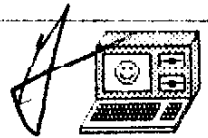


CALL SOUNDS

The Newsletter of
The CENTRAL WESTCHESTER 99'ERS



APRIL 1986

TICOFF A BIG SUCCESS

The first Texas Instrument Computer Owners Fun Fest was just that. As Hubert Deri said at our last meeting, when asked to report on his day at the Fest, "I had fun, I had a great Time!".

Not only was there a fine choice of vendors from whom to buy software, hardware, disks, electronics, etc. but also a constant selection of speakers, all well known in the 99'er field.

New Myarc Computer Postponed again.

Elsewhere in this issue, Al Trudeau reports on the almost two hour seminar, so little will be said here, except that once again, many were disappointed by this. In addition, some comment off of the TI Forum (on CompuServe) was also adverse. Disappointment or not, the session sparked much lively debate and was interesting.

Plans for 1987 Begun.

Preliminary planning for next year is already under way. Many people have come forth with constructive suggestions for improvements and they will certainly be given serious consideration. However, for a first effort, except for the loss of the programs due to computer failure at 3 am the morning of the show. Everything went very well.

We want to thank the members of NEWJUG who helped us at the Tigercub and Fairware booths - They really were great and we could not have managed without them!

METRO REGION CONFERENCE #2
APRIL 12TH AT GIFFENSBORO CC
Hosted by the **QB 99'ers**

Directions from Westchester: Take the Throg's neck bridge to the Clearview Expressway. The Clearview ends at Springfield Blvd. Go North on Springfield Blvd two blocks to 56th Ave. Turn right to the gate house. Go Straight ahead once inside the grounds to the Science Building. There are permanent signs as you exit the Clearview pointing the way to the college.

Time: 1 pm to 6 pm

A big crowd is expected and "close by" parking is limited, so unless you want to do a bit of walking, come early.

The QB'99'ers have big plans and at least 6 clubs are putting on educational seminars. Lou Philips is also expected to be one of the speakers.

We are a charter member of the Metropolitan Region Conference of 99/4A clubs, so lets have a good showing, **-EVERYBODY come!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEXT MEETING: Thursday April 17th, 8 pm at the American Legion Hall, 56 Broad St. Hawthorne, NY.

Program for the April meeting will be a demonstration of two programs that enable you to read and write to disks. The first will be DISKO, the second will be Advanced Diagnostics.

We have had a Complaint that we have not had a question and answer section in several meetings. **Bring** in your problems and questions, We will set aside at least 30 to 40 minutes just for this!

Programs for future meetings: the MYARC MPES dual drive system will be given a show and tell by Hubert Deri. June's meeting will see the auction of the DATABIOTICS items from the NAP program. Only the items received in January will be auctioned. The money will go to repay the club treasury. We also plan to allow any member to bring his own surplus TI items in for auction swap or sell.

REMEMBER - Nominations in MAY, Elections in June for the year 1986/87.

DUES: Second quarter dues should be paid this meeting.

TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS: Any member with a modem who needs some education in contacting BBS's via phone, Please call Art and make an appointment to log on to our club's Practice BBS. This BBS is available **only** to club members, and again, only by appointment.

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DM-1000 (<) TEX-COMP

Editor's preface: Some months ago this newsletter printed, in its entirety, a letter from Mr. Bob Boone of the Ottawa UG in Canada in regard to the use as a give-away by Tex-Comp of the Fairware program DM-1000. Via newsletters published by other 99/4A clubs, it has come to our attention that Tex-Comp had replied to this letter. Accordingly, in order to be fair to all concerned, We wrote Tex-Comp and requested a copy of their letter so we could present Tex-comp's side of the matter.

Mr. Jerry Price, V.P. of Tex-Comp did send us a photocopy of the letter that had been quoted, in parts, in other newsletters. In addition, Mr. Price sent a covering letter that is much more specifically directed to Bob Boone's letter. The letter to Houston, which is the photocopy received, was directed much more in reply to statements alleged to have been made by Dr. Ron Albright than to the letter from Ottawa. Because we had never published anything in regard to the problems between Tex-Comp and Dr. Albright, (in fact until three weeks ago we were totally unaware that any controversy had existed), We are only printing Mr. Price's replies that are directed almost wholly towards the letter from Bob Boone.

Also, as you will see from the photocopy enclosed, Mr. Price states "Ron Albright and I have resolved our differences and put them behind us.", so it would only be destructive on our part to reopen that matter.

For clarity, two short sentences have been edited out of Mr. Price's cover letter, by me, including one hand written by Mr. price and addressed to me. I assure you they add or subtract nothing meaningful or of importance to the DM-1000 matter.

This is excerpted from a January 27th 1986 letter from Tex-Comp to Mark Crump, President of the Houston UG.

"The true facts are that this program was provided to Tex-Comp by a Canadian customer early last Summer with the request that it be 'freely distributed'. Notwithstanding the request that the program be 'freely distributed', we also confirmed that the program had been placed into the public domain by the author which means absolutely no claim of copyright or any other proprietary right can legally be made nor can the program be reclaimed from the public domain at a later date. At the time we received this program, it was being handed out and passed around at just about every user group meeting or gathering in the country and also appeared for free down loading on many local and national boards. In fact I am informed that even the Houston board and the Comuserve board had it on at one time or another.

Apparently the fact that we started giving it away upset a small group of individuals who feel that they have the right to dictate and control who can freely distribute this public domain program. (Ed Note: here we omit much legal jargon)...We also have written proof that many of our customers did in fact send contributions to the Canadian

group. Unlike DM-1000, there are a number of so called freeware programs such as Fast-Term and Mass Copy that make a legitimate claim of copyright which would enable the author or owner to make a legal claim of unauthorized use."



