



AIRPORT AREA COMPUTER CLUB
 POST OFFICE BOX 710
 CORAOPOLIS, PENNSYLVANIA 15108

Next meeting: 6:30 PM Sunday January 8, 1989 at the John Jay Building, Room 22,
 at Robert Morris College. Ask the guard for directions.

January 1989

Newsletter

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Airport Area Computer Club
 P.O. Box 710
 Coraopolis, PA 15108



ALLAS TI COMPUTER GROUP
 P.O. BOX 29863
 DALLAS, TX 75229

Scratching With Tony!

by Tony Brower (reprinted from Great Lakes Computer Group newsletter)

In the modern music industry gramophone records are often terribly maltreated. Now, it is not necessary to maltreat them any more, since a simulation of the scratch sounds can be easily reproduced by our computer. So, for the hiphoppers and scratchers amongst you: Put the records away and take up the "enter" key!

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10 ! COMPUTER SCRATCH
20 ! by TONNY BROWER '88
30 CALL INIT :: FOR A=9640 TO 9515 :: READ B :: CALL LOAD (A,B):: NEXT A
40 DISPLAY ERASE ALL AT (5,5):"COMPUTER SCRATCHING": : : TAB (6);"USE
'ENTER' !"
50 CALL LOAD(8192,36,244):: CALL LINK("S")
60 DATA 2.0,208.0,216.0,132.0,4,204,2,1,0,1,31,5,22,2,6,1,22,4,5,129,4,0,19
70 DATA 250,192,129,2,66,0,15,2,98,0,192,6,194,216,2,132,0,192,129,10,66,216,
2,132,0,16,235
  
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Comments About Tex-Comp's Commercial Sales of Fairware Disks

An editorial by Charles Good (from Lima 99/4A Users Group)

Several months ago I published an editorial supporting the sales of PUBLIC DOMAIN software by Tex-Comp for \$4.95 a disk. I now believe that a distinction should be made between commercial sales of true public domain software and the commercial sale of copyrighted fairware software that is normally freely distributed and copied on a "pay for it if you like it and use it" basis.

The following is quoted from the -READ/ME file of the Sept 12 release of FUNNELWEB v4.12. Similar statements are found in the docs of all FUNNELWEB releases since at least v4.0. "(FUNNELWEB) is not to be sold or distributed with excessive copy fees, nor made part of ANY (emphasis is that of the FWB authors) commercial sale no matter what weasel-worded disclaimers are made, nor placed on copy-protected disks."

The following is quoted from a letter written by Tony McGovern on Oct 18 to the Lima User Group. Tony is co-author of FUNNELWEB. The comments refer to the sale by Tex-Comp of "FUNNELWEB FARM UTILITY". Tony writes, "Nothing much I can say about Tex-Comp. They certainly never had the courtesy to ask first, and given their record on DM1000 wouldn't take no for an answer. (They can get away with it legally too on foreign to US material, because the US, like the USSR - great power arrogance both, does not respect other countries' copyright) Heaven knows what version they have. I drafted a letter to MICROpendium over it but still haven't sent it off yet. They aren't charging that much that I get all worked up - it's just the thievery." EDITORIAL NOTE ON THE ABOVE: The United States Senate in late October 1988 finally ratified the international copyright treaty, so the Australian copyright statement on the FUNNELWEB title screen should NOW be recognized as valid in the United States.

The following is quoted from a Tex-Comp advertisement offering DM1000 v3.5 for sale. The advertisement is on page 19 of the October 88 issue of MICROpendium. "It (DM1000) originally stated life as a Canadian copy of the Cor-Comp Disk Manager and has been improved by users all around the world. V3.5 is considered the most reliable version to date and we have received permission from Cor-Comp to distribute it as freeware."

The following is quoted from the last page of the DM1000 v3.5 documentation as released by the Ottawa (Canada) TI-99/4A User's Group. "Disk Manager 1000 was written completely from scratch and does not operate the same as other disk manager programs. Although Disk Manager 1000 may look similar to the CorComp disk manager, it is a completely different program with different features."

EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE ABOVE: Tex-Comp's statement about having permission to distribute DM1000 is meaningless. I too might give Tex-Comp permission to distribute DM1000. However this permission is not mine to give! Neither can CorComp authorize distribution of DM1000, since it isn't Cor-Comp's program. It seems to me that TexComp is exceeding its moral and perhaps legal authority in selling copyrighted fairware software without permission of the author or copyright holder.

manipulate them. It has made me feel most inadequate following a man of his skills into this position. I was a late arrival in the TI99 arena, and always felt that I knew far less than other members about the machine.

