

DVUG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN 1987

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A SHORT HISTORY OF THE DVUG:

DVUG started in the Summer of 1982, as a group of families meeting in one of their homes. A large number of DuPont employees among them suggested that the use of DuPont laboratory facilities were more spacious and convenient - at least until the price wars of that Fall began a large expansion of interested parties.

NORMAL MEETING SCHEDULES

CHRISTIANA 4th Thurs. 6:30-9:30
 DELMARVA 2nd Monday 7:00-9:00
 SO. JERSEY 3rd Monday 6:45-9:00
 SHORE CHAPTER 1st Thurs. 7:30-9:00

A Delaware Valley Users Group membership includes monthly newsletter, library and software privileges, plus other special benefits. Annual membership rate: \$15.

Articles appearing in THE DATA BUS may be reproduced on BBS, disk or newsletter as long as DVUG source is acknowledged; unsigned work is by THE DATA BUS Editor. DVUG encourages exchange newsletters.

We moved into the recently opened Delaware Christiana Mall Community Room, as several anchor store merchants then were selling the TI. (We've been there ever since, from February, 1983, when we officially adopted a Constitution at our first meeting there.)

MEETING PLACES

CHRISTIANA: Delaware's Christiana Mall on Rte. 7 at I-95, Exit 4-S, Community Room. Enter inside Mall, between J.C. Penney and Liberty Travel.

DELMARVA CHAPTER: Kent County Courthouse, Basement Conference Rm. #25, The Green and State Street, Dover, Delaware. Use entrance on The Green side.

SO. JERSEY CHAPTER: Deptford Municipal Building, Cooper Ave. and Delsea Drive (Rtes. 534 & 47), in Gloucester County, N.J. Enter and park in rear of building.

SHORE CHAPTER: Scullville Firehouse #1 County Rte. 559 (on left, between mile markers 4 and 3), in Atlantic County, NJ. Ignore Station #2 on right en route.

ADVERTISING RATES IN THE DATA BUS

1/4 Page = \$ 5/issue, or \$ 45/12 issues
 1/2 Page = \$ 8/issue, or \$ 75/12 issues
 Full Page = \$15/issue, or \$125/12 issues

THE DATA BUS goes to over 110 local DVUG families, and over 65 other User Groups.

Paid-up DVUG members may place a short notice of their used computer equipment for sale in THE DATA BUS without charge.

TRANSMIT YOUR NEWSLETTER COPY TO EDITOR Jack Shattuck, (302)764-8619 or reach us at the DVUG mailing address, as shown on Page One of this newsletter. NEWSLETTER COPY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR AN ISSUE AFTER THE 2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH.

An annual index appears in February each year. Back copies of THE DATA BUS are available at \$1 each, by writing to the Editor at DVUG's mailing address, with a check made payable to DVUG.

In the following years, we have had our ranks grow by TI users approximately one hour away, as former members of the 9900 Users Group of N.J. reconvened in Deptford as our South Jersey chapter - a smaller group from the Kent County Users group became our Dover chapter - and now the Atlantic County community So. Jersey TI Computer Club operates as our Shore chapter, as they, too, have expanded.

We are all connected by DVUG's DATA BUS Newsletter, and support from central Treasury funding, as well as local BBS's plus additional chapter funding projects and shared software library activity. In order to be mutually aware of each other in terms of hardware and software needs and circumstances, we need to share that news amongst ourselves - as well as with other TI User Groups. Since not everyone can travel to 4 meetings each month, and that includes me (I gave up calling each part of the world as Editor before) - we need local Secretaries willing to send a report of each meeting events and coming plans to this Newsletter Editor.

DVUG BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEMS (BBS)

No. Delaware: (302) 322-3999 24 Hrs.
 So. Delaware: (302) 674-1449 24 Hrs.

S.W. New Jersey: (609) 429-7792

Weekdays: Mon.-Thurs. 3:00 pm - 7:00 am
 Weekends: Fri. 3:00 pm - Mon. 7:00 am

So. Delaware runs 300 Baud; others run both 300 and 1200 Baud.

NOTICE TO OTHER USER GROUPS, ON MAILINGS TO THE DELAWARE VALLEY USERS GROUP:

We ask that you use the P.O. Box on THE DATA BUS mast to reach us. In past years, mail sent to changing individuals in the organization provided undesirable delays in reaching others. Thank you.

I'm not fussy; I don't need a fully formatted TI-writer disk report. (Nice, but expensive.) Grubby handwritten but legible [and TIMELY] copy will do, sent by \$.22 stamp, if not by BBS line. This 5 1/2 year-old 99/4A will fix it.

If you don't see it, it's because I didn't get it, not that DVUG isn't busy.

