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## ON THE COVER

On this month's cover, Robert Tinney has created a visual fantasy on a communications theme. Imagine a network of personal computers where each person's computer is a node. Each node can display some information about the network. The fantasy cover painting shows several such personal computers in a matrix of translucent network connections. A few message packets are in transit down gossamer conduits, and each computer shows a view of the network from that node's vantage point.
As noted in this month's editorial, the real-world equivalent of this fantasy is the telephone network with low-speed modem equipment. While 300 bps is not the data communications equivalent of the bandwidth of a light beam, it is a good start which exists today. The nodes we know about via modems and telephones consist of our personalized directories of public access and private computer systems.

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# The Grass Roots Electronic Post Office or, How Electronic (and Private) Mail Is Already Here 

by Carl Helmers

How many of our readers could agree with the following propositions about ways in which they live?
I never use a telephone.
() Agree
() Disagree
I never talk with anyone.
() Agree
() Disagree

Most readers would disagree with both propositions, since they use telephones and talk to one another-as do most people in our society. One would be tempted to compare the first proposition with the second by noting that telephone use is simply talking augmented by technology. Talking does not require any technology, whereas using a telephone does. However, both are means of communication (ie: sending and receiving messages). Talking and telephone use both require what is perhaps our oldest technology: verbal reasoning within a commonly defined language.

Communications is the theme of this issue of BYTE and our emphasis is on extensions to the scale of this technology. We are talking about telephone networks with personal computers attached. The medium is the telephone network, and computers are the tools. We offer a number of articles this month covering areas as diverse as the technology of modems to their use in new forms of electronic-publication services for personal-computer users. In future months, readers will see more articles on communications applications of small computers.

The personal computer heralds the beginning of an age of personal data communications, encouraged by recent changes in telephone rules which allow "foreign" attachments to be connected with the telephone network. An unplanned side effect of these rule changes is that a personal computer can be one of those foreign attachments, in addition to the various forms of non-Bell domestic telephones and phone-answering machines.

We now see the ability for a personal-computer owner to send a message to another via the telephone network at any time of the day or night. The receiving computer will most likely have a floppy disk for storage and a printer for hard-copy output. If a letter takes a week to arrive at its destination or may be forever lost, why even bother with "first class" mail? A slightly more expensive electronic system already exists through data communications. These facts guarantee the existence of the completely unofficial, unplanned "Grass Roots Electronic Post Office."

For one of our readers with a personal computer to open his or her own box in the Grass Roots Electronic Post Office there is an initiation fee of sorts, namely the price of some standard or custom software and Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved and registered modem-phone connection to the typical small computer. The auto-answer/auto-dial modem is the enabling technology for the personal computer in this application. The key to the user's mailbox is the software running in the computer. The address is provided by the telephone network as the usual phone number. A common language is provided by 8 -bit asynchronous serial communications at 300 bits per second (bps).


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The network has existed since the phone companies made direct-dialing telephones practically universal in recent years. The telephone companies have solved all the problems of sending messages by the best routes, addressing the recipients of the messages, and running the needed lines. They provide a universally switched bandwidth adequate for 300 bps ( 30 characters per second) with simple Bell 103-style modems. With these specifications a three-minute phone call transmits 5400 characters of information. This is approximately equivalent to three 1920 -character (24-by-80) terminal screens full of information, or a page and a half of formatted printed text. To send such a message from New Hampshire to a friend of mine in Santa Clara, California, would cost about $\$ 0.60$ at the current rates, if done at night or on the weekend. This is not an excessive premium over the cost of a $\$ 0.15$ first-class letter which might get there within a week.
Thus any two people who have a personal computer and a Bell 103-compatible modem can send elec-
tronic messages back and forth. Such messages can be on an "instant" basis with the two parties actively at a terminal. Or such messages can be sent on a "store-and-forward" basis, in which case no active human intervention is needed at either end at transmission time; messages are created as text files with addressee information. Then, at the optimal time of day from a telephone-rate point of view, these text files are sent to the appropriate recipients with similar computers.

The purposes of such communications are as varied as the purposes of any communication. The communication can be made totally private, if desired, by use of an automatic encryption technique, or the communication can be as open as the normal telephone call. As more and more people obtain this type of equipment, especially the auto-answer/auto-dial type of modem, there is the need for directories of people with active data nodes on the phone network.

Most everyone keeps a personal directory of telephone numbers in a

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more or less organized fashion. With a personal computer, such a directory can be kept on a floppy disk. Using an auto-dial modem which can disconnect its carrier after dialing, automatic dialing of voice calls is possible. A natural extension is to maintain a personal directory of modem communications contacts along with the mode of operation used.

Just as a telephone-company directory goes far beyond an individual's list of friends and contacts, we may see modem manufacturers, independent publishers, or computer clubs publishing directories. Each entry would consist of the telephone number and any equipment information needed for random access. The widespread publication of general access information for private computers really defines the Grass Roots Electronic Post Office as a social phenomenon larger than its origins with individuals and small groups.

One thing we do not need as users, however, is the United States Postal Service (USPS) intervention. Today the system works through the wonders of our existing AT\&T network. But then, private-letter express companies worked very well before the government postal monopoly was given legal protection in the nineteenth century. Occasional challenges of the private express statutes and USPS inefficiency are made. Companies making the challenge have shown excellent profitability prior to being closed down by the govern-ment-enforced postal monopoly. If these companies were allowed to exist and expand, we might have a little improvement (lower prices, better service) in first-class mail delivery.

In spite of heavy regulation, telephone companies work very well. After many decades of governmentsanctioned limitations on competition, telephone companies are now facing new rivalries from many sources. Alternative long-distance voice and data-communications techniques now exist over microwave and satellite links. Competition is growing in alternative telephone set designs. The fact that modems can be connected to the telephone network at all is part of this recent regulatory reform.
Running counter to this liberalizing trend is the U S Postal Service's recently expressed desires to "provide" electronic mail. A political reaction from the U S Postal Service and its

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allies in Congress could adversely affect the future of a Grass Roots Electronic Post Office. Based on the past effectiveness of the Postal Service, the results could well be disastrous. In a confrontation between the FCC and the Postal Service during 1979, the FCC came out as a defender of electronic media from interference.

Assuming that political problems are not sufficient to hinder the growing private use of data-communications techniques, what technical problems might be present? The technical basis of raw communication was set many years ago with the definition of the Bell 103 modem standard. Perhaps the most significant remaining problem is the definition of "generally accepted" protocols for two-user interactions of various kinds. (Multiple-person, conference call interactions are the exception in telephone usage.)

Protocols of this sort often grow out of practice in the art. A parallel example from a related communications field is the protocol used by citizen band $(\mathrm{CB})$ radio correspondents. It is derived from common usage, and has evolved in time as a subset of the English language. But it
is a protocol with defined meanings and semantics taken from common English. One fairly standard communication protocol already exists in the form of "computerized community bulletin-board systems" (CCBBS) begun by Ward Christensen and Randy Suess of the CACHE computer club in Chicago, Illinois. Many similar systems now exist as the software percolates around the country.
We can expect operating protocols for computers attached to the phone network to be as varied as the different styles of operating systems. We hope to find a generally accepted protocol for some key items. For example, the characters used to invoke a "Help" system usage aid may reduce through practice to one or more alternatives. This is somewhat akin to CB common usages like " $10-4$ good buddy" meaning "yes." It will be interesting to see what develops in this area.

But whatever the command practices that evolve, an underlying standard is provided by the American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) standard, as recently extended. Every personal computer made in the United States uses some
adaptation of the ASCII standard for character information. And, in ASCII, certain codes have predefined semantic meanings such as "acknowledge," " $n$ egative acknowledge," "carriage return," "line feed," etc. These predefined meanings can be used to some advantage; they represent a history of conventions that antedate widespread personal computer usage. There is no real need to reinvent a wheel which grew out of facing these problems of computer-to-computer communications.
In summary, while there are some nagging problems, the Grass Roots Electronic Post Office is alive and well. It exists in the hardware and software of personal-computer users who have modems as part of their systems. As a means of sending messages and using the telephone network more effectively by individuals or businesses, it has grown out of the simple availability of the hardware. It is not yet formally recognized enough to have its own directory publications. But wherever there exist two friends with modems there is a high likelihood of communication being used. The future for communications by personal computer looks bright.

## Notes by Carl Helmers

Many of our readers will want to explore further this idea of personal use of data communications. An excellent source of information is found in the manuals provided by D C Hayes Associates Inc that accompany its communications products. This company markets an S-100-compatible modem and an Apple-compatible product which is called Micromodem II. These comments are based on the manual for the Micromodem II, written by Donald J Hyde.
The content of the Micromodem II Owner's Manual is an example of some of the best documentation available. We find an 81-page booklet which is well illustrated with technical drawings and examples. It begins with the expected details of installation and use of the Micromodem's built-in programs. It then progresses to a complete discussion of elementary modem programming, illustrated by examples. We find out how to
dial the telephone, hang up the telephone, answer the telephone, transmit data and receive data-all from examples given in BASIC. ( $D$ $C$ Hayes promises to release information on use of the Micromodem with Apple Pascal, but as of this writing it has not been received. In a phone conversation in midMarch, we found that the Pascal software for Micromodem II is complete but not $100 \%$ debugged. Readers can expect to see the Pascal software available soon.)

Under other headings, we find advanced programming techniques such as manipulation of hardware defaults, turning off the carrier so that another phone on the same line can be used for voice purposes, waiting for the Nth ring, etc. Inspirational programs are provided in a chapter of that name in order to give examples of applications such as repertoire dialing, and even a computerized wakeup call-generator.

A tutorial chapter is devoted to
background information on the phone network, Bell 103 modems, data rates, ringing, and dialing. Although the source listing for the read-only memory (ROM) programs is not given in the manual (it should have been), there should be enough documentation to manipulate the hardware through these routines. And if worse came to worst, one could always disassemble the ROM programs. (Apple Pascal users should note, however, that present PROMs are useless due to references made to the Apple firmware replaced by the Pascal systems software.)

So, if readers are looking for some information on the technical details to support this concept for the Grass Roots Electronic Post Office, we highly recommend perusal of this D C Hayes manual. Another source of similiar information is Ronald G Parsons' article "An Answer/Originate Modem," found on pages 24 thru 40 of this issue of BYTE.

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## Levieps

## Review of Some Excellent Marketing and Pointers for Companies Marketing Computers

I read Carl Helmers' editorial in the January 1980 BYTE ('The Era of Off-the-Shelf Personal Computers Has Arrived," page 6), and I thought your readers might, in turn, be interested in my recent experience in approaching the purchase of a personal computer. First of all, let me mention that I am a consulting engineer in optics and instrumentation and must, therefore, own most of my own tools (computers). Before I give some words about my experiences in the hunt for a satisfactory personal computer, may I give some technical background about one major area of my work and the requirements I have for the personal machine?
Lenses and mirrors are part of the optics I design. The design of combinations of these to satisfy some client requirement is a complex and often laborious calculating task. Tracing a single light
ray through one lens or mirror surface in accordance with the rigorous physical-mathematical rules takes as many as 350 steps of file manipulation and arithmetic or higher mathematical calculations. To complete a design may take thousands of these ray-surface calculations. Worse yet, most optical designs are compromises against focusing errors (aberrations), and the computer must seek to improve the given lens design by reducing these errors using matrix calculations. Often, the matrices are as large as 40 by 40 , or even bigger. Because matrices of this size are often not completely soluble, least-squares reduction of residual aberrations (by damping the matrix) is now the popular method of computing optimal lens designs. So, the matrix has to be resolved several times-called "iterations toward the optimum solution."

So, the outcome of all of this is my requirement that the personal computer be strongly oriented toward number crunching. Also, the matrix inversion

(solution) may depend on maintaining a large number of significant digits in each number. Thus, we arrive at one of my major complaints against personalcomputer advertising: there is almost no reference to the number of digits available in single-precision computing. Let me now go ahead and list some of my complaints about personal-computer advertising and promotional literature from the manufacturers:

1) Lack of description-number of digits in single precision.
2) Limited number of math functions available.
3) Lack of description-speed of typical calculation.
4) Frequent absence of full list of required hardware components. What is needed to be fully up and run-ning-controllers, interconnecting special cables, etc.
5) Pricing for complete package-ready to plug in and use for calculations.

As an engineer, I need to know these facts to determine if the machine is the one I should buy.

As if in answer to my questions, Hewlett-Packard (HP) recently released technical information about the HP-85 personal computer. Almost every question I might think of which bears on my decision to purchase was answered in their technical data sheet. Of course, there are some things about the HP-85 which are less than satisfactory, but, and this is very important, when I finally got to see the machine and run it for a few minutes, there were no surprises! Just about everything I expected from the brochure was found, including some of the not-so-good items. I was thus able to make up a point-score on the machine and make my decision without a lot of unknowns.

Well, where does this lead to I suggest that the following be recommended to personal computer manufacturers:

1) There are many, many potential buyers who need to know things about a machine that are not now mentioned in the literature or ads.
a) What are the components necessary to get a ready-to-run package? What price?
b) How fast does the machine accomplish a typical task (some kind of benchmark test)?

own computer? Not if you're a diplomat, printer, scientist, inventor... or a kite designer, too. Today there's Apple Computer. It's designed to be a personal computer. To uncomplicate your life. And make you more effective.

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c) What are the number of digits available in single precision? What math functions?
2) Take a look at the HP data sheets to see what kind of information attracts the engineers, and what is needed. Issue a similar data sheet for your machine, as a complete system ready to plug in and run.

I realize that ANSI BASIC describes pretty well a lot of the things I mentioned. However, there seems to be a wide difference between individual BASICs in important details. These should be admitted and exposed.
Many of my friends and acquaintances have purchased small personal
computers. One thing which disturbs them is the lack of a firm support commitment and a method of getting repairs and maintenance. I have heard it said more than once that the additional cost for a solid and efficient maintenance setup would not be objectionable.

Finally, there are many, too many, advertisments for peripherals that fail to mention that additional controllers or interfacing boards are needed. Sometimes, when these are mentioned, no price is given. The result: one cannot determine just what it takes to get plugged in and running. Not everyone is aware of the intricacies of interconnection and interfacing and controlling. BYTE can help here by occasionally


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with deliveries of DEC's Desk Top Computers. Available with LSI 11/2 or LSI 11/23 CPU. Complete system totally enclosed within VT100 Video Terminal. Price $\$ 4,500$ with LSI $11 / 2$ and 64 K bytes or $\$ 9,600$ with LSI $11 / 23$ and 256 K bytes.

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redefining some of the more-or-less standard terms, components, and abbreviations as related to how they combine to form a complete ready-to-run computer, even if it is a particular configura-tion-and by reminding advertisers to do the same.

If you suppose that we (number crunchers) are in a minority, just think of the many TI-59 and HP-67/97 users and their clubs. We'd like to move up into the bigger machines, too.

Bennett Sherman
90-59 56th Ave
Elmhurst NY 11373

| Another Way to |
| :---: |
| Computerize a Home |

Steve Ciarcia's article "Computerize a Home" (January 1980 BYTE, page 28), which deals with utilizing the BSR X-10 Home Control System more fully by adding computer control, blazes a trail of interest to many. And his tracking of the amazing drop in system cost provided by the BSR technology is very graphic.

Readers of BYTE should be aware that some of the BSR command units do not include the microphone circuitry needed to accept the acoustic signals from the remote controller or Steve's interface. The command unit Model X10-014311, probably sold primarily as part of the $\$ 89$ starter system, does not have the microphone. If you plan to implement Steve's approach, you must use the Model X10-014301.

On page 34, Steve listed and evaluated the principal interface methods available between the $\mathrm{X}-10$ and the computer. I think this area might deserve further review, especially in the light of the figure and caption on page 40 . The principal options are:
l) Directly synthesize the command console waveform and impress it directly onto the AC line.
2) Brute-force contact closure-attaching computer-controlled relays or switches in parallel with the existing switches of the command unit.
3) Synthesize the waveform from the ultrasonic controller and let the computer "talk" to the command console.
4) In addition, synthesize an electrical waveform and inject it into the command console, bypassing the acoustic elements.

