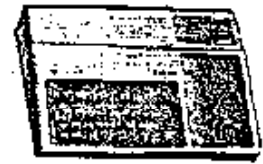


QB-MONITOR

QB99ERS' USERS GROUP NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 1990

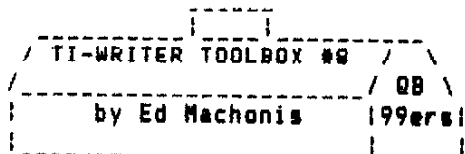
The QB-MONITOR, the Newsletter of the QB-99ers' User Group, is printed September thru June, and is sent to other Users Groups in exchange for their User Group Newsletters. Send exchange newsletters to Frank Cotty, Queensborough Community College, Bayside N.Y. 11364. Please credit original sources of articles and program listings.

January							1990	
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TI WRITER MANUALS

Some time back, TI Writer manuals were available from TI by calling TI CARES. The only charge was a \$3.00 Shipping and Handling fee. No need to send money in advance, your address on the package is an invoice. Just open it up and remit. Extended Basic manuals were also available at the same price and it may be that all manuals were being handled in this manner. You can't beat the price. I know I bought back up copies of both manuals. I don't know if any more are available but if you need a manual it would pay to check.

I don't care to go into the ethics of ordering a manual to use with Funnelweb but a mitigating factor might be that when TI sent revised versions of TI-Writer to user groups, it effectively placed TI-Writer in public domain and made distribution of Funnelweb possible.

If the manuals are no longer available from TI, Triton is selling TI-Writer complete for \$9.95. The manual is worth the price. Try to combine group orders to save the heavy shipping charges.

PARALLEL PRINTER CABLES

Did you know that TI made a Parallel Printer Cable? Neither did I until I ordered a printer cable from Triton and received a beautifully made cable TI Model No. PHA 2621.

Parallel printer cables for the TI are fairly scarce items, not available from your average printer dealer. Two that I have purchased in the past as compatible with the TI had to be rewired. If you are planning to purchase a printer, it would be a good idea to purchase a cable (and an RS232 card) ahead of time. When you bring that so called TI compatible printer home you can immediately try it out and return it if necessary.

The cable from Triton at \$16.95 is a good value. Why am I telling you all this in a TI-Writer Tool Box? Many folks are not doing word processing with their TI's for lack of a printer. If you have an expanded system, this upgrade is almost a must. A journey of a thousand miles starts with the release of a hand brake!

IT'S YOUR MOVE

The move command is one of your best aids to good composition. It enables you to place your words where they will do the most good. When I write, I frequently reread the prose I have written, especially just before saves. It serves two purposes. One, I spot a lot of typing errors and misspelled words. Secondly, I am able to check the continuity of my thoughts and see my phrases in relation to the whole.

Often I see where a sentence or two can be better placed in a different part of the essay. It's an easy Move if you know how. One enters the command line, types "M" for Move and answers the prompts "start line", "stop line" and "after line". What is being asked is the line number at the start of the text to be moved, the line number at the end of the text to be moved, and the line number after which the text is to be inserted. You must enter three line numbers, each separated from the others by a space.

The stumbling block is that there may be other text on those lines which are not part of the intended move. Since the most complex move is moving a sentence from the middle of one paragraph to the middle of another paragraph, we will use that as our example. Proceed as follows:

Make sure you are in the Word Wrap mode (Solid Cursor). Place your cursor at the start of the sentence to be moved and press FUNCTION 2 (Insert Character). The paragraph will split in two with the start of the sentence to be moved on its own line. Now cursor to the end of that sentence and again press FUNCTION 2. Again the paragraph will split and the sentence is now isolated with its own start and stop line. Take note of these line numbers.

Next cursor to the point at which the sentence is to be inserted and press FUNCTION 2. The paragraph splits; take note of the line number on which the first half of the paragraph ends. You now have all the information to make your Move. Enter Command Mode, press M and answer the prompts. Flash! It's *DONE*.

Not quite. You have a couple of broken paragraphs laying around. Cursor back to the point where you opened the paragraph for sentence insertion. Press CONTROL 2 (Reformat) and your paragraph is made whole. Next cursor to the break where the sentence was extracted and Reformat that paragraph. Now you are *DONE*

Notice how TI paid attention to the keypresses involved, FUNCTION 2 opens the text and CONTROL 2 closes it up. Also take note that even if you have Line Numbers toggled OFF, whenever you enter command mode, the line numbers are displayed. This is a big assist with the Move, Copy, Save File and Print File commands. Neat!