HIGHER VOLTAGE COMMON, says DELMARVA Engineer

Your Editor followed up last month's article from the Brevard County, Florida, writer (Vol. 5:10, December, p.10) who was concerned about increased home voltage possibly damaging computer systems. His typical readings hit 123.2 volts, and he'd blown a chip.

My letter was referred to Delmarva Power's Corporate Communications Department, which is supposed to provide an appropriate written policy response to inquiries. After a few weeks' silence, I talked to their Customer Engineering Sr. Engineer, Robert Evans, who noted he'd received our comments and would be pressing for a response. Meanwhile, he indicated that most homes here typically run between 119-123 volts, not unusually hitting extremes of 126-100 volts, with the higher surges often at early morning hours between 3 - 4 a.m., when few people should be bothered. On the transformer plug and in literature with the TI-99/4A, reference is made to 120 Volts AC.

Evans advised that standard computer tolerance ranges are +/- (plus or minus) 8%, as against the suggested ANSI standard of +5 to -10%. Most regulated utility companies, said Evans, run 120 +/- 5% voltage, although Philadelphia was believed to be as low as 112 volts. (The ANSI standard from publication C84.1 dates back to 1977.) In noting the problems claimed by the Florida user, Evans suggested that surges were the bigger problem, with standard socket surge protectors not always up to snuff. An additional factor with homes built locally in the last 8 years was the use of plastic water pipes, whereas electric service formerly was grounded to the water main. There are wide variations of discharge capabilities over the length of the grounding rods now employed, said Evans.

The engineer would welcome a chance to address DUUG, as Delmarva regularly makes community presentations at the University of Delaware, and there is a great increase in home computer usage. A letter of invitation will have to be forwarded through that same Corporate Communications Department, which has yet to respond to our first inquiry.

RELATED ITEMS: In January's Edmonton, Alberta, 99'er ONLINE newsletter, a \$15 surge protector or (better) \$50 multioutlet power bar filter is recommended. A recent 1000 volt lightning surge annihilated a motherboard during an electric storm there. The reference also warns against too low voltage as well (when the lights grow dim), in which case the amperage rises to compensate.

Undated item in Orange County, Ca.'s ROM Newsletter: A New Jersey owner lost a 4A and PEB during a thunderstorm which sent a surge through a wall outlet (turned off), and which had a surge protector plugged in (but turned off)!

LOWERCASE CHAR SET CAN BE USED IN DM 1000 OR PROGRAMS

Okay, I cheat a little with my p's and q's but here's a readable lower case text variation that will work either in your own text lines or for reading others with the File option ("T" for Type to screen instead of Copy or Move) in Disk Manager 1000. It's fairly comparable to today's TI-Writer disk files, if not better.

To run with DM1000, run this first then Barry Boone's Opt.5 E/A loader for DM1000. There's also a slashed zero.

```
1000 ! SUB FILE or by itself 1050 CALL CHAR(109,"00000028
5454545400000028342424240000
1010 CALL CHAR(40,"001A242C3
4246418") !0
0038444444380000007844784040
") !M-P
```

```
1020 CALL CHAR(97,"000000300
43C443A002020283424245800000
03844404438000404344C44443A"
) !A-D
1060 CALL CHAR(113,"00000038
4454483600000028342020200000
00384038047800202020202018
") !Q-T
```

```
1030 CALL CHAR(101,"00000038
4478403C00384440704040400000
003A443C04780040405864444444
") !E-H
1070 CALL CHAR(117,"00000024
2424241800000044444428100000
0054545454280000004428102844
") !U-X
```

```
1040 CALL CHAR(105,"00100030
1010103800040004040424180020
2024283028240030101010103C
") !I-L
1080 CALL CHAR(121,"00000024
241C04380000007C0810207C") !
Y-Z
```

1090 !Maybe RETURN or SUBEND

TI LOGO: This is TI's Copyrighted logo, so it shouldn't be put on material for distribution. If you like it as a home demo, however, here it is:

```
30000 SUB TI_LOGO 30050 CALL HCHAR(12,15,128)
:: CALL HCHAR(12,16,129) ::
30010 CALL CHAR(128,"0103030
303030303FC0405050406020C008
0404080000C12FF80C04060381C0
E")
30060 CALL HCHAR(13,17,133)
:: CALL HCHAR(14,15,134) ::
30020 CALL CHAR(132,"1921213
D050505C4B000B00A1A1A122030
100000000000E23110100C0703"
)
```

```
30030 CALL CHAR(136,"4C90204
04020E")
30070 SUBEND
30040 CALL CLEAR
```

Note: Previously undefined characters retain new forms, even if you start NEW.