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Mr. Arthur J. Byars
1261 Williams Dr.
Shrub Oak, NY 10588

March 5, 1986

Dear Art:

Thank you for your letter of February 27, 1986 offering Tex-Comp "equal time" in connection with the DM1000 issue.

If you go back and review the letter you received from Canada, you will see that it was not sent by the U.G. but by a post officer whom I am advised by other members, acted entirely on his own with no official authorization of the group.

A large percent of the membership of the Ottawa group are long time customers of Tex-Comp and are very upset about the way Mr. Boone, who happens to be a Canadian Dealer, went about this entire matter. Two weeks ago we were sent the latest version of DM1000 (.3) by one of the members who hoped in some way it "made up for the trouble Mr. Boone had caused us with his irresponsible letter writing campaign."

The ironic thing about all of this is that Tex-Comp is the leading supplier of 99/4A products to Canada and that over 70% of its thousands of mail order customers have no user group affiliation. This means that if Tex-Comp did not distribute the public domain program in issue, it is unlikely any of the recipients from Tex-Comp would ever had heard of it. I am enclosing a portion of a letter from one of our customers from France advising us that he in fact sent a donation to the Ottawa Group and made new friends there as a result of receiving the DM1000 from Tex-Comp. This is hardly consistent with the unfounded accusations made in Mr. Boone's various letters.

I have enclosed a copy of the letter I sent to the Houston U.G. after I received several reports of what Ron Albright covered in his presentation.

I should add, that since this letter was written, Ron Albright and I have resolved any differences and put them behind us.

Tex-Comp is the longest surviving TI-99/4A supplier having started right after the introduction of the original 99/4 in 1980. The reason that we have been extremely successful in this business is by providing quality products at good prices. It is impossible to be a major player and successful without being the target of less fortunate.

We recognize that there is a lot of frustration among 99/4A users and small dealers as to how they have been treated by TI, certain magazines, certain so called user and assistance groups, and certain manufacturers who promise the moon and then fail to deliver or close their doors. We appreciate all that has happened and that is why we show a great deal of restraint when certain individuals quarrel with the true facts of the law, make unfounded and untrue allegations.

We feel that our primary objective is to continue to provide the maximum amount of ongoing support to the average 99/4A user. This is the premise that our firm was founded on and has served us well to date. I have also enclosed our current catalog to give you an idea of the broad range of products are available to the 99/4A user.

Again, thank you for asking for our side of this issue.

Very truly yours,

Jerry Price
vice president

TIPS FROM THE TIGERCUB is now being distributed at club meetings. In addition, the latest Tigercub catalog is posted on the bulleting board. Because almost all the clubs with whom we exchange already receive the tips, we save some small money by only printing enough for our own members.

MINIWRITER II
Review by STEVE WICKERSON

Made by: DATABIOTICS, price \$39.50

As all the Central Westchester 99'ers know, I am one of the very few members still operating with only a cassette player/recorder for program and data storage. This notwithstanding, I do own an Axiom interface, a daisywheel printer, and I do considerable word processing. Club members will remember that I gave a short program demonstration, during last Summer, of the Navarone module word processor. Because that was the only module based word processor not requiring a disk drive, it was my sole choice, until now.

Under DataBiotic's NAP (National Advisory Panel) program, this club agreed to test various software and modules and hardware products in return for a very sharp discount on the purchase price. I was quite pleased to have the chance to test the Module based MINIWRITER II, as I understood it had many more features than did the Navarone cartridge.

That it does! There are some 25 different features and functions you can access with a combination of control or function plus a key press. It has many similar features to the TI WRITER, and I believe many of the keyed in functions and controls have deliberately been made identical.

The features I found best and most useful are:

- (1) Having TABS
- (2) Automatic word wrap at the end of each 80 col line.
- (3) A warning bell at col. 75
- (4) The ability to move whole lines.
- (5) I had never used a word processor that "windowed" I understand this is standard on the TI WRITER and the E/A module. It takes some getting used to but enables you to view an 80 col document on a 40 col screen.
- (6) You can insert printer command codes within the work as well as page commands, etc.

I do have some suggested improvements that might be put into future versions:

- (1) A line highlighter to show what line the cursor is on.
- (2) It would be nice to be able to set the right and left margins. I was not happy with being forced to make every letter or document 80 columns.
- (3) I would have liked to be able to set the column at which the warning bell rings.
- (4) Auto right hand justification would be nice too.

A few more comments: You can use MINIWRITER II with both disk and cassette, but the manual was a bit too vague on the SAVE command. This lack of information caused some initial confusion as SAVE is used to print out to the printer, save to disk or cassette as well as format the printer via my Axiom interface (LL MA etc).

Overall I am very favorably impressed with this module software as it does have many of the features of a disk based word processor. You can be sure I am going to bid on it when it comes up for auction at our June meeting.

MINIWRITER III from DataBioTics
Sugg. Retail. \$49.95. Cable \$19.95
Review by Nils Solderman
Central Westchester 99'ers

Why do you (I) need a home computer? That is a question that was asked in a recent survey of home computer users. The overwhelming response was "WORD PROCESSING". Most of us, from time to time, have the need to generate some sort of written document. It may be as simple as complaining about your AMEX bill or as elaborate as a job resume. In either case TI-99/4A owners, who operate with only a cassette player/recorder for program and data storage, have long been denied the luxury of a professional Word Processor by the sheer cost of the hardware requirements alone. With MINIWRITER II and III, a good word processor has been brought within reasonable cost.