Moving text from the beginning or end of a paragraph to the beginning or end of another (or the same) paragraph follows the same procedure except that fewer breaks need be made to isolate text and no break is needed at the destination. Reformat as required after the Move. Rearranging whole paragraphs is easier yet, no breaks or reformatting required. And don't forget, 0 (Zero) and E (End) ARE valid line numbers.

But that ain't all folks! You can even Move text from another file into the one you are working on. Like maybe an address or you want to quote a previous letter or append your standard "Check is in the mail" paragraph. In these cases you must use the LF (Load File) command to do your moving. FIRST make note of the line number after which the text is to be inserted. This will be the FIRST number used with the LF command.

Go to the command line and type SD (Show Directory) and at the prompt enter the drive number containing the file with the text to be moved. Page through

the disk catalog until you see the file containing the text you need. Press the number at the left of the filename and then press V (View). (Just about here the TI-Writer users will discover why they should be using Funnelweb. This just can't be done with TI-Writer.)

The first 21 lines of the file will be displayed and the line numbers of the displayed text will appear in the lower right hand corner of the screen. Page through the file by pressing ENTER until you locate the text you want. Determine the line numbers it resides on by noting the line numbers in the lower right corner and then counting from the top or bottom of the screen. (You may have to page further to find the end of the text you want.)

When you have the line numbers for the start and end of the text, press FUNCTION 9 to stop viewing text and then press ENTER to return to the command line. Press LF and the target file name should appear as the default. Press CONTROL V to move the cursor to the start of the file name and then FUNCTION 2 (Insert). FIRST type the number you FIRST determined after which the text will be inserted, space, the start line number, space, end or stop line number and again space. There should be three line numbers in front of the target file name. Remember, 0 and E are valid line numbers if you want to refer to the beginning or end of a file. Press ENTER and the drive will engage and the desired text moved to the designated point.

I capitalized references to that FIRST line number hoping to fix in your minds which line number is entered first for the LF command. It is also good to remember that if you want to move the entire target file into your working file, it is the only number that need be entered.

Using line numbers in a similar manner, you can Move a portion of your text to your printer (with PF and then insert the line numbers in front of the printer name) or to disk (with SF and then insert the line numbers in front of the file name.

TI and the McGoverns have provided the tools. It's your move!

TAKING THE FORMATTER

This section is aimed mostly at Newsletter Editors although all others are invited to browse. Who knows, tomorrow may find you taking on this most important job. Many's the Editor has published corrected program listings after being fouled by the Formatter.

Most newsletter articles are run through the Formatter to reformat the margins and/or justify the right margin. However, if there are any program listings in the text, the chances are that the Formatter will take out a couple of bytes. One culprit is the asterisk, "*". This character is used in the Mail Merge option of the Formatter and the Formatter will not print it or the two following characters. (We point to a string in the value file by including *n* in our text and the Formatter does not print this pointer, whether we are using the Mail Merge option or not.)

So if an asterisk appears in your text, it and the two following characters will be dropped, which can play havoc with a program listing. (The asterisk appears in most program RND statements.) You can circumvent this by entering two asterisks followed by two dummy characters wherever you need an asterisk to be printed. (Whether to disk or hard copy.) But there is an easier way as you will soon learn.

Another booby trap is the ampersand, "&", used by the Formatter as an indicator to start underlining. It is also often used in programs to join strings together (Concatenation). The Formatter will not print the ampersand but will start underlining text if you are printing to hard copy. When printing to disk, the ampersand will be dropped without even the underlining clue to indicate that something is amiss. Again you can circumvent the Formatter by entering two ampersands where one is desired. And again there is an easier way.

The Easier Way is so named because you only have to do it once and you are forever protected from the Formatter's foul blows. First make a copy of your FNB or TI-Writer disk. Then using a sector editor on your copy disk, locate the first sector of file FO (FNB) or FORMAI (TI-Writer). If you have John Birdwell's excellent Disk Utilities this is very easily done. First select 1) File Utilities, then 4) File Editor, enter the file name and the drive number and you are at the first sector of the file. (Alternatively, copy the file onto a blank formatted disk. The first sector of the file will be on sector >22 (hex) or 34 (decimal).