Rather than dismiss option 1 and ignore option 4, one might want to evaluate the choices on more substantive grounds, which might include the capabilities of the experimenter. Radio Shack sold a novice-level, carrier-current intercom kit for years which dealt with


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the "hostile" 110 VAC environment Steve worries about.
I opted for option l, for two reasons: simplicity and cost. The hardware actually requires fewer discrete parts than Steve's design and eliminates all but two integrated circuits, an opto-isolator, and a 555 timer. Even more interestingly, I used the computer, not special hardware, to generate the waveforms. For these off/on-type waveforms, the computer is in its glory. Both the actual cost of parts and the time required to implement the hardware were less than one-half of Steve's cost. Futher, I don't have to tie up or share a $\$ 50$ command console.

I didn't explore option 4, but the trade-off between the cost of the acoustic transducer and opening the command unit probably favors option 3 for a transducer costs under $\$ 10$.
In developing my software, I followed the structured programming approach because of two things I had in mind. I didn't want to dedicate a $\$ 1200$ Apple II computer to the menial task of controlling a dozen light circuits, and I didn't want to reload and reinitialize the homecontrol program after each time I wanted to use the machine for something else. Because of this, my program is strictly modular and can be run in two modes: the interrupt mode where the home-control program runs continuously in background leaving the foreground available continuously for other uses (a very elementary time-share system), or in the alternate mode where home-control execution can be halted temporarily to make the machine available for other uses. Following this use, the home-control program will "play catch-up" in case any event times occurred while it was off-line.

To accomplish the above, I partitioned the modules of the program into two portions: that portion required to be in the computer's memory for program operation (the event-controlling program) and that portion required to interface with the human operator and allow changes, etc (the driver program). The event-controlling program (including the machine-language waveform-generator routine) occupies less than 3 K bytes of memory and is located at the high end of memory (with HIMEM set below it). With HIMEM set below it, the computer can be used normally; the BASIC commands RUN, LOAD, SAVE, NEW, etc can be used without erasing or corrupting the event-controlling program. The driver program is loaded when necessary to make changes.

Anyone interested in more details on this approach should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to me at the address below. I do believe implementing this approach is one step further along
the path toward an economical, utilitarian use for a home computer.

Jim Fulton
1106 Sandpiper
Corona Del Mar CA 92625

## Protecting the Stack

The article by Michael McQuade in the February 1980 BYTE ("A Fast, Multibyte Binary to Binary-CodedDecimal Conversion Routine," page 106) presents a good multiprecision binary-toBCD routine. It presents well-structured code that also illustrates a very important subtlety; the published code will not work reliably in an interruptible operating system.

Decrementing the stack pointer is a dangerous way to maintain a "top of stack" value, because an interrupt can occur before or between the decrements and mash the contents of the stack. Pushing the data just popped is foolproof, takes 1 byte instead of 2, and one less cycle. So the two pairs of decrement-stack-pointer (DCX SP) instructions found in locations 0015 and 0016, and in locations 0023 and 0024 in listing 1 on page 110, should be changed to two single PUSH H instructions.

Thousands of programs do not maintain the integrity of the stack and so will not always work with the newer, interruptible operating systems. Unless the programmer knows what he or she is looking for, the problem can be impossible to find.

## Gregg Hauser

196 Arguello Blvd
San Francisco CA 94118

## A Microengine Arrives

I've bought and received a Western Digital Pascal Microengine. I had been waiting for it for a while and had enough time to fabricate the connectors necessary to interface my terminal and disk drives. So, I was prepared for the processor system when it arrived. My initial try at starting the system was both disappointing and heartening. It was disappointing because after pushing the reset button on the Microengine, I never received the greeting on the terminal that I expected. It was heartening because from the sound of the disk drive, it was likely that the processor and the disk were working correctly. I felt relief that the cabling that I'd produced and the "Shugart-compatible" drives thadt I'd purchased were okay.

The glext day, the problem with the terminal was straightened out by a call to tie terminal manufacturer. The fellow I spoke to sounded a bit chagrined when he had to admit the peculiarities of the

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So, today, as costs climb, management puts everyone under increasing pressure to deliver projects on time and on budget. Yet, the cost of programming is still outpacing productivity. Software development and integration still lag the system hardware. The software crisis of the '80s rages on.

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Once a problem grows beyond a certain point, the most efficient way to solve it is with a top down approach. You break the problem into units, program and debug each one, and combine the units into a unified solution.

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# software crisis. 

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## Tools for realizing your solution

Of course, having the foundation and the concept of your solution doesn't help if you can't write the programs to implement it. So, Intel delivers development tools to sup. port you through the entire development cycle. Support from source entry, with CREDIT, a CRT based text editor, through compiling and debugging, with an Intellec ${ }^{(6)}$ developmentsystem and ICE ${ }^{\text {rw }}$ hardware/software debugging system. Intel's tools work with you. They shorten development time and support the structured approach you've taken.

But debugging software on a development system is not the same as testing it on the actual hardware. The ICE modules help here, too. During development, these tools let you trace through your sof tware and debug it, symbolically, at the source language level. Now, these In-Circuit Emulators replace your prototype hardware's CPU to speed hardware/ sof tware integration.

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RS-232 interface on the terminal I was trying to use. That night, after making some changes to my cabling, I had my system up and running. I was pleased that the various parts of the system all managed to "talk" to each other with what I considered to be a relatively small amount of trouble. Perhaps there really is hope for standardization.
I would like to correspond with other users of the Microengine to exchange information on the system and its use.

Shirley Kawamoto
172 Highland Ave
Winchester MA 01890

## Numerical Precision in UCSD Pascal

Since the only versions of Pascal that I have seen for garden-variety computers have six-digit (maybe seven-digit) precision, checkbook balancing with Pascal is useful only for the poor, starving computer aficionados who have at most $\$ 9999.99$. What about the rest of us who haven't bought a computer (and all those peripherals) yet?
Why are the popular Pascal compilers limited to six digits? I am very new to the computer field and particularly interested in Pascal. I teach mathematics, and Pascal seems to offer quite a bit. For some of my work, I like lots of digits as in Cromemco BASIC. I know that there's a trade-off between speed and significant digits, but only six digits?
Will the six-digit limitation always be present? If so, how can a business use Pascal, a language which many are claiming is the wave of the future?

## Martin Berman

494 Forest Ave
Teaneck NJ 07666
The Pascal compilers in question all seem to be the ones included in the UCSD Pascal system. The definition of the pseudocode (ie: p-code) interpreter for the UCSD system is what determines the precision available. The six-digit precision is the maximum available when numbers are stored in a reasonable format in only 4 bytes. There are some nonstandard extensions in UCSD Pascal that give you up to some arbitrary number $\mathbf{N}$ decimal digits precision in fixed-point format; these are called long integers. I believe the maximum value of N is thirty-six digits. This particular extension was intended for use in business programs....CH

## Let's Hear a Good Word for Compilers

I have read with great interest the article by Mr James Lewis comparing BASIC and assembly language speeds on
the TRS-80 ('TRS-80 Performance, Evaluation by Program Timing," March 1980 BYTE, page 84). The problem, as he clearly points out, is that it takes a large amount of human time to use assembly language efficiently.

The availability of FORTRAN for microcomputers now allows another, far superior, alternative. Since FORTRAN, like assembly language and unlike BASIC, is compiled, it should produce fast code. Assuming an inefficient compiler, producing code four times slower than that obtained by careful assemblylanguage coding, the program would still have run in under one and a half hours, over four times faster than the fastest BASIC run.

I strongly feel that anyone needing fast-executing code should always think of FORTRAN before rushing to assembly language.

Mohamed el Lozy MD
Harvard University
School of Public Health
Dept of Nutrition
665 Huntington Ave
Boston MA 02115

The advantages of compilation are not exclusive to $F O R T R A N$. Any high-level language, including BASIC, may be compiled. For example, a BASIC compiler is now being sold by Microsoft for Z80 systems....RSS


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## 

Domesticating Computers: Some Wishes Expressed
The editorial in the January 1980 BYTE on the state-of-the-art home computer omits home operations and management, although four articles in the same issue illustrate the importance of this topic. To be fair, computerized home management is next year's state of the art, and I hope that my "wishes" expressed in this letter soon become reality.

Steve Ciarcia's article on adapting the BSR X-10 system ("Computerize a Home," page 28) demonstrated that it soon will be possible to control the electrical appliances and the lighting in a home. And John H Gibson's design of a computer-controlled light dimmer is, perhaps coincidentally, a homebrew design of an X-10 light switch/dimmer. Edward Joyce showed how easy it is for a computer to dial over telephone lines. I hope that someone develops a commercial product soon, based on this idea.
Taking a different view, Theron Wierenga designed a furnace watchdog to show how a computer can monitor the outside world.

To convert these homebrew ideas into off-the-shelf computer products, both
hardware and software problems must be solved. (And, as is so often the case, the hardware will be developed long before the software.)
The ideal version of the BSR X-10 would be able to measure the outside world, by sensors that communicate over ordinary home wiring, unlike Theron Wierenga's homebrew version. (My apologies, Theron, if I'm wrong about your design.) The sensors could be "polled," or signaled by the control unit to indicate the temperature, pressure, etc, or could initiate a signal independently (eg: in response to a change in conditions). And, of course, the sensors would be individually addressable. I doubt that BSR is working on such sensors because they would be of little use for a manually controlled system, and they have given no indication that they are working on a computerized version of the $\mathrm{X}-10$.
The ideal computer will also require a programmable real-time clock. Also, if we are serious about energy conservation, we might want to shut down part or even all of the computer for a few hours of the day. Perhaps this on/off capability can be made part of the programmable timer.

Even if all this hardware were

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These keyboards feature modern flexible membrane key switches with contact life rated at greater than 5 million operations. Plus two key rollover circuitry. A finger positioning overlay combinedwithlight positive activation key pressure gives good operator "feel," and an onboard tone generator gives auralkey press feedback.

The unitized keytoard surface is spillproof and dustproof. This plus high noise immunity CMOS circuitry makes these boards particularly suited for use in hostile environments.

Parallel output keyboards have 7 -bit buffered, TTL compatible output. Serial output keyboards have RS 232C compatible, 20 mA current loop and TTL compatible asynchronous outputs with 6 selectable baud rates. All operate from 5 V DC, excluding implementation of RS 232C.

For more informationcontact RCACustomer Service, New Holland Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17604. Or call our toll-free number: 800-233-0094. RBノ -Oplional user price tor VP-601 Dealer and OEM pricing available
available for our off-the-shelf computer, it would make little sense to devote a machine with considerable capacity to just one application program. Ideally, we would like to monitor and control several outside systems while still using the machine for game playing, word processing, or whatever. This requirement implies a multiprogramming operating system, a feature generally confined today to large computer systems. We would also like the realtime clock to be able to interrupt all other programs at regular intervals and initiate a polling program to sample the outside systems. Alternatively, the operating system gives every program in the system, including the polling program, a chance to execute at least once a second. So our operating system could include "time slicing." Finally, since we can never be certain of the starting address in memory of a program in a multiprogramming system, all software should be relocatable.

I think that the software requirements will prove challenging to software homebrewers, of which there aren't enough.

Philip Burton<br>3333 Cowper St<br>Palo Alto CA 94306

## A Problem with <br> Radio-Frequency <br> Interference

We have a Nano computer and an FM radio receiver and they don't get along! When the computer is operational, it will function as a process controller for our solar-heating system. It is connected to sixteen low-voltage heat sensors located throughout the house. This wiring was positioned as the house was built and is therefore unmovable. All the wires terminate in our "computer room," which also houses the FM receiver. None of the sensor wires are closer that two feet to the FM antenna or its (coaxial) cable.

When the Nano computer is on, we get whistling, buzzing, and hissing on one station ( 90.9 MHz ), which is 75 miles away. Putting the receiver in monophonic mode, as opposed to stereophonic, eliminates the interference, as does moving the Nano (less sensor wires) into another room. Because none of the closer stations are affected, it is clear that the strength of the FM signal is a factor. Unplugging the sensor wires from the Nano reduces the interference significantly, but not completely.

We have tried (at the suggestion of several acquaintances who are electronics/computer-engineer people) a low-frequency filter on the FM antenna, a power-line filter, switching plugs and

# Mountain Hardware makes more peripherals for the Apple Computer than Anybody. 

Intelligent Home Controller for lights añd appliances. Real-time schedules and energy conservation. Complete applications software package. Home security with random scheduler. Power usage accounting package for home energy cost control. No wiring required.

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## Coming In Joviy

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MOUNTAIN HARDWARE has the most comprehensive line of Apple peripherals available. Anywere. From anybody. We know the Apple inside and out and are committed to providing the most innovative and unique products to expand and enhance its capabilities and use. After all, we were the first company to make an Apple peripheral--except Apple Computer.
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$$
\mathrm{A} / \mathrm{D}+\mathrm{D} / \mathrm{A}
$$

16 channels analog to digital input. 16 channels digital to analog output. Eight bit resolution. Super-fast $8 \mu$ sec. conversion time. Monitor and oulput to the real world. All on one card.
circuits, and grounding a wire screen and putting it between the computer and receiver. The maximum separation possible between the two is about 5 feet. None of these things have had any noticeable effect. Oddly enough, sometimes the interference all but disappears for no apparent reason.

It is imperative that this interference be permanently eliminated because we cannot relocate any of the equipment. We would appreciate any help BYTE readers can give us.

Mr and Mrs J M Johnston
1116 E Deep Run Rd
Westminster MD 21157

| A North Star Alternative |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| I liked Carl Helmers' January 1980 editorial ("The Era of Off-the-Shelf Personal Computers Has Arrived," page 6), but I feel that it would have been better and more dramatic if he had included more examples and less emphasis on the Apple II Pascal system. I went through the same issue of BYTE and built the following system on paper: |  |
| Horizon 2-Q with 32 K user memory |  |
| 720 K bytes disk storage two serial input/output ports one parallel port |  |
| North Star disk-operating system, monitor, and North Star BASIC | \$2560 |
| North Star 32 K-byte memory card | \$ 520 |
| North Star UCSD Pascal system | \$ 78 |
| Anadex DP-8000 printer | \$ 795 |
| Interface cables | \$ 70 |
| CP/M operating system in North |  |
| Star format | \$ 145 |
| CBASIC-2 for North Star | \$ 110 |
| MicroSoft MACRO-80, COBOL-80, and FORTRAN-80 | \$1025 |
| Freight | \$ 70 |
| TOTAL | \$5373 |

The sources for these items include Avionics Enterprises (AEI), American Square Computer, Logon Incorporated, and LifeBoat Associates. I did not include a modem because I did not see the Hayes S-100 modem advertised this month. If I remember correctly, it sells for about $\$ 400$, bringing to $\$ 5773$ the total price of my paper system.

So, for less than $\$ 6000$ I have synthesized a hypothetical example to complement Mr Helmers' Apple II example. The Horizon 2 example will execute UCSD Pascal approximately twice as fast as the Apple II, and with the above additions provides FORTRAN, COBOL, two BASICs, two assemblers, and com-
patibility with all of the excellent software designed for use with CP/M. In addition, the Anadex printer will produce listings and output at twice the speed of the Integral Data 440 when the former is used in the bidirectional mode.

I provide this example (I have both an Apple and a North Star) to point out that some alternatives exist.