Versions II and III are identical except that V.III has a port for connection to a PIO printer with a special cable. Because the club, by oversight, did not order a cable, and because I have a printer interface, no test was made of the built in printer port other than to discover that if you try to use it without a printer attached, it locks the system. However, I do understand that the printer port only allows you access to the printer from Miniwriter III, not from TI BASIC. I will comment on that later.

The package consists of the the cartridge with printer port and a good clear instruction booklet. I found that I literally was able to get started by laying the manual down by the console and typing. I did not have to read the booklet first!

I find the features useful and easy to use and operate. Because I am only an occasional user of a word processor, this ease of understanding and use is most appealing. You would need almost no review after a long period of non use. This feature of ease made my wife abandon our rather antiquated typing machine. Everything performed as expected except as listed below:

1. INSERT Fctn/9 enabling you to insert a whole line worked fine, but the Fctn/2, Insert Character had a flaw as it was not too practical after you have completed a line, since you cannot insert past the end of the line eg. words do not spill or wrap to the next line.
2. Control/3 MODULE PRINT is a disaster if no printer is attached to the module printer port. If you hit that by error, lockup!
3. FIND STRING did not work. I do not know if that is a defect just in this one sample or if it is generic to the series. (editor's note: We checked with Steve Nickerson who is testing MiniWriter II. He reported that FIND did work. Therefore, our test sample is on its way back to DBT for replacement.)

As a cassette only user, I would rate this product VERY HIGH both in quality and usefulness. The documentation is excellent! The features I liked best are:

1. THE FINDER - in the upper right hand corner of the screen is a counter that shows you both the line on which

A NOTE FROM TODD KAPLAN

Ed Note: Last month we reviewed Databiologics DISKMASTER I written by Todd Kaplan. Here is a reply received from Todd via Compuserve's TI FORUM.

From: Todd Kaplan 74036,3215 To: Art Byers 73157,3017

Hi, Thanks for reviewing Disk Master I. This is sort of a reply to the review. The latest version of Disk Master I now has only one loader and is compatible with the three disk cont. cards that go into the PEBox. The reason that it won't load with the Myarc PES is that I didn't even think it existed. I plan to have a loader for the Myarc PES too. Why on earth did Myarc make the disk Cont card in the PES different from the one that goes into the PEB!!! (Sigh)

The main reason that the copy buffer is so small is that most of the memory is taken up by the program. Those specialized copy programs are very lean and thus have a large buffer. I found on my system that Disk Master I will only copy 42 sectors per pass.

It really depends on the type of system you are using as the TI CorComp Cards take up PART OF THE VDP memory for file access. I'm not so sure about the Myarc card as it has 4K of RAM built in. I do the equivalent of a CALL FILES(1) when I copy files and then the system tells me how much VDP memory I have available. The amount of CPU memory left over for a buffer would be insignificant.

Thanks again for your feedback - Todd Kaplan

EDITORIAL

Accusation by Media

Over the last nine months, We have seen something happening in 99'er club newsletters and on Compuserve that I feel is completely UNFAIR and very destructive to the TI-99/4A community. It is manipulation of the TI Media by persons who, 'grinding their own ax', release charges and accusations against which there is little immediate defense.

Two prime examples are the letter Bob Boone wrote and asked the User Groups to publicize and the complaint that Dave Vaughn aired in various places.

What this does, is give a very "bad press" to somebody who cannot defend themselves on the same forum until much later, often months later. In the meantime, much damage to reputations and businesses. As is often the case, the rebuttal does not receive as much space or attention.

This 'trial by media' has become a favorite tactic of almost all governments, many business, lawyers, etc. It is distasteful, unfair, undemocratic, and destructive to the society. Let us put an end to it among TI 99/4A users!

I take no sides for any party, what I am going to do, in the future, in my capacity as a 99/4A newsletter editor, is not to print such letters until I have given the other parties to a dispute a chance to send me a reply so that I can print both views, side by side in my paper.

I strongly urge all editors who read this to give serious consideration to doing the same. - Art Byers

the cursor is located and the number of the character (1 to 80) it is typing.

2. REAL LOWER CASE characters on the screen, not the squashed upper case resident in the TI console.

3. DUP LINE - for those repetitious jobs. (Lines can also be moved and/or deleted).

I would have liked some features in addition to those offered:

1. LEFT AND RIGHT MARGIN SET

2. PRINT MULTIPLE COPIES without repeat saves.

3. PROPORTIONAL SPACING (ed note? I assume Nils means the ability to right hand justify)

Final comments: Although this product performed well, I did manage to LOCKUP the console twice- once using FIND and once using PICT RIGHT. After many attempts, I was not able to duplicate the lockup, still- I was disturbed by it. Yes, I would buy MINIWRTER, though because I already have a PIO interface, version II would be my choice. Logically however, I expect some buyers of version III would be disappointed to find that the printer port cannot be accessed from TI BASIC. If it could, MINIWRTER III would be a sensational bargain as the least expensive PIO interface retails for about \$70.00 without word processing.

MINIWRTER ADDENDUM by Art Byers

To add a few sentences to the two reviews in this issue: Both Nils and Steve omitted to mention that all the standard printer control characters such as carriage return, form feed, condensed or enlarged type, etc. can be imbedded in the text produced. If the text is saved to disk, it produces a DV80 file compatible with TI WRITER.

I AM a very fast typist. The processor could not keep up with my typing speed, often dropping letters, especially where double e's, o's and p's were concerned. Nil's typing speed must be more moderate as he did not have any such problem.

A thought occurred to me that if traveling on business, I need only a console, MINIWRTER module, Cassette recorder, (and use a hotel TV as a monitor,) to be able to produce files that on my return home could be reloaded from cassette to console, saved to disk, and then run out of the WRITER Formatter.