December's DATA BUS ran a light pen program from the Madarea (Madison, Wisconsin) September issue. In October that newsletter acknowledged that half the listing wasn't published! Here's the ENTIRE listing, as it should be:

```

100 |-----|
110 |
120 | 0000 000 00000 |
130 | 0 0 0 0 0 |
140 | 0 0 0 0 0 |
150 | 0 0 0 0 0 |
160 | 0 0 0 0 0 |
170 | 0 0 0 0 0 |
180 | 0000 000 0 |
190 |
200 |-----|

```

```

210 REM by: Edwin McFall
220 REM 2005 W. 6th
230 REM ABERDEEN WA.
240 REM 98520
250 REM TI 99/4A VER. 1.1
260 REM REQUIRES LIGHTPEN
270 REM AND EXTENDED BASIC
280 REM
290 REM
300 CALL CLEAR :: CALL SCREE
N(2)
310 FOR X=1 TO 10 :: CALL CO
LOR(X,5-11*(X)8),1):: NEXT X
320 RANDOMIZE
330 FOR X=0 TO 2
340 CALL CHAR(96+8*X,"3C7EFF
FFFFF7E3C")
350 CALL COLOR(9+X,1,1)
360 NEXT X
370 PRINT " `hp`hp `hp
`hp`hp hp` ` p`h `
h p`h hp` h hp`"
380 PRINT " hp` h hp`
h p`h hp` h hp`
h p`h hp` ` p`h `
p`h"
390 PRINT " `hp`hp `hp
p`h": : : :
400 PRINT : : "`hp`hp`hp`hp`h
p`hp`hp`hp`hp`p BY: EDWI
N MCFALL hh TOUCH DOT T
O CONTINUE. p`ph`ph`ph`ph`p
h`ph`ph`ph`ph`"

```

```

410 CALL JOYST(1,X,Y):: IF X
<>0 OR Y<>0 THEN 480
420 FOR C=1 TO 3
430 CALL COLOR(9,7-4*(C=1)-8
*(C=2),1)
440 CALL COLOR(10,7-4*(C=2)-
8*(C=3),1)
450 CALL COLOR(11,7-4*(C=3)-
8*(C=1),1)
460 NEXT C
470 GOTO 410
480 CALL SOUND(100,440,0)::
CALL CLEAR :: SC=0
490 DISPLAY A(12,9):"EASY
HARD"
500 DISPLAY AT(16,7):"SELECT
DIFFICULTY" :: DISPLAY AT(1
8,1):"EASY=LARGE DOTS, HARD=
SMALL."
510 CALL HCAR(12,9,112):: C
ALL HCHAR(12,19,104)
520 CALL COLOR(11,16,16,10,2
,2)
530 FOR I=1 TO 10
540 CALL JOYST(1,X,Y):: IF X
=4 THEN CALL MAGNIFY(2):: GO
TO 610
550 NEXT I
560 CALL COLOR(11,2,2,10,16,
16)
570 FOR I=1 TO 10
580 CALL JOYST(1,X,Y):: IF X
=4 THEN CALL MAGNIFY(1):: GO
TO 610
590 NEXT I
600 GOTO 520
610 CALL CLEAR
620 CALL SPRITE(31,96,16,92,
124)
630 DISPLAY AT(16,6)BEEP:"TO
UCH DOT TO START."
640 CALL JOYST(1,X,Y):: IF X
<4 THEN 640
650 CALL SOUND(-100,220,5)::
CALL SOUND(-100,880,0)
660 CALL CLEAR
670 FOR L=1 TO 20
680 CALL SPRITE(#1,96,16,INT
(RND0)+1,INT(RND0)+10)
690 N=0
700 CALL JOYST(1,X,Y)
710 IF X=4 THEN 730
720 N=N+1 :: GOTO 700
730 SC=SC+N :: CALL SOUND(-1
00,440,5)