I suspect that you may have guessed by now that I feel unable to continue as President for 1989. I got no volunteers at the last two meetings, except for a fine offer to be Treasurer.

Your past officers have discussed the situation a number of times. We have experienced a decline in membership over 1988. Can we even continue as a TI99 specific organization? Your officers have felt that if we expand the subject matter of the Club, that the TI99 would simply get swamped by whatever machine(s) we expanded to cover. That cannot be proven without trying, but after one changes there is little possibility of going back. It is almost certain that we could gain more members if we expanded to cover such machines as the IBM or Atari. One reason that I did not collect any 1989 dues at the December meeting was that I felt we had to discuss the future direction of the group before we asked the TI99 members for support for an organization which might no longer primarily support their interests.

I would appreciate the members coming to the January 8th meeting with some ideas as to how we can proceed. We have a meeting place; that is not a problem. I am reluctant to be responsible for providing the programs and equipment. I probably can still help with the newsletter, but that also remains to be seen. I will have some software at the meeting, so it will not only be an organizational discussion. It is of course important for all of our members to be at this meeting to set the future course of the group. It is extremely difficult for me to be the one to bring this matter to a head. It seems a further failure to me, but I cannot scrape together the time by stealing from my other chores. I really need your help in this decision.

Over the past year I have collected some old software at sales which I will try to bring to this meeting for a "close-out" sale. It is not things that I have used or tried, but "new" in original packages. I might even have some used also, but I am not selling off the TI yet. If someone is seriously interested in the Geneve I suspect that I could offer them a real bargain on it!

In October I ordered a copy of PRESS from Asgard, after receiving an ad from them describing this great new word processor. Asgard hoped to deliver the program by the end of the year. I cancelled my order last week. \$60 seemed a lot to pay for a program just to demo it for the club and probably never use it again. That's like TI-Base. Anyone interested in a bargain on a once used data base program?

Finally, I wish to apologize to the member who wanted a copy of the disk he described as "the one with tiles". I thought that he meant TITRIS, but suspect now that he was talking about Breaker. Sorry, I will of course substitute the requested program at the January meeting. A communication failure that I only recognized after the meeting.

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Quo Vadis?

1989. Where do we go this year? What is in store for the AACC?

I suspect that many of you have been able to discern from some of the recent newsletter that I am having trouble keeping up with my duties as President of the Club. As I write this on New Year's Day - one week before our next meeting - my systems are still in the boxes in which I carried them to the last meeting. Each month I have found it more and more difficult to find the time to reassemble the two systems, locate suitable software for demonstrations, and try out the software sufficiently to even give a semblance of a satisfactory demonstration. The software I demo each month gets added to various heaps around the computer desk, without ever getting properly stored in its proper subject disk case. The mess itself gets more discouraging every month.

Probably the most discouraging aspect is the failure of Myarc to deliver on the Geneve. The news was the Myarc was going to finally deliver the missing software by November 30th. Myarc transferred the responsibility for completing the software to Georgia, as the plant is now concentrating on the more profitable hard disk for the TI99/4A market. It seems the Myarc won't (or can't) tell software developers outside the firm how to write software for the Geneve. After all of this time I have grave doubts that there will be much market for Geneve software. It probably was a mistake to develop a new computer for the p-box, which wasn't all that commonly available, seriously limiting the market for the new machine.

Two months ago I acquired my fifth computer, an Atari ST. It is an early machine which still needs one upgrade, but it is far easier to use than the Geneve ever will be. I already have four chess programs for the ST which will keep me well occupied for the rest of the Winter and then some.

So, where does that leave me? My original computer (and the one I happen to be writing this on) is a TI Professional (8088 microprocessor, not really IBM compatible). Also here at home are the TI99/4A and the Geneve, as well as the Atari. My wife has been trying to figure out how to provide space for all of these machines in the den - which also has the electric typewriter and the typesetting machine for book publishing! At the office I have my IBM XT compatible, along with the LaserJet and the scanner. Oh yes, I forgot to mention that I have the two printers in the den, a TI855, on which I will print this, and a Panasonic 1080i. A real hardware nut, right!

At the meetings I have mentioned my publishing hobby. Trying to keep up with the TI99 software and my Presidential responsibilities has really set me back in the publishing. I have fallen a full year behind in typesetting one book. The author has been patient with me, but the market keeps demanding delivery of the long delayed project. I really don't need that added pressure.

I have of course never felt comfortable trying to even partially fill the shoes of Joe Spiegel. He is a technical expert that never fails to amaze me with his instant comprehension of electronics and his ability to