BITS, BYTESEPIKELS

LIMA 99/4A USERS GROUP



SEPTEMBER 1995-Volume 11, #7

SAVING AND LOADING DIRECTLY BETWEEN FUNNELWEB AND AN IBM COMPATIBLE PC

by Charles Good Lima Ohio User Group

Using the Funnelweb editor you can use LF and SF to LoadFiles and GaveFiles directly to and from a hard drive or floppy disk on an IBM compatible PC. You can use the IBM's hard drive to store all your important text files! This can be sometimes be done at very fast transfer rates comparable to saving and loading text using a 99/4A disk, and you don't need a modem on either the TI or the IBM

What you do need is an IBM and TI computer cabled together between the TI's serial port and an IBM com port, usually COM2. You can't use a store baught serial cable for this because the TI serial port is not quite standard. I had L.L. Conner make my cable. You may be able to make your own. The needed pin connections for such a cable are these:

TI..IBM

1----1

2----2

3----3 6----20

7----7

20---6

TO SAVE TEXT FROM FUNNELNEB TO THE IBM:

On the IBM start Windows and go to the Accessories window. Activate the Terminal program. Click on "Settings". Then click on "Terminal Preferences" and make sure CR does not generate CR/LF (if the box has an x in it, click on the box to turn off the x) and that you are in 80 colums. Accept these settings by clicking on ok.

Click on "Settings" again and then click on "Communications". Select either 19200 or 9600 baud, odd parity, 7 data bits, and the proper CDM port. Then click on ok. I havn't figured out how to save 8 bit characters (Funnelmen's extended IBM graphics set) directly to an IBM using this technique. You may want to experiment with the baud rate. On my Geneve I can use a baud rate of 19200 without losing characters at the IBM end or causing an error message at the Geneve. On my 99/4A system I can only use 9600. On both systems I have a TI RS232 card. Cable length and the peculiarities of your system may dictate that you use a slower baud rate. When using 19200 to save text the speed of this save is at least as fast as saving to TI floppy disk.

Click on "Transfers" and then click on "Receive Text File". Select or create a file name, drive letter, and directory. Then click on ok. If asked say you want to override the existing log file. Now you are ready to receive text from Funnelweb.

Write your document or LF a document into the Funnelweb editor. First set up the IBM Terminal program as described above, then enter SF from Funnelweb's command line. Use "RS232.BA=19200" (or BA=9600 on a 99/4A system) as the Savefile file name. Yes I know the II's RS232 isn't supposed to be able to handle a baud rate of 19200, but on my beneve it works for me! You need to specify the same baud rate in Window's Terminal and Funnelweb's SF file name. Once you enter the SF file name your text will flow out of Funnelweb and across the serial cable into your IRM. You will see the text appear on the IBM screen. When the IBM cursor stops displaying more text move the mouse pointer of the IBM and click on "Stop". Your Funnelweb text has now been saved to an IBM disk as an 80 column ascii text file with no control characters and no tab markings.

TO LOAD TEXT FROM AN IBM INTO FUNNELWEB:

First load the Funnelweb editor. If you are using a Geneve load the Funnelweb editor from GPL (you can use speed D) rather than using EXEC. When using EXEC v2.11 on the Geneve I can't break out of the RS232 loading process although I seem to remember that I could with an earlier version of EXEC. From Funnelweb's command line type LF and specify "RS232.BA=600" as the file name. Press enter and Funnelweb will appear to lock up as it waits for text to flow in from the RS232. You can't use baud rates faster then 600 for LoadFile even though you can use much faster baud rates to save files.

Now set up the Windows lerminal program. Click on "Settings" then on "Communications". Click on 600 baud, 7 bit, Odd parity, the proper comport, and then click on ok. Now click on "Transfers" and then click on "Send Text File". Select the file name and drive of the text file you are loading into Funnelweb and click on ok. At this point text will start flowing into Funnelweb and you will see line numbers increment at the right of the Funnelweb v5.x command line.

When text stops flowing across the IBM screen and when Funnelweb's line numbers stop incrementing on Funnelweb's command line this means all the text is now in the TI's text buffer. Press FUIN/4 (the Break key) and then <enter> to display this text on the TI's screen. It is this FCTN/4 keypress that fails when I load Funnelweb into my Geneve using Exec instead of GPL.

