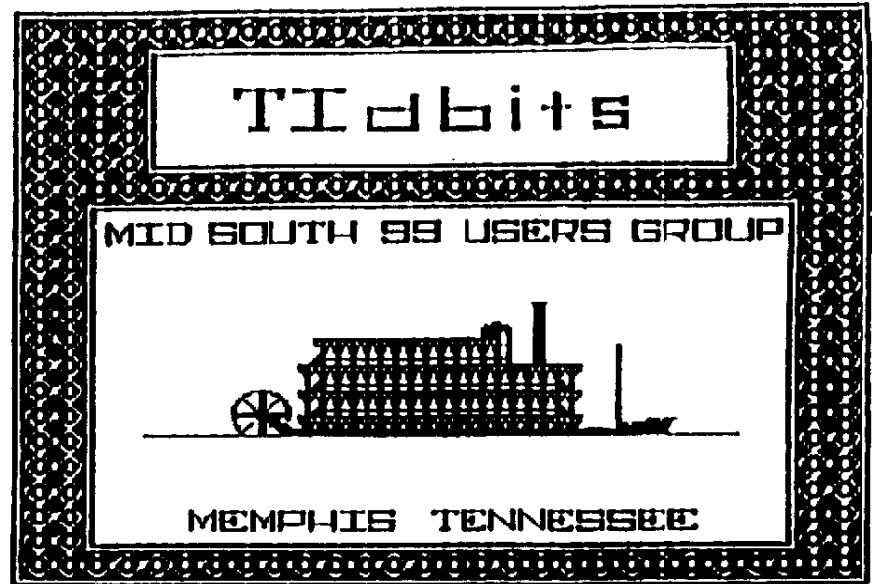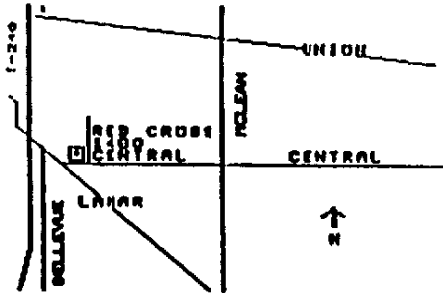## NOTICES

MEETING
7:00 P.M.
Thursday, July 19th
Red Cross Building
1400 Central Ave.

WORKSHOP
9:00 am - 12 noon
Saturday, July 28th
To Be Announced

TIdbits

MID SOUTH 99 USERS GROUP
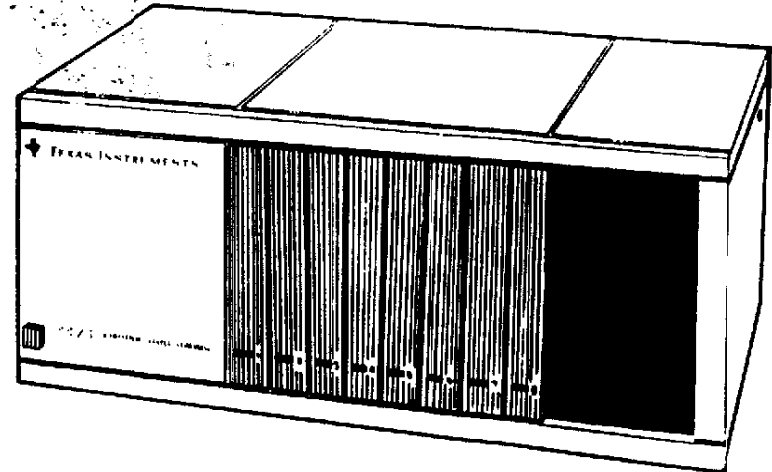
MEMPHIS TENNESSEE