```

```

740 DISPLAY AT(1,1):"SCORE "
;SC
750 FOR X=1 TO 100 :: NEXT X
760 NEXT L
780 CALL SOUND(-100,2+110,0)
790 NEXT Z
800 CALL CLEAR :: CALL SPRIT
E(#1,96,16,150,123)
810 DISPLAY AT(10,6):"YOUR S
CORE IS ";SC :: DISPLAY AT(1
8,3):"TOUCH DOT TO PLAY AGAI
N."
820 IF SC>150 THEN 830 ELSE
DISPLAY AT(12,6):" YOU CA
N'T FOOL ME!
YOU CHEATED!" :: GOTO 900
830 IF SC>200 THEN 840 ELSE
DISPLAY AT(12,1):" VERY GOOD
! YOU'VE MASTERED
THE DOTS!" :: GOTO 900
840 IF SC>225 THEN 850 ELSE
DISPLAY AT(12,1):"GEE WIZ! I
DIDN'T KNOW THAT HUMANS COU
LD MOVE THAT FAST!" :: GOTO
900
850 IF SC>250 THEN 860 ELSE
DISPLAY AT(12,1):"NOT BAD, B
UT YOU'LL NEVER SWAT A FLY
AT THAT SPEED." :: GOTO 900
860 IF SC>300 THEN 870 ELSE
DISPLAY AT(12,1):"YOU NEED A
LOT MORE PRACTICE" :: GOTO
900
870 IF SC>350 THEN 880 ELSE
DISPLAY AT(12,1):"I THINK YO
U NEED A SLOWER GAME, MAYB
E CHECKERS." :: GOTO 900
880 IF SC>400 THEN 890 ELSE
DISPLAY AT(12,1):"DIDN'T ANY
ONE TELL YOU THAT YOU'RE TRY
ING FOR LOW SCORE!" :: GOTO
900
890 DISPLAY AT(12,1):"LOOKS
LIKE YOU NEED HELP. TRY PO
INTING THE PEN AT THE DOT ST
UPID!"
900 FOR Z=1 TO 500 :: CALL J
OYST(1,X,Y):: IF X=4 THEN 93
0
910 NEXT Z
920 CALL CLEAR :: DISPLAY AT
(12,1):" DOTS ALL FOLKS..."
:: END
930 CALL DELSPRITE(ALL):: GO
TO 480

```

WORD PROCESSING WITH MULTIPLAN

PUNN (Portland, Ore.) Newsletter, Aug. 87, attributed to the San Antonio 99ers

Word processing with Multiplan? Why not? Multiplan has many advantages over TI-Writer and the Editor/Editor/Assembler. For instance, Multiplan will allow you to format your document in columnar layout and print it in condensed text, providing for a larger amount of text on a given page. In addition, Multiplan will center your text where desired, and allow for the movement of blocks of text in a much more flexible format.

Using Multiplan as a word processor does have its drawbacks. Among these are the lack of a global editor, editing of text is a bit more difficult (you can't simply type over your text), and fast typists will have to slow down a little due to the program's relatively slow processing speed.

Despite these drawbacks, however, for many applications Multiplan may be the easiest way to solve the problems at hand.

I don't propose to go into a full tutorial on the use of Multiplan, for that I would refer you to the Multiplan manual. I realize that many people find this a formidable document, but for use as a text processor, only a general knowledge of the use of Multiplan is necessary. Therefore in this discussion, I will merely cover what I have found to be the easiest steps to follow in setting up and using the worksheet.

Starting with an empty worksheet, your first step should be to select the OPT or OPTIONS command and turn off the RECALC option. Since you will be doing no math calculations, this will eliminate the considerable delay incurred as the program searches for mathematical cells.

Next, select the FORMAT option, then DEFAULT on the sub-menu, and finally WIDTH on the next menu, and set the default column width at 30 columns. I realize that it is possible to set the width up to 32 columns, but by setting it at 30 we will be able to widen it to 32 to allow for a buffer between columns of text.

The next setup step that is advisable is to again select the FORMAT, DEFAULT option, but this time select the CELLS option on the third menu. In the alignment column select L for Left. Remember, when Multiplan is displaying the ALPHA/VALUE prompt, hitting a number as the first character in a line will select the VALUE option rather than ALPHA. Therefore, if the first character in a line is a numeric one, you must first hit Enter twice to specifically select the ALPHA command. In case you forget however, and the only characters entered on that line are numeric ones, this will prevent them from being right-justified or otherwise skewed.

The final setup step I use is to select the WINDOW option and place a border around the one open window. You

may then use this border as a line length while typing. You may type up to but not including the column containing the right border without having the end of your text cut off.

You are now ready to begin entering your text. Start at row one, column one, and enter one line after the other in column one. I prefer to enter all of my text in column one and format it later, since this makes it somewhat easier to move data about. Another advantage is that you don't have to worry about keeping track of where you are located on the page.

Once you have finished entering your text, you are ready to format the data into columns. Since the maximum width on the TI printer is 132, we will divide the text into 4 equal columns of 32 characters each and have a 2 column border on the left and right margins.

Assuming we're working with one page as an example, there are two ways you can format the text. One would be to simply divide it into 54 rows per column (assuming your page length is 66), and leave whatever may be left over in the 4th column. You may also decide that you would like the columns to be of even length, in which case you would simply divide the total number of rows by 4, and make each column that length.