DONE

TI-99/4A and PC

by Jan Alexandersson, Springarvagen 5, S-142 61 Trangsund, Sweden

It is easy to transfer TI-Writer (Funnelweb) text files from TI-99/4A to a PC Computer. The following settings will work with a normal text file with CR at the end of each paragraph:

TELCO settings:

Terminal setup:

- A) emulation mode-VT100
- C) or translation in-CR/LF
- D) cr translation out-CR
- I) duplex-Half
- a) baudrate-9600 (or 19200 with Myarc RS232)
- R) parity-BN1

Screen setup:

- D) 40/80 display toggle to 80 for 9938
- E) status line toggle-toggle until non-interlace with status line for 9938 File transfer setup
 - J) send at end of line-Space

Then "save Changes" to disk.

MS Works Terminal settings:

Telephone:

Servive name-TELCO

Communication:

Port-COM1

Baud-9600 (or 19200 with Myarc RS232)

Parity-None

Data bits-8

Ston bits-1

Hand shake-Xon/Xoff

Terminal:

Terminal-VT100

End of line-add LF

Local echo-X

Transmission:

Transmission- MODEM/CRC

Save the settings to a wcm suffix file.

Upload of file from TI to PCM

Prepare the PC to receive ASCII text file and select a proper file name with suffix txt (menu or click on the icon catch text). Choose "Upload file" from TELCO menu with ASCII and select file name. The whole file will be transferred and you can also see it on the PC terminal screen. The PC screen will only show the start of each paragraph but everything is saved to the txt file. Close the PC txt file from the menu or click on the icon.

Go to Word processing in MS Works. Open the txt file and choose "Text for DOS"

instead of "Text for Windows" and open the word processor. This "Text for DOS" is necessary to get proper national European characters 64, 91-94, 96 and 123-126.

Delete the TAB line at the end of the txt file. Delete all TI formatting

commands and printer control characters. You may also delete a space in front of each new paragraph except for the first one. This space comes from TELCO which will add a space at the end of each line (also after CR) which is absolutely necessary to avoid word to merge at the end and beginning of TI DIS/VAR 80 record lines. Any part of the text with tables in TI should be marked and change the PC character set to Courier which has constant width of all characters. Save the new file as wps for MS Works or as doc for MS Word.

You may also have used TI-Writer (Funnelweb) in program mode without CR at the end of each line. I have used this for a simple data base for my coin collection. In this case you should change TELCO File transfer setup J) send at end of li ne CR and proceed as described above.

Upload of file to MS Windows Terminal

MS Windows Terminal settings:
Terminal emulationm-VT100
Terminal setting-Local echo X
CR/LF outgoing
CR/LF incoming
Communication-9600 baud (or19200 with Myarc RS232)
8 data bits
1.stop bit
No parity
Xon/Xoff
COM 1

This will work almost in the same way as the MS Morks Terminal but I get double LF on the TELCO terminal but this will not affect the file transfer. I prefer to use the MS Works terminal because it is more user friendly. The MS Windows Terminal also has 600 baud which is missing in the MS Works Terminal.

DONE

THE NEXT MULTI USER GROUP CONFERENCE

The way things look now, the Spring 1996 all 99/4A-Geneve Multi User Group Conference will be in late May or early June in Cleveland Ohio. That's right, CLEVELAND! The TI CHIPS group there has offered to organize the event. If these plans somehow fall through then Lima and the Lima User Group will be the backup location and organizing group. We will publish more information as it becomes available.

LISTING OF ARTICES THAT RELATE TO TRANSFERRING FILES BETWEEN IBM AND 99/4A COMPUTERS"

The following lists articles in Micropendium and BB&P (The Lima newsletter) on this topic. The list was compiled by Jan Alexandersson.