## Robert Rennard

2281 Cobble Stone Ct
Dayton OH 45431

## More (Transcendental) Pi in the Sky

Regarding the letter "Pi in the Sky" (February 1980 BYTE, page 16), I have found Mr Sprenkle's approximation to $\pi$ of $1 /(113 / 355)$ to be useful for the old mechanical "four-bangers" as well as the modern four-function calculators, but its accuracy generally leaves much to be desired in modern computers. My preference is the function:

$$
\mathrm{PI}=4 * \mathrm{ATN}(1)
$$

for all scientific work. For whether you have six- or sixteen-decimal digit capability, this value of $\pi$ will be accurate to the full capacity of your machine, and it is no more difficult to remember than $1 /(113 / 355)$.

## Rex H Shudde <br> 27105 Arriba Way <br> Carmel CA 93923

Alas, this is not always the case. Several years ago, I was obtaining inaccurate trigonometric calculations from some FORTRAN programs that used double-precision variables. The FORTRAN compiler was the product of a prominent minicomputer manufacturer, which shall remain anonymous. After much attempted debugging, the minicomputer firm revealed that the writers of the compiler had put in an incorrect value for $\pi$, and therefore all of the double-precision trigonometric functions were inherently inaccurate. Sigh....RSS

## Information Wanted

I would to like contact anyone who has determined the nature of the incompatibility between the Cromemco ZPU board and the IMSAI VIO-C video interface board-when both are installed in an IMSAI I-8080 mainframe.

Also, I'm trying to locate a firm or a person who really knows how to repair an IMSAI DIO disk-interface board.

[^1]
## Industrial quality components for $\mathrm{S}-100$ system builders, from California Computer Systems.

density controller for up to four bl " or $8^{+}$ single-sided drives, or two double-sided drives. Shipped with CP/M 2.0, the controller reads and writes IBM-standard single density. Automatically determines disk densitysingle or double. Supports PerSciauto eject, plus fast-seek for voice coil systems.

2810280 CPU Boord. Capable CPU for S-100 Systems operates at 2 or 4 MHz , is fully Altair/ Imsai compatible. Z-80 monitor is available separately. Includes auto addressing to 4 K boundaries, plus a serial port for serial devices, including terminals and printers. Supports both front-panel operation and power-on memory jump, plus wait-state generation for slower memories. Compatible with proposed IEEE S-100 standards.

2032A 32K Stotic RAM. Fast static memory operates without wait states at a full 4 MHz . Supports full and partial bank select, for expansion beyond 64 K . Addressable in 8 K blocks at 8 K boundaries. Address and data lines are fully buffered, and there are no DMA restrictions.

2016 16K Static RAM. Fully buffered board features 2114 static RAMs for $+5 v$ operation. Bank select available by bank port or bank byte, for system expansion beyond 64 K . Addressable in 4 K blocks at 4 K boundaries. LED indicators for board selection and bank selection. Available in 200,300 , or 450 nsec versions. All versions support 4 MHz operation with no wait states.

2200AMoinfrome. Rock solid, heavy gauge cabinet includes 12 -slot, actively terminated S-100 motherboard, fan, and power supply. Power supply features 105 , 115 , or 125 volt AC input power; provides +8 vDC at 20 amps , $\pm 16 \mathrm{v}$ DC at 4 amps . Available in five colors. Includes convenient, front mounted, lighted reset switch.

2501A Morher Boord. 12 slots, actively terminated, with all S-100 connectors included. Distributed power line bypass, low inductance interconnect - extremely low bus noise.

Protorype Boords. Four high quality prototype boards: Solder Tail, Extender/Terminator, Wire Wrap, and Etch.

P2802AA 6502 CPU. Stand-alone CPU generates fully $\mathrm{S}-100$ compatible I/O signals; executes 6502 machine language. Operates at 2 MHz ; capable of DMA operation.

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Interfaces S-100 bus micro computerswith all fixed or removable media disk drives with storage module (SMD) interfaces. Each Konan SMC- 100 will control up to 4 drives ranging from 8 to 600 megabytes per drive, including most "Winchester" type drives. Up to 2400 megabytes of hard disk per controller! And you can take your pick of hard disk drives: Kennedy, Control Data, Fujitsu, Calcomp, Microdata, Memorex, and Ampex, for example.

## Fast

SMC-100 transfers data at fast, 6 to 10 megahertz rates, with full onboard sector buffering and sector interleaving, and a DMA that's faster than other popular S-100 DMA controllers.

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SMC-100 is priced right to keep your micro computer system micro-priced. It takes advantage of low-cost-permegabyte disk drive technology to make the typical cost less than $\$ 80$ per megabyte.
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Off the shelf to 30 days in small quantities. (Complete subsystems are on hand for immediated delivery.)

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In his article "What Computers Cannot Do" (January 1980 BYTE, page 100), T G Lewis asserts: "If the DECIDE program itself is put into GR, a paradox is created for GR." Following this he shows that if a particular outcome (HALT NOT FOUND) results, this would lead to a contradiction and so DECIDE could not exist. His hypotheses 7 thru 10 seem to hinge on the nonexistence of a DECIDE program, which in turn depends on HALT NOT FOUND occurring on input of DECIDE into DECIDE. However, HALT NOT FOUND was only one of two possible outcomes. Finally, either I missed it or Mr Lewis did not state why HALT NOT FOUND must result from feeding DECIDE into DECIDE.

John S Wallingford
Chairman, Dept of Physical Science
Pembroke State University
Pembroke NC 28372

## Undocumented Feature

 of Apple WriterApple Computer Company has recently introduced a text editor named Apple Writer, which I developed. Apple Writer has an undocumented feature that may save the user some time, money, and difficulty. The hidden feature is a software serial interface that connects to a printer by way of the Apple II gamepaddle input/output (I/O) socket. To enable this serial interface, the user types "SERIAL" from the Apple Writer print menu. The program will then display the hardware protocol and available data rates.
At present, this interface is one of a very few ways to use a Qume printer (among others) with the Apple II.
Because only three wires are required, cost and complexity are low. However, some technical skill is required to make the electrical connections, and electrical compatibility between the printer and the Apple II must be determined. If these precautions are not taken, damage to the Apple II and/or the printer may result. It is for these reasons that Apple Computer chose not to document the feature.

I have used the serial interface on two printers (IDS and Qume) with no problems. It appears that most serial-interface-equipped printers will accept the signals available from the Apple II.

## Paul Lutus

291 N Gold Canyon Dr
Kerby OR 97531


## Available with either the new, powerful $6809 \mu \mathrm{P}$ or an optional 6800 -software-compatible 6802, here are 10 beautiful reasons why the Percom SBC/9" is not just another runner-up MPU/Single-Board-Computer card.

(0) SS-50 bus direct, plug-in-compatible upgrade MPU. Requires no modification of the system bus, I/O or memory.
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Plug the SBC/9 ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ into your SS-50 system bus, and just that easily you've upgraded to the new superfast super-powerful 6809 MPU with such programming amenities as 10 addressing modes, 16 -bit instructions, auto-increment/auto-decrement and position-independent code. Plus, you now have extended addressing capability, and operation under control of PSYMON ${ }^{\text {TM }}$, the most powerful and flexibile 1 K ROM 6809 operating system yet written.

## Percom SYstem MONitor

PSYMON ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ provides the usual ROM monitor functions in 1 Kbyte. It is easily extended and customized because its unique "look-ahead" program structure first searches an alternate command table. The table, if present, may be used to redefine or extend PSYMON's ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ command set.
And with $P S Y M O N^{\top M}, ~ I / O$ is easily directed to any peripheral device even a disk system - through a Device Control Block table located
in memory. This allows you to leave the details of I/O software to the separate I/O device drivers.

A PSYMON ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ ROM is included free with the purchase of an SBC/9 ${ }^{\text {™ }}$. The Users Manual includes a source listing.

The 1 Kbyte ROM monitor for the SBC/9™ 6802 option includes a primary set of typical 6800compatible monitor commands. As for PSYMON ${ }^{\text {TM }}$, the commands are easily extended or modified.

# An Answer/Originate Modem 

Ronald G Parions<br>9001 Laurel Goove Dr<br>

One of the few and nearly universal methods of exchanging data between diverse microprocessors is by means of data transmission over switched telephone facilities. Most other means of data exchange such as floppy disk or cassette tape are specific to one or a few microcomputers. But data transmission over phone lines is nearly independent of the microprocessors involved and the method or speed of the mass data storage used by either processor.

To transmit data at reasonable speeds over telephone line, a modem is used to convert digital signals to an analog form for transmission over the telephone network. 'Modem" is a hybrid of the words modulator and demodulator. A modem must be used because the telephone network was designed for analog voice transmission and not for digital data. The telephone network has an audio bandwidh of approximately 3000 Hz , so the modem must condition the signals to fit within this bandwidh.

Since communication usually involves data transmission in both directions, convention has been established so that two sets of data traveling in opposite directions do not interfere with each other. The Bell 103 type of modem uses designated audio frequencies for binary 0 and 1. One of the pair of communicating entities is arbitrarily designated as the originating end and the other the answering end. As the words imply, the originating end usually originates
the telephone call and the answering end usually answers, but this is not necestary. All that is necessary is for one of the pair to agree to call inself the answerer and the other the originator.

The originating end transmits a binary 0 (sometimes called a space) as

The telephone network was designed for analog voice transmission, not digital data.
a tone of 1070 Hz and a binary 1 (sometimes called a mark) as a tone of 1270 Hz . The originating end also receipes spaces and marks as tones of 2025 Hz and 2225 Hz , respectively. The answering end has the transmit and receive frequencies interchanged. The Bell 103 modem translates serial data from voltage levels to these audio tones capable of being transmitted over standard telephone liness at a data rate from 0 to 300 bps .

A data bit is usually translated first by a terminal or microcomputer to standard voltage levels defined by an Electronic Industries Association (E1A) standard known as RS-232C. This standard defines a space as a voltage level between +5 V and +15 V and a mark as a voltage level between -5 V and -15 V . Voltages between -5 V and +5 V have undefined meaning. These signals are capable of being transmitted over
wire cable for distances of several hundred feen at speeds up to several thousand bits per second.

The modern described in this article uses RS-232C levels between the processor or terminal and the telephone line: it connects to the telephone line through a device called a data access arrangement (DAA). This device has two common types: the CBS data coupler, which uses RS-232C levels to interface with the modem; and the simpler CBT data coupler, which uses contact closures (ie: switches or relays) for the modem interface. The CBT type is used in this design for simpliciry. Motorola's Application Note AN. 747 entitled "Low-SpeedModem System Design using the MC6860" discusses the interface to either coupler.

The most complicated and troubletome parts of a modetn are usually the filters used to separate and purify the transmitted and received audio tones. It is not uncommon for filters for the transmit and receive frequencies each to contain several operational amplifiers and many precision resistors and capacitors. The filters used in this design, however, are available as "miniModem" building blocks from Cermetek Microelec. tronics, 660 National Ave, Mountain View CA 94043. They require no adjustments and few exterral components.

Two filters are used. One, the CH 1252 , is a switchable, dual-channel, transmit filter and line hybrid. The center frequency of the filter is


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Ingenious microtechnology has packed all the features of a standard terminal into a battery/AC-operated unit the size of a book. With full computer telecommunications capability, it weighs just three pounds. And it's so inexpensive, you can buy one for every member of your team for far less than it would cost to lease!

The compact unit communicates via its acoustic coupler over standard telephone lines with any computer system, using standard RS 232 telecommunications (used on most mainframes). No special programming is needed.

To operate, just dial your computer or computer operator. Place your telephone handset into the acoustic coupler and you're ready to go! Just key in a line (up to 80 char-
acters), review on the 16-character display via scroll keys, then transmit. The speed of computer response is easily set for your own viewing pace.

EXECUTIVES: From home, road, or out-of-town, you can still have access to the vital information you require. Check operational data, sales figures, even pick up electronic mail. With automatic telephone pickup, you can call when it's convenient for you, regardless of time zones.


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| Card Number: $\square$ Expiration Date: |  |  |  | Department AB |
|  |  |  |  | Belmont, MA 02178 |

chosen to be 1170 Hz or 2125 Hz by changing the DC voltage on the chan-nel-select pins. The other, the CH1267, is a switchable, dual-channel, receive filter and limiter. It is necessary for us to be able to switch the center frequencies of the filters so the modem can be used as an originate or an answer modem.

The functions of modulation, demodulation, and control are performed by a Motorola MC6860 metal-oxide semiconductor/largescale integration (MOS/LSI) modem chip. After conversion to transistor-
transistor logic (TTL) levels, the modulator section of the 6860 converts serial digital data into analog frequencies. It does this by digitally synthesizing a sine wave at one of the space and mark frequencies. This signal is filtered and amplified by the transmit filter. The demodulator section of the 6860 detects the presence of a mark or space frequency and presents a digital 0 or 1 output to the terminal or computer. The receivesignal input to the 6860 must be a $50 \%$ duty-cycle, TTL signal that is filtered and limited (ie: amplified and


## Eliminate The Data Comm Hassles of Outmoded "DUMB" Modems


#### Abstract

BIZCOMP's Intelligent Modem is new. Brand new. It teams a Bell 103-type "dumb" modem with a custom $\mathrm{BlZ}-080$ microcomputer in an attractive desk-top enclosure. RESULT: incredibly simple data comm for professional users. No more mad dash to get a handset into coupler muffs before being disconnected by the remote. No more exclusion-key telephone needed to do the dialing. No more outboard coupler boxes. And for computer sites, communications software written in high level language like BASIC or COBOL. How's that for simplicity! The 1030 gives you automatic dial, automatic answer and, unique to the industry, automatic REPEAT dial. The top-of-the-line 1031 adds command-selectable tone or dial pulse dialing for TWX net applications and self-test for ensuring full functionality. Both models are FCC registered for direct connection and feature comm rates from 110, 134.5, 150, 200 to 300 baud. BIZCOMP's innovative Code-Multiplexed Design enables complete control using a simple 3 -wire RS-232 interface. Don't burden your customers with data comm hassles. Install a BIZCOMP Intelligent Modem today.


## BIZCOMP Communications... Why not start with the best?

clipped)
Several supervisory control functions are provided by the 6860 . The 6860 places the modem into answer mode (if a ring indication is detected) or into originate mode (if a handset-off-hook condition is detected). If the data terminal is ready, the detection of the ring creates an answer phone signal to the DAA. A mode-signal output from the 6860 is used to control the switchable filters to ensure that the correct set of signal pairs are used. A clear-to-send (CTS) signal is also created to indicate to the terminal or computer the establishrment of a communication link.

## Constructing the Modem

Figure 1 shows the schematic diagram for the modem. The signals from the terminal or computer to and from the modem are first converted from RS-232C levels to TTL levels by the 1488 and 1489A integrated circuits. The request-to-send (RTS) signal is not used by the 6860, but is used by the support circuitry to control pulse dialing and setting the answer/originate mode. The 1458 dual operational amplifier is used to convert the TTL-level mode signal, as possibly modified by the test/normal switch, to a +12 V or -12 V signal sent to switch the filters between originate and answer. The 301A operational amplifier is used to limit the received signal. The 3.9 V zener diode causes the output of the operational amplifier to be TTL compatible and the TTL gate helps square up the limited signal. The 200 k -ohm variable resistor on the CH 1262 is used to set the transmit level to 0 dBm (ie: 1 mW at 600 ohms or 0.7 V RMS).
If the modem is powered up with the ready-to-send line active (ie: at +5 V to +12 V ), the modem is in originate mode and the answer-phone signal from the 6860 commands the DAA telephone interface to take the phone line off hook. The telephone may then be dialed by pulsing the ready-to-send line off and on under software control. An assemblylanguage program for an 8080 to do automatic dialing is shown in listing 1.