Toggle the ASCII mode (Control A with DSKU) and slightly less than halfway down the sector (starting at byte 112 Decimal or >70 Hex) you will see *!@&_RS232.CR. (Another way to locate the first sector of the first Formatter file is to do a string search for this string.) Now, using the space bar, blank out the asterisk and the ampersand. The at sign, "@" is used for overstriking and this could also be changed or eliminated although I have never found it used in a program. It could appear in text however with unwanted results so it is best eliminated.

Instead of blanking out these trouble makers, you could substitute other seldom used characters for them. I don't recommend doing so mostly because I don't like having to remember two ways of accomplishing the same task. However, if you do a lot of cut and paste and want to retain underlining and overstriking then I suggest replacing the ampersand with the reverse slant, ASCII 92, and the at sign with the grave, ASCII 96.

Having blanked out or replaced *, &, and @, write the sector back to disk. (Control W with DSKU) If you have copied the first Formatter file to a blank disk in order to locate the first sector of the file, copy the file back to your FNB or TI-Writer COPY disk. Mark this disk "Editor's Version". You are * DONE *

FUNNELWEB CONFIGURATION INSTRUCTIONS
UGOC Release 1.2

(1) Introduction
*** *****

a. These instructions are presented as a service to the TI-99/4A community by UGOC - the User Group of Orange County (California). They supplement the FUNNELWEB Versions documentation. This release supports Versions 4.10 (May 30, 1988), 4.11 (July 4, 1988) and 4.12 (August 12, 1988).

Comments and suggestions should be sent to:

UGOC c/o
Jim Swedlow
7301 Kirby Way
Stanton, CA 90680

b. Print and read the FUNNELWEB documentation. Using the Formatter, print all files that start with "FWDGC" and "-READ-ME".

c. These instructions assume that you will operate FUNNELWEB from Drive 1. If you will use another drive, you will need to modify them accordingly.

They also assume a basic system and normal use. If you have special features or uses, you should be able to modify them to meet your needs.

d. If you need to press a key or keys, the "<>" signs will be used (for example, "Press <ENTER>"). When two keys must be pressed together, it will show this way: "Press <CTRL C>". <CTRL C> means hold the <CTRL> key down with one finger and then press <C> with another. Release both fingers simultaneously.

e. In boxes where you input information (a file name, etc), indicate that you are done by pressing <ENTER>. When this is necessary, it will be shown this way: "Enter the correct file name".

f. In Configure menus, you normally choose options by pressing the first letter. For example, the Top Menu has three choices:

Sysinfo
Quit
Install

Press <S> for Sysinfo, <Q> to Quit

and <I> to install. Such choices will be shown as "Press <Q>uit" or "Press <Q> to Quit".

A Menu layout of all Configure Menus follows these instructions.

g. <CTRL C> is used to move from the current menu to the previous menu. You can use <BACK> or <FCTN 9> instead of <CTRL C>.

A number of times these instructions ask you to press <CTRL C> to return to a previous menu. Sometimes it will be necessary to press <CTRL C> more than once.

<CTRL C> also now works in DM 1000 instead of <BACK>.

h. In many places in the Configuration Program, pressing <?> or <FCTN 1> windows in help screens. These screens are filled with useful information. You should check them frequently the first time you configure FUNNELWEB.

i. Also available in most places in the Configuration Program is the Quick Directory. Press <FCTN 7> to access the disk directory function.

j. Abbreviations:

Fwb FUNNELWEB
XB Extended Basic
EA Editor Assembler
TI Wr. TI Writer

(2) Starting Up
*** *****

a. Make a working Fwb disk. Use DM 1000 to copy the files you will need to a freshly initialized disk. A list of files and some suggested arrangements follow these instructions. Configure only your working copy. Keep an unmodified master copy "just in case".

b. Load Fwb with your working Fwb disk in Drive 1. If you are using XB, Fwb will autoboot when you choose Extended Basic. If you are using the EA module, choose "5. Run program File" and then press <ENTER>.

c. If you loaded from XB, choose Configure from the XB Menu. If you loaded from EA, choose User List from the EA Menu and then choose Configure. If Configure is not on either menu, you can load it through the LOADERS

function. Choose option 2. The file name is DSK1.CF.

(3) Top Menu
*** *****

a. Press any key to get past the opening screen.

b. Press <S> to modify the system information (Sysinfo).