In reverse, I can take a TI WRITER file from disk, load it into MINIWRTER II or III, and down load it to cassette so that Steve or Nils could edit it. This is a very flexible useful tool!!

NOTICE TO OTHER TI USER GROUPS: Any article ending with the DV80 notation is available to you on disk to save you some typing if you wish to run it. Send a postpaid mailer and blank disk to ART BYERS at the return address listed.

You may reprint any material in this newsletter. We ask only that you give proper credit to the original author and publication.

IF you will send us your newsletter at no charge Then we will send you ours on the same basis.

NEW LANGUAGES FOR THE TI-99/4A

By Ted. E. Bear, Pipedreams Inc.

BASIC, LOGO, FORTH, PILOT, PASCAL - These are well known and presumably loved languages throughout the computer industry, and all implemented on the 99/4A. But in this best of all possible years for the now famous orphan, such famous programmers as Gon Notbright, John Bentkey, Maig Ciller, and Scairy Travesty have now implemented a whole new series of modern languages for our machine:

FIFTH. Fifth is a precise mathematical language in which data types refer to quantities. The data types range from CC, OUNCE, SHOT AND JIGGER to FIFTH (Hence the name of the language), LITER, MAGNUM and BLOTTO. Commands refer to ingredients such as CHABLIS, CABERNET, GIN, VERMOUTH, VODKA, SCOTCH, BURBON, COORS, BUD, AND WHAT_EVER IS AROUND. Ruàor has it that this is Rowie Hosenberg's favorite of all the new 99/4 languages and he has dumped it into his Kram Gracker.

LITHP. This otherwise unremarkable language is distinguished by the absence of an "S" in its character set. Programmers and users must substitute "TH". LITHP is said to be useful in processing lithth. This language was developed in San Francisco.

LAIIDBACK This language was developed at the Marin County Center for Tai Chi, Mellowness and Computer Programming (now defunct), as an alternative to the more intense atmosphere in nearby Silicone Valley.

The center was ideal for programmers who liked to soak in hot tubs while they worked. Unfortunately, few programmers could survive there because the center outlawed Pizza and Coca Cola in favor of Tofu and Perrier.

Many mourn the demise of LAIDBACK because of its reputation as a gentle and non-threatening language since all the error messages are in lower case. For example, LAIDBACK responded to syntax errors with the message:

"i hate to bother you, but i just can't relate to that. can you find the time to try it again?"

DOGO. Developed at MLOT (Massachusetts Institute of Obedience Training). DOGO heralds a new era of computer literate pets. DOGO commands include SIT, HEEL, STAY, PLAY_DEAD and ROLL_OVER. An innovative feature of DOGO is the "puppy" graphics, a small cocker spaniel that occasionally leaves deposits as it travels across the screen.

REAGAN. This language was developed in California, but is now widely used in Washington D.C. It is the current subset of the international bureaucratic language known as **DOUBLESPEAK.** Commands include REVENUE_ENHANCEMENT,

CAP_WEINBERGER, CABINET, CHOP_WOOD, and SCENARIO. WATT and BURFORD have been removed from the commands while there is a current effort to add NEESE.

The operating system used is NEW_RIGHT and the designated memory is THE_RANCH. The compile SCENARIO is a compile with NANCY followed by a link with BONZO resulting in a SNOOZE. Program bugs, called COMMIES, are removed with the GRANADA command. A program written in REAGAN commences with a LANDSLIDE and terminates with SENILITY.

VALGOL. From its modest beginning in Southern California's San Fernando Valley, VALGOL is enjoying a dramatic surge of popularity across the country and has been adopted by many of the more youthful 99/4A programmers.

VALGOL commands include REALLY, LIKE, WELL, and Y*KNOW. Variables are assigned with the =LIKE and =TOTALLY operators. Other operators include the California Booleans, AX and NOWAY. Repetitions of code are handled in FOR - SURE loops. Here is a sample program.

```

LIKE, Y*KNOW (I MEAN) START
IF PIZZA =LIKE BITCHEN AND
GUY = LIKE TUBULAR AND
VALLEY GIRL =LIKE GRODY*MAX
THEN
FOR I =LIKE 1 TO OH*maybe 100
DO*WAH - (DITTY**2)
BARF(I) =TOTALLY GROSS OUT
SURE

LIKE BAG THIS PROGRAM
REALLY
LIKE TOTALLY (Y*KNOW)
IN*SURE
GOTO*THE MALL

```

VALGOL is characterized by its unfriendly error messages. For example when the user makes a syntax error, the interpreter displays the message:

GAG ME WITH A SPOON!!

This article is an abbreviation and adaptation of an Article that appeared in the APL SIG newsletter, THE SPECIAL CHARACTER SET, edited by D. Bohrer. First known TI newsletter reprint, Northwest Ohio 99'ers News, January 1986

WHAT HAPPEND TO THE SPECIAL APRIL ISSUE?

Frankly, the editor was over his head in work for TICOFF and never did get all the special articles together. However, LANGUAGES, and the Program of the month - if you key it in and run it, will give you an idea of what we had in mind.

THS9900 ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE TUTORIAL PART 4

THE BEAUTY OF BASIC CONTINUED

BY STEVE ROYCE- West New York 99 U.G.