For example, let's assume the total number of rows when the document is formatted in 1 column is 200. 200 divided by 4 equals 50. We would therefore make each column 50 lines long.

To do this, we would copy from row 51 to 100, and place the copy in row 1, column 2. Next we would copy row 101 to 150, and place the copy in row 1, column 3, and finally we copy from row 151 to 200 and place the copy in row 1, column 4.

You now have the entire document in rows 1 through 50 and columns 1 through 4, but you still have copies of columns 2 through 4 below row 50 in column 1. To get rid of these, use the DELETE command. Now change the default width to 32 to provide spaces between columns.

You are now ready to print the file. To do this, first save the file to disk. Next exit Multiplan and select TI BASIC, then enter the following commands:

```
OPEN #1:"PI0"
PRINT #1:CHR$(15)
BYE
```

If your printer is not connected to the parallel I/O interface you will have to supply the proper filename. This procedure sets up a TI printer to print in condensed text.

Next re-enter Multiplan and select PRINT, OPTIONS. Enter your printer name in the setup field and return to the PRINT menu. Now select MARGINS and set the left margin to 2 and change the print width to 132.

All that need be done now is to select the PRINTER command. Your document should come out in 4 even columns.

MISCELLANEOUS SHORT PROGRAMS

In Chick de Marti's LA 99'er TOPICS columns, from several User Group Newsletters, were found the following items.

~~~~~

From Pudget Sound 99er, this routine will create an interesting title by pulling text from all directions.

```

100 REM
110 REM ** YOUR PROGRAM HERE
**
120 REM
130 CALL CLEAR
140 CALL FL("FIRST LINE OF T
EXT",5)
150 CALL FL("SECOND
LINE",7)
160 CALL FL("THIRD LINE OF T
EXT",9)
170 REM
180 REM
190 REM
    
```

```

2000 SUB FL(A$,L):: W=15-INT
(LEN(A$)/2):: RANDOMIZE
2010 FOR N=1 TO LEN(A$):: F=
1500
2020 G=ASC(SEG$(A$,N,1)):: I
F G=32 THEN 2130
2030 IF N/2<>INT(N/2)THEN 20
60
2040 C=INT(32*RND):: IF R>1
THEN R=INT(RND*2)ELSE R=INT(
24*RND)
2050 GOTO 2070
2060 R=INT(24*RND):: IF R>1
THEN C=INT(RND*2)ELSE C=INT(
32*RND)
2070 IF R=0 THEN R=24
2080 IF C=0 THEN C=32
2090 CALL SPRITE(#1,G,2,1+(R
-1)*8,1+(C-1)*8,(L-R)*4,(W+N
-C)*4)
2100 CALL COINC(#1,(L-1)*8+1
,(W+N-1)*8,48,D)
2110 CALL SOUND(-100,F,10)::
F=F-125 :: IF D=0 THEN 2100
2120 CALL DELSPRITE(#1):: CA
LL HCHAR(L,W+N,G)
2130 NEXT N :: SUBEND
    
```

Since you know on which line your text will appear, why not dump that screen to a printer?

Merely modify the next program, written for a full-screen program dump, to pull off the line you want. Chick ascribed this to John Witham in MICROpendium, Feb.'85. It should be used within your program as a subroutine:

```

100 OPEN #1:"PIO"
110 FOR R=1 TO 24
120 FOR C=1 TO 32
130 CALL GCHAR(R,C,D)
140 PRINT #1:CHR$(D);
150 NEXT C
160 PRINT #1:CHR$(13)
170 NEXT R
180 CLOSE #1
190 RETURN
    
```

Change line 110 as desired, to accord with the digits in lines 140-160 on the left.

~~~~~

Back in June's DATA BUS (Vol.5:5), we ran an inverse video char list. Here's an alternative technique, from the MSP Newsletter:

```

100 CALL CLEAR :: CALL SCREE
N(5)
110 ! The next line is the
heart of the routine and is
all that is needed.
120 FOR I=65 TO 98:: CALL CH
ARPAT(I,A$):: CALL CHAR(I+32
,A$) :: NEXT I
130 FOR I=1 TO 8 :: CALL COL
OR(I,16,5):: NEXT I
140 FOR I=9 TO 12 :: CALL CO
LOR(I,5,16):: NEXT I
150 A$="INVERSE VIDEO"
160 B$="inverse video"
170 DISPLAY AT(11,7):A$ :: F
OR I=1 TO 50 :: NEXT I :: DI
SPLAY AT(11,7):B$ :: FOR I=1
TO 50:: NEXT I :: GOTO 170
    
```