If the modem is powered up and the ready-to-send line is off (ie: -5 V to -12 V ), the modem will wait for a ring indication from the DAA

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The three ASCII compatible interfaces (parallel, RS-232-C, and Current Loop) are standard in both models; so interfacing is usually a matter of "plug it in and print." Also standard is a sophisticated communications interface providing control of Vertical Spacing ( 6 or 8 lines/ Inch), Form Length and Width, Skip-Over Perforation, Auto Line Feed, and full point-to-point communications capability.
Other standard features are: forms width adjustment from 1.75 to 15.6 inches, shortest-distance sensing logic, self-test, quick-change ribbon cartridge with 6 million character life, and a 600 character FIFO buffer. (An additional 2048 character plug-in buffer is optional).
For complete details, quantity discounts and a demonstration, contact Anadex today.

## Afnadex

| Number | Type | $+5 V$ | GND | $-12 \mathrm{~V}+12 \mathrm{~V}$ |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| IC1 | 1488 |  | 7 | 1 | 14 |
| IC2 | 1489 A | 14 | 7 |  |  |
| IC3 | 6860 | 12 | 1 |  |  |
| IC4 | 7407 | 14 | 7 |  |  |
| IC5 | LM301 |  |  | 4 | 7 |
| IC6 | 1458 |  |  | 4 | 8 |
| IC7 | 7486 | 14 | 7 |  |  |
| IC8 | 7404 | 14 | 7 |  |  |
| IC9 | 7400 | 14 | 7 |  |  |
| IC10 | CH1262 |  | 5 | 13 | 12 |
| IC11 | CH1267 |  | 18 | 9 | 7 |


Figure 1: Schematic diagram of the answer/ originate modem. IC1 and IC2 convert the modem RS-232C signal to a digital transistortransistor logic (TTL) level and back. IC3 is the Motorola 6860 modem integrated circuit. IC10 and IC11 are the transmit and receive filters, respectively, used to interface the modem and the telephone line.

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Listing 1：DIAL rourtine to per form antomatic dialing by the computer．This listing．which is designed to nem as part of a CP／M－based 8090 or $\mathbf{2 8 0}$ system，performs automatic dialing of a idephone mumber with ihe command DIAL＜phone mumber＞．If a moden anstuws，this program couses its comput to act as a＂dumb＂terminel for the comput cownected to the answoring modem．
$0005=$
$8000=$
$0020=$
$0010=$
$00 \% 8=$

0100
0100
0103
$01 F A C B$ 0106 0E64 0108 CD5c01
0108 0E64 010D CDSC01
0110218100
0113 7E
011423
0115 B7
0116 CA3301
0119 FE3A
011 CA 2901
0118 F5
011 cos 301
0122 F1
0123 CD6A01
0126 C31301
BDOS EQU 5 ；EDOS entry point
$\begin{array}{llll}\text { TRRM } & \text { EQU } & \text { OROOCH } & \text { iTerininal } 1 \\ S C T S & 8 Q 0 & 32 & \text { iserial CTS } \\ \text { SRTS } & \text { BQU } & 16 & \text { iserial RTS }\end{array}$
SBRST BQU OFBR pserial status port
100H
SP，0CBFFH
CALL OFFROOR
MVI C， 100 ；wit 2 beconds for dialtone
CALL DELAY
MVI $\quad$ ©， 100
CALL DELAY
LXI $\mathrm{H}, \mathrm{BlH}$ ；use derault buffer area
MOV A，M iEet digit
NEX：MOV INX H
ORA A
J
CPT I I
JZ GETSIONON
PUSK PSW
CALL SOOT iecho number
FOP PSW
CALL DIOLT
JMP NEXT
GETSI ONON：
012978
012 A 87
012 C23001
012 E 380D
0130 32ACOL

| 0133 | DBF8 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 0135 | B620 |
| 0137 | C23301 |
| 0134 | CDIAOI |
| 0130 | 3AACOI |
| 0110 | 87 |
| 0141 | C45301 |
| 0144 | CDOCEO |
| 0147 | c3iniol |
| 014 A | 3801 |
| C806 | － |
| C807 | － |
| 01 Cl | 3206c8 |
| 014 | 320768 |
| 0152 | C9 |

MOV
ORA
JNZ
MVI
STA TERMINAL：
IN senst
ANI SCTS
JNZ TERMINAL
TERMENAL imelt for clear－to－iend
CALE SETIO ；Bet 1／0 parameters for Berial port
LDA SIGNON
ORA A
CNZ SOUT
CALL TERM
TRANS

| SBRIO： | MVI | A， |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| IFORT： | BQU | 0 OBO6H |
| OPORT： | PRU | 0 OBO7H |
|  | STA | IPORT |
|  | STA | OPORT |

；Auto－dial progran
；Syntax：DIAL（phone－number〉［：〈signon－character〉］


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# MEASUREMENT systems \& controls 



Figure 2: Schematic diagram of the optional power supply. This regulated power supply can be eliminated if the required voltages are available from a nearby computer or terminal.

Text continued from page 26: telephone interface. On receipt of the ring, the 6860 will bring the answerphone line high and begin sending the transmit carrier, which is at 2225 Hz . If the modem on the other end of the
line responds with its carrier, which is at 1270 Hz , the 6860 will turn clear-to-send on about a half second later. The terminal or computer can detect this and initiate whatever procedure is necessary to communicate with the


Wowl How'd All That Stuff get In There?

originator.
Figure 1 shows four light-emitting diodes (LEDs) that can be used by the operator to monitor the operation of the modem. The functions displayed are power-on, clear-to-send, mode (with the LED on in answer mode), and off-hook.

A power-supply schematic is shown in figure 2; it supplies +5 V , +12 V , and -12 V , regulated. These voltages may be obtained from the terminal or computer if they are available. I chose to make the modem an independent device: it was wirewrapped on a small perforated board and enclosed in a cabinet.

## Modem Software

Listing 1 shows a CP/M-based, assembly-language program for an 8080 processor to perform automatic dialing to an answer modem and to initiate communication. The $\mathrm{CP} / \mathrm{M}$ syntax of the program is:

DIAL <phone number>
or
DIAL <phone number>:
<logon character>
The phone number may contain blanks and hyphens that are ignored. If an invalid character is found in the phone number, the program hangs up the telephone and rebootstraps

Text continued on page 40


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Luting 2: Remole-access compurer rourtine. This is the software meded by the computer that is connected to the anstuaring modem of figure 1. This routine allows is computer to be controlled by a ramote terminal, with the cownections made by two modems end a teltaphone lirus. This routine rums on $4 C P / M$ system.



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| Listing 2 continued: |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0151 | CDICCO |  | CALL | AOUT | ;put on screen |
| 0154 | C9 |  | RET |  |  |
|  |  | ; <br> ; Input | routine | - input | from serial port |
| 0155 | 3E01 | XIPRT | MVI | A,1 |  |
| 0157 | CD22C0 |  | CALL | AINP | ; get serial |
| 015 A | C9 |  | RET |  |  |
| 015B | 00 | X ${ }^{\text {¢ }}$ | DB | 0 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Listing 3: Remote-user routine. This routine allows a remote user to communicate with the operator of the host computer tied to the answering modem.


Listing 4: Remote-user routine. This routine allows a remote user to communicate with the host computer's operator; it also allows the operator to send a reply to the remote terminal.

|  | ; Write to operator with reply ;Syntax: WTOR 〈message text〉 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0100 | ORG | 100H |  |
| C019 = | SOUT EQU | OCO19H |  |
| colc = | AOUT EQU | 0 COlCH |  |
| C022 = | AINP EQU | 0 CO 22 H |  |
| 0100210000 | START: LXI BELLOOP: | H, O |  |
| 0103 2B | DCX | H |  |
| 0104 7D | MOV | A,L |  |
| 0105 B4 | ORA | H |  |
| 0106 D3FC | OUT | OFCH | ;sound alarm port |
| 0108 C20301 | ${ }^{\text {JNE }}$ J | BELLOOP |  |
|  | REPLOOP: |  |  |
| 010B 3E00 | MVI | A, 0 |  |
| 010 C CD22C0 | CALL | AINP | ;get keyboard character |
| 0110 CAOBO1 | JZ | REPLOOP |  |
| 0113 FEOD | CPI | 13 | ; done? |
| 0115 C8 | RZ |  | ;return to CP/M |
| 011647 | MOV | B,A |  |
| 0117 CDI9CO | CALL | SOUT | ;send to standard output port may be user defined port such as serial and display |
| 011A C30B01 | JMP | REPLOOP |  |



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Text continued from page 34:
CP/M. If a colon follows the phone number, the next character is sent in ASCII form to the answering modem after the clear-to-send signal is received from the answering modem. Such a logon character is often required by timesharing services. After communication is established and any logon character is sent, the program calls a terminal-simulation subroutine (TERM) that will listen for a character which was the serial line, display it on the CP/M display, and send a character of input to the CP/M console. The serial status port and bit configuration is that of a Processor Technology Sol. The subroutine SETIO must configure CP/M to send output to the serial port and receive input from the serial port. The subroutine shown is also for the Sol.
Listing 2 shows a program that will configure the operating system to be remotely accessed. The program, after starting, will wait for the telephone to ring and the modem to answer. If the caller is an originating modem, the program will configure $\mathrm{CP} / \mathrm{M}$ to use the terminal on the other end of the telephone line as the display console. All data output to the remote terminal and input to CP/M from the remote terminal is echoed to the local display.

Listings 3 and 4 show small programs that can be used by the remote user to communicate with the local operator. The programs can be used only to send a message or to send a message and get a reply from the local operator. These programs are thus named Write To Operator (WTO) and Write To Operator and Reply (WTOR).

## Conclusion

Once the modem is constructed and tested, a protocol is still needed to establish two-way communications between processors. Commercial timesharing services set this protocol for their customers. Personal computer users do not have a standard file and message exchange protocol, but groups such as PCNET in the San Francisco Bay area (280 Polaris Ave, Mountain View CA 94303) are working on the problem. The PCNET protocol is based on the use of modems similar to the type described in this article.

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# I/O Expansion for the TRS-80 

 Part 2: Serial PortsSteve Ciarcia<br>POB 582<br>Glastonbury CT 06033

Last month in Part 1, I discussed the attachment of parallel input and output ports to the Radio Shack TRS-80 computer. This was basically a response to the many inquiries I have had on TRS-80 interfacing. As usual, it was a general presentation, intended to first enlighten the reader with interfacing concepts and then tender a few alternative circuits for construction. While TRS-80 owners benefit most directly, many computers have similar bus structure and can just as easily accommodate parallel input/output (I/O) expansion.

The presentation this month of a serial interface for the TRS-80 required a little more thought. Parallel ports are strictly hardware devices which in their simplest form only require execution of a single assemblylanguage or BASIC instruction to function efficiently. A serial interface, on the other hand, needs a software program to direct its operation. The many registers and buffers involved in the serial communication process must be synchronized by the execution of a serial-driver routine stored in memory. Any design for a serial port has to take into account the capabilities and memory location of this routine. Even the most splendid hardware circuit would be a failure if the software driver interfered with other computer functions.

To eliminate any potential problems that might occur, I decided to make my design completely softwarecompatible with existing TRS-80 serial-driver routines. This does not necessarily minimize circuit complexity by any means, but it greatly enhances potential user acceptance.
I was equally concerned with the power requirements and physical

## This RS-232C interface design is compatible with existing TRS-80 serialinterface control software.

configuration. Radio Shack sells a serial-interface board for the TRS-80, but it cannot be operated independently and requires integral attachment to the expansion interface


Photo 1: Prototype of the COMM-80 interface. The ribbon cable at the lower right connects to the expansion-bus port (either the expansion connector on the keyboard/processor unit or connector J2 on the exparsion interface). The edge connector at the upper right is for the Centronics-compatible, parallel printer port. The RS-232C DB-25S connector is at the lower left.
module. The expansion interface and one serial port add $\$ 400$ to the cost of the basic computer. Also, with its present hardwired addressing, the TRS-80 can support only one serial port and one parallel printer port.

Depending upon the intended application, you may not need the extra functions (eg: disk controller and memory expansion) provided in the expansion interface. The $\$ 300$ outlay for the expansion interface is an extraordinary expense if you merely intend to attach a modem and use the TRS-80 as a terminal on a timesharing network, such as the Source or MicroNet. Rather than duplicate what I consider to be a restrictive hardware configuration, I have attempted to present a cost-effective communications interface that gives more flexibility in use and has a better price/performance ratio.

## The COMM-80 Communications Interface

The approach I decided to take was to combine elements from Part 1 of this article with this one, and produce a stand-alone serial/parallel interface which could plug directly into the expansion-bus connector (the keyboard-unit expansion connector or connector J 2 on the expansion interface). Designated the COMM-80, the unit includes a 50 to 19,200 bit per second (bps) RS-232C serial port, a full 8-bit-in/8-bit-out parallel printer port, an auxiliary expansion-port edge connector, and switch-selectable addressing which allows a single TRS-80 to simultaneously connect up to sixteen COMM-80 interfaces. A block diagram of the COMM-80 is presented in figure 1, and a picture of the prototype is in photo 1.


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[^2]
## What Is a Serial Port?

Communication between computers, terminals, and other peripheral devices can be in either serial or parallel mode. In parallel mode, the entire information segment (ie: data word) is transmitted or received simultaneously in a single time frame. In serial mode, this same information is divided into its constit-
uent bits and these bits are transmitted individually over a longer period of time. In cases where high-speed data rates are involved, such as in interaction with a floppy-disk drive, the communication is usually in parallel and can involve as many as forty data and control lines. Serial mode is generally used for lowerspeed exchanges.


Photo 2: Here are two ways of adding RS-232 communication capability to the Radio Shack TRS-80. The COMM-80 unit is shown on the left; the combination of the Radio Shack expansion interface and serial-interface board is shown on the right.


Photo 3: A TRS-80 equipped with Level II BASIC, the COMM-80 interface, and a Novation CAT modem can be used as a remote terminal for a time-sharing service such as the Source.

An example a little closer to home is the addition of a video terminal and a printer to a computer system. Both the terminal and printer are designed to accept American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) coding, which requires only 7 bits to define a character.

The connections between the computer and the video terminal can be either serial or parallel. The choice in this case is not determined by data rate but by expense. Parallel communication is relatively easy and inexpensive for a computer. Few components are involved, and a 6 -foot length of nine-conductor cable (seven lines to carry the 7-bit ASCII data, one line each for data strobe and ground) will not cost too much. Serial interfacing is another matter entirely.

Microprocessors do not naturally communicate in serial format. There are no single machine-language instructions to perform this function. To serialize data we must add a separate hardware device called a universal asynchronous receiver/transmitter (UART). It looks just like a parallel port to the processor, but internally the UART is a very complicated device.

A UART is a special large-scale integration (LSI) circuit that accepts a data byte in parallel form from the processor and converts it into a universally accepted serial format. Any two terminals set at the same data-transmission rate could conceivably be interconnected to communicate, regardless of internal operating-system differences. The expense for this flexibility is in the neighborhood of $\$ 200$ to $\$ 500$ per data channel, depending upon the computer bus configuration.

## Transmitting Serial Data

Serial data can be transmitted in either synchronous or asynchronous format. I will address this discussion only to the latter format since asynchronous communication is the technique employed in the COMM-80. The asynchronous format allows unlimited time gaps to occur between transmission of characters.

The internal structure of a UART consists of a separate parallel-toserial transmitter and a serial-toparallel receiver joined by common programming pins. The two sections can be used independently provided

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they adhere to the same bit-format options. Sending a character from the processor is simply a matter of performing a parallel-output operation to the UART. The decoded-output strobe loads the UART with the data and initiates the serialization process.
Figure 2 shows a plot of logic levels versus time during the transmission of a single character. When no data is being sent, the data-transmission line remains in a logic 1 state. A 1-to-0 high-to-low transition on the line signifies that a character is being sent. The first bit is called a start bit. The
next 5 to 8 bits are data; these are followed by a parity bit. Finally, the end of transmission is defined by the addition of 1 or 2 stop bits at the end of the character. The start, stop, and parity bits are all added as part of the UART's function.