Last month, I went on at great length about the value of creating your own subroutines for use in your assembly programs. This month, I present two routines; one rather simple (CLEAR) and one not so simple (SPRITE). I won't go into any great explanation, but will let the routines do the work. type them in yourself as you will see how the structure works if you do the work.

```

DEF TEST
REF VSDW,VMDW,VNTR
TEST BL @CLEAR
LI R2,>0100
MOVW R1,@>B37A
BL @SPRITE
DATA 0,95,9,1,5,5,7,33
LIMI 2
JMP $
TITL '$ CLEAR SUBROUTINE V 2.0 9-4-84 SJR $'
PAGE

$
$ SUB CLEAR COMMON WORKSPACE, USES R0,R1,R11
$
CLEAR LI R0,767 LOWER RIGHT SCREEN LOCATION
LI R1,>2000 BLANK CHAR (ASCII 32)
BLWP @VSBW WRITE
DEC R0 NEXT SCREEN LOC
JLT $+4 GOTO RT IF R0 IS NEG
JMP $-8 BACK TO BLWP
RT

$
$
TITL '$ SPRITE SUBROUTINE V 2.0 9-16-84 SJR $'
PAGE
$ SUB SPRITE
$ USES R0,R1,R2, R11
$ REF VSBW, VMDW REQUIRED
$ START WITH SPRITE 0 WHEN DEFINING
$ PUT # OF SPRITES TO MOVE IN >B37A
$ CLR SPRITE-6 UPON REDO OF PROGRAM
BSS 2 **INITIALIZE FLAG
DATA >D000,>0000 Y,X,CHAR,COLOR INIT DATA
SPRITE MOV @SPRITE-6,R0 MOV FROM BSS 2, ABOVE
CI R0,>0000 CHECK IF INITIALIZED YET
JNE $+64 IF YES, JMP TO MAIN

$
$ INITIALIZE TABLES
$
LI R0,>0300 SPRITE ATT LIST
LI R1,SPRITE-4 DATA TO LOAD
LI R2,4 4 BYTES
BLWP @VMBW WRITE TO VDP
INCT R0 BUMP POINTER
INCT R0 BUMP POINTER
CI R0,>0380 AT END OF TABLE?
JNE $-12
    
```

```

LI R0,>0780 MOTION INDL
LI R1,SPRITE-2 ZERO DATA
LI R2,2 2 BYTES
BLWP @VMBW VDP WRITE
INCT R0 BUMP POINTER
CI R0,>0800 AT END OF TABLE?
JNE $-10

$
LI R0,>0601 WRITE TO VDP R6
BLWP @VMTR TO START PAT LIST AT >0800

$
$ SET FLAG
$
SETO @SPRITE-6

$
$ MAIN SPRITE SUBROUTINE
LI R2,4
MOV +,R0 GET SPRITE #
CI R0,>2000
JL $+4
MOV #R0,R0
CI R0,33
JNE $+4
RT
SLA R0,2 MPY BY 4
AI R0,>0300 ADJUST TO S.A.L.
MOV +,R1 GET DATA
CI R1,>2000
JL $+4
MOV #R1,R1
SWPB R1 PUT IN MSB
BLWP @VSBW VDP WRITE
INC R0 BUMP POINTER
DEC R2 DECREASE COUNTER
JNE $-20 BACK TO GET NEXT DATA

$
AI R0,>0470 ADJUST TO MOTION TABLE
MOV +,R1 GET Y MOTION
CI R1,>2000
JL $+4
MOV #R1,R1
SWPB R1 PUT IN MSB
BLWP @VSBW
INC R0 BUMP POINTER
MOV +,R1 GET X MOTION
CI R1,>2000
JL $+4
MOV #R1,R1
SWPB R1 PUT IN MSB
BLWP @VSDW
JMP $-88

PAGE
END
    
```

Assemble this routine and RUN it. You should get a silly stick wriggling down your screen from upper left to lower right. That's character 95. Too bad we don't have a routine to define characters, isn't it????

C.A.S.G.
ALERT - FEBRUARY 1986

SOFTWARE COPYRIGHTS -
A LITTLE DISCUSSION

by
Tom Geldner

This article originally appeared in the May 1985 issue of "ORANGE BYTES", the newsletter of the North Orange County Computer Club, and is reprinted from its publication in "CHUG - Newsletter of the Capital Health Users' Group, Inc.

ORANGE BYTES Editor's Note: In the publishing of this article, there was thought that an opinion from an attorney would be helpful to clarify the legalities of what was being presented. I sent the article (in its form below) to Gilbert A. Thomas, Attorney at Law, whose area of practice is patents and copyrights. His comments follow Tom Geldner's article and are published as I received them. Many thanks to Mr. Thomas for taking the time to reply and share his insight into the article with us.
- Bill Mead

STATE OF AFFAIRS - I am not a lawyer. I am co-owner of a software company (Xpert Software) and am vitally concerned with the distribution of software (authorized and unauthorized). I do read a lot however, and what I have to say here results from that experience and a great deal of experience working in consumer products marketing and advertising where copy-righting is a way of life.

As it stands right now, computer software is legally protected by copyright laws - the same laws that protect video tapes of movies, books, magazine articles, music, etc. Computer software does not seem to be patentable (unless made an integral part of some hardware component, and even then, such protection is doubtful).

Copyright laws convey upon the owner of the copyrighted product certain rights, the most basic of which is the EXCLUSIVE right to sell or distribute the product. THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE THE RIGHT TO CONTROL THE USE OF THE PRODUCT. Nine out of 10 people go wrong right here. The right to control the use of the product is established as an agreement between the seller and the buyer. In other words, the buyer must agree to allow the seller to control the use of his product. If the buyer does not agree, then, of course, the seller's recourse is to not sell the product to the buyer.

MYTH #1 - THE LICENSE AGREEMENT

The last paragraph sounds like a license agreement, doesn't it? you betchum. That's exactly what it describes...a contract between two parties agreeing to something.