(4) Sysinfo Menu
*** *****

a. Press <L> to load the system configuration file. Enter the file name (DSK1.SYSCON). You can have multiple configuration files with any names you choose. To implement one, you must activate the Configuration Program, load the configuration file and then install it (see step 12).

b. Press <E> to edit the system configuration.

(5) Loading
*** *****

a. Press <L> to access the Loading Menu.

b. Boot Tracking should be ON if you are loading from a disk drive. RAM disk users should turn it OFF as Fwb cannot track booting in RAM disks. Press to toggle Boot Tracking ON or OFF.

c. The number following "TI Writer side" is the drive number where the files that support the choices on the TI Writer Menu will be found. This number is used if Boot Tracking is OFF or if it fails.

The same applies to "Edit/Asse side". Normally both are 1. To change them, press <T> or <E> and then enter the drive number.

d. "Working Drive" is the drive number of the drive in which you will put your data disk. If you have a two drive system, this will normally be 2. Press <W> to change the Working Drive.

e. If "UL Immediate" is ON, the User List will be the first menu you will see when you load thru EA. Unless you want to access the UL immediately, you will normally want this off. Press <U> to toggle this ON and OFF.

FUNNELWEB CONFIGURATION.....Page 2

Turning this ON allows you to load Fwb from EA and have a menu that you designed completely appear first. This feature was added with Version 4.11

f. When all values are correct, press <CTRL C> to return to the main Edit Menu.

(b) Devices
*** *****

a. Press <D> to access the Devices Menu.

b. Press <E> for the Editor Printer. If you have a parallel printer, enter "PIO". If you have a serial printer, make sure that all the switches are correct.

c. Press <F> for the Formatter Printer. If you have a parallel printer, enter "PIO.LF". If you have a serial printer, make sure that all the switches are correct and that the printer name includes ".LF".

d. The Object, Work and Program file names are defaults for various Fwb functions. If you enter a name, include the drive designator (for example, DSK1.LOADFILE). If you leave the field blank, the drive number you designated as the "Working Drive" in the Loading Menu will appear (for example, if you designated the working drive as 2, it will be "DSK2."). If you want the default to be a different drive than the working drive, you can enter "DSKn.". Any file name you tag in the Quick Directory will over ride these default names.

e. Press <O> to update the Object File. This is the default file name when an object (DF B0) EA file is required (for example, when loading an object file).

f. Press <W> to update the Work File name. If you put a name here, it will be the default when you use LoadFile in the Editor.

g. Press <P> to update the Program file. This is the default when loading EA Program files (TI Pgm, GPL Pgm, E/A Pgm, etc).

h. When all values are correct, press <CTRL C> to return to the main Edit Menu.

(7) Colors
*** *****

a. Press <C> to access the Colors Menu.

b. The cursor will be on the first color choice. This is the screen colors that will appear when Fwb boots. The other colors are those that cycle when you press <CTRL J> in the Editor or 0 (zero) on most screens that invite selection by number.

You have several choices from this point:

<E>dit: modify the current color
<N>ext: move to the next color on the list
ack: move to the previous color on the list
<X>chg: exchange two sets of colors
<R>edo: restore the colors to what they were when you started
<V>iew: the current color

c. When all colors are correct, press <CTRL C> to return to the main Edit Menu.

(8) Menu
*** *****

a. Press <M> to edit the choices on the main TI Writer and EA Menus.

b. Press <T> to edit the choices on the TI Writer Menu and <E> for the Editor Assembler Menu. You can change items 4 through 7 on both Menus.

c. For each line on the Menu, you have these options: <E>dit, <N>ext, ack and <R>edo. These are the same as in Colors (see step 7b).

d. If you <E>dit a Menu line, you will be required to enter the following information.

i. NAME: This is the name that will appear on the Menu. This can be anything you want up to 10 characters.

ii. FILE NAME: This is entered just to the right of the Menu name and must be only two characters. This is the file name that will be loaded when you opt for that Menu choice. You cannot enter "DSKn." Fwb gets the drive number from Boot Tracking or the Loading information (see steps 5b and 5c).

iii. TYPE: Here you tell Fwb the file type. Move the light bar between the options by pressing <N>ext and ack. You have the following choices:

TIW PGM: Emulates option J from the TI Writer Menu. The file must be in EA Program format.

BPL PGM: This is used for most programs loaded by the EA "Run Program File" option.

E/A PGM: This is for EA "Run Program Files" that need EA Utilities. In general, use "E/A Pgm" if "BPL Pgm" doesn't work.