Meanwhile, the receiver section of the UART is continuously monitoring the input line for the start bit of a character. When the start bit comes, the following data bits are placed into a holding register and their parity is checked against the state of the parity bit. Completion is signaled by setting
a data-available flag. This flag, plus others defining buffer status, parity, and overrun errors, is read by the processor to determine when input data is ready or when another character can be transmitted. The individual pin functions of a typical UART are described in table 1.

## RS-232C Interface Characteristics

So far, I have discussed only serialization of the data. I have said nothing about voltages or logic conventions associated with control of the information transmitted between


Figure 1: Block diagram of components and data flow in the COMM-80 serial and parallel interface for the Radio Shack TRS-80.

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equipment. The Electronic Industry Association (EIA) RS-232C electrical specification defines voltage levels and control signals: a logic level 1 is called a "mark" or "off" and is considered to be anything more negative than -3 V . A logic 0 is called a "space" or "on" and is considered to be anything more positive than +3 V . As a rule, designers tend to use +12 V and -12 V for the 0 and 1 logic states.

In addition to standardizing the serial format, the EIA also specifies that the connector for RS-232C be a 25 -pin, D subminiature type (called a DB-25). The pin assignments and functions are shown in table 2.

## The COMM-80 Hardware

The COMM-80 is driven only by signals present on the buses of the computer. All sections communicate with the processor as memorymapped or directly addressed input/output ports. Figure 3 illustrates the complete schematic diagram of the COMM-80 interface in three sections.

There are two major sections: parallel printer port and serial port. They are joined together by a common address-decoding circuit and power supply.

## Address Decoding

A standard TRS-80 expansion interface has an edge connector commonly called the Centronics printer port. It actually combines an 8 -bit parallel output port and a 4 -bit parallel input port. The addressing for this section is hardwired for hexadecimal memory location 37E8. Part of this same address decoder is used for the Radio Shack serial-interface board. Coincidentally, the Radio Shack serial interface is decoded to use I/O port addresses E8 thru EB for data-transfer and control functions.

The address-decoding section of the COMM-80, consisting of IC1 thru IC7, is designed to decode this set of
Pin Name
Symbol Function
Number

| 1 | $V_{c c}$ Power Supply |
| :--- | :--- |
| 2 | $V_{a \sigma}$ Power Supply |
| 3 | Ground |
| 4 | Received Data Enable |


| $V_{c c}$ | $+5 V$ Supply |
| :--- | :--- |
| $V_{c c}$ | $-12 V$ Supply (Not connected on |

AY-5.1015
$V_{c t}$ Ground
A logic 0 on the receiver-enable line places the received data onto the output lines.
AD8 These are the eight data output
RD7 lines. Received characters are
RD6 right justified; the least significant
RD5 bit (LSB) always appears on RD1.
RD4 These lines have three-state outputs.

RD2 RD1

This three-state line goes to a logic 1 if the received-character parity does not agree with the selected parity.
FE This three-state line goes to a logic 1 if the received character has no valid stop bit.
OR This three-state line goes to a logic 1 it the previously received character is not read (DAV line not reset) before the present character is transferred to the receiver-holding register. A logic 0 on this three-state line places the status word bits (PE, FE, OP, DAV, TBMT) onto the output lines. This line will contain a clock whose frequency is sixteen times the desired receiver data rate.

| 18 | Reset Data Avalable |
| :--- | :---: |
| 18 DDAV A |  |
| 19 | Data Available |

20 Serial Input

21 External Reset
$22 \begin{aligned} & \text { Transmitter Buffer } \\ & \text { Empty }\end{aligned}$
addresses as well as a range of other addresses. The range for the printer port is hexadecimal memory addresses 3708 to 37 F 8 , and the serial range is hexadecimal I/O addresses 08 to F8. Figure 4 illustrates the switch settings for the different ranges.

There is a particular rationale for setting up the addresses this way. A user attaching a COMM-80 to his system would naturally set the switches for the range E8 thru EB, and the interface would then be completely compatible with standard TRS-80 software. Should an expansion-


Figure 2: Logic levels plotted against time during the transmission of an 8-bit data word in asynchronous serial format.

| $\begin{gathered} \text { Pin } \\ \text { Number } \end{gathered}$ | Name | Symbot | Function |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 23 | Dala Siroba | 0 O | A grrobe on thia tine wim onver the data bilts into the cata-bitg-hotoing regktien, in- <br>  rising edoge of DS. Data mum betabla ouring amise stobe. |
| 2 A | End of Character | EOC | This hns goes to a lopic 1 each time a tum character has been irensmilted. It remains at this lovel untid the starl of Ifansmission of the ne x character. |
| 25 | Serial Oulpur | 80 | The entire charecter is trensmited by by bil (hat is, gettally) over this line. In wher main at logec 1 when no dela is being transminted |
| $2{ }^{2}$ |  | 101 | There are up to 8 cata-bil-inpun |
|  |  | 102 | nos avaiable. |
| 29 |  | 104 |  |
| 30 | Data em unpura | 105 |  |
| 31 |  | 106 |  |
| 32. |  | 107 |  |
| 34 | Condral Strooe | C8 | A toopc 1 on thing lesed whil onlter the contron bits (EPS, NB1. NB2, TSB NP imo the controlbits holding register. This lint can be strobed or hardwed to a hogic 1 level. |
| 35 | No Parily | NP | A lopic 1 an ithis lyed wite efminate the pertiy bu from the trenomitited and ofceived character (no PE indication). The siop bitf) wili mmedally folow the lasi <br>  10 a logic 0. |
| 36 | Number of Stop Bils | 158 | This 部ad will gotect the number of and bits ( 1 or 2 ) to be appended inmedial afted the parny bit. A logic 0 wind inater 2 8100 Dis. |
| $\left.\begin{array}{l}37 \\ 38\end{array}\right\}$ | Numbior of Ban Por Cheracter | $\begin{aligned} & \text { NEz } \\ & \text { NE1 } \end{aligned}$ | These ivp leads wite be internaly decoded to fatect either $5,6,7$, or 8 data bits per characte. <br> NO2 <br> NO! <br> brbdherscter |
|  |  |  | $\begin{array}{lll} 0 & 0 & 5 \\ 0 & 1 & 6 \\ 1 & 0 & 7 \\ 1 & 1 & 8 \end{array}$ |
| 39 | OddVeven Partly Select | EPS | The lopic wowd on unia pin solecta the type of parify which will be appended in: medialsty afier the data bis. II atoo deter. mined the perify that win be checkeo by the recelver. A lopic 0 wibi meer odo partty, and a logic 1 wil inser even pariy. |
| 40 | Transmittor Clock | T0¢ | This thry will conlain a cloct whose to quency is sixileen times the dowired franemilla cata cate. |

interface module be added to the system later, the user would merely flip a switch apecified by table 3 to change the port address the expansion interface is set only for 37Es). The switch circuit is shown in figure 4. The system could then accommodate two printers. As table 3 shows, there are sixteen possibilities, so there could be sixteen printers and sioteen serial ports. From this point on, however, I will refer only to the addresting range of E8 thru EB.

## The Printer Port is a Full B Blis

Since I explained parallel ports in detail hat month, I will discuss the
printer port briefly. Initially my inrention was to provide a generalpurpose I/O port so that the user could connect some of my other projects and interface designs. As it worked out, however. I decided to combine efforts and configure the parallel port to serve as the printer port as well. The major difference is that the COMM-80 incorporates a full \&-bit input and a full 8-bit output port. Its address is nominally hexadecimal 37E8 in memory-address space. Writing to memory location 37 Es latches data onto IC14 and IC15 (both 74LS75 devices), and reading memory location 37Es gate the

Once you have installed an RS-232 port, a whole new world of peripherals opens up.
printer statum signals through the threesstate buffer IC19 (a 741 LS 244 device).

## Serial Port

The serial-port section require four input and four output strobes to operate. As previously mentioned, the serial-port control addresses are nominally set for hexadecimal Es thru EB. Figure 5 more explicitly illustrate the hardware derivation of these signals and lists their functions. These strobe tignals coordinate the RS-232C handshaking, the sense switches, the data-rate generator, and the UART. All four subsections can be independently controlled in software by reading and writing to the appropriate port address.

The sense switches. for instance. are merely a convenience. It is a way for the user to present a frequently used combination of options. These switches, outlined in figure 6, allow selection of data rate, word length. parity condition, and number of stop bits. There is, however, no physical connection between these switches and the other sections. The soffwaredriver routine coordinates the option selection.

First the routine determine the state of the switches by reading input port E9. It determines from the setting of switches SW6 thru SW8 what data rate the user wants. The particular code for that rate, selected from table 4, is written to output port E9. The remaining switch settings are written into the UART control register EA. Three bits of this output ( $\mathrm{b}_{0}$ thru $\mathrm{b}_{2}$ ) and input port E8 are used for the RS232C handshaking. The data-rate generator is presented in figure 7.

The sense switches are not absolutely necessary for operation of the serial interface. Most software drivers, such as the ST80 program written by Lance Micklus, offer a selection of the options through the keyboard. Separate data rates for the Text continued on pagy 44


Figure 3a: Section of schematic diagram of COMM-80 interface circuit. Shown here are the data-rate selector, the UART, and the option-selecting switches. The data-rate selector can be either a COM5016 or a BR1941. Various UAR Ts can be used instead of the AY-5-1013A, including the TR1602, COM2017, S1883, and TMS6011. A UART that uses a single +5 V power supply, such as the A Y-3-1015, may also be substituted.

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Figure 3b: Section of schematic diagram of COMM-80 interface. Connections to data buses and peripheral connectors are presented here. Some care must be exercised in connecting the COMM-80 to the expansion bus. It is best to use shielded ribbon cable. The production version of the COMM-80 includes two auxiliary expansion-bus edge connectors, which are like the one on the back of the keyboard/processor unit.

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Figure 3c: Section of COMM-80 interface circuit, including power supply and address-selection circuitry. Power to the interface should not be cut off while the TRS-80 is in operation, lest programs be lost. Both units should be powered up and down simultaneously.

Text continued from page 49: transmitter and receiver can also be established. This is easily accomplished by a direct output command to the data-rate generator using the codes from figure 6.

From this point on, serial communication proceeds by simply loading the UART with the data to be transmitted (using the $\mathrm{Z80}$ instruction OUT EB) and reading the UART status register to see if the byte has
been completely sent or if there is a received data word available (with the IN EA instruction).

The software driver needed for this interface is too long to discuss in this Text continued on page 58

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| Pin 1 | PGND - Protective Ground <br> This is chassis or equipment ground. It may also be tied to signal ground. |
| :---: | :---: |
| Pin 2 | TD - Transmit Data |
|  | This is the serial data from the terminal to the remote receiving equipment. When no data is being sent it is in a marking (1) condition. |
| Pin 3 | RD - Receive Data |
|  | This is the serial data from the remote equipment which is transmitted to the terminal. |
| Pin 4 | RTS - Request to Send |
|  | Controls the direction of data transmission. |
|  | In full-duplex operation an "on' sets transmit mode and an "off" sets non-transmit mode. |
|  | In half•duplex operation an "on" inhibits the receive mode and an "off" enables it. |
| Pin 5 | CTS - Clear to Send |
|  | Signal from the modem to the terminal indicating ability to transmit data. An "on" is "Ready" and an "off" is "not ready." |
| Pin 6 | DSR - Data Set Ready |
|  | Signal from the modem to the terminal. An "on" condition indicates that |
|  | the modem is ready. |
| Pin 7 | SGND - Signal Ground |
| Pin 8 | CD - Carrier Detect |
|  | An "on" indicates reception of a carrier from the remote data set; "off" indicates no carrier is being received. |
| Pin 20 | DTR - Data Terminal Ready: "on" connects the communication equipment to the communications channel; "off" disconnects the com- |
|  | munications equipment from the communications channel. |
| Pin 22 | Al - Ring Indicator |
|  | An "on" indicates that a ringing signal is being received on the communications channel. |

Table 2: Designations of pins on the DB-25 connector when used for communication with an RS-232C interface system and description of corresponding signals.

| Address Range | SW1 | SW2 | SW3 | SW4 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 08 thru 08 | Closed | Closed | Closed | Closed |
| 18 thru 18 | Closed | Closed | Closed | Open |
| 28 thru 2B | Closed | Closed | Open | Closed |
| 38 thru 3B | Closed | Closed | Open | Open |
| 48 thru 48 | Closed | Open | Closed | Closed |
| 58 thru 5B | Closed | Open | Closed | Open |
| 68 thru 6B | Closed | Open | Open | Closed |
| 78 thru 78 | Closed | Open | Open | Open |
| 88 thru 8B | Open | Closed | Closed | Closed |
| 98 thru 9B | Open | Closed | Closed | Open |
| $A 8$ thru $A B$ | Open | Closed | Open | Closed |
| B8 thru BB | Open | Closed | Open | Open |
| C8 thru CB | Open | Open | Closed | Closed |
| D8 thru DB | Open | Open | Closed | Open |
| E8 thru EB | Open | Open | Open | Closed |
| F8 thru FB | Open | Open | Open | Open |

Table 3: Use of the switch-selectable address decoder allows the I/O address range to be varied over the range shown here according to the switch positions specified. (See figure 4.) Radio Shack software uses the address range hexadecimal E8 thru EB.

Listing 1: Part of the output generated during a timesharing session on the Source, in which the TRS-80 equipped with the COMM-80 and a modem was used as a terminal. The Source is a service of the Source Telecomputing Corporation of McLean, Virginia. The hard copy was produced by an LA36 DECwriter connected to the TRS-80 through the COMM-80.

DIATA SYSCOM
************************* SYSTEM COMMANLS ***********************
COMTANLI DESCRIFTION

BASIC
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FROGFiAM IN THE BASIC LANGUAGE,
TALK TO ANOTHEF USEF ON THE SYSTEM.
UISFLAYS THE CONTENTS OF A FILE, STOFFING EVERY 24 LINES TO GIUE YOU TIME TO CATCH UF, (TYFING A RETUFN FESTARTS THE LISFLAY.)

Listing 1 continued on page 58

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FILES FFINTS THE NAME OF ALL YOUF FIlES.
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MAIL INUOKES THE ELECTFONIC MAIL FROGRAM.
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FLAYS COMFUTEF GAMES.
INUOKES THE CLASSIFIEII ALI/EULLETIN BOAFII FROGFIAM. FUNS A LIEFAAFY FFROGFAM.
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| TCA743 | TCA766 | TCAE30 | TCA914 | TCE419 | TClol1 |
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Figure 4: By closing the proper switches, one of sixteen possible address ranges in the I/O-address space can easily be selected. The switches are optional; the desired address range may be hardwired. For complete compatibility with standard TRS-80 software, the hexadecimal address range E8 thru EB should be chosen.

| RA | $\mathrm{T}_{s}$ $\mathrm{R}_{s}$ | $\mathrm{T}_{c}$ $\mathrm{R}_{\text {c }}$ | T ${ }_{\text {d }}$ $\mathrm{R}_{\mathrm{D}}$ | Data Rate | Clock <br> Frequency |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 | 800 Hz |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 75 | 1200 Hz |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 110 | 1760 Hz |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 134.5 | 2152 Hz |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 150 | 2400 Hz |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 300 | 4800 Hz |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 600 | 9600 Hz |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1200 | 19.2 kHz |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1800 | 28.8 kHz |
| 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 200 | 32.08 kHz |
| 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2400 | 38.4 kHz |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3600 | 57.6 kHz |
| 0 | 0 | 1 |  | 4800 | 76.8 kHz |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 7200 | 115.2 kHz |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 9600 | 153.6 kHz |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 19200 | 316.8 kHz |

Table 4: Chart to select data rates for the COM5016 data-rate generator. Transmission and reception rates may be set independently, according to the parameters specified here.

Text continued from page 54:
article. Also, since this interface is software-compatible with existing TRS-80 hardware, there is no need to write your own driver routine. There are many sources, including the one listed with this article.