JULY 1990 ISSUE

Mid-South 99 Users Group
P. O. Box 38522
Germantown, TN 38183-0522

OLYMPIAN

UG 2/86
DALLAS TI USER GROUP
P.O. BOX 29863
DALLAS, TX 75229

FIRST CLASS MAIL

16

TIDBITS

OFFICERS

Gary Cox	PRESIDENT	901-358-0667
Richard Hiller	VICE-PRESIDENT	901-794-9945
Michael Dorman	SECRETARY	501-732-5126
Bob Jones	TREASURER	901-363-9213
Jim Saemanes	Technical Support	901-476-7011
David Ferguson	Disk Librarian	901-795-3287
Pierre Lamontagne	CO-Librarian	901-386-1513
Michael Dorman	Editor - Newsletter	501-732-5126
Gary Cox	Program Chairman	901-358-0667
Mac Swope	Chairman - Equipment	901-363-3680
Michael Dorman	Midnight Hour BBS Sysop	501-732-5126

JULY 1990 INDEX

PRESIDENT'S BIT

By Gary W. Cox

Last months meeting went over very well with about 25 members in attendance. Our current membership is at nearly 70 members with a total mailing list each month of about 160 including user groups that we exchange newsletter with...

I am constantly amazed at how people continue to contact me about information on the TI99/4a! Recently I received a call from a person in San Juan, Puerto Rico asking for information on the TI99/4a as well as various people across the country who have seen our name listed in Home Computer Buyers Guide, Computer Shopper and Nuts Volts Magazine not to mention referrals from TI vendors and even TI themself! Although I promote our group I often refer TI owners from other states, who contact me to user groups in their state. All groups need to make an effort to be listed in the FOG user group listings appearing in Home Computer Buyers Guide and Computer Shopper as a great deal of contacts with TI owners are made through that listing!

Not too many months away is the annual Chicago TI Faire scheduled for November 2nd and 3rd. I am sure I will be going as well as several others have already expressed interest....

Our group still has in effect a user group purchase plan where the group will purchase a piece of software for a member if he will review it for the newsletter and demonstrate it at a meeting. Out of town members can take advantage of this plan as we will pay 50% of the cost for a review in the newsletter. Certain restrictions apply such as how much money remains in the budget for that month, cost of the program and if it would be of interest to the majority of our members. If there is a program that you would like to review call me to discuss wheather it will fit our plan...

Three video tapes of the May 26, 1990 Lima TI fair are available through our library. The tapes include all the demonstrations including one by our own Berry Miller. Plus one tape had an interesting news report recorded from a local TV station which covered the event!

Don't forget to call Pierre's BBS carrying the TI ECHO at (901) 386- 1760.

Don't yet subscribe to Micropendius? Why not? Micropendium is the most comprehensive source of TI specific information on reviews, tips and where to purchase products etc... Subscription is $25 a year. Write to Micropendius, P.O. Box 1343, Round Rock, TX 78680. We also have Micropendiums on sale at each meeting.

C ya at this months meeting...

PROGRAM BIT

MEETING: July 18, 1990 - Red Cross - 1400 Central Ave.

6:15pm - Doors Open
7:00pm - Meeting Begins
7:15pm - Demonstration by Gary Cox of Artoons!
7:30pm - Demonstration by Jim Saemenes of Spell It!
         by Asgard Software.
8:15pm - Demonstration To Be Announced.
9:30pm - Clean up period
9:45pm - Late dinner at Shoney's on Union Ave.

IN THE NEWS

By Gary W. Cox

According to rumor in the works are "speech modules" for the Speech Synthesizer along the lines of what TI had planned. If you have seen a Speech Synthesizer you may have noticed the little door which pops up which was to be for adding additional speech libraries. Also rumored is to be yet a new GROM device like the Gram Kracker and P-GRAM card. The rumored device is said to be used in the console module port. The next rumor on the wire is the possibility of a TI card for IBM compatibles giving IBM compatibles the ability to run TI software while taking advantage of the hardware of the IBM compatible computer. More information on these items as it becomes available.

Larry Conner of L.L Conner Enterprise, a supplier of TI compatible products, asked me to mention that they now have a FAX machine for placing orders etc... The FAX number is (317) 423-4879, their voice number is (317) 742-8146.