"MP 90-01.16"; "Transfering files between the 4A and PCs*: "Stern, Jerry"

"MP 90-02.12";"The return to telecommuting, PC to TI"; "Stern, Jerry"

"MP 90-04.35"; "Program converts PC to TI text files"; "Tormanen, Quinton"

"MP 90-05.15"; "Translating from other Basics to TI Extended Basic"; "Stern, Jerry "

"MP 91-01.35"; "TEXT_PC for 9640"; "Stern, Jerry"

"MP 91-06.31"; Deciphering Fast term parameter files"; "Creviston Jr, John"

"MP 91-10.17"; "Converting text files"; "Koloen, John"

"MP 92-03.14"; "The TI and the IBM, Some Basic comparisons"; "Traver, Barry"

"MP 92-04.11"; "TI and PC Basic comparisons, Converting XB to QB": "Traver. Barry"

"MP 92-06.10"; The TI and the IBM, Some Basic comparisons": "Traver, Barry"

"MP 92-08.05"; "TI Emulator on a PC"; "Koloen, Jack"

"MP 92-08.10"; "Trimming Subprograms"; "Traver, Barry"

"MP 92-08.15"; "Seeks feedback, support for PC emulator of TI-99/4A"; "Mright, Mike" $\,$

"MP 92-10.06"; "PC Emulator project promoted down under"

"MP 92-10.09"; "Will TI users ever see Emulator running?"; "Dowling, Justin G."

"MP 92-11.05"; "PC Emulator"; "Koloen, Jack"

"MP 92-11.11";"PC99 Emulator, Chicago TI Fair";"Cox, Garry W."

"MP 93-03.29"; "Using II-Writer to LF from an RS232"; "Good, Charles"

"MP 93-04.26";"CaDD releases PC99 emulator stage 1";"van Coppenolle, Mark"

"MP 93-08.29";"Converting TI and PC text files";"Swedlow, Jim"

"MP 93-11.22"; "PC99 project shows improvement, Chicago TI Fair"; "Cox, Garry W."

"MP 94-03.04";"Shareware TI Emulator, Swartz";"Koloen, Jack"

"MP 94-03.07"; "The TI/Non-TI Serial Hardware Connection"; "Traver, Barry"

"MP 94-03.07"; "Sex Changes.... Is it normal?"; "Silversteen, Alan"

"MP 94-03.23";"New TI emulator software runs on 386";"Swartz, Edward"

*MP 94-05.21"; "Transferring files from TI-Base to a PC": "Ohi. Dick"

"MP 94-06.07"; "PC99 version 2A, Lima Multi User Group Conference": "Cox. Garry W. "

"MP 94-07.04";"TI Emulator! off the boards, Swartz";"Koloen, Jack"

"MP 94-08.24"; "PC99 by CaDB Electronics, release 2A": "Good, Charles"

"MP 94-11.17"; "PC99 shows great improvement, Chicago TI Fair"; "Cox, Garry"

"MP 95-01.28"; "Emulator legit?"; "Swartz, Edward"

"MP 95-01.29"; "Sending TI-Base files to another computer"; "Warden, Harlan"

"MP 95-02.04";"PC99 Stage 3 an achievement";"Koloen,

"MP 95-02.05"; "CaDD releases Stage 3 of PC99"; "Wright, Mike"

"MP 95-02.31"; "Using Telco to upload ASCII text files"

"MP 95-02.30"; "Using TI-Writer to transfer text over the serial port"; "5000, Charles"

"MP 95-04.24": "PC users have new way to use TI artwork": "Koloen, Jack"

"RRP94-02.01";"PC99 - A first report";"Good, Charles"
"BBP94-06.05";"The tortoise and the hare, PC99";"Wright,
Mike"

"BBP94-10.01"; "Converting TI disks so they can run on a PC": "Good, Charles"

"BRP95-03.01"; "How to send text from the CC40 to an IRM compat."; "Good, Charles" **DONE**

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A FATAL BUG IN THE CC40 MENO PROCESSOR SOFTMARE CARTRIDGE

by Charles Good Lima Ohio User Group

When using TI's word processing MEMO PROCESSOR cartridge, you are supposed to be able to enter text and then completely power down the CC40. Later, when you turn on the CC40 and start Memo Processor your text should still be there waiting for you, preserved in the CC40's battery backed RAM. My experience has been that this works most of the time. However, every now and then my CC40 displays "Ready for new document" when I activate Memo Processor even though there should already he a document in memory. The document I left in memory when I last powered down my CC40 is totally lost when this happens. This loss of document occurs only occasionally, but when it happens I am VERY UPSET, because I may have lost several thousand characters of text before I can get my CC40 home to transfer my document via my hexbus RS232 to my 99/4A or to a PC. This is why, in my CC40 Micropendium article, I characterized the CC40 Basic word processing Palmer Hanson and I wrote as "more stable in memory" than Memo Processor. This program, which I am using to write this article, NEVER loses its data when the computer is turned off.

