column display and real vt100 emulation on an unmodified 40 column 99/4A system. It's on the video tape. The audience was amazed.

RXB v1001 now has working batch file capability. It is for Gram devices and used to cost \$25. It is now public domain.

PC99 stage 3 really blew the audience away. It is VERY FAST if you have a fast computer, and acceptably fast even on a 386. This is a 99/4A emulator that runs on an IBM compatible.

Ramcharged Computers has purchased the entire inventory of Asgard software from Harry Brashear. These are all legal copies and will be available to the TI community as long as supplies last, which may be years since this is a very large inventory. 800-669-1214

In summary, significant new hardware and software products were shown. There is life in the old 99/4A yet!

DONE

These pictures are from the article on page 5.



From: ab594@yfn.ysu.edu (lee renda)
To: cgood@magnus.acs.ohio-state.edu
Subject: Re: Article published in Lima newsletter
Reply-To: ab594@yfn.ysu.edu

Hi Charles,

Just read your post about the PDS Sports selling the CC-40 . Back in something like 1988 or 1989 I had a customer who purchased a cc-40 computer from me. He was a Bet maker on the Horse race track. He purchased his computer from me and his software from the PDS Sports. He later purchased a second CC-40 Computer from PDS Sports. I talked to both him and PDS Sports at the time. They told me that they had purchased the remaining inventory of cc-40's from Texas Instruments. There were over 500 CC-40 sold in that deal alone. I know personally that that is the case because at the time i was trying to work a deal for the remaining inventory of cc-40 computers. But TI Did not like my offer.

Just a little more of History from Ti

By the way , PDS Sports purchased regular cc-40's and put there label on the computers, not TI . Also the computer worked rather well at the track with this software according to my customer. He made a lot of money using this set-up. He also compared this setup to a couple of other computers , he had purchased to do the same thing, none preformed as well as the cc-40.

Thanks
ab594@yfn.ysu.edu Lee Renda

DONE

HARDWARE TO HOOK TWO PRINTERS TO ONE PRINTER
by Charles Good
Lima Ohio User Group

I have a Geneve and a 386 sitting side by side here at home. They have their serial ports cabled together so that I can convert TI disks to run under the two popular IBM TI emulators. I needed to hook both these computers to one printer, using either one printer or the other to operate the printer.

It seemed to me that what I needed was an A/B switch box with a little rotary knob on the front and cable connections on the back. I could plug the two printers' 36 pin centronics printer cable male ends into the box and use another regular printer cable (25 pin male at one end, 36 pin male at the other end, like the cables sold at WalMart) to

connect the box to my printer. Well, it seems that such A/B boxes are hard to find, although I don't know why because this should be a common application. Several sources advertising in Computer Shopper, the MEI MicroCenter catalog, and Radio Shack stores all have A/B boxes with 25 pin connectors for both input and output. The Radio Shack box was \$25. Nobody, it seemed, had A/B boxes designed to use with plane old regular printer cables with 36 pin connectors. I tried every computer store in Lima. What a bummer. To use the 25 pin in and out A/B boxes it would be necessary to have a custom printer cable made for the TI computer, with that funny little RS232 card parallel connector at one end and a 25 pin male plug at the other end. No TI printer cable I have ever seen looks like this.

A few days ago I was driving through the little town of Hicksville Ohio (the name pretty much describes the place) and I stopped at the town's computer store. "Sure," the owner said, "we have a whole case of those. Do you want to connect two or 4 computers to the printer." He showed me a sturdy metal box with two 36 pin connectors on the back labeled "A" and "B" and a 25 pin connector labeled "output". Made in China. On the front was a rotary knob that turns to the A or B position. It cost me \$9.95 plus state sales tax plus \$5 for a third 6 foot regular printer cable to go from the box to the printer.

If you ever need one of these useful devices you can get one from
Hawthorn computers
122 E. high St.
Hicksville OH 43526

DONE

THE PORTABLE HEXBUS MODEM
by Charles Good
Lima Ohio User Group

Those familiar with my TI computer writings already know that I am fond of the CC40 computer for portable word processing. It is small and easy to carry around, and its batteries last for hundreds of hours of "computer on" time. I have written about how I can dump text from my CC40 directly to the Funnelweb editor by cabling the CC40 and 99/4A together. Well, there is another way to transfer word processing text between the CC40 and a 99/4A. You can do it remotely and totally portably using the hexbus modem.

The hexbus modem is lightweight and small 300 baud battery powered device that follows the Bell 103 protocol and

can connect to any other Bell 103 compatible modem (most are). It is about 1/3 the size of a CC40. Power comes from four AA batteries or an optional AC adapter. When you buy the modem you also get a user guide, an 8 inch hexbus cable, and an eight foot telephone cable with RJ11 plugs at both ends. There is a power on/off switch on the front and another on/off switch on the back to connect the modem to the telephone line once a phone has been dialed and you hear the other computer's carrier tone. Also on the back are two RJ11 receptacles, two hexbus jacks and an external power input jack.