Some of the following from the TI Forum on Compuserve:

CHARLTON, HODDIE...form "Bluestreak Software," to, according to Asgard News, produce Apple Macintosh PC compatible software. Mike Dodd was mentioned as a principle as well, a fact denied by Hoddie. No software has been produced by the firm, and "Bluestreak" has not announced its purpose. .

HARD DISK NEWS...as Myarc continues to experience difficulties in shipping new Geneves and the HFDC, other sources of hard controllers seem to be appearing for a hard disk controller. Future sources include possibilities from Florida, Australia, Washington D.C., where else? Meanwhile, Triton still has Geneves, HFDC available for shipment.

NEXT GENERATION GENEVE...Perhaps it is time to bring current rumors about a "next generation" Geneve out of the closet. All sorts of people are saying that they have heard various "close to

the horses mouth" sources say it is being worked on. Lean over and smell the vapors. We hope these are true.

According to recent information the program under production by Asgard Software called PRESS has been discontinued and refunds have been made. The following explanation comes from Chris Bobbitt of Asgard Software:

> Charles Earl has spent the last two years trying to figure out whats wrong with the thing, and why things aren't working. For much of that he did it in full time, putting in 60 hour weeks - working till exhaustion and then collapsing for a day. He didn't tell me this, his friends and acquaintances did. While working on Press he made himself a virtual hermit.

> Finally, about a month or two ago he decided to "give up" on it for a while. This can mean anything you wish to imagine - I like to hope that its only temporary, but I can't say for certain either.

> I don't think the problem was lack of interest or lack of expected returns, if he had completed the project and Asgard had shipped his royalties would have been in the tens of thousands of dollars just in the orders we had on hand. Over the expected lifetime of the product he would have been most likely compensated on a level comparable to what a top-grade professional programmer could expect elsewhere - there was that much interest in it.

> Yes, I believe he is capable of it too - but for some reason he couldn't do it. He still remain good friends and so I don't think there are any personal problems either.

According to a message on Compuserve's TI Forum by Jim Horn:

> Triton, phone #800 227-6900, has dropped 2 of its catalogs, according to a recent report by a major Triton supplier, Asgard. The Spring and Summer catalogs, featuring 99/4A and Geneve products, are no longer to be published, with the last catalog coming out this Fall. This, no doubt, will reduce 99/4A sales, and this will reduce those crossing over into user groups from outside the circle of user groups. User groups have long depended on this source, and other "fat" in the after market left by TI to "keep the flame alive." Triton, almost ignored by user groups, other than as a "source of last resort," has quietly been mailing to a list reputed to be, depending on the source, from a quarter million to at least a hundred thousand. The discrepancy probably relates to the fact that Triton rotates through a mailing list of millions left them by TI, not mailing to everyone each time, and even culling off older non buying customers.

New from Asgard Software of P.O. Box 10306, Rockville, MD 20849 (703)255-3085 is The Animator. The press release description from Asgard Sofware is as follows:

ASGARD SOFTWARE ANNOUNCES "THE ANIMATOR" BY BRAD SNYDER

The Animator, by Brad Snyder, is a fascinating program that makes animation on the TI-99/4A and the Geneve simple and even fun! While other programs allow you to generate animation sequences, none other allow you to do so with such ease, and put the results to such good use.

An Extended BASIC programmers delight!

With The Animator, Extended BASIC programmers can create highly detailed demonstrations and games with dozens or even hundreds of simultaneously animated objects in mere hours instead of days or weeks. The compact, fast and efficient assembly code included allows all this to happen in the background while your Extended BASIC program takes care of the rest.

You create your animation frames and define their sequence in The Animator editor, convert them to Extended BASIC format in The Animator Converter (which will also allow you to import in TI-Artist artwork), and then combine them with the package of Assembly routines included to animate your creations. Your Extended BASIC program only has to concentrate on logic, interacting with the user, etc. Your resulting program can be distributed any way you like with no legal strings attached - create games and demonstrations for your friends, to distribute as freeware, or even sell commercially WhatUs more, the comprehensive manual includes a complete step-by-step description of the process used to create and include animation sequences into Extended BASIC - any half-way experienced Extended BASIC programmer can create animated scenes quickly and easily heretofore only possible in Assembly language.