SCRIPT: This allows you to write a script for loading a series of object (DF B0) EA files. See FWDCC/UTIL for details.

LOW MEM: Loads object (DF B0) files into low memory. See FWDCC/UTIL for details.

LD/RUN: Use this for most "Load and Run" object (DF B0) EA files.

e. When you are satisfied with the TI Writer and EA Menus, press <CTRL C> to return to the main Edit Menu.

(9) XB List
*** *****

a. Press <X> to modify the Menu that appears after you load Fwb from XB. The first three choices ("TI Writer", "Edit/Asse" and "XB Return") cannot be modified.

b. You now have four choices:

<E>DIT: Use this option to Edit the current entries (that is, the XB List in the SYSCON file).

<F>ETCH LIST: Use this option to obtain the menu in the LOAD program. Normally this is the same as what is in the SYSCON file.

<M>AKE RESERVE: If you <F>etch a list, press <M> to make it the reserve list. Then if you later press <R>edo, this is the list that will be restored.

<X>CHG BUFFERS: Restores the previous "reserved" list.

c. During initial configuration, you should press <E>dit.

FUNNELWEB CONFIGURATION.....Page 3

d. <E>dit will show you the choices in the XB Menu. You have the normal keys active for moving from item to item: <E>dit, <N>ext, ack and <R>edo. See step 7b for definitions.

e. If you choose to <E>dit an entry, you will be required to enter the following information:

i. NAME: This is the name that will appear on the Menu. This can be anything you want up to 10 characters.

ii. BOOT TRACKING ON/OFF: Keep Boot Tracking ON if the disk with the file will be in the drive from which you loaded FwB. Turn it OFF if it will be in another drive. Boot Tracking does not work with RAM disks.

iii. SECONDARY NO/YES: If the drive for this file is different than the boot drive and if you answer YES to this question, FwB will look for the user file in the drive specified in step 5c.

iv. REMINDER NO/YES: If this is YES, FwB will remind you to insert the disk with the file. If it is NO, FwB will read the file immediately. Make this YES if the disk with the file will NOT be in the named drive when you invoke this Menu choice.

v. FILENAME: The name of the file that FwB should load. Include "DSKn." in the file name.

vi. TYPE: Here you tell FwB the file type. Move between options with <N>ext and ack. You cannot leave this field as a blank. You have the choices listed in step 8diii and:

XB PRGM: This is a standard XB Program.

XB RETN: This returns you to the XB "ready" screen. It works like the NEW command.

g. When you are satisfied with the XB Menus, press <CTRL C> to return to the main Edit Menu.

(10) UL List
**** *

a. Press <U> to edit the User Lists.

b. There are at least two User Lists to edit. The first one is called "UL" and is the user list that comes up when you press "8. User List" on the EA Menu.

The other one is the Disk Utilities choice in the TI Writer Menu ("3. Disk Util"). The file name is DS.

You can chain User Lists. The main User List can call another User List by making User List a choice on the User List. FwB convention is to call subsequent User Lists UM, UM, etc.

c. From the main User List Menu you have the following choices:

<E>dit Entries
<F>etch List
<N>ake Reserve
<X>chg Buffers
<S>ave UL File

The following instructions should be followed for EACH User List. At a minimum, you should modify UL and DS.

d. Press <F> to fetch the User List. Enter the correct file name (DSK1.UL, DSK1.DS, etc).

e. Press <N> to make the fetched User List the reserve.

f. Press <E> to edit the user list. Editing is the same as editing the XB Menu (step 9e) except that the file types "XB Program" and "XB Return" are not available.

g. Press <CTRL C> to return to the main User List Menu.

h. Press <S> to save the User List. Use the correct file name (DSK1.UL, DSK1.DS, etc).

i. <L>oad, <E>dit and <S>ave any other User Lists you will be using. Each User List is saved under a separate file name - revising one does not affect another.

j. When you are done editing User Lists, press <CTRL C> to return to the Edit Menu.

(11) Edit Menu - Saving the SYSCON file
**** *

a. Press <CTRL C> to return to the Sysinfo Menu.

b. Press <S> to save the SYSCON file. Enter the file name (DSK1.SYSCON or whatever name you choose to use).

c. Press <CTRL C> to return to the Top Menu.