OK, so what about that piece of paper that comes with Wordstar (and SuperCalc and dBase II and on and on) that says:

- "1. If you bought this software for your Kaypro, and you have the audacity to rip it on your Trash-80, we have the right to take our software back (and your girlfriend as interest).
- "2. You may not resell this software unless you transfer all copies including the manuals to the new owner, and get the new owner to sign a license agreement, and get the new owner to pay Enormous Software, Inc., a transfer fee, and provide Enormous Software with the new owner's name, address, social security number, sexual preferences, etc..."

(Here's my favorite, no funny stuff, a straight quote from Digital Research's "Operating System End User License Agreement," aka CP/M).

- "3. CUSTOMER agrees to make no more than five (5) copies of the SOFTWARE for backup purposes and to place a label on the outside of each backup diskette showing the serial number, program name, version number and the DRI copyright and trademark notices in the same form as the original copy." (Gosh, Gary, does that mean that you're going to sue me when I SYSGEN that 6th disk? And gee, Gary, I tried making copies of your labels, but they don't look too good since all I can use here are my crayons.)

As you may be able to tell by my sarcastic tone, license agreements ain't worth the paper they are printed on. And here's why:

As stated above, license agreements are essentially contracts between the seller and the buyer. Therefore, both parties must agree to the terms of the contract IN ADVANCE OF THE SALE. This is the primary reason 99.4 out of 100 license agreements are garbage - the buyer got a copy of the agreement after the purchase of software. Suppose you bought a box of cornflakes only to find a piece of paper inside stating that "because you bought these cornflakes, you now owe General Mills \$10,000.00." That's essentially what most software houses would like you to believe.

What about the packages that read:

"READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY !! DO NOT OPEN THIS [PACKAGE UNTIL YOU HAVE READ THE LICENSE AGREEMENT !! If you don't agree to the terms, return the package unopened for a full refund."

More garbage!!!! Federal trade laws (specifically the Uniform Commercial Code and FTC Regs) make it clear that when money exchanges hands between buyer and seller, a sale has been made and the seller may not ADD to the terms or conditions of the sale after that point.

Suppose you mail a check for \$109.00 to XYZ Software Sales for VisiCalc. In return, you get VisiCalc. Do you have to return VisiCalc if you don't like their license agreement? OF COURSE NOT!! The license agreement amounts to conditions added to the sale AFTER the sale has taken place (the moment the copyright holder or his representative accepts your money). They were willing to sell you VisiCalc without you having read and agreed to their license agreement in advance; they cannot make you agree to it after the sale has taken place.

MYTH #2 - COPIES, COPIES AND MORE COPIES

What about backup copies? What about using software on more than one system?

Here's the basic rules - when the seller sells you a piece of software (regardless of any phony license agreements), the software is yours - YOU OWN IT. You may USE it in whatever manner you see fit! There is one catch, though - you may only use one copy at a time!

Can you make 20 copies of CP/M? YES, but only one of them can be in use at a particular time. If you have two computers, and you only purchased one master copy of CP/M, then you can only run one computer on CP/M at a time. That is, you can't have one computer waiting for a modem call while you are busily processing words on the other.

Can you loan your copy of Wordstar to a friend? YES, but only if you do not retain control of any of your copies of Wordstar while he has it (simply not using wordstar is probably not enough). This is probably the most violated copyright law (and is the section applicable to software pirating). How many people do you know that have four or five different word processing programs, of which only one was bought and paid for?

Can you trade software? YES, but only if you don't keep a copy of the software you are giving up.

Can you alter code? YES, you own the copy of Wordstar so you can legally patch that one to your heart's content. ALTERED CODE PROBABLY CANNOT BE RESOLD OR TRADED LEGALLY (without permission of the copyright holder).

Can you legally use a program like Locksmith to copy protected programs? YES.

Can you sell copies of public domain software that you didn't write? As far as I can determine from the law, probably YES. Even if the program has been distributed to the public free and even if it carries a copyright notice, the method of distribution may constitute a de facto waiver of copyright.

All of the above comments concern what is LEGAL, not what is moral or ethical. Selling public domain software is NOT ethical in my opinion. However, making wholesale coding changes to a PD program and then selling doesn't bother me at all. There are many routines found in assembler programs that can only be written one way (XMODEM things for example). To claim copyright violation by a commercial program using XMODEM protocol is ridiculous. Also, most PD programs have a colorful history of various authors that makes determination of copyright ownership completely impossible. For example, Irv Hoff has recently placed a copyright notice on MDW728. Does this mean that Irv owns the parts written by Ward Christiansen, Keith Peterson, Perfusion, et al? I don't think so... In fact, I don't think anyone owns anything in MDW728. Maybe if the individual authors had copyrighted their own subroutines, but this has never been done.

There is a rule in law: If a thing looks like a duck, walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it is probably a duck. This is the basis for much of how the courts view copyrights. If the conditions for a license do not exist, then no license exists. If the conditions for a determinable copyright do not exist, then no copyright exists.

I know that all of this disappoints most software authors who struggle as it is with rip-off copies and stolen source code, but I am simply reporting the way the laws work. I am personally disappointed as well. The only solution is stronger laws governing copyrights with special attention to the unique situations incurred by software.

Oh, by the way, this document is:

Copyright 1984, Thomas A. Geldner. The right to use and distribute this material for non-commercial purposes is hereby granted to remote computer systems and computer bulletin board systems. (I'll perpetuate the lie if you will...).

The following is Mr. Thomas's letter and comments:

"Dear Mr. Meads:

Copyright law protects only the author's expression of the basic concept or ideas. Thus original copyright law, if it had existed, would have protected Shakespeare's the "Taming of the Shrew" if he could prove authorship or ownership. That copyright would have since lapsed. The work that produced the modern motion picture with the same name was another expression of the same idea or concept. As another expression other than Shakespearean, it is copyrightable even if Shakespeare's idea was still copyrighted. Thus each software product that is copyrighted has.