Fun for Young and Old!

While Extended BASIC programmers will certainly appreciate the utility of The Animator, anyone who has ever marveled at the artistry of Disney cartoons or just wanted to play games with the computer will find The Animator provides endless hours of enjoyment.

With nothing more then a joystick and a few keyboard commands you can easily create up to 20 frame animation sequences, displayed in any order you like with any combination of repetitions of groups of frames. The results can be as simple as a cat running across the screen and as complex as the limits of your imagination. The results can be animated in several sizes, and even simultaneously up to 16 times on the screen!

The Details

The Animator includes an extensive manual that details how to use the programs in this package, as well as provides practical information for the user and the programmer. Over 2 years in development, this package is extremely well-tested, and guaranteed to work on both the TI-99/4A and the Myarc Geneve. The two-disks provided include numerous examples of both animation sequences and Extended BASIC programs with animation included in them.

The Animator requires at a minimum 32K, Extended BASIC and one disk drive. A printer (any kind) is recommended, but not required. Suggested retail $14.95. Shipping Handling: U.S. Add $1.00, Canada $2.00, Airmail $3.00

The following from the June 1990 Micropendium Magazine:

Barry Traver has released a disk, Coney Games, which come from the first two volumes of his TI magazine on disk, the Genial TRAVelER. The eight games include 31/cards, 31/dice and 31/sticks (three variations of the "31" game): GALE/GAME (also known as BRIDG-IT); NIMROW; PENNEYTOSS; SHUTOUT; and TICTAC/PHI (Tic-Tac-Toe, Philadelphia style). The games pit a single player against the computer or by two competing players (except TicTac/PHI). The coney Games disk is available for $10 from Barry Traver, 835 Green Valley Dr., Philadelphia, PA 19128. Phone is (215) 483-1379.

KBCC has released YALP! Yet Another Lotto Program, described as "loaded with features that allow you to approach the lottery with a serious, proven strategy for winning big! YALP! requires Extended BASIC and is available on cassette or disk for $6. Phase Disk 3: Challenge Words containing 120 single word puzzles, described as very difficult puzzels designed for advanced players, it is available for $4. KBCC has reduced proces on Spinner Memory Hotel and Quizzard, $6 each, and Spinner Phrase Disks, $4. For a catalog write KBCC, 653 Fair Ave. N.W., New Philadelphia, OH 44663.

Rave 99 demonstrated its new expansion box at the Boston Home Computer Fair May 5th. No formal presentations were made at the event. Dr. Donald Hahler of the group notes, however, that other "outstanding demos" were Hi Kyung Kim with MY-Art "with a disk of her whimsical drawings avalable," Jack Sughrue with Artist Print Shop, Bud Mills with Memex and Wayne Stith with Triad. Vendors displaying their new products included Texaments (Steve Lamberti), Bud Mills, CaDD Electronics (Mark van Coppenolle), JP Software (Peter Hoddie, Paul Charltor and Stith), Rave 99 (John McDevvitt), Asgard Software (represented by Mickey Schmitt) and Comprodine (represented by Jack Sughrue). User groups with displays included the Boston Computer Society; Club 99 of Attleboro, Massachusetts; MUNCH of Worcester, Massachusetts; Brockton Users Group; and the Nutmeg 99ers of Connecticut.

The Texas Instruments Club of Oxnard (TICO) has released Chess Traps, a monthly series of traps programmed and ready to load into the TI chess module. According to the group, Chess Traps is designed for experienced chess players to provide practice in recognizing traps and improve stategy. Skill levels in the series range from novice to Grand Master. Each volume of Chess Traps is planned to contain at least 20 traps, with most volumes containing 30-50 traps. More than 300 traps are planned for the series. Chess Traps, on disk, requires the Chess module, a widget and Asgard Software's Beyond Video Chess. Each volume is $5 plus $1.50 shipping. Purchasers will be advised monthly of future volumes. Orders should be sent and checks made payable to TICO's treasurer, Charles McDonald, 2204 Calle Bellota, Camarillo, CA 93010-2348.