For many years I have wondered whether this Memo Processor problem was a random phenomenon or was due to some basic problem in the Memo Processor software. The problem occures infrequently enough that I was unable to detect a pattern. Maybe the contacts on my Memo Processor cartridge and/or the cartridge port on my CC40 were dirty. Maybe I didn't use the correct sequence of keypresses to completely exit Memo Processor and power down the CC40 (there are several ways to do this). Maybe Memo Processor does not like my 18K CC40 and will only work reliably with a 6K CC40. I asked other CC40 owners if they experienced this problem. Some, including Funnelweb's Tony McGovern, replied with a definate "YES!", but others said they have not experienced the problem.

I am now convinced that there is a bug in Memo Processor that causes data loss on powerdown under certain circumstances. I can verify the loss of document problem in a predictable way. The problem is not related to dirty cartridge contacts, the size of CC40 RAM, or the keysequence used to turn off the computer. I have verified the bug using two different Memo Processor cartridges using both my 18K and 6K CC40. The results of my research indicate that, when using Memo Processor, each time the CC40 is powered down by the user or by automatic powerdown there is approximately 1 chance in 16 that the in memory document will be lost. And there is almost nothing you can do to prevent this from happening.

The solution to this puzzle ocurred to me recently after I wrote a 6600+ character long document using Memo Processor,

when I later turned my CC40 back on the document was gone! I reloaded the document from my quickdisk drive, turned my CC40 off and then back on, and the document was 60NE A6AIN!. I now had on disk a document that would ALMAYS be lost to Memo Processor when my CC40 was power cycled. This proved that the loss of document problem is not random. It can be predictably repeated. I soon discovered that if I loaded my disappearable document from disk and either added a few characters to the document, or deleted a few characters, the document would remain in memory. It is the length of the text document in memory that determines whether it will be lost or not when the CC40 is turned off, according to the following pattern.

If you enter 20 groups of 10 characters each into Memo Processor with a space between each group, this will equal 219 characters and will remain in memory when powr is cycled. If you add a space and another 10 character group, for a total of 230 characters, the document will be lost when power is cycled off and on. Any document length between I and 229 characters will not be lost. Any document between 230 and 245 characters in length will be lost upon power cycling. Then the pattern repeats itself. Text 246-475 characters long will not be but text 476-492 characters long is lost. The pattern seems to repeat more or less indefinately. For each group of 245 characters, if the document length is within the last 16 of these 245 characters the document will not remain in memory when the CC40 is turned off and on. 16/245 = 0.065 or 6.5% or about 1 in 16, the chances of losing a Memo Processor document each time the computer is power cycled. Unless you know the exact length of your document, which is not easy, there is no way to avoid the problem. In my opinion this bug makes Memu Processor almost useless. Those CC40 owners who told me they havn't had troubles with Memo Processor probably havn't used it very often. Or perhaps they are just unusually lucky.

DONE

LETTER TO THE EDITOR ABOUT THE TANDY 100 AND CC40 COMPUTERS

Near the end of the article "The Portable Hexbus Modem" in the May 1995 issue of Bits Bytes Pixels you state:

"... I think the hexbus modem/Cc40 combination was the first totally battery powered telecommunication package ever available to the public in 1984. The Tandy 100 computer, battery powered with a built in modem, came later."

I purchased my Model 100 on April 20, 1783 only a few days after the device was announced and simultaneously available at Radio Shack stores. As received it was completely usable, for those with a scientific bent it has fourteen digit base 10 arithmetic as the default mode and an absolutely superb sine/cosine routine. For those who can touch type it has a full size standard layout keyboard. I still use it.

Announcements of the coming availability of the CC40 a//eared in late 1982. I had a preliminary copy of the manual in March 1983 and received a 6K engineering model for evaluation on May 3, 1983. The CC40 became available at retailers in this area in late May of 1983. The HX1000 printer/plotter became available in mid 1894. I couldn't make my engineering model work with the printer/plotter and exchanged i for an 18K production model in November 1984. I also purchased an HX3000 RS232 interface in November 1984. Shortly thereafter TI announced that they would stop further development for the CC40. So, you see that the Model 100 clearly preceded the CC40 with a battery operated modem package, unless of course you count announcements rather than actual availability.

