



HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP  
 USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP  
 GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP  
**THE HUGGERS**  
**HOOSIER USERS GROUP**  
**People Helping People**  
 HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP  
 USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP  
 GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP  
 HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP  
 USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP  
 GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP HOOSIER USERS GROUP

February 1990

THE HUGGERS NEWSLETTER

Volume 9, Number 2

**MONTHLY MEETING LOCATION**  
**LITTLE HOUSE NEXT TO THE**  
**ST. ANN'S SCHOOL**  
**2839 S. McCLURE**  
**INDIANAPOLIS, IN**  
**MEETINGS OPEN AT**  
**2:00 PM**  
**FEBRUARY 18 1990**

**NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE!**  
**ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS**  
**WILL BE HELD AT**  
**THE FEBRUARY GROUP MEETING**  
**!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**DISCLAIMER**

This newsletter is brought to you through the efforts of the officers and members of the HOOSIER USERS GROUP. Every member is encouraged to submit articles.

If you have an article you would like to share with the other members mail it to:

John Powell  
 327 W. Southern Ave.  
 Indianapolis, IN 46225

Opinions expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the HOOSIER USERS GROUP.

The normal method of electing officers will be suspended for this year, due to illness of the current President and the resignation of the Vice-President.

Please plan to attend the most important meeting of the year! We need YOUR help to select YOUR new Group Officers.

This meeting will be on

FEBRUARY 18, 1990  
 2:00 PM  
 at  
 St. Ann's School  
 2839 S. McClure  
 Indianapolis, In

REMEMBER:

You don't have to be present to win!

BE THERE!

NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE!

**BBS**  
**Hoosier Users Group**  
**Baud rate 300, 1200 & 2400**  
**On Line 24 Hours Daily**  
**782-994A**

Now with a Hard Drive on an experimental basis courtesy of Gary McQuade

**OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT....JOHN POWELL 786-3270  
 VICE-PRES.....CARL CLARK 1-398-6226  
 LIBRARIAN..BRYANT PEDIGO 255-7381  
 SECRETARY...GARY McQUADE 888-5654

TI-WRITER DATA BASE (POOR MAN'S  
RELATIONAL DB)

by John Owen JUG Nov 89

Did you know that TI-WRITER can be used for a DATA BASE that acts like a RELATIONAL data base. It is useable for family records, music records, checkbook reconciliation, VCR tapes. etc.,etc.?

The key to the TI-WRITER DATA BASE system is the TI-WRITER "VALUE FILE" capabilities and the FORMATTER's capability to produce almost any type of REPORT from the DATA BASE organized in any report format. This coupled with a DV/80 file sorter such as "CHARTBASE" by Jerry Stern (see MICROpendium, May 1989 Pg. 12) or "TEXTSORT" by Jerry Kessler, PARIS (TX) Users Group lets you easily organize the data in alphanumeric order for tabular reports (with column headings).

The DATA FORM for data input is the TI-WRITER VALUE FILE format and allows up to ninety-nine 77 column lines of input data with full screen TI-WRITER editing. This can be a BIG form!! See Example #1. You design your INPUT DATA FORM, file it and then MERGE it to to the END of your DATA BASE each time you want to add to your DATA BASE. Data is added by typing over the MERGED DATA FORM. You always put an asterisk on the line between each set of data to adhere to the VALUE FILE format requirements.

The FORMATTER is used to print TO DISK or PRINTER any REPORT you need from the DATA BASE. The D/V80 sort program is used to arrange tabular reports printed to DISK in alphanumeric order. I wanted the following REPORTS from my FAMILY DATA BASE file:

1. INDEX TO THE DATA BASE sorted by LAST NAME ,FIRST NAME and FILE NUMBER. This index is used to quickly find any the FILE NUMBER for any family member. I use the FILE NUMBER to tell the FORMATTER which file to access to produce individual FORM LETTERS, address ONE ENVELOPE, or print ONE MAILING LABEL or printout ALL DATA on any one individual.
2. PHONE BOOK of family members sorted by last name, first name, home phone, work phone.
3. ADDRESS LABELS FILE- This file lets me make a set of labels for all family members (for Christmas Cards, newsletters, etc.).
4. BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY REMINDER -This is a sort in month/day order with the name of the person celebrating a birthday/anniversary. I cut this up by MONTH on tape it to my wife's REMINDER CALENDER (to help her to remember my birthday!!)
5. ENVELOPE ADDRESSING- This report lets me address one envelope at a time for any name in my FAMILY DATA BASE.
6. DATA BASE HARD COPY- This is a vertical listing of the FAMILY DATA base with the HEADING for each data entry as shown on the DATA INPUT FORM. This report gives me full access to all data entries in the DATA BASE.