## Using the COMM-80

Once you have an RS-232C port installed in your computer, a whole new world of peripherals opens up. The electronics industry has been turning out thousands of printers each year which use the RS-232C interface. For example, if you are interested in word processing, then you can attach a high-quality daisywheel printer to your TRS-80. Certain peripherals require a 20 mA current-loop interface; the required circuit is demonstrated in figure 8.

The most obvious application for the COMM-80 is to transform the TRS-80 from a mild-mannered personal computer into a full-fledged computer terminal. Photo 3 shows the system connected to a modem in actual use on the Source timesharing system. Listing 1 is a printout (from an LA36 DECwriter II also connected to the same serial interface) of typical user interaction on this national computer timesharing network. A look at Text continued on page 62

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Figure 5: Detail figure demonstrating interface-control strobes. The address decoder (made up of IC3 and IC6) can be set within the range of hexadecimal 08 to F8. TRS-80 compatibility requires a low address of E8. The output-strobe address notations presented refer only to this setting. Switch settings for other addresses are given in table 3.


Figure 6: Programmable sense switches are read by the processor to allow preselection of UART options under program control. The correspondence of options and switches is illustrated here.

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| Number | Type | +5V | GND | -12 V | +12 V |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| IC1 | 74LS04 | 14 | 7 |  |  |
| 1 C 2 | 74LS30 | 14 | 7 |  |  |
| 1 C 3 | 74LS30 | 14 | 7 |  |  |
| IC4 | 74LS02 | 14 | 7 |  |  |
| 1 C 5 | 74LS155 | 16 | 8 |  |  |
| IC6 | 74LS266 | 14 | 7 |  |  |
| 1 C 7 | 74LS00 | 14 | 7 |  |  |
| IC8 | 74LS75 | 5 | 12 |  |  |
| IC9 | 74LS367 | 16 | 8 |  |  |
| IC10 | MC1489 | 14 | 7 |  |  |
| IC11 | MC1489 | 14 | 7 |  |  |
| IC12 | MC1488 |  | 7 | 1 | 14 |
| IC13 | COM5016 | 2 | 11 |  | 9 |
| IC14 | 74LS75 | 5 | 12 |  |  |
| IC15 | 74LS75 | 5 | 12 |  |  |
| IC16 | 74121 | 14 | 7 |  |  |
| IC17 | AY-5-1013A | 1 | 3 | 2 |  |
| IC18 | 74LS244 | 20 | 10 |  |  |
| IC19 | 74LS244 | 20 | 10 |  |  |
| IC20 | 74LSO4 | 14 | 7 |  |  |
| IC21 | 74LS244 | 20 | 10 |  |  |

Table 5: Power supplies needed by the integrated circuits in the COMM-80.


Figure 7: The data-rate generator determines how fast data is sent and received. Transmission and reception rates can be set independently. The specifications for setting up the various possible data rates on the COM5016 are presented in table 4.


Figure 8: Some peripheral devices (ie: a Teletype ASR33) must be connected by means of a 20 mA current-loop circuit; such a circuit that can be attached to the COMM-80 is shown here.

Text continued from page 58:
some of the capabilities available through these networks might convince some people to use the network's facilities rather than spend thousands of dollars to build up an independent single-user system. At $\$ 2.75$ per hour of connect time, it seems a reasonable alternative. For those of you wishing to contact me via the Source, my electronic-mail identification is TCE317. I welcome questions on this or any other topics that I might possibly be able to answer.


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# Z80 Op Codes for an 8080 Assembler 

Williom T Powers<br>1138 Whaticld Rd<br>Northbrook II. 60062

If you have a 280 -based machine and an 8000 assembler, you are at crossroad. You can do one of three things: dispose of your old assembler and purchase a full Z80 axsembler, restrict your coding to the subset of the Z80 machine language that is equivalent to the 8080 machine language; or hand-assemble the non-8080 inetructions within your $\mathbf{Z 8 0}$ source code. This article details a method 1 have devised that allows me to assemble all the Z80 instructions using an 8080 assembler without resorting to hand-assembling.

This is how the process works. Suppose you want to exchange the program status word (accumulator. A, and flag byte, F) and ita duplicate. $\ln 280$ assembly language. this instruction is:
(Hexadecimal (Instruction
Address)
Mnemonic)
1000 EX AF,AF
which translates to a 1-byte instruction, hexadecimal 08 , to be placed at location hexadecimal 1000. If we have an 8080 assembler that allows us to assign a symbolic name to a 1-byte or 2 -byte constant, a 1-byte constant XAF ("exchange the AF pair") can be defined as hexadecimal 08 by a pseudo-operation statement like:

## XAF DA OAH

(DB stands for "define byte," and this kind of pseudooperation is called an equipalence statement.) Then, when we want to use this instruction in the same program, wrike

$$
1000 \text { DB XAF }
$$

which will cause the assembler to place a hexadecimal 08 in memory location 1000. True, this is a makeshift solution, but it is better than hand-assembling, and its merits become more obvious as more complex 280 instructions are encoded.
(This article will concentrate on explaining the set of mnemonics 1 have put together; so 1 will ass ume that the reader is familiar with the $\mathbf{2 8 0}$ instruction set.)

## Mremonic Conventions

Two main factors were considered while compiling the list of mnemonies. First, the mnemonics had to suggest the function they perform. Second, they had to avoid using up all the rice letter combinations I like to use in a program.

In general, I have used the following conventions. The letter " $x$ " used in a mnemoric means either extended or indexed. The abbreviation for the destination comes first, then the source, wherever possible. " M " means move, "L" means lood, " S " means store to memory, and " R " means register. Many of the mnemonics are preceded by the letter "Z" to keep them Irom duplicating variable names. For some mnemorics, however, I have abandoned the $\mathbf{Z}$ prefix, in the interest of either shortening the mnemonic, making its meaning obvious, or constructing an analog to a useful 8080 -code mnemonic as a way to ease the burden on the user's memory.

## 16-Bth Loada and Storea

The Z80 has five instructions that are analogous to the 8080 load-HL-register-pair-direct (LHLDDtinstruction, five analogous to the store-HL-register-pair-direct (SHLD) instruction, and two analogous to the 16 -bit immediateload instruction (LXI). I will refer to the new mnemonics used here as the "Z-symbols."

The Z-bymbols SBCD, SDED, SSPD, SIXD, and SIYD correspond to the SHID instruction on the 8080. These instructions cause the BC registers. the DE registers, the stack pointer (SP), or one of the two index registers (IX and $\operatorname{MY}$. respectively, to be loaded into the location whose address appears in the following 2 bytes. Notice that the middle two letters of the $\mathbf{Z}$-symbol are an abbreviation for the registers to be stored.

The Z-symbols LBCD, LDED, LSPD, LIXD, and LYD correspand to the LHLD instruction on the 8080 . These instructions load the indicated registers from the memory location whose address is stored in the next 2 bytes.
LXIX and LXIY are immediate-mode instructions that coincide with the 8080 instruction LXI H,nn. Inder register IX or IY is loaded with the number appearing in the following 2 bytes.

These previousty mentioned $Z$-symbols compile into a 2-byte instruction followed by 2-byte operand, for a

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total of 4 bytes. Since the 8080 assembler cannot recognize the $Z$-symbols, they must appear in a program as pseudo-operations. On my assembler, the double-byte pseudo-operator is "define word" (DW), and the singlebyte pseudo-operator is "define byte" (DB). For example, to load the IX register with the contents of memory location ADDRESS, we write:

## 1000 DW LIXD

## 1002 DW ADDRESS

The DW in each line is not pretty, but otherwise all these instructions look and act like normal assemblylanguage instructions. The second DW, which is simply a 2-byte address, can include computed offsets such as ADDRESS +34 H (hexadecimal 34 added to ADDRESS), or can be a literal such as 1FFFH (hexadecimal 1FFF). The LXIX and LXIY instructions (immediate load) work the same with the second DW being the 2-byte literal or mnemonic to be loaded.

In my opinion, two of the most useful instructions in this set are the Z-symbols LSPD and SSPD to load and store the stack pointer directly. As an example, if you want to use the stack pointer in a subroutine starting at hexadecimal 1000, start the subroutine with:

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
1000 & \text { DW } & \text { SSPD } \\
1002 & \text { DW } & \text { STACK }
\end{array}
$$

This causes the stack pointer to be stored at the bytes at addresses STACK and STACK +1 . Just before the return statement, the original stack pointer should be restored:

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
\text { 101A } & \text { DW } & \text { LSPD } \\
\text { 101C } & \text { DW } & \text { STACK }
\end{array}
$$

To summarize, here are the $Z$ codes for the instructions just covered:

SBCD, SDED, SSPD, SIXD, SIYD:
store register or register pair in memory
LBCD, LDED, LSPD, LIXD, LIYD:

| Z80 | Z-code | Function | Machine Code |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mnemonic | Mnemonic |  | (Hexadecimal) |
| RLC | ZRLC | rotate left circular | ii CB dd 06 |
| RRC | ZRRC | rotate right circular | ii CB dd OE |
| RL | ZRL | rotate left (with carry) | ii CB dd 16 |
| RR | ZRR | rotate right (with carry) | ii CB dd 1E |
| SLA | ZSLA | shift left arithmetic | ii CB dd 26 |
| SRA | ZSRA | shift right arithmetic | ii CB dd 2E |
| SRL | ZSRL | shift right logical | ii CB dd 3E |

Table 1: Z80 indexed rotate and shift instructions. The function of this table is to show the similarity of the machine codes for these instructions. The first byte of each instruction, listed here as " $i i^{\prime \prime}$, is always hexadecimal DD for the IX register and hexadecimal $F D$ for the $I Y$ register. The third byte, listed here as "dd", is the displacement required by the instruction. Note that the actual differentiation among the instructions occurs only in the fourth byte.

load register or register pair from memory
LXIX: load IX register with immediate 2 bytes stored with instruction
LXIY: load IY register with immediate 2 bytes stored with instruction

## Relative and Indirect Jumps

The Z-symbols for the six relative jumps are:

| JR | unconditional jump |
| :--- | :--- |
| JRNZ | jump if zero flag $=0$ (result not zero) |
| JRZ | jump if zero flag $=1$ (result is zero) |
| JRNC | jump if carry flag $=0$ (no carry) |
| JRC | jump if carry flag $=1$ (carry) |
| DJNZ | decrement register $B$ and jump if result not <br>  <br> zero |

These relative jumps require a single-byte pseudooperation (DB, for define byte) defining the instruction, followed by a single-byte pseudo-operation containing the relative displacement ( -128 to +127 ) measured from the next instruction. They cannot be combined into a single DW pseudo-operation because the byte describing the relative jump will be one of the defined Z-symbols, whereas the relative displacement will vary with each use.

For example, to jump on carry-clear to a location two addresses beyond the next instruction, we would write:

| 1000 | DB | JRNC |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1001 | DB | 2 H |

If the relative jump is to a label, called LABEL, the displacement can be computed by a standard form involving the " $\$$ ", which is the symbol for the current beginning of the first instruction after the jump):

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
1000 & \text { DB } & \text { JR } \\
1001 & \text { DB } & \text { LABEL-\$-1 }
\end{array}
$$

There are two indirect jumps in the Z 80 that are analogous to the 8080 command PCHL, which puts the contents of the HL register pair into the program counter. This causes a jump to the number contained in the HL register pair. The same can be done with the following Z-code instructions:

JIX jump to the memory location contained in the IX register
JIY jump to the memory location contained in the IY register

## Input and Output

Now we begin to see instructions that are not simply direct substitutions of codes for symbols. Rather, the resulting instruction is the sum of several $Z$-symbol mnemonics (each of which represents an option available to a given instruction).

The input and output instructions refer to the data flow through the ports. Data flow between the port and the accumulator is covered by an 8080 assembler, but Z-symbols will have to be devised to generate instructions that initiate data flow between a port and either a

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register or a memory location. When performing input to a register, the associated register is a destination register; on output, the associated register is a source register.

The Z-symbols that are ued are:
ZNP input to a register
ZOUT output from a register
INPI inpul to a register and increment HL. register pair by 1
OUT1 output from a register and increment HL regitter pair by 1
INPD input to a register and decrement HI. register pair by 1
OUTD outpul from a register and detrement HI. register pair by 1


Table 2: 2 codes and their hexadecimal equivalents. This table of pariable mants ( 2 ondes) and their hexadecimal dolues show'd be recreated in a giom asspmbly-henguage program. This is donz via the "define byte" (DB) and "defink word" (DW) psenedo-opurations (or the equibalent psenedoopertitions on the user's 8080 ascembler). For example, the first line might read "281 DB 0000ff". All entries except those starred are to be deffond as a 2 -byte sequemee (DW); the starsed ent riss are single-byte sequances (D8).

## ZRPT add "repeat until register $B$ equals $0^{*}$ feature

These are all 2 -byte (DW) mnemonics.
A ZINP or ZOUT in prepared for use by adding the mnemonic to it for the register being used (ZA1, ZB1, ZD1, ZE1, ZH1, ZLI, ZM1). For example, to get input into register D, write:

$$
1000 \quad \mathrm{DW} \quad Z \mathrm{NNP}+\mathrm{ZD} 1
$$

(In this example, the instruction is to be assembled at memory location hexadecimal 1000.) The assembler will add the two constants together, put the low byte of the sum in hexadecimal 1000 and the high byte in hexadecimal 1001 . Looking the table of Z -symbol mnemonics (table 2), we see that ZINP is hexadecimal 40ED and that ZD1 is hexadecimal 1000. Their sum is S0ED, and, looking at a table of 280 instructiona, we find that the hexadecimal code for this instruction (named $\mathbb{N}$ D.(C) in 280 assembly language) is ED followed by hexadecimal so. No port address isecified since the instruction requires that register C contains the port number.
The Z80 has four input and output instructions that transfer blocks of information to or from a range of memory, the start of which is pointed to by the HL. register pair. The port address is still held in register C . This powerful set of instructions can load or output up to 256 times with a single instruction. Register B is used as an index counter, with the instruction repeating until the value in B is decremented to 0 .

The $Z$ codes OUT1 and INPI perform output and input with the HL. register pair being incremented by 1 , and the B register being decremented by 1 after the data move. OUTD and INPD similarly involve decrementing the HL. and $B$ registers each time If OUT1, INPI, OUTD, or INPD is used alone, only 1 byte of memory is moved (although the incrementing and decrementing still takes place). The automatic repetition occurs when the Z-eode mnemonic ZRPT (repeat) is added to any of the four codes.
For example, to cause a block of memory starting at the location pointed to by the HI. register pair to be sent to the port pointed to by register $C$ (the number of bytes sent as output being the value in register B), we should write this instruction:

$$
1000 \text { DW OUTI + ZRPT }
$$

1 should mention that here, and in all cases, the order of elements makes no difference because two quantities are just being added together. The previous instruction, for example, could just as well have read ZRPT + OUTI.

## Block Moves and Searches

This section deals with four Z codes:

| BL.MD | block move in decreasing sequence |
| :--- | :--- |
| BL.M1 | block move in increasing sequence |
| BLSD | block search in decreasing sequence |
| BLSI | block search in increasing sequence |



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The two block-move $Z$ codes, BLMI and BLMD, move data from the location specified by the HL register pair into the location specified by the DE register pair, using the $B C$ register pair as a 16 -bit countdown register. BLMI moves the memory block from bottom to top, while BLMD moves from top to bottom. As in the case of the input-block and output-block instructions, these repeat automatically only if the Z-code mnemonic ZRPT is added to the BLMI or BLMD mnemonic. Without the repeat $Z$ code ZRPT, the move will execute only once with appropriate incrementing and decrementing done as usual but looping to be taken care of externally.