(12) Install Menu
**** *

a. Press <I> to invoke the Install Menu.

b. Press <L> for "LOAD XB/XBII". The file name should be DSK1.LOAD. Change it if necessary.

c. Press <ENTER> to load the Source File.

d. When prompted, press <ENTER> to save the Target File.

e. Press <F> for "FW/UTILI others". Change the file name from DSK1.FW to DSK1.UTILI.

f. Press <ENTER> to load the Source File.

g. When prompted, press <ENTER> to save the Target File.

h. Press <CTRL C> to return to the Top Menu.

(13) Final Steps
**** *

a. Press <Q> to Quit.

b. Exit FwB and then reload it. The changes you have made will not appear until you reload the program.

c. Check all Menu choices to make sure that they work and that they look the way you want them to. If you go back to Configure to change anything, you only need to change those items in question. After you have <S>aved the SYSCON file, you must <I>nstall the revisions into LOAD and UTILI.

d. Load DM 1000. From the first screen, press <FCTN 3>. Make sure that the printer name is correct. If you change any information, answer <Y> to the save to disk question.

e. You are almost done. Make a back up copy of your configured FwB disk. If your working copy blows up, you won't have to go through all these steps to reconfigure it.

You now have three disks: the master, the working copy and the back-up working copy.

f. NOW YOU ARE DONE.

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FUNNELWEB MENU LAYOUT

TOP MENU

Sysinfo
 Quit----->Exits Configuration Program
 Install

INSTALL MENU

LOAD XB/XBII
 FM/UTILI Others

SYSINFO MENU

Load--->Loads SYSCON file
 Edit
 Save--->Saves edited SYSCON file

SYSINFO EDIT MENU

Loading
 Devices
 Colors
 Menu
 XB List
 UL List

LOADING MENU

Boot Tracking ON
 TI Writer side 1
 Edit/Asm side 1
 Working Drive 2
 UL Immediate OFF

DEVICES MENU

Edtr Printer
 Fptr Printer
 Object File
 Work File
 Program

COLORS MENU

Edit
 Next
 Back
 Xchg
 Redo
 View

MENU MENU

TI Writer side
 Edit/Asm side

Edit Choices:

Name
 File name
 Type: TIM Pgm
 GPL Pgm
 E/A Pgm
 Script
 Low Mem
 Ld/Run

XB LIST MENU

Edit entries
 Fetch list
 Make reserve
 Xchg buffers

Edit Menu

Edit
 Next
 Back
 Redo

Edit Choices

Name
 Boot Tracking ON/OFF
 Secondary NO/YES
 Reminder NO/YES
 Filename BSKn.NNNN
 Type: TIM Pgm
 GPL Pgm
 E/A Pgm
 Script
 Low Mem
 L/R A/M

USER LIST MENU

Edit entries
 Fetch list
 Make reserve
 Xchg Buffers
 Save UL file

The User List Edit Menu is the same as the XB Edit Menu except that XB Pgm and XB Retn are not available.

FUNNELWEB FILES

File	Purpose	Sesssess		Note
		SSSD	DSSD	
		Disk	Disk	
-READ-ME	Docs File			
AS/AT	Assembler			1
C99PF1j0	c99 Utility			2
CF/CB	Configuration Pgm		D	
CHARA1	TI Wr Characters	S	D	
CHARA2	EA Characters			1
CP	c99 Loader			2
CTBRAM	Cartridge RAM Loader			2
DP	Disk Patch	S	D	
DS	Disk Utilities	S	D	
EA	EA Loaders	S	D	
ED/EE	TI Wr Editor	S	D	
FMSAVE	Save Utility			1
FD/FP	TI Wr Formatter	S	D	
FNDQC/EASM	Docs File			
FNDQC/LOAD	Docs File			
FNDQC/REPT	Docs File			
FNDQC/TIWR	Docs File			
FNDQC/UTIL	Docs File			
FMSAVE	Save Utility			1
LDFW	Aux Load Program			3
LH	Line Hunter			1
LL	Low Mem Loader		D	
LOAD	XB Load Program	S	D	
MS/MH	DM 1000	S	D	
QD	Quick Directory	S	D	
SAVIT	Sample Script File		D	
SL	Script Loader		D	
SYSCON	System Configuration	S	D	
UL	User List	S	D	
UTILI	Loads FwB from EA	S	D	
VB4THLD	Forth Loader			2

1. These files are normally used only for Assembly programming.

2. Used with named programs. See FNDQC/UTIL for details. Include only if needed.

3. LDFW can be used to load FwB from BASIC in EA, XB II or Mini Memory. See FNDQC/UTIL for details.

PRINT A NUMBER

A Tiny Gram

By Ed Machonis

Here is an oldie I recently found when consolidating some disks. It was written at the request of our Librarian who wanted to number all the disks in the group library and needed a program that would print out consecutive numbers on a mailing label. (I believe he wound up using a program he wrote himself. This, of course, in accordance with Babbage's Law of Program Selection: "When Faced With A Choice Of Several Programs To Perform A Given Task, A Programmer Will Always Select The Program Authored By Himself.")