From that same source, in Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN, here's a quick catalog you can include as a subprogram, such as CALL CAT. Just add a line before, SUB CAT, and a line after, SUBEND, making sure that no other lines follow, except maybe other Sub routines. Otherwise, a GOTO and RETURN will work. Or leave it as is, perhaps.

```

1 @=1 :: OPEN #2:"DSK1.",INP
UT, RELATIVE,INTERNAL :: INP
UT #2:F$,E,E,F :: DISPLAY AT
(2,@)ERASE ALL:F$;"FREE=";F;
"USED=";E-F :: R=5 :: C=@
2 FOR H=@ TO 127 :: INPUT #:
F$,D,E,F :: DISPLAY AT(R,C):
F$ :: R=R+1 :: IF ABS(D)=0 T
HEN CLOSE #2 :: END
3 IF R<24 THEN 4 :: C=16 ::
R=5
4 NEXT H
    
```

~~~~~

Finally to take a TRACE to printer, Mike Slattery's subroutine (from TISHUG - an Australian User Group) can help you track down problems without your vision having to match the scrolling speed of the TRACE lines.

```

9100 OPEN #1:"PIO"
9110 PR$=""
9120 FOR R=1 TO 24 :: FOR C=
3 TO 28 :: CALL GCHAR(R,C,X)
:: IF X=60 THEN 140 :: IF X
=31 OR X=32 THEN 150 :: IF X
62 THEN X=32
9130 PR$=PR$&CHR$(X):: CT=CT
+1 :: IF CT>75 AND (X=32 OR
X=31)THEN PRINT #1:PR$ :: PR
$="" :: CT=0
9140 NEXT C
9150 NEXT R
9160 PRINT #1:PR$ :: PR$=""
:: CT=0
9170 CLOSE #1 :: CALL CLEA
R
9180 RETURN
    
```

USING TI-WRITER AS MODEM SOFTWARE TO TRANSMIT FILES  
From North Jersey TI-User Group, Widely Reproduced

Did you ever want to use your TI-Writer for sending information via a modem? The Magnetic Users Group, North Andover, MA has discovered the way to do it.

SENDING PARTY:

Compose text as usual in TI-Writer. However when it comes time to save it on disk, use PRINT FILE without the formatting characters:

PF C DSK2.README

Exit the EDITOR section and enter the FORMAT section.