To move hexadecimal 1FFF bytes, for example, from the locations ascending from 0000 into the locations ascending from hexadecimal 2000, load register pair BC with hexadecimal 1FFF, register pair HL with hexadecimal 0000, and register pair DE with hexadecimal 2000. Then write:

$$
1000 \text { DW BLMI + ZRPT }
$$

The block-compare instructions (with Z codes BLSI and BLSD) work exactly the same as far as the mnemonics are concerned. The repetition mnemonic, ZRPT, is added only if automatic repetition is wanted. The block compares do not move data; instead, they search for the first memory location that matches the contents of register A. To use the search instructions, register pair HL is initialized to the first location to be

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compared and register pair BC to the number of items to be examined.
An exit from an automatic search loop will occur if a match is found or if the counter in register pair BC runs down to 0 . The difference in termination can be told by looking at the flags. If register pair BC made it to 0 without a match occurring, the parity flag is set to 0 . If a match occurred and caused the exit, the $Z$ flag is set to 1. Thus, a following JZ or JRZ (jump or jump relative on 0 ) instruction will cause a jump only if a match was found. In $Z$ code, an automatic block-search instruction in the descending direction looks like:

$$
1000 \text { DW BLSD + ZRPT }
$$

## Operations on Index Registers

The first two Z-code instructions that will be considered in this article are ZINX and ZDCX, which are the 16-bit analogs of the 8080 instructions INX and DCX:

| ZINX, ZINY | increment either the IX or IY <br> register by 1 <br> decrement either the IX or IY <br> register by 1 |
| :--- | :--- |
| ZDCX, ZDCY |  |
| added to the above to select |  |
| the IX register |  |
| added to the above to select |  |
| the IY register |  |

The ZINX and ZINY instructions are used to increment or decrement the 16 -bit index registers. To designate which register, either $Z X$ or $Z Y$ is added to one of the two mnemonics. (When referring to index registers IX and IY, the general mnemonics $Z X$ and $Z Y$ will be used).
For example, to decrement register IX, write:

$$
1000 \text { DW ZDCX }+Z X
$$

Two more Z80 instructions are POP and PUSH. Since these may occur often, I have assigned an individual Z-code mnemonic to each:

| POPX | move data from stack to index <br> register $X$ <br> move data from stack to index |
| :--- | :--- |
| POPY | register $Y$ <br> move data from index register |
| PSHX | $X$ to stack <br> move data from index register <br> $Y$ to stack |

These are 2-byte mnemonics. If you study the symbol table, you will see how to condense the table by defining ZPOP and ZPSH and adding ZX or ZY (which already exist) to them.
The $Z$-code mnemonics used to exchange the contents of the index registers $X$ and $Y$ with the contents of the location pointed to by the stack pointer are XTIX and XTIY, respectively. These can be condensed to ZXTI + ZX and $Z X T I+Z Y$ if desired. XTIX, XTIY, and ZXTI are all 2-byte instructions:

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XTIX
exchange IX with memory pointed to by stack pointer SP
XTIY exchange IY with memory pointed to by stack pointer SP
ZXTI same as XTIX if ZX added, same as XTIY if $Z Y$ added

As an example, the following sequence exchanges the top two 16 -bit items in the stack (destroying the contents of the IX register):

| 1000 | DW | POPX |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1002 | DW | XTIX |
| 1004 | DW | PSHX |

## 16-Bit Arithmetic

The Z codes used in this section are:

| ZDAX | add a register pair to the IX register <br> ZDAY <br> add a register pair to the IY register |
| :--- | :--- |
| ZDAC | 16-bit add with carry |
| ZDSB | 16-bit subtract with borrow <br> added to select BC register pair as |
| ZBC | source register <br> added to select DE register pair as |
| ZHE | adder register <br> added to selet |
| ZSL register pair as |  |
| source register |  |
| added to select the stack pointer as |  |
| source register |  |

The $Z$ codes ZDAX and ZDAY are analogous to the 8080 instruction DAD. A 16-bit number is added to either the IX or IY register from the register itself, from the stack pointer, or from either the BC or DE register pair; one index register, however, cannot be added to the other, only to itself. As with the DAD instruction, the carry bit is not involved and no flags are affected. The following codes are added to either ZDAX or ZDAY to specify the register or register pair added to the IX or IY register: ZBC (add the BC register pair), ZDE, ZSP, ZIX (used with ZDAX only), ZIY (used with ZDAY only).

For example, to add without carry the DE register pair to the IY register, write:

$$
1000 \text { DW ZDAY+ZDE }
$$

The Z 80 also permits 16 -bit arithmetic with carry or borrow (ZDAC, ZDSB), limiting the destination register to the HL register pair only. It also limits the source register to the $\mathrm{BC}, \mathrm{DE}$, and HL register pairs and the stack pointer (use of the IX or IY register is not permitted).

To subtract the contents of the stack pointer from the contents of the HL register pair, with the carry acting as a borrow bit and all relevant flags affected by the operation, we can write:

$$
1000 \quad \mathrm{DW} \quad \text { ZDSB }+\mathrm{ZSP}
$$

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| - | $1101=4^{*} \mathrm{~J}: \mathrm{K}=\left(4^{*} \mathrm{~J}-1\right)$ AND \& HOFFO |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| - | ${ }^{* * 0025 ' ~ L O O 110: ~}$ | LD | HL, (J\%) |
| - | ${ }^{*} 0028{ }^{\prime}$ | ADO | HL.HL |
| - | *0029' | ADD | HL.HL |
| - | *002A | LD | (19\%). HL |
| - | * 0020' | DEC | HL |
| - | ${ }^{*} \times 002{ }^{\prime}$ | LD | A.L |
| - | ${ }^{58} 002{ }^{\prime}$ | AND | FO |
| $\bullet$ | **0031' | LD | L.A |
| - | **0032' | LD | A.H |
| - | *0033 | AND | OF |
| $\bullet$ | **0035' | 10 | H.A |
| $\bullet$ | **0036' | LD | [K\%).HL |

BASIC compiler object code listing

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8080 arithmetic instruction. This mode is the calculation of the location in memory to be used as equal to the contents of the IX or IY register plus an 8-bit displacement stored with the instruction. The Z codes are:

| ZADD | add contents of memory to ac- <br> cumulator, no carry <br> add contents of memory to ac- <br> cumulator with carry |
| :--- | :--- |
| ZADC | subtract contents of memory from <br> accumulator, no borrow <br> subtract contents of memory from <br> accumulator with borrow |
| ZSUB |  |
| ZSBB | logical AND of memory with ac- <br> cumulator |
| ZANA | logical OR of memory with ac- <br> cumulator <br> compare accumulator to memory loca- <br> tion <br> increment contents of memory location <br> Zy 1 <br> decrement contents of memory location <br> by 1 |

All the above $Z$ codes, with the exception of ZINR and ZDCR, perform the given operation on the accumulator and the memory location pointed to, with the result being placed in the accumulator. ZINR and ZDCR are used to increment and decrement, respectively, the given memory location. All of the previously mentioned $Z$ codes are completed by adding the $Z$ code for the desired
register ( $Z X$ to use the IX register, $Z Y$ to use the IY register).

For all ten of these instructions, the DW containing the 2-byte hexadecimal code for the instruction must be followed by a DB containing the 1-byte displacement. To add to the accumulator, for example, a number located at 3 bytes beyond the location pointed to by IX, we write:

| 1000 | DW | ZADD + IX |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1002 | DB | $3 H$ |

To increment the memory location 5 bytes beyond the location pointed to by the IY register, we write:

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
1000 & \text { DW } & \text { ZINR }+Z Y \\
1002 & \text { DB } & 5 \mathrm{H}
\end{array}
$$

## Immediate Indexed Moves

Here, use only one $Z$ code:
MVXI move the immediate byte to the specified (indexed) location

This instruction causes the processor to move the byte that immediately follows to the memory location specified above by an index register plus a displacement. This instruction involves a total of 4 bytes: 2 for the op code itself, 1 for the immediate displacement, and 1 for the immediate byte to be moved (in that order). Again, the op code is completed by adding either $Z X$ or $Z Y$ to the $Z$ code MVXI. The displacement and immediate byte can

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be represented as two DB pseudo-operations, especially if either or both are to be computed. If both are constants, they can be combined into a single DW word with a hexadecimal constant of nndd, where nn is the immediate byte and dd is the displacement byte. This is done because the DW pseudo-operation reverses the order of the bytes to ddnn before storage.

For example, to move a hexadecimal 80 to the memory location 6 bytes beyond the location pointed to by the IX register, we can say either:

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
1000 & \text { DW } & \text { MVXI }+ \text { ZX } \\
1002 & \text { DB } 6 \mathrm{H} \\
1003 & \text { DB } & 80 \mathrm{H}
\end{array}
$$

or

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
1000 & \text { DW } & \text { MVXI }+ \text { ZX } \\
1002 & \text { DW } & 8006 \mathrm{H}
\end{array}
$$

## Indexed Register Moves

There are two types of 8 -bit move instructions peculiar to the Z 80 . Their $Z$ codes are:

ZMRX move from register to indexed memory location
ZMXR move from indexed memory location to register

The indexed location is computed as before. The Z -code mnemonics ZMRX and ZMXR may seem confusing but

are consistent with the $\mathbf{Z 8 0}$ convention of listing moves in the order "destination, then source."
To complete these $Z$ codes, both a $n$ index-register symbol (ZX or ZY) and either a source-register or a destination-register symbol must be added. The problem is that the value to be added for the source or destination register differs with the function, necessitating two names for a given register.

| Exchanges | $\begin{aligned} & \text { DB XAF } \\ & \text { DB EXX } \\ & \text { DW XTI }(X, Y) \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| 16-bit Moves | DW S(BC,DE,SP,IX,IY)D; DW (ADDRESS) <br> DW L(BC,DE,SP,IX,IY)D; DW (ADDRESS) <br> DW LXI(X,Y); DW (CONSTANT) <br> DW POP(X,Y) <br> DW $\operatorname{PSH}(X, Y)$ |
| 16.bit arithmetic | DW ZDA(X,Y) $+\mathrm{Z}\left(\mathrm{BC}, \mathrm{DE}, \mathrm{SP}^{\left(I X *, I Y^{*}\right)}\right.$ <br> DW ZD(AC, SB) $+\mathrm{Z}(\mathrm{BC}, \mathrm{DE}, \mathrm{HL}, \mathrm{SP})$ <br> DW $Z(\mathbb{N} X, D C X)+Z(X, Y)$ <br> *: if $X$, do not use IY; if $Y$, do not use IX |
| Interrupt operations | DW 1 (8080,38,VECT) DW RETI DW RTNM |
| Input/output | $\begin{aligned} & \text { DW Z(INP,OUT) }+ \text { Zr1* } \\ & \text { DW (INPI,OUTI,INPD,OUTD) }+ \text { ZRPT** } \\ & *: r=A, B, C, D, E, H, \text { or } L \\ & \quad * \text { : } \text { use is optional } \end{aligned}$ |
| Block moves and searches | DW (BLMI,BLMD,BLSI,BLSD) + ZRPT* *: use is optional |
| Relative jumps | DB (DJNZ,JR,JRNZ,JRZ,JPNC,JRC); DB (DISPLACEMENT) |
| Indexed jumps | DW JI(X,Y) |
| Rotates and shifts | DW Z(RLC,RRC,RL,RR,SLA,SRA,SRL) + Zs2* <br> DW ZRLD <br> DW ZRRD |
| (indexed) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { DW Z(XX,YY); DW } \\ & \text { Z(RLC,RRC,RL,RR,SLA,SRA,SRL) }+ \\ & \text { KLUGE + (DISPLACEMENT) } \\ & \quad: s=A, B, C, D, E, H, L, \text { or } M \end{aligned}$ |
| Bit operations (indexed) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { DW Z Z(BIT,RES,SET) }+ \text { BIT } n^{*}+Z s 2^{* *} \\ & \text { DW Z(XX,YY); DW Z(BIT,RES,SET) }+ \text { BITn }+ \\ & \text { KLUGE + (DISPLACEMENT) } \\ & *: n=0,1,2,3,4,5,6, \text { or } 7 \\ & *: s=A, B, C, D, E, H, L, \text { or } M \end{aligned}$ |
| 8.bit indexed arithmetic | DW Z(ADD,ADC,SUB,SBB,ANA,XRA,ORA, CMP,INR,DCR) + Zi*: DB (DISPLACEMENT) <br> *: use ZX or ZY as appropriate |
| 8.bit indexed moves | $\begin{aligned} & \text { DW ZMRX + Zr1* }+Z(X, Y) \\ & \text { DW ZMXR }+Z(X, Y)+Z r 2^{*} \\ & D W Z M X I+Z(X, Y) \\ & \quad: r=A, B, C, D, E, H, \text { or } L \end{aligned}$ |
| 8-bit moves | DW ZM(AI, IA,AR,RA) |

Table 3: A summary of usage for the $Z$ codes used in this article. Several abbreviations have been used. The terms in parentheses can be replaced with any one of the terms separated by commas. For example, the line "DW XTI (X,Y)" implies two instructions, "DW XTIX" and "DW XTIY".


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For example, $Z$ code $Z A 1$ is added to $Z M R X$ because the accumulator is being used as a destination register; but ZA2 is added to ZMXR because the accumulator is being used as a source register. Generally, we can say that the $\mathrm{ZMRX} Z$ code requires a $Z$ code of the form Zr 1 , where $r$ is one of the following symbols: A, B, C, D, E, H, or L. Similarly, the ZMXR $Z$ code requires a $Z$ code of the form Zr . The ZX or ZY to be added is the same for both ZMRX and ZMXR.

To move a byte from the memory location that is hexadecimal 17 bytes past the address pointed to by IX to register E , write:

| 1000 | DW | ZMRX + ZE1 + ZX |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1002 | DB | 17 H |

Note that these instructions both require a following data byte for the displacement, which can be a literal (as shown here) or a computed value. One quick rule to tell whether to use Zr 1 or Zr 2 is as follows: look at the position of the " $r$ " within the last two letters of the instruction mnemonic (ZMXR or ZMRX); if it is first ( $R X$ ), use Zr 1 , but if it is second (XR), use Zr2.

## Rotate and Shift Instructions

All the rotate and shift instructions, indexed or not, use the following basic Z -code instructions:

ZRLC rotate left circular (bit 7 goes into bit 0)


| ZRRC | rotate right circular (bit 0 goes into bit <br> 7) |
| :--- | :--- |
| ZRL | rotate left with carry (bit 7 goes into <br> carry flag) |
| ZRR | rotate right with carry (bit 0 goes into <br> carry flag) <br> arithmetic shift left, pad with zeros on |
| ZSLA | right <br> arithmetic shift right, pad with sign bit |
| ZSRA | on left <br> logical shift right, pad with zeros on <br> left |
| ZSRL |  |

For register-rotate instructions, we must add to one of the above the $Z$ code named $Z \mathrm{~s} 2$, where $s$ is the register that is to be rotated or shifted (with value A, B, C, D, E, H, L, or M). The memory location pointed to by the HL register pair can be rotated or shifted by adding the $Z$ code ZM 2 to one of the above instructions.

To rotate-left-circular register D, for example, write:

$$
1000 \text { DW } \quad \text { ZRLC + ZD2 }
$$

When indexed rotates are used, a byte in memory is pointed to by the sum of the contents of an index register (either IX or IY) and a 1-byte displacement value stored with the instruction; it is this byte that is rotated or shifted. However, the structure of this 4 -byte instruction does not lend itself easily to this method of using pseudooperations to represent non-8080 instructions. A detailed explanation is followed by two solutions.

Table 1 contains the previous $Z 80$ instructions in their indexed form. The first byte tells which index register is used for this instruction; it is hexadecimal DD for the IX register and hexadecimal FD for the IY register. The second byte is always hexadecimal CB. The third byte is the 8 -bit displacement to be used by the instruction, and the fourth byte identifies the rotate or shift instruction.
The first method of building one of these 4 -byte instructions (the method I am currently using) involves building two 2 -byte groups with the define-word (DW) instruction. The first word is built by using either the ZXX or the ZYY Z code. This depends on whether the IX or IY register is used to help point to the byte to be operated on. Remember that the DW pseudo-operation reverses the order of bytes before storing them in memory.