In a future newsletter I will show you the details of how to use TI-WRITER as a POORMAN'S DATA BASE that acts like a RELATIONAL DATA BASE. The beauty of a DATA BASE is the fact that you only have to TYPE each item of data ONCE but you can produce reports and listings in almost any format you wish. The tabular listings can be sorted in any order you want. This DATA BASE can be added to as the need arises. The INPUT DATA FORM can be expanded to include new data entries at a later date.

This DATA BASE will have some limitations due to TI-99/4 memory. To print 80 columns of TABULAR DATA to DISK and then sort it, limits you to about 50 family names BUT most FAMILIY DATA BASES arn't that big. Several tabular reports can be MERGED and then sorted. The limit on this sort is probably about 300 80 column line entries.

Another feature of this DATA BASE is "quick lookup" of any name or number using the FIND STRING feature of TI-WRITER (GLOBA. SEARCH). Now is the time to show others how to use your HOME COMPUTER to do useful work!! Create a FAMILY DATA BASE using TI-WRITER!!

EXAMPLE # 1

NOTE:SET TABS AT 5,16,23 AS shown below  
Needed for sorting FIXED FIELDS

```

L-----T-----T-----T-----R
1 #nn
2 LAST NAME-----
3 FIRST NAME---
4 TITLE,MR,MRS,INITIALS
5 EXTRA ADDRESS INFO. 6 STREET
7 CITY
8 STATE
9 ZIP CODE
10 H/PHONE-----
11 W/PHONE-----
12 Birth(mm/dd/yy)name
13 Birth(mm/dd/yy)name
14 Birth(mm/dd/yy)name
15 Birth(mm/dd/yy)name
16 Birth(mm/dd/yy)name
17 Birth(mm/dd/yy)name
18 Other data
19 Relation/name
20 Birthplace
21 Social Security Number
22 Drivers License Number
23 More Data (ADD LINES,IF NEEDED
*
```

```

*****
#
# PASTE UP PARTY #
# HELP GET THE NEWSLETTER #
# OUT #
# LAST FRIDAY OF FEBRUARY #
# AT BOB STAHLHUT'S HOUSE #
# CALL 856-4962 #
#
*****
*****
*
* SOUTH SIDERS MEETING *
* SECOND-----THURSDAY *
* AFTER THE MEETING *
* MONTHLY *
* CALL 888-5654 *
* FOR LOCATION *
*
*****
```

Reprinted from:  
"Computr Paper"  
December of 1989

## An old dog up to new tricks

Dear Jon:

This letter is in response to your published intention to "embarrass Texas Instruments." I don't know why someone of your obvious education would think it was fun to ridicule a company or a person's choice of computers. Since you are educated, it must be a lack of knowledge about things TI.

Barry Traver is editor of a *diskette* for the TI 99/4A, and also co-author of the TI-Forum in *Computer Shopper* magazine. In a recent Forum column, Traver provided just such information.

"In this day where the TI 99/4A owner may have perhaps a hard drive, a one-MB RAM disk, 80-column card, and RGB capabilities, various GROM/GRAM emulators, IBM-style keyboard, and other hardware gadgets and upgrades (even apart from the option of moving up to the Myarc 9640 Geneve), we are far advanced beyond the situation a few years ago, when it would have been embarrassing to admit you owned a TI 99/4A, especially since TI chose to market the computer more as an educational toy for children rather than as a serious computer for adults."

"Sooner or later the question will be asked — *What computer do you have?* If you respond, a TI 99/4A, the next response may be gales of laughter accompanied by comments not suitable for this column. Rather than answering at once, I would say: Unlike the Apple II, or Commodore (or whatever), it has a 16-bit micro-processor, giving me mainframe style assembly language with some rather nice features, such as relocatable code and moveable software registers."