To use the hexbus modem you connect directly to the CC40 with the hexbus cable. You put the phone line in one of the modem's RJ11 jacks and use the 8 foot phone cable to link the modem to an actual telephone that you use to dial the phone number of the remote computer. When this number is answered you move the switch on the back of the hexbus modem to the "on" position.

TI's Memo Processor cartridge is designed to be used with the modem. With it you can create text documents and upload them to a remote computer or you can capture some text and save this text as a word processing document. You can also talk to the hexbus modem in BASIC. It recognizes the following CC40 BASIC statements: OPEN (for INPUT, OUTPUT, or UPDATE which is both), CLOSE, INPUT, LINPUT, PRINT, and EOF. Files are SEQUENTIAL, either DISPLAY (for text) or INTERNAL (for programs), and have VARIABLE record lengths.

Either the Memo Processor cartridge or the BASIC OPEN statement can be used to specify the modem's configuration options. These include answer/originate (default answer), data bits 7 or 8 (default 7), parity (there are 5 options here, default is odd) stop bits 1 or 2 (default 1), echo on/off (default on), Transfer type (how incoming data is sent from the modem into the CC40 - 3 options), stop receiving if data overrun (default Y), transmit and/or LF at end of each record (default both), and display "CARRIER DETECT" when remote modem carrier first detected (default Y).

The neat thing about the Hexbus Modem is that it doesn't need an RS232 interface and it doesn't need any external electricity. You cable the Hexbus modem directly to the CC40 (or TI74) and use the internal batteries of these two devices for power. The main disadvantage of the hexbus modem is that it is only 300 baud. That is the only baud rate available. If you want to use a faster modem you need to have a hexbus RS232. You cable the hexbus RS232 to the CC40 and connect the fast modem to the 25 pin serial port of the hexbus RS232. Both the hexbus RS232 and the fast modem will need an external source of electricity.

300 baud is just fine for transferring text directly into a remote 99/4A running a TI-Writer clone such as the Funnelweb editor. I am writing this article in Michigan, and

I am going to phone my Ohio home and transfer this text to my home 99/4A for further formatting and storage as a BVB0 file on a 99/4A formatted disk. When I call home my 14 year old son will turn on my 99/4A, bring up the Funnelweb text editor, type LF, and specify "RS232.CR" for the incoming file name. Then he will activate my 99/4A's external modem. I, in Michigan, will tell my CC40 software to "Send" "document", and this text will go out over the phone lines into my Ohio computer. When the RS232 light on my Ohio 99/4A stops blinking my son will press CLEAR (FCTN/4) and the text will be displayed on the 99/4A's monitor. He will then SF the text to disk. Neat!

I can also call my local library and access their on line catalog catalog with my CC40 and hexbus modem. The library puts out an 80 column 24 line display. It is kind of hard windowing L/R and U/D with the CC40 to see this display, but it can be done. Even with a CC40 there is enough memory to hold one page of such a remote display. Quite frankly, for accessing the library catalog I prefer a computer with a real multi line 80 column display.

By modern standards 300 baud is very slow and some on line do not support this slow baud rate. But the hexbus modem has its usefulness. For sending CC40 text it is perfect, since neither Memo Processor nor the Funnelweb editor accept baud rates faster than 300. I think the hexbus modem/CC40 combination was the first totally battery powered telecommunication package ever available to the public in 1984. The Tandy 100 computer, battery powered with a built in modem, came later.

Sources of supply: CECURE will sell you a hexbus modem for \$30 plus \$5 shipping. Call them at 414-679-4343. Jim Lesher also has hexbus modems. Call him at 214-821-9274 for price and availability.

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LETTER FROM SWEDEN

Dear Charles,

I have some more suggestions for your Geneve heat problem in BB&P April 1985. You can put the Geneve anywhere in the P-box so give it away from the warm AC/DC converter on the left side of the box. Use the 115 VAC setting (instead of 100V) in North America and the 240 VAC (instead of 220V) in Europe. Let the transformer do some of the job and less heat from the voltage regulators. (There are jumper wires in the P-box transformer that can be cut for these values).

Jan Alexandersson
Springarvagen 5,3 tr
S-142 61 Trangsund
Sweden

DONE

Using TI-Artist with FWB Editor v5.0
By Jacques GrosLouis



How do you like Lucy, Big Bird and Bert and Ernie. It has always been possible to print TIA instances using TI-Writer. This was accomplished by creating a transliterate file from an instance file. Printing of this conversion required setting the printer to PIO.CR when processing through the formatter. The above instances were processed through a conversion program and the resulting DV80 files were imbedded in this document file. The document was printed using PIO in ALL-CHAR mode of v5.01 on an FX-80 Epson printer. In order to put instances side by side as above your printer must support reverse feed. A reverse feed of 2 inches was placed between each instance. With the FX-80 printer this is invoked by including `<ESC>"j"CHR$(n)` in your document where n represents a reverse feed of n/216 inch. If your printer does not reverse feed you will have to print the document in sections and roll the paper back for each instance. The program allows you to set the tab position in the document which is produced. I usually set the tab position at 10 in the program and change the code once the document has been inserted into my final document. The FX-80 code is `<ESC>"l"CHR$(n)` where n sets the left margin in the range from 0 to 78. The instances above were set at tabs 10, 25, 40 and 60. You will notice that the program includes the tab setting in the file name.