The keyboard of the CC40 is too small to permit real touch typing; but even worse, a right hand shift key was not provided, making touch typing of mixed capitals and lower case essentially impossible. In the same time frame H-P was pushing the HP-75 as a machine with a typewriter type keyboard, but again it was too cramped to permit touch typing. In early 1983 I wrote "... the HP-75 and the CC40 seem to have found exartly the same awkward size, too small for touch typing and too big for a pocket-- unless you are a Russian infantryman with your winter overcoat." An article in the February 1983 issue of Portable Computer said it differently. "Adult hands don't fit baby keys."

Palmer hanson Jr. 2149 14th Ave. SW Largo Florida 34640

DONE

YOU HAVE TO MIX FUNNELNES V4.4 AND V5.01 AND V5.21 TO SET THE NEW EDITORS TO WORK. CONFUSED? THE LINA SROUP HAS THE SOLUTION!

The most recent version of most parts of Funnelweb is v4.4. The most recent Funnelweb 40 column editor is v5.01, and you have to add the v5.01 files to your v4.4 system disk to get the editor to work. The most recent version of the Funnelweb 80 column editor is v5.21, and you have to add the v5.21 editor files to your v4.4 system disk to get this editor to work. Some of the v4.4 system and document files are now obsolete. This can be VERY CONFUSING! Which of the v4.4 files should not be used and what is the purpose of all those numerous Funnelweb files?

The Lima User Group has taken all the guesswork out of upgrading to the new Funnelweb editors. We have created a 40 and an 80 column Funnelweb disk set. Each set of 3 DSSD

disks contains all the currently valid v4.4 files and docs along with all the files of the most recent (v5.x) editor. The first disk of each set has the main system files and can be run immediately from any floppy drive using XB or EAS. The second disk of each set contains less commonly used Funnelweb system files as well as DSKU, DM1000, and Archiver set up so they can be run from a Funnelweb central menu. The third disk of each set contains the 40 or 80 column Funnelweb docs. Also included are some published reviews of Funnelweb describing the most significant features of Disk Review and the new 40 and 80 column editors.

These two 3 disk sets are complete. They contain all the currently valid, most recent version, Funnelmeb software and document files an a logically arranged format. Nothing is archived. Also, each and every file has a DSKU comment attached to its name on disk. These can be viewed and/or printed with Funnelmeb or DSKU and help you to understand the function of each Funnelmeb file.

ANYONE can obtain the 40 or 80 column Funnelweb set by sending 3 disks and an addressed postage paid return mailer to the Lima User Group, P.O. Box 647, Venedocia OH 45894. If you want both sets send 6 disks.

DONE

THE DRIGIN OF THE GENEVE COMPUTER'S NAME

The clamshell containing the Myarc's computer-non-a-rard says "Myarc 9640 Family Computer". The box calls it "Geneve". What is the origin of these names? No, it has nothing to do with any computer chip. There is no such thing as a 9640 chip. The answer is in an article by Dave Wakely published in the August 30 1986 issue of Chaigo Times, newsletter of the Chicago User Group. This is the first published account of anybody actually seeing a working Myarc computer. The report is from the June 1986 chicago Consumer Electronics Show.

"(Myarc owner Lou) Phillips stated that Texas Instruments asked him not to use "9900" in the name, but he retained the "9" and added the "640" because that is the amount of RAM which comes with the machine."

"With Phillips behind the table was Joyhn Keown, author of Module Emulator, who is now doing extensive work with Myarc. I inquired about the origin of the name. Keown jumped in and stated that it was his idea. It seems that a few days before the CES, while they were working together, Keowin told Phillips that he felt there should be a name for the new machine instead of just a number, "the 9640". As they were heading down the staircase from Phillips' office there was a framed print on the wall. The name at the bottom was "Geneve", and when Keown suggested this, Phillips agreed to it."

DONE

SATURDAY, Sep+ 30, 1995, 10 AM - 4 PM

M.U.N.C.H. PRESENTS THE

I'I' WEM ENGTYND

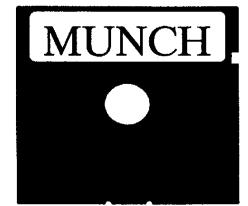
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