TigerCub Software of 156 Collingwood Ave. Whitehall, OH 43213 is offering 400 disks for just $1.50 each and orders of 8 or more are postpaid. Catalogs are now only available on disk due to so few orders being received. Jim Peterson of Tigercub Software is releasing all his disks for free distribution except for Nuts and Bolts disks which are reduced to $5 each.

That's the news for this month, c ya next month...

FOR SALE

John Schultz has the following items for sale, TI99/4a black and silver console, Speech Synthesizer, TI Extended BASIC plus the following cartridges: Alligator Mix, Alien Addition, Addition and Subtraction 1 and 2, Parsec, Mind Challengers, Demolition Division, Amazing, Reading roundup, Reading Fun, Number Magic, Multiplication I, Minus Mission, Meteor Multiplication, Equations, Beginning Grammer, Alpinder, Adventure, Oldies but Goodies 1 (tape) and two books, Using and Programming the TI99/4a and the Technical Data manual on the console. If interested call John at (901) 754-2419.

Our group also maintains a supply of TI video modulators which we sell to members at cost ($5 each). If interested contact Gary Cox.

Have something that you would like to buy or sell? We will list it free here in the For Sale column...

LIMA TI FAIR

By Harry Brashear - From June Micropendium Magazine

I have been to several TI Fairs over the past three years and they were all interesting, educational, and fun. The best one yet to my way of thinking was the Lima Fair held in May.

I think a lot of people already knew what I didn't — that this one was strictly top shelf — and waited out a couple of others to come to Lima. Since no charges were involved at Lima, either for the participants or the crowd, it would be hard to say how many people came and went. The only reason to come to the sign in table was to get a free door prize ticket. Having noticed that a lot of people ignored this, I would estimate that 300 -350 people attended. Every user group and retailer that I talked with was tickled with the results of the day, I should also point out that since tables were free, there was a huge contingent of groups from all over the central region. It was positively inspirational.

There were a number of new products available from various vendors, not the least of which was the announcement of a new hard disk controller from Electronic Systems Development Corp. Release date is expected to be announced soon.

Asgard Software introduced some new packages for Page Pro, including a set of new borders, and a program called Title Maker. The latter allows you to create extra large font titles outside of the PP environment, then insert them as a Page Pro picture. We'll check these packages out a little further and talk about them next month (in Micropendium). There was also some discussion of the new MIDI port from Asgard Software but that may need a month or two to finish. That's all well and good, but what I want to say here is a little further reaching.

The Lima Fair is a phenomenon for a lot of reasons. First of all, the Lima Technical College campus, where it was held, is beautiful. The buildings are neat and blend nicely with the grounds, very conducive to the learning process. The space available to the fair was more than ample, easy to find, and included a cafeteria. There was plenty of parking, and if there were heavy loads, you could drive right up to the door.

The city of Lima is easy to get to, and small enough to get around without half trying. There are enough good motels within proximity of the campus to satisfy the weary traveler, and a good selection of food is offered around the city.

Also, for you train buffs - you can view the last Nickel Plate No. 779 built by the Lima Locomotive Works, and a nifty gear driven Shay while in the area. (That was a bit of editorial license concerning a few of us with "other" hobbies.)

I had the best day of my TI life at the Lima Fair. I want to thank each of this tiny group of dedicated TIers who give themselves to our community freely: Mel Nomine, Earl Heisterman, Bob Harshe, Charles Good, Harry Muntis, Andy Frueh, Mike Martinko, Aruid Harklov, Leonard Cummings, Dave Szipple, and any others that I may have missed in the rush. To readers - stick a note to your calendar and come on out to Lima next year - it's worth every minute of the trip.