```
FILENAME:          DSK2.README
DEVICE NAME:       RS232.LF
USE MAILING LIST:  N
WHAT PAGE(S)?     (ALL)
NUMBER OF COPIES?  1
PAUSE AT END OF PAGE? N
```

CHECK - to be sure that the RECEIVING PARTY IS READY before you toggle the SENDING modem ON. When everything is ready, hit "ENTER".

RECEIVING PARTY:

Enter the EDITOR section of TI-Writer and prepare to LOAD FILES:

LF RS232.LF

When the sending party is ready to send, wait until you hear the squeal of his modem then toggle the receiving modem on and hit the ENTER button. You won't see anything on your screen, but the lights on your expansion box will flicker. Then if everything has been done correctly, the file will suddenly appear. Then (S)ave(F)ile to your own disk in the usual manner.

If you don't get your timing correct, you may lose part or all of line one. you can recover most of it with "OOPS" (CTRL I), but it is easier to simply be sure that your text starts with one or two blank lines.

INCLUDING LINE NUMBERS WHEN PRINTING OUT TI-WRITER FILES

To print out line numbers alongside your columns when reviewing drafts of text, use the command PF then L P10 to print line numbers plus the first 74 text characters/line.

16 VS. 18 SECTORS/TRACK: Initializing a Disk using Disk Manager 1000 - Reading Problems with Myarc Disk Controller

A speedy initialization offered by DM1000 is called BOX FORMAT, which makes a track at a time (40 clicks of your drive). Many CorComp users prefer it to the CC Mgr, especially when preparing several disks at a time. (You could also initialize by sectors but that's V E R Y slow, especially on DSD0 disks. For the sake of this article, the end result is the same.)

This discussion begins with the LA 99er Mike Dodd's article from Mar. 87 TOPICS:

"DM 1000 ... has an annoying little bug if you happen to own a CorComp disk controller. When DM1000 formats disks in double density, it puts 16 sectors/track on the header, even though it formats 18 sectors/track. Which is all fine and well if you keep it on a CorComp Controller, for the reason that the CorComp controller never even heard of 16 sectors, so it doesn't care what the header says. HOWEVER, if you send the disk to someone who has a MYARC disk controller, then the MYARC controller looks at the header and sees "16 sectors per track". So it reads the disk based on that information. But it's 18 sectors per track!"

"So, the MYARC card reports a blank disk. After having several people complain about my "blank" disks, I found a fix for DM1000. For V3.5, edit the first sector of the MGR1 file. At byte 216, you should see (in hex) 10 02 02 D0 00 5A. Change the 10 to 12. Write the sector back out to disk, and never worry about it again. If you are using another version of DM1000 that has the same problem (I don't know if any others do), search for 10 00 02 D0 00 5A. It should be very close to the beginning."

I've had the same problem when I've needed Mail List files from Tom Klein. Tom now uses DM1000 to format his disks, and he uses the CorComp disk controller. I long ago swapped my CorComp controller for a Myarc controller, to allow me full advantage of my Myarc RAMDISK. But when Tom's disks would show as blank, I was stymied.

Rudy Johnson, in the Apr. 87 SNUGlet (So. Nevada newsletter), adds to Mike's observations these thoughts:

"It is also possible to change those disks formatted [as noted] as double density by changing the sectors per track information in the first sector (Sector 0). Once again a sector editor is necessary. Sector 0 is called up for editing and byte 12 (decimal) or C (hex) is changed from the existing 10 to 12 (both in hex)."

(Continued on page 8)

16 VS. 18 SECTORS/TRACK: DM1000 and the Myarc Controller  
(Continued from page 7)

In Rudy's newsletter, a handwritten comment at the end of his remarks adds:

"Note! Myarc disk controller users should NOT reset the Sector 0 byte from >10 to >12! If you do, the system will assume it is 18 sectors per track. In that case you will see the same problems that we CorComp users have seen."

Well, here in Delaware with a Myarc controller, I DO have the same problems. I tried changing both bytes 12 and 216, to 10 and 10, 10 and 12, 12 and 10, and even 12 and 12 in DM1000 Version 3.5, to no avail whatsoever. I still get a 16-sector/track reading. On latest version 3.8, byte 216 is the same but byte 12 is different.

That may explain that problem, but does anyone have a solution that works? Meanwhile, if you're passing a disk to a Myarc controller user, don't initialize with DM1000.

PRODUCT REVIEW: The Real TI/IBM Connection, CorComp/\$59.95 as described in the C.O.N.N.I. Spirit of 99 Bull.Board (author not identified)

Hardware required: CorComp Disk Controller, 32K, and 2 360K Disk Drives

This piece of Cartridge Software will allow you to pass ASCII files back and forth from a MS-DOS environment to the TI-99/4A environment and from the 4A to the MS-DOS Computer. Now you can bring disks home from work with Text files and literally work with them on the 4A and transport the data back and forth. The claim by CorComp is a "REAL TI TO IBM Connection". So let's see how real it is.

The best way is to compare it to another product on the market. Specifically the one from Triton. Triton's is a cable connection and a set of instructions on how to set up the terminal settings between the MS-DOS and 4A computers. So, basically they have to be fairly close to each other to transfer the data. With Triton's cable, files can be transferred at speeds up to 9600 Baud, altho' I was only able to use 2400 Baud. Anything over that dropped or lost characters. Whichever I do not know.

AND there is only one MS-DOS commercial program that will transfer files BACK to the 4A, Crosstalk. A rather expensive commercial program. So, we have a very efficient and fairly fast method of taking your TI-Writer and Multiplan files and importing them to MS-DOS. But, what if

you wanted to take a Wordstar text file, or a Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheet from home to work, or even if you had the computers in the same room and wanted to import them to the 4A. Well, up to now it was almost impossible or not worth the effort.

This is where the TI/IBM Connection can come into play! You simply bring the files from the respective system to a disk initialized by the same system. Then place the MS-DOS disk in drive 1 and the 4A disk in drive 2. Bring up the Cartridge program and manipulate both disks using the standard file commands that are used in the CC Disk Manager. Rename, Copy, Delete and Protect and Unprotect is what is available.