There are a few limitations in the use of this program. First the instance which you wish to convert should be less than 10 columns wide. This is necessary because when a file is saved in DV80 format a CR and a LF is placed at the end of each 80 characters in the file. This plays havoc with the use of the single density graphics mode. Since each row of the instance appears on only one line of the file when less than 10 columns are used the problem is avoided. A second problem is encountered when code 255 is sent to the printer in graphic mode. This should fire all eight dots in a vertical line. In FWB character code 255 is reserved for another purpose and will not print properly. My solution was to change all occurrences of 255 to 254. A side effect is that this puts a part in ERNIE's hair. A similar problem occurs with code 32 which has been replaced by code 16. If anyone has a better solution please let me know.

I have left some lines and numbers in the printing of the instances above to show the spacing which must be considered when using tab and reverse feed. The printing of LUCY begins after 5 is

printed and a 2 inch reverse feed is called for between each instance. I found it difficult to properly adjust the vertical spacing for the placement of instances. A bit of trial and error was called for.

Instances which are wider than 9 columns can be converted and sent to the printer by setting the printer code to PIO.CRLF. The program handles instances which are less than 10 columns wide differently by placing a CR at the end of each line of graphic code. This permits the use of PIO to print the line. The graphic code for instances which are wider than 9 columns are ended with LF. The only problem which this creates is that if you tried to print an instance which is less than 10 columns wide with PIO.CRLF it will print double spaced.

The following program was adapted from a public domain program by David Dhein distributed with PLUS! v2.0 by Jack Sughrue. My changes were to send printer codes to a disk file instead of sending transliterate codes.

```

100 ! SAVE DSK1.TIA2FW5
110 E$=CHR$(27):: Z=0
120 CALL SCREEN(1):: DISPLAY ERASE ALL AT(1,4):"TI-ARTIST TO FWB v5.0": : "
CONVERSION PROGRAM"
130 DISPLAY AT(5,1):"INSTANCE file name:" :: ACCEPT AT(5,21)VALIDATE(UALPHA,DIGI
T)SIZE(8):NAME$
140 DISPLAY AT(7,3):"The file is on drive 1" :: ACCEPT AT(7,24)SIZE(-1)VALIDATE(
DIGIT):FD
150 DISPLAY AT(8,1):"Which drive for new file? 1" :: ACCEPT AT(8,27)SIZE(-1)VALI
DATE(DIGIT):SD
160 DISPLAY AT(11,1):"Print at Tab Position? 10" :: ACCEPT VALIDATE(DIGIT)SIZE(-
2)AT(11,24):T :: IF T>70 THEN 160
170 A$="DSK"&STR$(SD)&". "&NAME$&STR$(T)
180 NAME$="DSK"&STR$(FD)&". "&NAME$&"_I"
190 OPEN #1:NAME$,INPUT :: OPEN #2:A$,OUTPUT
200 INPUT #1:X,Y :: A=X*8 :: IF A>255 THEN A=X*8-255 :: Z=1
210 K$=CHR$(27)&CHR$(75)&CHR$(A)&CHR$(Z)
220 IF X*Y>25 THEN DISPLAY AT(20,4):"This may take awhile." :: DISPLAY AT(21,4):
"Please be patient..."
230 PRINT #2:E$&CHR$(108)&CHR$(T):: DISPLAY AT(14,1):"ROW:";Y;"COL:";X
240 PRINT #2:E$&CHR$(65)&CHR$(8)
250 FOR K=1 TO Y :: PRINT #2:K$;
260 FOR L=1 TO X :: INPUT #1:C(7),C(6),C(5),C(4),C(3),C(2),C(1),C(0)
270 FOR I=7 TO 0 STEP -1 :: A=C(I)
280 FOR J=7 TO 0 STEP -1 :: IF 2^J>A THEN 310
290 A=A-2^J :: B(J)=B(J)+2^I :: IF B(J)=255 THEN B(J)=254
300 IF B(J)=32 THEN B(J)=16
310 NEXT J :: NEXT I
320 FOR I=7 TO 0 STEP -1
330 PRINT #2:CHR$(B(I));:: DISPLAY AT(16,1):"ROW:";K;" COL:";L;" Char:";B(I):: B
(I)=0
340 NEXT I :: NEXT L :: IF X>9 THEN PRINT #2:CHR$(10)ELSE PRINT #2:CHR$(13)
350 NEXT K :: PRINT #2:E$&CHR$(100)&CHR$(0);
360 PRINT #2:CHR$(27)&CHR$(65)&CHR$(12)
370 CLOSE #1 :: CLOSE #2 :: DISPLAY AT(23,3):"Another (Y/N)?N" :: ACCEPT AT(23,1
7)VALIDATE("YNyn")SIZE(-1):Q$ :: IF Q$="Y" OR Q$="y" THEN 100

```



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