



THE PUG PERIPHERAL



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
PITTSBURGH USERS GROUP

JANUARY 1993

Club News by Gary Taylor

I wish all our members and TI users everywhere a very Happy and Prosperous NEW Year.

This year we will strive to bring you the latest and greatest new products, both hardware and software, being developed for our computer. There are many new hardware items under development that should come to fruition this year, the SCSI interface and the 4A memex card being most notable. It should be noted that it has been a full 9 years since TI decided to withdraw from the home computer market and yet new products keep right on coming.

At the January meeting I will be demonstrating the DUMP-IT utilities reviewed in the January 1992 issue of Micropendium. These files and programs allow you to dump your cartridges to disk. The basic idea of these utilities is to copy the programs that have been written into the rom chips within the cartridge module into the memory of the 32k memory expansion and modify the addressing of the program a bit to allow for its new location in memory and then save it to disk. Once the program is on disk it can be loaded using the E/A or XB modules. The process involves using sector editors and a widget as well as some assembly routines. I know that most of the cartridge modules are already on disk in our library but if you want to see how it was done and would like to give it a try yourself then this is the time to learn how. I personally have never tried to dump cartridges before, but I am good at following directions and together

we should be able to do it. Hopefully, I will have time to give it a try before the meeting and will be successful in developing the techniques necessary to dump a few modules. This class will begin around 4:30.

At the Chicago faire I purchased a program package called Wallstreet Analyst/Advisor from Program Innovators, 4122 Glenway, Wauwatosa, WI 53222. The package was evaluated in the October 1991 issue of Micropendium and given a rating of "A". They write, "It consists of three 5.25 disks that run out of Extended Basic. The disks contain a number of programs which provide the following capabilities: Technical trend analysis, Portfolio management, Balance sheet analysis, Security statistical analysis, Market evaluation, Formula systems investing, Trend graphing, and Contraian investing." They also state, "Virtually anyone who is interested in stocks or bonds from the standpoint of investing may benefit from Wallstreet Analyst. It is a very sophisticated program with enormous data processing capability." I have copied the three disks onto a single D5DD disks and will demonstrate its many features during the regular meeting. The package sells for \$40.00 and appears to be worth the money.

We should have other demonstrations as well because of the programs we past out at the December meeting for evaluation.

One of the most used programs during the past holiday season was label makers. I used them for packing labels, gift labels, Christmas cards, etc. I plan on demonstrating these in February.

Go Steelers !!



FROM THE LIBRARIAN.

by Sue Harper

Last month I asked members to let me know what type of programs they were looking for, and offered to study up on the type of program and let members know what we had in that area, and how they work. Well, so far I have not received any calls telling me what areas you want to know more about, so I will just put that out again: if you are looking for a program that does specific types of things, then let me know and I will be glad to help you find the type of program that will meet your needs.

In the meantime, I would like to let everyone know that the Diskodex files for the library have been updated. Just bring blank disks to the meeting to copy the listings. What I did was to include on the disks everything in the library as of December 1992 on the original disks. As of 1993, I will add a yearly disk with all programs added that year. So our Diskodex listing now has seventeen disks, and one new one will be added for 1993, 1994 and so on, listing the disks added in that year. Just a reminder that to read these disks you must have Diskodex. They contain the same comments that are on the individual disk which can be read with DSKU. Also remember that there is a hard copy of each set of disk comments with the library at the meetings.

Speaking of adding disks, I have a collection of disks that Gary gave me some time ago that I will be going through. None of the programs are the cutting edge type, such as a new Funnelweb - unfortunately! But there are some programs that I hope will interest the members. Some of them are already in the library and I have not completed the detective work to find which ones to add and which ones would be duplicates. Keep coming to the meetings and see what there is!

And let me close with my continuing request: If anyone has a program that they think would be of interest to the rest of the members, let me have a copy of it to put in the library. Each person knows what they want, but does not necessarily have the skills or the time to write their own program! Especially if you want a program in assembly language, or other 'not so simple to write' language!

See you at the meeting.

OLD TRICKS FOR NEW (AND NOT SO NEW) USERS

By Joseph Cohen, Lima Users Group

Though many of us tend to ignore most of the cartridge software for our computer, with the exception of TI Extended Basic and possibly Multiplan, Logo II, Editor/Assembler, and TE-II (for speech), many of the cartridges are very enjoyable. In order to give you an excuse for searching your closets and basements looking for these hidden modules, I'd like to point out that many of them have undocumented features ranging from useful to interesting to amusing. Here are a few examples.

Many are probably familiar with "The Secret of Personal Record Keeping: Implementing DISPLAY AT and ACCEPT AT without Extended Basic", published way back in 99er Magazine and reprinted in "The Best of 99er", page 76. Briefly, TI BASIC with the PRC module contains the commands CALL D() and CALL A() (similar to DISPLAY AT and ACCEPT AT). Presumably this also works with the Statistics module, but I do not have this one and could not verify it. I have been told that this is a result of the hybrid nature of certain modules, containing both GLP and BASIC coding. Perhaps someone who knows or could discover additional undocumented features of this cartridge and possibly other cartridges with call console BASIC routines (e.g. Tax/Investment, Record Keeping).