"I can put 16 colors on the screen at one time, and the automated

sprites will stay in motion (once started) with no further program attention, in contrast to a number of other computers. True the CPU is actually involved keeping them moving, but the work of the CPU is invisible (somewhat like multi-tasking?), since it can be doing something entirely different at the same time (e.g., figuring out square roots)."

"That's not true with many other machines. The point about colors is that other computers also advertise 16 colors but only allow four different colors on the screen at the same time. Not so for the TI. Now you know the reason for the showoff colors on the TI title screen."

"For languages I have BASIC (at least a dozen different varieties, including the major extended BASICs), Fortran, Forth (two major kinds), Logo (with turtles, tiles, sprites, and music), Pascal (UCSD and Turbo), Pilot (three different versions), and more (including ASPIC and a small C)."

"My purpose in bringing out these things is not to put down any other computer — each has its advantages and disadvantages — but to simply show that the TI 99/4A has its own definite strengths, many of which are unknown to the public. It is not without reason that TIers are so loyally devoted to a computer that (in certain areas at least) still has the edge over more recent competitors often costing much more."

It has been six years since Texas Instruments left the home computer market, but there is much more support now via independent manufacturers, dealers, public domain and fairware software than when TI was actively supporting the TI 99/4A. The life line has been the User Group. Sharing resources and information has (and will continue to) kept the TI 99/4A an interesting and constantly changing computer for hardware and software enthusiasts alike.

There is new hardware that seems to only be known to TI insiders. As mentioned before, there are RAM-disks of all sizes, cards to emulate other machines (e.g., Cp/m based), three brands of disk controllers, and the Myarc 9640 Geneve.

The 9640 is a computer capable of saving TI program cartridges to

disk and running them in TI emulation mode at the same speed or three to five times faster than the TI. It has the same instruction set plus four new commands, with less than 100 assembly instructions. It is virtually 100 percent compatible with TI 99/4A programs, but it has its own MDOS (similar to MS-DOS 2.1) making it very powerful.

The 9640 has a pipeline processor (does several functions at once). It has 32K no wait state RAM, 512K CPU Ram (user can configure between CPU-RAM, RAM-DISK, and/or PRINT SPOOLER) and is expandable to two MB. It has seven modes of true bit mapped graphics with both composite ANALOG RGB outputs. It has a pallet of 256 colors on the screen at the same time in 256 x 424 mode, or 16 colors in the 512 x 424 mode.

The Geneve deploys eight times as many colors as the Commodore Amiga. It has a real time clock, a sound chip, mouse interface, joystick interface, supports windows, etc. When used with the Myarc disk controller, floppy data transfer is 1.2 MB/second from disk to memory — or roughly twice as fast as any computer for less than \$10,000.

When used with a hard disk (three can be attached to a max of 400 MB), the transfer rate goes up to 5 MB/seconds! This is fast enough to do full-screen real time animation with ten screens displayed per second. The Myarc floppy disk controller will support up to four 5.25-inch or 3.5-inch floppies. There are plans to upgrade the software support to allow 1.44 MB soon.

I could go on, but I'm sure that you get the message that the TI community is far from dead. There is a local TI users group that meets the third Sunday of each month. People who are interested in seeing an old dog do new tricks should contact:

**Hoosier Users Group**  
PO Box 2222  
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Information is also available on the group BBS, 782-9942 (to 2400 BAUD).

Sincerely,  
Delbert Wright

TI-WRITER/TI-BASE :  
by Jerry Keisler :

From PARS 4/L (9/89)

I have used TI-WRITER as a data base for years. The basic limits I have encountered are:

- 80 column record lengths
- 98 sector file sizes
- 400 records max sort

Some of the records I store in TI-WRITER includes:

**BOX STORAGE,** A list of all items I have stored and the box in which they are stored. To keep the file updated, every time a box is filled it's contents are added to the file. The file is then sorted on contents and another listing is printed. Current file contains 302 records.

**WRITTEN MATERIAL,** A list of all written material recovered from disks, books, flyers etc that covers the 99/4A. I am currently behind

on this one. It contains 382 records and is sorted on discription. **DISK INFORMATION,** Each record contains a summary of what is on one disk. This one is current and has 478 records. It is not sorted as the disks are entered in sorted order.

**FILE INFORMATION,** Contains standard catalog information plus a 3 place disk ID. It was setup for use with TI-WRITER but is now entered, sorted and printed using other programs. The filenames are sorted and shows I have 2184 files duplicated on other disks. The file Currently has 11131 records and resides on two DSDD disks. It is updated once a year.