SPEEDING UP TI-BASE

(C) 1990 by Bill Gaskill

(From June 1990 Micropendium)

Although TI-Base is a powerful data base management tool, virtually everyone who uses it agrees that it is a pretty sluggish performer in some areas. The gains that you make in flexibility over other data base managers comes at a cost; speed of operation. To be fair to TI-Base though, speed is really only a consideration with large data bases when performing certain operations, and with large command files, since each line of a command file must be interpreted each time the file is used. Despite the fact that TI-Base is 100% assembly language coded, there just isn't a whole lot of memory available to support the myriad of features that the program offers.

There are some things that you can do however, that help make the program respond more efficiently. First and foremost is hardware. Like most IBM-type data base managers, TI-Base uses overlays to make up for the computers lack of RAM. A program with more code than can be loaded into RAM uses available memory for the main section of code and then it reserves a portion of memory for overlays. When the program needs those extra features found in the overlay files it loads them into that reserved area of memory, makes whatever use of them that is required for the moment and then frees up the reserved memory for other uses. Overlay files reside on disk when not in use and thus must be read from disk when the time comes to use the feature(s) that they house.

HARDWARE:

Part of the programming code for TI-Base is a file named OVRLAY/P. It contains the features identified as program segments in the manual, which are those features used to catalog disks, list files, change colors and so on. Each time a program segment is required in some operation has to be read from disk, so the speed of operation of the program is slowed down by the disk access. In order to speed that operation up, you must reduce the time it takes to access the program segment in the OVRLAY/P file. The only way that I know of to do this is to run the TI-Base program from a faster disk drive.

The fastest drive that you can employ on a 99/4A or Geneve is a ram disk. Because ram disks are electronic, the speed of data transfer, which is of course what happens when the computer reads a file from disk, is as fast as the electric circuits in the ram disk and the computer will allow them to be. Any device that TI-Base will run on, such as the Horizon Ram Disk, or Grand Ram (with the hot keys removed) and I suspect most of the other ram drives like the Rave 99 card, the Foundation 128K card and the Corcomp and Myarc units, will speed up OVRLAY/P access appreciably. Second to that, a hard disk drive is the way to go. Hard disks are only slightly slower than ram disks. The worst case scenario is wher floppy drives are used. Regardless of the capacity of the floppy (SS/SD, DS/DD or DS/DD), or even the number

of drives you have, the speed of operation is going to be the same since floppy drives generally all rotate at about 300 rpm and then only on demand. For comparison, a hard disk drive rotates at about 3000 rpm constantly. With a floppy drive you lose time in start up of the drive from a dead stop, and then it rotates at about one tenth the speed of a hard drive. This obviously makes for delayed access to anything that is being read from or written to the floppy. Hardware-wise, a ram disk or hard disk is about all that you can do to speed up operation of TI-Base.

LOADERS:

One of the facets of TI-Base that seems to frustrate many users right out of the box is the time it takes to get TI-Base loaded. If you are operating from a floppy disk drive you will have the longest wait. Here again, the media used determines the speed of operation. But the loader used also contributes to the wait. TI-Base supports a variety of loading environments including Extended Basic, Editor/Assembler option 3, Editor/Assembler option 5 and the Mini-Memory module. The slowest loading environment is through Extended Basic. This is caused by the need to have the XB loader first set up a simulated Editor/Assembler environment that TI-Base can understand. So an extra step is required when the XB loader is used. This is the TIBASEB file on the program disk.

A faster option is to load through TIBASEP, which is the E/A option 5 loader that boots TI-Base through a program image file. If you use the Horizon Ram Disk with John Johnson's Menu program you can boot right from the Menu as a menu option. This is the most desireable method available from my perspective, since no module swapping is required and the program itself can be run from the ram disk. But even if you don't have TI-Base on the ram disk, TIBASEP will load faster than the TIBASEB file or the TIBASE file, which is a DF/80 loader for E/A option 3. If you are running TI-Base from a hard disk then you have only one choice, which is TIBASEW. Fortunately this is also an E/A option 5 file so it loads TI-Base with the least amount of time possible.