Next, the TI Disk Manager cartridge offers a proprietary protection feature that does not allow the Disk Manager to copy a protected diskette. To use it, press the Fctn X key while on any menu screen. you will hear a BEEP and X will appear at the top center of the screen. Any diskettes initialized at this point will be proprietary protected. Each time you address them using the Disk Manager cartridge (e.g. to catalog such a diskette), a low-tone beep will sound informing you that the diskette is protected. The protection information is stored in sector 0 on the diskette. This type of protection is ineffective against the sector disk copiers and has been discussed in the past. The DM1000 offers protection and unprotection of diskettes: is it the same kind as the TI Disk Manager Cartridge?

(Continued on page 3)

COMMANDLAND

by Sue Harper

Pittsburgh User's Group

Here we go with some more fun with the word PRINT. I hope everyone is ready to see what a versatile fellow this word can be.

First of all, PRINT can be a statement or a command. As a command, there is no line number, and thus no delay in doing what you told the computer to do. Let's look at some specific examples:

PRINT "HELLO" (ENTER)

HELLO

PRINT HELLO (ENTER)

0

Now, you may ask, why the difference? The answer is simple: the quotation marks! If you use quotes, what is in the quotes will be copied by the computer onto the screen. If you do not use the quotes, the computer assumes that this is a collection of words or symbols that have a numerical value. If not told what the numerical value is, the computer assumes it to be zero. Thus, PRINT HELLO causes a zero to be put on the screen. Let's look at another:

PRINT 7 (ENTER)

7

PRINT 6+4 (ENTER)

10

As you can see here, the computer recognizes numbers and will turn into a giant calculator if you want it to. Actually, this is fairly useless, BUT when the same type of statement is in a program, all sorts of fascinating things can happen. Using the computer to add two variables in a program and print them on the screen is very important in making some programs work.

Now let's take a look at how to get the words more toward the middle of the screen. To do this we need only add TAB.

PRINT TAB(10);"HELLO" (ENTER)

HELLO

To use TAB, it must be in the format shown above: PRINT then TAB, parenthesis around the number of spaces you want to move the word, a semicolon, then the actual word, in or out of quotes, depending on what you want to see. The screen is 32 columns wide. Keep this number in mind to decide how far over to place your message. Now, one way to get HELLO in the middle of the screen is this:

10 CALL CLEAR

20 PRINT TAB (14);"HELLO":.....

30 END

This little program will print HELLO fourteen spaces from the left, and move it up twelve spaces. Then the program ends. As you can see, this could be used at the beginning of a program to announce the title, or the author, or any other important information. Just those two little lines do quite a bit! By the way, line 30 is unnecessary at this point, but I find that putting in an END or STOP line is a good habit to get into. There will be programs where you have to have one!

TRICKS (continued)

Now to a few Game cartridges. Moonmine, Alpiner, Munchman, Munchmobile and Hopper have a test mode, where you can select the starting level. So if you want to see what it is like to play at those levels you could never reach, here is a good reason to plug those cartridges into your TI99/4A! The test mode is obtained by pressing SHIFT 8,3,8 at the game title screen (SHIFT 8 only for Hopper) Have you played Parsec as a one player game? Here is something different, for a two player team. If the fire buttons on both joysticks are pressed simultaneously, Spaceship Parsec will not overheat. Horizontal lines will appear on the screen, but they do not disturb the game and would allow, in fact, one to see the Bynites when they turn invisible. This is certainly not an exhaustive list. If anyone knows about other "tricks" would they please let me know.

PIN DIAGRAMS

BY: ANDY FRUEN LIMN, OHIO UG

(REPRINTED FROM THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LIMN USER GROUP--ED.)

I GUESS THIS ARTICLE FALLS UNDER THE SUBJECT OF "USELESS TECHNICAL INFORMATION UNLESS YOU ARE GOING TO MESS WITH YOUR COMPUTERS BUTS" (WHEW!)

THESE ARE PIN DIAGRAMS I FOUND. ALL I COPIED DOWN WAS THE DIAGRAMS. I DON'T KNOW WHERE I GOT THESE FROM, BUT FOR THE SAKE OF COMMON-INTEREST, HERE THEY ARE. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE ON ANY OF THESE DIAGRAMS! I ACCEPT NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES IN USING THESE TO MODIFY A CONSOLE, OR WHATEVER ELSE YOU DO WITH THESE!

PIN ASSIGNMENTS FOR SERIAL/PARALLEL CABLES

IF YOU BOUGHT A PRINTER CABLE NOT MADE THE TI, HERE IS A GUIDE TO HELP YOU MAKE SURE THE PIN ASSIGNMENTS ARE RIGHT.