"Mr. Geldner should be complimented on the excellent article he produced. His legal opinions or expressions are well thought out. While lawyers eager for fees will disagree with his legal conclusions, I believe the courts and the law generally will, and have, upheld his positions. I believe you should continue to express to Congress which is mostly totally unlearned in copyright matters, your opinion that more legal protection is needed for the individual expression of how computers could be used through the software they, the individuals, develop.

Best of luck to the North Orange County Computer Club.

Sincerely yours,

Gilbert A. Thomas
Patent, Trademark & Copyright Attorney"

Reprinted from November 1985 MANNERS newsletter of the Mid Atlantic Ninety Niners.

PROGRAM OF THE MONTH -A
SURPRISE

10 RANDOMIZE
20 CALL CLEAR
40 PRINT "THIS IS A"
50 PRINT "COMPUTER
DIAGNOSIS!"
60 PRINT
70 PRINT "PRESS <ENTER>
AFTER"
80 PRINT "EACH REPLY."
90 PRINT

```

100 PRINT "WHAT IS YOUR
CODE NAME"
110 INPUT N$
120 IF N$="" THEN 100
130 CALL CLEAR
140 PRINT "ALL RIGHT,
";N$;"
150 PRINT "YOUR CODE NAME
IS ACCEPTED."
160 PRINT "NOW, TYPE A
4-DIGIT CODE"
170 PRINT "NUMBER, THEN
PRESS <ENTER>."
180 PRINT
190 INPUT "WHAT IS YOUR
NUMBER?":N
200 IF N>999 THEN 210 ELSE
220
210 IF N<10000 THEN 260
220 PRINT
230 PRINT "INVALID NUMBER!
TRY AGAIN."
240 PRINT
250 GOTO 190
260 CALL CLEAR
270 PRINT "YOUR NAME IS:
";N$
280 PRINT
290 PRINT "YOUR NUMBER IS:
";N
300 PRINT
310 PRINT "IS THAT RIGHT?
(Y/N)"
320 CALL KEY(0,A,ST)
330 IF ST=0 THEN 320
340 IF A<>R9 THEN 20
350 CALL CLEAR
360 PRINT "O.K., ";N$;"
PRESS <C> TO"
370 PRINT "BEGIN A QUICK"
380 PRINT "HARDWARE CHECK."
390 CALL KEY(0,A,ST)
400 IF A<>R7 THEN 390
410 CALL CLEAR
420 FOR T=1 TO INT(8*RAND)+5
430 PRINT "LOCATION#";T;"-
ACCEPTABLE"
440 FOR D=1 TO 300
450 NEXT D
460 NEXT T
470 PRINT "LOCATION#";T;"
=ERROR DETECTED!!!"
480 PRINT
490 PRINT "PRESS <ENTER>
FOR HELP"
500 CALL KEY(0,KEY,STATUS)
510 IF KEY<>13 THEN 500
520 CALL CLEAR
530 PRINT N$;" , DIAGNOSTICS SHOW"
    
```



```

540 PRINT *THAT YOUR
COMPUTER HAS A*
550 FOR X=1 TO 27
560 READ P
570 PRINT CHR$(P);
580 FOR D=1 TO 200
590 NEXT D
600 NEXT X
610 PRINT
620 PRINT "PLEASE WAIT 15
SECONDS FOR A"
630 PRINT "COMPLETE
DIAGNOSIS."
640 FOR D=1 TO 700
650 NEXT D
660 CALL CLEAR
670 FOR T=15 TO 1 STEP -1
680 PRINT "TIME:";T
690 FOR D=1 TO 200
700 NEXT D
710 CALL CLEAR
720 NEXT T
730 CALL CLEAR
740 CALL SCREEN(10)
750 REM BE SURE YOUR ALPHA
LOCK KEY IS DEPRESSED
760 A$="FFFFFFFFFFFFFFF"
770 CALL CHAR(128,A$)
780 READ A,B,R
790 IF A=-1 THEN 820
800 CALL VCHAR(A,B,128,R)
810 GOTO 780
820 READ A,B,R
830 IF A=-1 THEN 860
840 CALL VCHAR(A,B,128,R)
850 GOTO 820
860 GOTO 860
870 DATA 83,69,86,69,82,69,
32,73,78, 84,69,82,78,65,76
880 DATA 32,77,65,76,70,85,
78,67,84,73,79,78, 2,3,5,2
890 DATA 9,5,2,15,5,2,21,5,
6,3,5,6,9, 5,6,15,5,8,16,1
900 DATA 9,17,1,10,18,1,11,
19,1,11,21, 5,11,27,4,14,3
910 DATA 5,14,9,5,14,15,5,
14,27,4,18, 3,4,18,27,4,
23,9
920 DATA 5,23,15,5,23,21,5,
23,27,4,-1, -1,-1,2,3,10,2
930 DATA 7,10,2,9,10,2,13,
5,2,15,10,2, 19,5,2,23,10,2
940 DATA 27,10,14,3,10,14,
9,10,14,13, 10,14,13,10,14
950 DATA 19,10,14,21,10,14,
27,5,18,30, 5,-1,-1,-1
    
```

I got the feeling you may have either product with your initial purchase of the O.S. for \$69.00. More products are promised for the future but I have no names or specifications at this time.