INTERNAL FILES:

TI-Base has a loading sequence it follows each time the program is used. Regardless of the loader used, the sequence always ends up at the LOADTI file. This file is the traffic manager for the program that places the code into memory. When you make your working copy of TI-Base you can speedup the loading process minutely by making the LOADTI the second or third file copied to the work copy disk. The first would be the XB LOAD program if you are going to use that loader, the second would be TIBASEB if the XB LOAD program is used, and the third would be LOADTI. If you are using TIBASEP to load TI-Base then the LOADTI file should be the second program/file copied to the backup disk. The savings in time is small, but every little bit helps.

A big time consumer in the loading process is the PRINTER drivers file access. It is loaded each time the SETUP file is booted and each field in the record for your printer is read. You can cut down on the loading time by simply placing a asterisk in front of the PRINTER statement in your SETUP file if you care not going to

be doing any printer activities during the current session. This turns the statement into a comment, which is not read by the command file interpreter.

COMMAND FILES:

Since TI-Base has only a small amount of memory left for "other" things after it is loaded, Command Files that exceed a certain number of lines are read from disk. This slows the program's operation down appreciably. Keeping your Command Files as small as possible saves operation time. Unfortunately, each line in a Command File is interpreted in un-compiled form, so command file usage is always going to be slow because of the interpretation process.

As experienced TI-Base users know, there are many operations that can be performed directly from the dot prompt, using TI-Base's resident machine code routines. These are of course much faster and more efficient in there operation than any command file. They are also easier to use. So you can speed things up significantly by using resident features as much as possible. For instance, you could write a small Command File to DISPLAY the contents for a data base like the one listed below;

```
* display
WHILE .NOT.(EOF)
DISPLAY FIELD1
DISPLAY FIELD2
DISPLAY FIELD3
MOVE
ENDWHILE
RETURN
```

But a more efficient and much faster way would be to type in the command DISPLAY ALL from the dot prompt. DISPLAY ALL could also be used to display only selected fields such as DISPLAY ALL FIELD1.

The interpretation of a command file, plus the use of a WHILE NOT loop to increment records in the command file above slow things down tremendously when compared to the DISPLAY ALL statement issued from the dot prompt.

When designing custom data input screens you will discover that a significant savings in time is realized by writing each field's data to disk as it is typed in, rather than holding an entire record in memory before a write-to-disk occurs. The ADDSCRN1 command file below shows the inefficient way to do it, while ADDSCRN2 shows the efficient way.

```
* addscrn1
CLEAR
LOCAL X1 C 36
LOCAL X2 C 21
LOCAL X3 C 15
LOCAL X4 C 05
LOCAL X5 C 03
WRITE 02,01 "SUBJECT:"
```

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```
WRITE 04,01 "  ------------------------;
------------"
WRITE 06,01 "SOURCE:"
WRITE 08,01 "  ---------------------"
WRITE 10,01 "TYPE  :"
WRITE 11,08 "-----------"
WRITE 13,01 "DATE  :          PAGE:"
WRITE 14,01 "      -----       ---"
WRITE 20,01 "  END in Subject field ex;
its to menu"
WHILE X1<>"END"
READSTRING 03,03 X1
IF X1="END"
RETURN
ELSE
READSTRING 07,03 X2
READSTRING 10,08 X3
READSTRING 13,08 X4
READSTRING 13,22 X5
APPEND BLANK
REPLACE SUBJECT WITH X1
REPLACE SOURCE WITH X2
REPLACE TYPE WITH X3
REPLACE DATE WITH X4
REPLACE PAGE WITH X5
MOVE
ENDIF
ENDWHILE
RETURN