SERIAL		PARALLEL	
////////////////		////////////////	
TI	PRINTER	TI	PRINTER
1-9	1-9	1	1
10	11	2	2
16	16	3	3
F-Box	17	5	5
BRND		6	6
		7	7
		8	8
		20	11

CASSETTE/JOYSTICK PIN ASSIGNMENTS

THESE RUN LEFT-RIGHT WITH 1 THRU 5 ON THE TOP AND 6 THRU 9 ON THE BOTTOM.

CASSETTE		JOYSTICK	
////////////////////////////////////		////////////////////////////////////	
1-CB1 MOTOR +	6-CB2 MOTOR +	1-NOT USED	6-NOT USED
2-CB1 MOTOR -	7-CB2 MOTOR -	2-JOYSTICK 2	7-JOYSTICK 1
3-GROUND	8-AUDIO IN	3-UP	8-DOWN
4-NOT USED	9-AUDIO GROUND	4-FIRE	9-RIGHT
5-RECORD OUT		5-LEFT	

POWER CABLE/DIN PLUG PIN ASSIGNMENTS

THESE TWO ARE A PAIR THAT USUALLY DON'T GET MODIFIED, BUT HERE THEY ARE.

POWER	(1) 0	0 (2)
////////////////	(3) 0	0 (4)
1-NOT USED		
2-8 VOLT AC		
3-16 VOLT AC		
4-GROUND		
	DIN PLUG 1-12 VOLT + 2-VIDEO OUT 3-SHIELD 4-GROUND 5-ROUND OUT	
	(5) 0	(NOTCH) 2-8 0(1)
	(4) 0	0(2)
	(3) 0	

I/O GROM PORT (MIDDLE SLOT)

THE FOLLOWING ARE SUPPLIED BY TI.

1-RESET	7-D5	13-D2
2-BRND	8-A15	14-A11
3-D7	9-D4	15-D1
4-DRU CLK	10-A13	16-A10
5-D6	11-D3	17-D0
6-DRU IN	12-A12	18-A9

19-+5 VOLT	25-DBIN/MI	31-BROM READY
20-A8	26-A6	32-ME
21-BROM SEL	27-BROM CLK	33-BROM GROUND
22-A7	28-A5	34-RDM GROUND
23-A13/MO	29--5 VOLT	35-GROUND
24-A3	30-A4	36-GROUND

I/O PERIPHERAL PORT (P-Box)

THESE ARE ALSO FROM TI.

1-+5 VOLT	9-DBIN	17-A7
2-SPECH SEL	10-A3	18-A9
3-RESET	11-A12	19-A15
4-EXT INT	12-READY	20-A2
5-A5	13-LOAD	21-GROUND
6-A10	14-A8	22-DRU CLK
7-A4	15-A13	23-GROUND
8-A11	16-A14	24-0 3

25-GROUND	33-DRU IN	41-HOLD/IRQ
26-ME	34-D7	42-D3
27-GROUND	35-D4	43--5 VOLT
28-MBE	36-D6	44-SPEECH
29-A6	37-D0	
30-A1	38-D5	
31-A8	39-D2	
32-MEMEN	40-D1	

IF YOU DECIDE TO USE THESE FOR WHATEVER, LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU COME UP WITH! I HOPE I HELPED SOMEONE OUT IN SOMEWAY. MAYBE THESE COULD HELP TO CREATE NEW HARD/SOFT WARE, ALTHOUGH I THINK THESE ARE PROBABLY PUBLISHED IN MANY TECHNICAL BOOKS. OH WELL! HAPPY PROBING!

Editors note:

My apologies for such a small newsletter. We had a minor disaster at our house on Christmas with a Kerosene Heater in the garage and spent the entire week after Christmas having the house cleaned from smoke. I now have the cleanest house in Whitehall. Many thanks to Sue and Gary for coming through with articles.

I was thinking of calling this issue THE HARPER/TAYLOR LIMA GAZETTE.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

THE PUG MEETS
 ON THE 2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
 AT WHITEHALL BOROUGH COMMUNITY ROOM
 100 BOROUGH PARK DRIVE
 WHITEHALL, PA.

JAN 1993						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
3						
10						
17						
24						
31						

CLASSES BEGIN AT 3PM
 GENERAL MEETING BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 6PM

PUG OFFICERS		
Pres:	Gary Taylor	412-341-6874
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Treas:	Art Gardner	412-835-4304
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Paper Lib:	Tom Puhatch	412-885-3183
Cor. Sec.:	Gary Taylor	412-341-6874
NL Editor:	Audrey Bucher	412-881-5244

FEB 1993						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
7						
14						
21						
28						

SCHEDULE	
3PM....SET UP	
4:30PM.....CLASS..DUMPING CARTRIDGES	
6-8PM MEETING	
	DEMO WALLSTREET ANALYST/ADVISOR

DOES \$15/YR

PITTSBURGH TI USER'S GROUP
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 Pittsburgh, PA 15216



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PLENTY OF ROOM FOR AN	
ARTICLE FROM YOU!!!	

DALLAS TI HC UG

BOX 29863
 DALLAS, TX. 75229

PUG BBS
 412-885-3483
 300/1200/2400 BAUD
 24 HOURS