The listings shows typical records of each file and suggested file structure. This works fine for all except the DISK INFORMATION file which gets away from the structure. It will have to

be corrected to be properly converted to a data base.

You will have to check you file and decide on a file structure before you convert the file to TI-BASE. The file structure can be used in both TI-SORT and TI-BASE.

-----  
: CONVERT to TI-BASE :  
-----

After deciding on a file structure, load TI-BASE. After loading the date type: .CONVERT oldfilename newfilename 60. Newfilename cannot exceed 8 characters. Fill in the descriptor, type, width and decimal for all fields. While on the blank field after your last field press FCTN/B. When TI-BASE has finished building the new data base file, type .USE newfilename, then type .RECOVER. You have now converted the DVBO file to a TI-BASE file.

\*\*\* BOX STORAGE \*\*\*

FIELD	DESCRIPTOR	TYPE	WIDTH	DEC
03	EXTION cords			
03	FLASHLIGHTS			
04	PROJECTS old			
04	NOISE 120v reducer			
05	CHAIN SWING			
06	PAPER Teletype short rolls			
12223333333333333333333333333333				

\*\*\* FILE INFORMATION \*\*\*

FIELD	DESCRIPTOR	TYPE	WIDTH	DEC
39	PROGRAM DCC	DCC		
39	PROGRAM Y 49APPLICAT	49		
39	PROGRAM Y BUS1-4/H	H		
27	PROGRAM Y 47XMCMAZWS	47		
43	PROGRAM BE	BE		
10	D/V 80 Y RAL	RAL		
11111111111122223333333334455555533333555666				

\*\*\* DISK INFORMATION \*\*\*

FIELD	DESCRIPTOR	TYPE	WIDTH
1	DISK_ID	C	4
2	TYPE	C	16
3	SOURCE	C	8
4	CONTENTS	C	52

057 BA-WRITER MY-FILE PUB NEWS  
AY GAMES CHICAGO MONOPOLY, SCRABBLE  
BA COMPUTE VOL2 COMPUTE BOOK VOL 2  
BI LIBRARY HOUSTON 2-28-87, CHESS  
DAD L.A. LIBRARY 8-87  
DAL PARIS NEWS LETTER ON PRBASE V111 THRU V2112 UN99/PARTX  
11112222222222222223333333344444444444444444444444444444444444

\*\*\* WRITTEN MATERIAL \*\*\*

FIELD	DESCRIPTOR	TYPE	WIDTH
1	DATE_RCVD	C	6
2	RCVD FROM	C	6
3	FOLDER	C	3
4	TYPE	C	5
5	PPG MEDIA	C	5
6	DISC	C	55

05/88 JT  
AG GAME DISK FRED GERMAN GAME  
BA SONG DISK SONGS AND HYMNS  
BA APPL DISK WEATHER  
BB GRAP DISK J.F. GRAPHICS(DRAWING)  
BB EDUC DISK FRACTAL EXPLORER LINES  
AA MATH CART ALLIGATOR MIX  
BA HELP PRIN ASCII BINARY OCT DEC HEX LISTING  
1111112222223333444445555566

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Interests/Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One:  
 Active Member      New: \$20      Renewal: 15  
 Subscribing Member      New: \$10      Renewal: 7.50  
 Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 # \_\_\_\_\_  
 S \_\_\_\_\_  
 D \_\_\_\_\_

(Cut on dotted line)

Below you will find an application for membership to the Hoosier Users Group. Active membership entitles you to the Newsletter, up and download on the HUGBs, attendance and voting rights at regular club meetings, access to the HUGger Library of Programs, special club activities and special guest speakers for one year. Subscribing members will receive the NEWSLETTER only.

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

**HOOSIER USERS GROUP**  
 P.O. Box 2222  
 Indianapolis, IN 46206-2222

Make check or money order payable to Hoosier Users Group. Send completed application to:



**HOOSIER USERS GROUP**  
 P.O. Box 2222  
 Indianapolis, IN 46206-2222

Forwarding and Address Correction Requested



**TIME DATED**  
 February 18 1990  
**MATERIAL**

A90/10  
 Dan H. Eicher  
 4410 Cardinal Drive  
 Indianapolis, IN 46237