* addscrn2
CLEAR
LOCAL X1 C 36
LOCAL X2 C 21
LOCAL X3 C 15
LOCAL X4 C 05
LOCAL X5 C 03
WRITE 02,01 "SUBJECT:"
WRITE 04,01 "  ----------------------;
------------"
WRITE 06,01 "SOURCE:"
WRITE 08,01 "  ---------------------"
WRITE 10,01 "TYPE  :"
WRITE 11,08 "-----------"
WRITE 13,01 "DATE  :          PAGE:"
WRITE 14,01 "      -----       ---"
WRITE 20,01 "  END in Subject field ex;
its to menu"
WHILE X1<>"END"
READSTRING 03,03 X1
IF X1="END"
RETURN
ELSE
APPEND BLANK
REPLACE SUBJECT WITH X1
READSTRING 07,03 X2
REPLACE SOURCE WITH X2
READSTRING 10,08 X3
```

13

```
REPLACE TYPE WITH X3
READSTRING 13,08 X4
REPLACE DATE WITH X4
READSTRING 13,22 X5
REPLACE PAGE WITH X5
MOVE
ENDIF
ENDWHILE
RETURN
```

DATA FILES:

With large data bases, data entry, edit updates and sorting are
the big offenders when it comes to speed of operation. If the
file that data is being entered into is sorted on a particular
field, then TI-Base will update the index or /S file for the data
base each time a new record is entered. This is what takes up the
time between entry of records. The same gremlin affects the
update of a record from the edit mode. To speed things up, the
best option is to leave the file un-sorted, meaning in its natural
sequential order, for data entry and editing. When you use SORT
OFF the /S file is still updated by the entry of a new record, or
the editing of an existing one, only it is not altered to support
any logical order for the records, only the physical order. The
drawback of course is having to go back later and sort the file if
you want to FIND any data, since the FIND feature only works on
sorted fields. However, if you have TI-SORT in your library, this
operation is much faster than trying to use the resident sort
feature that comes with TI-Base.

VERSION 3.0:

TI-Base Version 3.0 should be out by the time that you read this.
It contains many added features that expand the scope of its power
and utility as well as speeding up operations. Most noteable in
the "speedup" arena is the new INSTALL feature that allows up to
2541 bytes of command file code to be INSTALLed into RAM. This
means that the command file runs from memory rather than having to
be read from disk. While the interpretation process is still "in
the way" of total efficiency, not having to go out to disk for the
command file makes the operation considerably faster. Depending
upon their size of course, about four command files can be placed
in RAM with the INSTALL feature.

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GROUP INFO

Visitors and potential members may receive 3 free issues of
TidBits while they decide if they wish to join (no obligation).
On the top of your label is a code. A Y means you are a member, N
means 3 free list, UG means user group and S means a business.
Beside the Y is a date, one year from that date your dues are due.
A dollar sign ($) on the label will indicate that your dues are
due. The library is open only to members. Library list is $1.
Mail order disk library access is $2 for the first disk and $1 for
each additional disk - max of 5 disks per month. Order by disk
number only. At meetings, library access is FREE if you exchange
your disk for ours or $1 per disk for our disks. Send all mail
order library requests to librarian's address! Send dues and
correspondence to group address.

CALENDAR

MEETINGS: July 19, August 16 (3rd Thursday!)
WORKSHOPS: July 28, August 25 (4th Saturday!)

24HR TI BULLETIN BOARD

The Midnight Hour BBS   300/1200/2400/9600 Hayes 501-735-9980
Dial 735-9980 from Memphis area for toll free call.

GROUP MAILING ADDRESS

Mid-South 99 Users Group
P.O. Box 38522
Germantown, Tn. 38183-0522

LIBRARY ADDRESS

David Ferguson
3377 Creighton Ave.
Memphis, TN 38118

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ |‾| $15.00 FAMILY
ADDRESS_____ |_| $10.00 JUNIOR (under 15)
CITY_____ ST ZIP_____
PHONE(   ) -_____ :INTERESTS_____

EQUIPMENT, ETC. _____

Detach and mail with check payable to: Mid-South 99 Users Group,
P.O. Box 38522, Germantown, Tn, 38183-0522.

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