Numbering all disks in your library makes them easy to locate and easy to spot a missing disk. (Locating missing disks is another story. Fastest way is to make a copy of the back up copy.) If you plan to use the Mike Wright system of maintaining a hard copy catalog of your library in a loose leaf binder (with a catalog of each numbered disk on a separate page in numerical order), I think you will find this program handy.

To save labels and use an appropriate size, two consecutive numbers are printed on each label. The program will ask you for a starting number and a last number, which may not exceed 500. This makes it easy to run off a set of numbers whenever disks are added to the library. You may also enter a name to be printed with each number, i.e., "QB99ers". The name may not exceed 7 characters (as in BACK UP). You may of course just press <ENTER> in response to the prompt and only numbers will be printed.

The names and numbers are printed in Expanded, Emphasized type for ease of locating. The numbers are printed as 3 digit numbers and leading zeroes are added as required for numbers less than 100. The name is centered above the number. Cut the labels in half before peeling them from the backing.

If for some reason, (back up disks?), you ALWAYS want two copies of each number, change line 9 as follows:

```
9 PRINT #1 ;; PRINT #1:T$;T$
  ;; PRINT #1 ;; X=X+1 ;; PRI
  NT #1;" ";N$(X);" ";N$
  (X) ;; PRINT #1 ;; PRINT #1
```

Two copies of each number can also be had by simply running the program twice.

(CODED FOR EPSON PRINTERS)

```
1 ! ****PRINT A NUMBER****
  * A Tiny Gram *
  * By Ed Machonis *
  *QB99'ers, Bayside NY*

2 DIM N$(500)

3 DISPLAY AT(12,1)ERASE ALL;
  "PLACE PRINTER ON LINE" ;; 0
  PEN #1:"PID" ;; PRINT #1;CHR
  $(27)&"W"&"I";CHR$(27)&"E"

4 CALL CLEAR ;; INPUT "FIRST
  NUMBER? ";L ;; PRINT ;; INP
  UT "LAST NUMBER? ";H ;; IF H
  >500 THEN 4 ;; INPUT "NAME?(
  7 CHAR'S MAX)";T$

5 IF LEN(T$)>7 THEN 4 ;; T$=
  RPT$(" ",((7-LEN(T$))/2)+.5)
  &T$&RPT$(" ",(7-LEN(T$))/2)

6 FOR X=L TO H

7 A$=STR$(X) ;; IF LEN(A$)<3
  THEN N$(X)=RPT$("0",3-LEN(A$
  ))&A$ ELSE N$(X)=A$

8 NEXT X ;; X=L-1

9 PRINT #1 ;; PRINT #1:T$;T$
  ;; PRINT #1 ;; X=X+1 ;; PRI
  NT #1;" ";N$(X);" ";N$
  (X+1) ;; X=X+1 ;; PRINT #1 ;;
  PRINT #1

10 IF X<H THEN 9 ELSE 4
```

TI-99/4A Lives On!

An Orphan Survives with Help of Loyal Users, Vendors

by Joel Dreyfuss

One nightmare haunts the consciousness of computer users who skate on the cutting edge of technology: to wake up one morning and discover that the manufacturer has stopped making their beloved machine. Such abandonment may be inevitable in the fast-changing world of computers, but it doesn't soften the blow. Those who cut their teeth on CP/M-based Osbornes and Kaypros were soon cast adrift in the surging tide of MS/DOS. In turn, quite a few owners of Eagles, Victors and Columbia personal computers found themselves abandoned when those companies went bankrupt.

The most famous—and most widely used—orphan computer of all may be the Texas Instruments TI-99/4A, launched 10 years ago as the chip maker's entry into the fledgling market for personal computers. With comedian Bill Cosby as spokesman, Texas Instruments made some 3 million of the little slab-like machines during a four-year period before getting caught up in a price-cutting war it couldn't win.