When passing files to the MS-DOS disk the first 8 characters are truncated and a file extension space is available. The entire process is by no means speedy. The program uses the 32K memory space for a buffer, so it has to write to buffer and write to disk for each separate file. But, it works. Thus you may have noticed one limitation. File size is limited to 23K. Not a problem on the 4A, but could be for long text files in MS-DOS. They would have to be broken down to accommodate the Program.

Another problem I encountered was that MS-DOS does not allow certain characters in file names. Such as "/\;: =+" and possibly some others. MS-DOS manuals have a list of them. Keep this in mind. We, in the 4A world, seem to love using these characters. Other than these two minor quirks, the Program did what it was supposed to do. One other minor missing item is a Move command.

The manual, tho' small, is adequate. It explains each command and even gives a short explanation on how to use DBASE III and Multiplan files. It also warns about some Word Processors that use their own type of coding to save the files, which will not transfer correctly. It also STIPULATES this Software will ONLY pass straight ASCII text. Nothing else!

As to value, this program does what no other can so far. Is the price too high? Probably not. For the manhours that went into this project, the cost is reasonable. Remember, this program ACTUALLY reads and writes to an IBM disk using the existing 4A hardware. Not something to dismiss lightly! BUT, I also feel it is over priced for the TI market. Obviously I have mixed feelings on this.

And one last point, this program does not work in the Gramcracker. The program does work, but when you access the TI disk catalog portion, the VDP goes out to lunch! The only way out of this is reboot. The author says this was not purposely done. I won't make any comment.



PRODUCT REVIEW: WriterEase (Ver. 1.3), \$44.95, Written by Galen Read, Produced by CorComp, Distributed by Triton.

Reviewed by Tim O'Neill, Delaware Valley Users Group  
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Hardware Required: XB, Disk Drive, 32K Expansion, RS232, Printer, CorComp or TI System. NOTE: Won't run with Myarc Controller and RAMDisk (Memory address problem?)

Corcomp's WriterEase is a real bargain at \$44.95. It is a fast editor/spell checker. While it does not have all the TI-Writer features, you do not have to go in and out of modules to do various functions. It functions well with a single drive system. There are two single-sided disks, Program and Dictionary. Documentation is sparse but adequate; it's on disk for easy extracting and printing.

Text is displayed on 22 rows, 23 if col/row line is toggled off. The col/row line also notes modes you are in (wrap, insert, print control chars). The tabs line always shows. I have found this handy.

SPELL CHECKING:

The 30,000 word dictionary is accessed easily anytime while typing the document. CTRL A checks spelling from point of cursor to end of document. When it finds an error, you can continue or see a list of candidates. CTRL C lists 20 candidates, if you are not sure of the word you just typed. (If valid, it's underlined.) The typist still has to manually correct the word.

If the first 2 letters are correct, it is pretty good. For some multiple ending words (e.g., -ed, -ing) the base word is not always in the dictionary. However, it is obviously correct to the user when he sees the candidate list. To get significant improvement on this, you would need a PC. The only sad news is you can't add words to the dictionary. On balance, it is amazing that a 99/4A can do so much.

It checks 2 words per second. The dictionary can be loaded into MEMORY PLUS by using the RAMDISK MANAGER to make it even faster.

FUNCTION KEYS:

While it does not have an English command list like TI-Writer, FCTN H brings up 3 help screens. Because WriterEase keys are more often naturally alpha related, I mastered them quickly whereas TI-Writer function keys have always seemed foreign. Thus, I have become much faster in one day than I ever did with TI-Writer.

In charts below, f= FCTN and c= CTRL. Absence of item in TI-Writer column means the process is not available in Editor mode.

FOR THE CURSOR:

| Writer TI-<br>Ease | Writer | Processing            |
|--------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| f E                | same   | Up                    |
| f X                | same   | Down                  |
| f D                | same   | Right                 |
| f S                | same   | Left                  |
| c E                | f 6    | Up 1 screen           |
| c X                | f 4    | Down 1 screen         |
| c H                | same   | Home (begin document) |
| c W                | same   | Next word             |
| c /                | f 7    | Next tab              |
| c ;                | c V    | Left margin           |
| c .                |        | Right "               |

FOR TEXT:

| Writer TI-<br>Ease | Writer | Processing            |
|--------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| c F                | f9 FS  | Find string           |
| c R                | f9 RS  | Replace "             |
| c 2                | same   | Reformat paragraph    |
| f 1                | same   | Delete character      |
| c K                | same   | Kill line to end      |
| f 8                | same   | Insert "              |
| f 3                | same   | Delete "              |
| c J                |        | Center "              |
| f M                | f9 MCD | Mass move/copy/delete |
| c L                | f9 LF  | Load document         |
| c S                | f9 SF  | Save "                |
| c M                | f9 LF  | Merge "               |
| c P                | f9 PF  | Print "               |
| f 0                | f9 P   | Purge "               |

MISCELLANEOUS FUNCTIONS:

| Writer TI-<br>Ease | Writer | Processing                  |
|--------------------|--------|-----------------------------|
| c A                |        | Spell check from cursor     |
| c C                |        | Spell check list candidates |
| c D                | f9 SD  | Directory list              |
| c I                | f 2    | Insert mode on/off          |
| f Q                | f =    | Quit                        |
| c 0                | c 1    | Oops!                       |
| f 9                | same   | Escape                      |
| c 0                | same   | On/off word wrap            |
| c T                | f9 T   | Tabs set                    |
| c U                | same   | Special character mode      |
| f H                | f 9    | Help                        |

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