Next on the agenda was Mr. Lou Phillips, President of MYARC. First subject was 128KB Extended Basic II, Rev. 2.0. This appears to be quite an exciting product, especially for the users who like (or need) graphics and/or more memory. Here are highlights:

1. Supports Bit Map mode directly with new commands such as CALL RECTANGLE; CALL LINE; CALL DRAW; etc.
2. Written in machine language so it executes much faster - Lou says 4 times.
3. Support 40 X 24 display mode i.e. CALL GRAPHICS.
4. Can chain to other programs without destroying the current symbol table or variables.
5. No pre-scan . . . period.
6. Start up program can have any name, we are currently nailed to "LOAD".
7. A new command to user specify the termination character on data input. Again we have only "ENTER".
8. Supports integer arithmetic.
9. Allows windowing. In other words, you may have a portion of your screen scrolling information without affecting the remainder of your screen display. Sounds like more of the BIG BOYS stuff.

MYARC PRESENTATION AT TICOFF 3/15
BY AL TRUDEAU

The first presenter was John Quen (probably mis-spelled). John is an independent programmer under contract with MYARC to produce a series of new products subordinated to a new operating system John developed.

First out the chute is "The Program Manager". This allows user defined start up menu's and a hierarchical structure of sub menu's. End result is with a little planning one can load any file from disk without typing in OLD DSK1.BLAH BLAH, instead you simply go through the menu's (sub-menu's) until your file appears on the screen and enter the corresponding number. This action will load and run your program . . . much like the big boys do.

Of course all the menu's are stored on floppy and this product is ready to ship. Price - \$69.00 U.S. and includes a cartridge, floppy and user manual. The cartridge contains a set of C/A ROMS and the new operating system. The floppy contains the "PROGRAM MANAGER" software.

Second offering is a program which allows you to dump any cartridge to disk and reload same. John claims he has successfully dumped every cartridge he has managed to get his clever little hands on . . . totaling some 97 to date. Once on disk you can edit the binary but can't change the length of the object file. So editing is fairly restrictive. Price is \$25.95 assuming you already own the cartridge with the O.S.

Well so far it sounds like we should all buy at least seven copies of this 128KB Extended Basic II, one for every day of the week. Well read on.

1. Requires a 128 KB MYARC memory card. Didn't hear the price but I recall at least a couple of hundred bucks (U.S.).
2. Does not (probably will not) support speech.
3. Does not support DEF function.
4. Does not support user defined CALL statements.
5. We are, for the foreseeable future, MYARC's debugging tool. Expect bugs and a several updates.

Those are the facts as I understood them. Some closing points are: I did not hear the price but it is available today (a cartridge with a disk).

Next was the new computer. Well I don't know about you all but I was expecting a half dozen naked lovelies with bugles, and at least three curtains to choose from. What we got was Lou waving a small card around that would plug into your PEB. This card contained the CPU, lots of memory, and a couple of connectors to plug in a new keyboard (IBM Type) and a TV hookup. Suggested retail price - hold - on - here it comes - \$499.95. Delivery will start next week (or so [does anyone BELIEVE THAT?-ed]).

CALL SOUNDS is the monthly newsletter of the Central Westchester 99'ers, a non-profit user group devoted to the TI-99/4A Computer.

President: Carney W. Mims - 914 961-5993
VP/Programs: Art Byers - 914 528-5402
Treasurer: Kathy O'Brien
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Free Disk Software & Disk Librarians:
Bob Sweeney 914-337-1660
Disk Library Backup: Art Byers
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Newsletter Editor: Art Byers

MYARC from page #9

Well there was no doubt this was the best thing I had ever heard and since this forum was now over two hours long and I was on the verge of being brain dead, I immediately called home and instructed my wife to trash my console, my speech thingy, my flex cable, and all my cartridges and wire me five hundred bucks. Well, not to worry, I ultimately decided to wait and see what Crazy Eddie would sell it for.

To be fair (who me) Lou is still working on a new console and this product is a short term "solution" to a what he describes as a long term process.

If you have any questions (seems impossible to me) about any of the above or wish to join me at Crazy Eddie's, just let me know.

DataBiotics NAP - report #3

Including the two reports in this issue, We have fulfilled our commitment to DBT on four out of the five items received: 4A/TALK, DISKMASTER I, MINIWRIER II and MINIWRIER III. 4A/TALK has been passed on to John Smith and DISKMASTER I to Walter Price for "second opinions". Because MINIWRIER II and III are almost the same, we see no reason for additional testing as we already have the two we felt would be needed for a fair evaluation.

Still to go are reports from Al Trudeau And Carney Mims on the SUPERSPACE module. We hope to have those two side by side in the May CALL SOUNDS.

We have returned a copy of 4A/Talk to be exchanged for the new update, version 1.4. When that arrives, it will go back to Bob Cataldo who did the first evaluation to see if the update has improved the few little flaws he mentioned. Also enroute back to DBT is the MWIII - to be exchanged as it developed a minor problem. In any event, we expect to

have all these products at our June Auction.

We spoke to Bill Moseid, one of the principals at DBT, (both via telephone and via message on Compuserve). Here is the status of the other two items still on order:

PILOT, a disc based compiled language, is undergoing final touches. We expect it any day now. Bob Sweeney has volunteered to be the first to look it over.

SUPERDISK - the much awaited RAM disk has been delayed by the necessity to change main memory chips. Originally it as planned to achieve 512K via 64x8 chips. But these have not come down in price as expected and the cost is prohibitive. The unit had to be changed to use 256x1's. With luck, we can expect to receive our sample for BETA test by the end of June. We are developing a rather anxious long line of members who want to test that item!

As we receive any more information, you will have it.

FROM:
CW 99'ers Newsletter Exchange
c/o Arthur J. Byers
1261 Williams Drive
Shrub Oak, NY 10588



DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP
1221 MOSSWOOD
IRVING TX 75061

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