In December 1983, TI announced it would stop making the TI-99/4A. For thousands of users, the nightmare had come true: They were out in the cold.

But the 99 lives! There's no better proof than the Texas Instruments Forum (GO TIFORUM), where "99" diehards share information about equipment, software and technical problems, and track user group meetings in the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia.

Since abandonment made the 99 by necessity a hacker's machine, it isn't surprising that programming languages dominate the forum's libraries: Forth, C, Assembly, BASIC, Pascal and P-system. But there also are games, utilities and music programs. The TI Forum bristles with advice for the beginner who has just dusted off an old 99, but it also will guide the expert through a complex programming problem.

No doubt, the large number of machines produced by TI created a user base large enough to assure the computer's survival and guarantee profits to the companies who service 99 users. So does the 99's sturdiness. Texas Instruments was a military contractor and the 99 was built to meet military specifications. "It could probably take two hits of a .50-caliber machine gun and survive," says Jim Horn, a Rockville, Md., resident who administers the forum. Horn, who is

retired from the military, is one of many users who first came across the 99 in a PX and fell in love with it.

The 99 was more than tough. It was an advanced machine for 1979: a 16-bit computer when Apple IIs and CP/M machines used 8-bit chips and long before the PC was a gleam in IBM's eye. Initially it was a modest machine with 16K RAM, 72K of ROM, a built-in operating system and a cartridge slot, but TI soon introduced an expansion box that gave the 99 a future. The box had eight slots and the capacity to control disk drives. Horn estimates that 80 expansion cards are now available and that users hook up everything from external hard disks to laser printers.



Dispenses expert TI advice: Beebe

Unlike the fate of most orphan computers, a number of companies still actively support the 99: Myarc, a New Jersey manufacturer, makes the Geneve card, which gives the 99 an 80-column display, extended memory and advanced graphics. Asguard, a Maryland software distributor, has introduced 25 software products for the 99; Triton, a distributor owned by software giant Ashton-Tate, carries products for the 99, including a version of Microsoft's Multiplan spreadsheet that sells for \$18. Even TI, the original maker, provides some support. According to users, the company will repair the interface box that connects the 99 to a television set.

Another reason for the 99's resilience is the constantly evolving base of new young users who turn up those strange little slabs. "We call them third-generation users," says Horn. "But the first and second generations never operated the box." To a beginning computerphile, the

99's first attraction is price; a shrink-wrapped 99 console sells for \$75; you can pick up a used 99 for about \$25 at a computer fair, and as little as \$5 at a yard sale.

Matt Beebe is one of those "third generation" users, a 15-year-old who often dispenses expert advice on the forum. Beebe, who lives in Millford, Mich., 50 miles northwest of Detroit, got his "4A" in 1980 when he was just seven. He started with games and simple programming and expanded his machine for word processing when he reached junior high school. He later added a modem and a CompuServe subscription.

Beebe, who helps out on the TI Forum, estimates that he spends 20 hours a week online writing messages and answering questions. His age has never been an issue: "On CompuServe nobody ever thinks to ask how old you are," he says.

Beebe, who takes computer classes in high school, had a big decision to make last year: Should he switch to an IBM PC? He evaluated the costs and decided to stick with the 99. "The IBM would have cost twice as much and not given me much more except—maybe—a better word processor," he concluded. He added a Geneve card and color monitor (512 by 640 resolution) and is working on some software he hopes to sell commercially. He does offer a backhand compliment to the IBM PC he uses at school. "It's really nice," he says. "You can do just about anything you can do on the 99/4A."

His loyalty is typical of 99ers. They scrounge the junkyards for machines, travel hundreds of miles to user group meetings and fiercely defend their aging machines against the adoration of the newer and better that dominates the world of computers.

Horn has his own pet project. He wants to rescue the thousands of 99s gathering dust in closets and basements and get them into the hands of the many children who don't own their own computers. One teacher who obtained a number of 99s reported important gains when she allowed students to take their computers home, something she couldn't do with more expensive machines.

Horn tries to explain that fierce cult-like allegiance of 99ers. "We've been out on the limb since December 1983," he says. "We're a community. It's wonderful to enjoy the freedom that being an orphan gives you. Nobody's going to rescue you." For those loyal 99ers, the TI Forum on CompuServe is the lifeline to a world of support.

Joel Dreyfuss, who covers the computer industry for Fortune, has a Kaypro II in his closet.