The second word is built by creating a double-byte constant that is the sum of the Z -code mnemonic for the desired operation, the displacement, and a constant called KLUGE. This is an unattractive solution, but it is the only way to get the correct information into one line of assembly-language code. Basically, it zeros out the lower byte of the rotate or shift $Z$ code to make room for the displacement byte.

To rotate right with carry the memory location 9 bytes beyond the location pointed to by the IY register, write:

| 1000 DW | ZYY |
| :--- | :--- |
| 1002 DW | ZRR +KLUGE +9 |

A second solution involves building the last 2 bytes

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ZBIT test specified bit
ZRES clear specified bit to 0
ZSET set specified bit to 1
For register-bit instructions, two Z codes must be added to one of the above $Z$-code instructions: one specifies which register is affected (its Z code is Zs 2 , where s specifies register $A, B, C, D, E, H, L$, or $M$ ); the other specifies which bit is to be affected (its $Z$ code is one of BIT0, BIT1, BIT2,. . . ,BIT7). Also, the memory location pointed to by the HL register pair can be used by adding the $Z$ code ZM 2 to one of the above instructions.

To test bit 5, for example, in the D register, we write;

$$
1000 \quad \mathrm{DW} \quad \mathrm{ZBIT}+\mathrm{ZD} 2+\text { BIT 5 }
$$

The situation with the indexed version of these instruc-


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tions is very similar to the indexed version for the shift and rotate instructions. However, due to the necessity of specifying a bit position, only the first solution, which uses two DW pseudo-operations to generate 4 bytes, will be discussed. The first DW is exactly the same as before, using the $Z$ codes $Z X X$ or $Z Y Y$ to indicate use of the IX or IY register, respectively. The second DW is the sum of the Z-code instruction (above), the value of KLUGE, the BITn $Z$ code (where $n=0$ thru 7 ), and the displacement.
To clear bit 2 of the memory location 8 bytes past the location pointed to by the contents of the IX register, we write:

| 1000 | DW | ZXX |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1002 | DW | ZRES + BIT2 + KLUGE +8 H |

## Miscellaneous Instructions

Here are some miscellaneous Z 80 instructions and their corresponding $Z$ codes:

| RETI | return from interrupt <br> RETN |
| :--- | :--- |
| return from nonmaskable interrupt |  |
| I8080 | 8080-like interrupt (interrupt mode 0) |
| I38 | interrupt to hexadecimal location 0038 <br> (interrupt mode 1) |
| IVECT | vectored interrupt (interrupt mode 2) |
| ZMAI | move accumulator to interrupt register |
| ZMIA | move interrupt register to accumulator |
| ZMAR | move accumulator to refresh register |
| ZMRA | move refresh register to accumulator |

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| EXX | exchange registers with alternate <br> registers <br> exchange $A$ and $F$ registers with $A^{\prime}$ and <br> XAF$\mathrm{F}^{\prime}$ <br> ZNEG |
| :--- | :--- |
|  | replace value in accumulator with its <br> two's complement |

RETI and RETN are the return-from-interrupt $Z$ codes that stand for the Z 80 instructions of the same name. I8080, I38, and IVECT are the $Z$ codes for the $Z 80$ instructions IM 0 , IM 1, and IM 2, respectively, each corresponding to an interrupt mode available on the Z 80 .

The Z codes ZMAI, ZMIA, ZMAR, and ZMRA move between the accumulator and either the interrupt register or the refresh register in the Z80 as specified above. EXX changes the $B, C, D, E, H$, and $L$ registers with their counterparts, $\mathrm{B}^{\prime}, \mathrm{C}^{\prime}, \mathrm{D}^{\prime}, \mathrm{E}^{\prime}, \mathrm{H}^{\prime}$, and $\mathrm{L}^{\prime}$. The Z code XAF exchanges the A and F registers with their counterparts $\mathrm{A}^{\prime}$ and $\mathrm{F}^{\prime}$. (The F register contains the Z 80 flags.)
Finally, the $Z$ code ZNEG replaces the contents of the accumulator with its two's complement.

The $Z$ code EXX is a 1-byte (DB) instruction. All the others listed here are 2 -byte (DW) instructions.

## Final Remarks

A complete table of the $Z$ codes employed in this article is given in table 2. A summary of the composite Z 80 instructions that can be built using the Z codes is presented in table 3. The entire table (or, if you can keep track, only the $Z$ codes you use) must be included with your assembly-language program. I assemble the program without the list of $Z$ codes until I have found all the errors that are due to the absence of the Z -code equivalence statements. I then add the $Z$-code equivalence statements to the end of the program, do a complete assembly (creating the machine-language module), and stop the listing when I get to the $Z$ codes (to save time and paper).

The Z 80 microprocessor has a number of powerful instructions and instruction modes that are not on the 8080. I devised the method presented in this article to enable me to use these instructions without having to buy a Z 80 assembler. I hope you have found this approach as useful as I have.
BYTEs Bits

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Dear Steve,
I have constructed the remote-keyboard circuit you described in "Come Upstairs and Be Respectable" (May 1977 BYTE, page 50) for use in several instances, and it has been a great help to me. I am presently planning on installing a video terminal and keyboard in our barn (the computer is 3000 feet away, in the house). What type of cable is suitable for this type of project (I may want to bury the cable)? Randall Busse

Well, I suggest that you bury a twisted-pair shielded cable and use a pair of differential line-drivers and receivers. I have had good results with Texas Instruments' 75107 As and 75110 As. I have seen lines spanning 10,000 feet that operate quite nicely.

Unfortunately, you did not mention whether you intend to use direct video to drive your monitor, or if you are trying to transmit serial-data logic levels. For a serial terminal, a communications link similar to the one in my article will suffice, but direct video is more difficult to transmit over that distance. You could use video-quality coaxial cable and a video amplifier for this project, or you might try modulating a radio-frequency carrier and use a standard television set at the end of your cable.

Either method will require some experi-
mentation. . . .Steve

## Dear Steve,

I enjoyed reading your article in the October 1979 BYTE on light-emittingdiode (LED) graphics displays ("Self-Refreshing LED Graphics Display," page 58). If a display were built using optical fibers, how would the price compare with a LED-type display? Can you suggest any references? Can you suggest a circuit board (or a manufacturer) that provides high-resolution color graphics with at least a 256-by-256 pixel display? Robert Ashworth

I am afraid, Bob, that you are trying to compare apples and bananas. Light-emitting diodes are actually light sources while optical fibers are light conductors. The latter have no selfilluminating capability. You could make my LED graphics display into a fiberoptics display. This would be done by "piping" the emitted light to a remote location using optical fibers. Since LEDs are used in both cases, the fiber optics do not make the display any cheaper.

I hesitate to recommend equipment because graphics depends heavily on the configuration of your computer
system. The personal computer market is so dynamic that any suggestion I might make could be out of date by the time it was published....Steve
[Editor's Note: We are planning to publish articles on the subject of highresolution color graphics in a future issue of BYTE.
Watch for it....CPF]

## Dear Steve,

While sitting in my living room last summer watching Hurricane David whirl by, I wanted nothing more than to use my TRS-80 computer. Unfortunately, our power was out for several hours, and when it came back on, my work was complicated with several brief power interruptions. Has anyone developed a combination emergency and uninterruptible power supply suitable for home-computer systems?

My approach to this problem would start with a well-shielded transformer and regulated battery charger. A zener regulator would float-charge a sealed maintenance-free automobile battery at the manufacturer's recommended voltage to ensure long life. Rather than use a square-wave-type inverter, a crystal-controlled 60 Hz oscillator might be more appropriate, driving a 250 W amplifier that would produce a reasonable
approximation of standard AC power. This would provide electricity for my computer and several peripheral devices, including a light bulb.
R B Nottingham
I have been thinking about uninterruptible power quite a bit lately. I first mentioned it in my articles on computercontrolled security for the home in the January thru March 1979 issues of BYTE. (See "Build a ComputerControlled Security System for Your Home" January 1979 BYTE, page 56; February 1979 BYTE, page 162; March 1979 BYTE, page 150.)

I hesitate to guess at the cost of a 250 W amplifier with a peak output voltage of 176 V . In my own system I have battery backup sufficient for a half hour. The battery is connected directly to the power-supply regulators, and the system shuts down automatically before the power runs out.

The dilemma I face is that everything in my house is electronically controlled, even the wood stove. (See "A Computer-Controlled Wood Stove" February 1980 BYTE, page 62.) My uninterruptible house requires that I walk out to the garage and start my 5 kW propane-fueled generator, while the computer is running under battery power....Steve

| Manufacturer | Device Number |
| :--- | :--- |
| Fujitsu | MB 8114 |
| Intersil | 7114 |
| Mostek | 414 |
| National Semiconductor | MM 5256 |
| Nippon | MPB 2114 |
| Signetics | 2614 |
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Dear Steve
What programmablememory parts have the same pinout specifications as Intel's 2114 device? Edward Savage

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# My TRS-80 Talks to My Cromemco Z-2 

Rod Hallen<br>Road Runner Ranch<br>POB 73<br>Tombstone AZ 85638

Business computers communicate with each other all of the time. This is true whether they are located in adjacent rooms or halfway around the world from each other. You may ask, "Why can't personal computers communicate in the same manner?" Well, they can, and an intercomputer communications scheme is not really that difficult to implement.

I have owned as many as five personal computers at one time, but presently I'm concentrating on my Cromemco Z-2 and Radio Shack TRS-80. My Z-2 is used for wordprocessing and assembly-language program development; I bought the TRS-80 because it is the most popular machine on the market, and I want to write about the hardware and software for a large number of readers.
The Z-2 supports two ThinkerToys DISCUS 8 -inch floppy disks, a fast Malibu 160 line printer, and a lot of other S-100 hardware, using software oriented to the $\mathrm{CP} / \mathrm{M}$ operating system. The TRS-80 is a 16 K Level II machine with only one peripheral. That peripheral device is the Z-2, and therein lies my story.

## Peripheral Devices

It doesn't take personal-computer enthusiasts long to find out that they will very quickly have more money invested in peripherals than in computers. In fact the computer itself is often the least expensive item. This is especially true for systems using printers and mass storage.
Good printers aren't cheap; neither are floppy-disk drives. And yet, the serious experimenter will want both. There are cases, such as mine, where peripherals are needed for two com-
puters. Duplication of peripherals is not a cost-effective solution.

Since the Z-2 already supported everything I needed for the TRS-80, my first thought was about some sort of switching arrangement. This would have allowed the flip of a switch to transfer control of the printer and disks between computers. This sounds like a reasonable solution until you consider the actual implementation. My printer uses two parallel input/output (I/O) ports, and the disk system is oriented for the S-100 bus. Obviously, this means that nearly one hundred signal lines must be controlled. If both ports had been serial RS-232 types, the task might have been possible.

My major need was for hard-copy printouts of TRS-80 programs. It didn't take long to arrive at the idea of simply sending the program listings to the Z-2 and letting the Cromemco machine handle the printing. This scheme turned out to be much simpler than I had anticipated.

Although what follows is a design to interface these two particular com-


Figure 1: This block diagram of the intercomputer communications channel shows one-way data transfer from the TRS-80 to the Z-2. With the appropriate modifications, the same scheme can be used for other systems.
puters, I have also included some hints about adapting this scheme to fit almost any situation.

## Theory

Figure 1 shows how the two computers are tied together. At the present time, the RS-232 line works in only one direction, from TRS-80 to Z-2. This is because the TRS-80 serial port was originally intended to drive a printer and is not configured to receive. However, it does contain most of the receiver components, which suggests an interesting followup project.

First, let us look at the data transmission from the TRS-80. TRS-80 Level II BASIC has two statements, LPRINT and LLIST, which are designed to send information to a printer. Both are similar in operation to PRINT and LIST. The TRS-80 maps the printer I/O port into memory address space as hexadecimal location 37E8. When LLIST or LPRINT is used as a command, the information referred to will be sent to hexadecimal memory address 37 E 8 .

The TRS-80 serial interface must accomplish two things. First, it must decode the printer port address and let the microprocessor know when the next character can be sent. In addition, it must provide parallel-toserial conversion because I had decided that the communications between the two machines would use the RS-232 format.

Once I had temporarily interfaced an IBM Selectric typewriter and a Teletype Model 43 to the TRS-80, so I already had the required serial printer port. The Radio Shack RS-232 board, which mounts in the expansion inter-

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face, could be used instead.
I set the data-transfer rate at 2400 bps, which is the fastest that my port will run. I have also tried programming the Z-2 to display data as it is received. Unfortunately, 2400 bps is too fast to allow both storing and displaying of the data, so some characters are lost. I have written a routine for the Z-2 which sends incoming data directly to the printer, but I have found it preferable to make a disk file. This allows me to print as many copies as necessary.

Although no software changes of any kind are needed in the TRS-80, the $\mathrm{Z}-2$ must be able to tell when characters are being sent to it and also what it should do with them. The program in listing 1 , which I call TRSZ2, continually reads the input port which is being fed with data by the TRS-80. The characters thusly detected are stored in consecutive memory locations starting at hexadecimal 0100.

TRSZ2 is written in 8080 assembly language because it was originally intended for my computer which preceded the Z-2. It may be possible
to improve the efficiency of this routine by using some $Z 80$ instructions, but the limiting factor is still the RS-232-channel transfer rate, so not much would be gained. I hope the 8080 code will be useful to a greater number of readers than any $Z 80$ version.

The TRS-80 does not output a linefeed character after each carriage return because line feeds are inserted automatically by the Radio Shack line printer (ie: the Centronics 779). TRSZ2 must also monitor the data as it is received to add a line feed after each carriage return.

The Z-2 also needs some way to determine when the transmission is concluded. At the end of each TRS-80 program which is to be sent to the Z-2, I add a shift-@ character (hexadecimal 60). When the $\mathrm{Z}-2$ reads the shift-@, the operation is terminated.

Since listing 1 was designed to be used in a $\mathrm{CP} / \mathrm{M}$ environment, it also performs two other functions. First, a $\mathrm{CP} / \mathrm{M}$ end-of-file (EOF) character must be added to mark the end of the program stored in memory. CP/M recognizes hexadecimal 1 A as the


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EOF. Second, CP/M requires that we tell it how many memory pages (ie: groups of 256 bytes) a program occupies before it is saved on disk.

This latter function is accomplished by converting the most significant byte of the storage pointer into two hexadecimal digits. As an example, suppose that the H and L registers contain hexadecimal OA52 when listing 1 finds the end of the TRS-80 program. Since our storage area starts at hexadecimal address 0100, we have stored hexadecimal 0952 bytes of data (0A52-100 = 0952), which is more than nine pages and less than ten. $\mathrm{CP} / \mathrm{M}$ does not consider partial pages, so we round up to the next integer. The H register contains hexadecimal OA, which is decimal 10.

In the TRSZ2 routine, TEST and TABLE are used to convert the hexadecimal characters to ASCII, and the result is then sent to the screen one character at a time, followed by the message "H PAGES". At this point, in our example, the screen displays "OAH PAGES", and control is returned to $\mathrm{CP} / \mathrm{M}$. The transferred data may then be saved on disk by entering the proper $\mathrm{CP} / \mathrm{M}$ commands.

Once a TRS-80 program has been stored on a CP/M disk, it is necessary only to call a print routine to get a hard copy. I have two ways to do this. If I type a control-P and then enter "TYPE FILENAME. TAB", the entire program will be listed on my printer. TYPE is a CP/M command which sends the specified file to the screen or to the screen and the printer, depending upon whether control-P has been toggled.

The TYPE command has one serious drawback: it does not take page length into account, and it prints continuously until the file has been completely listed. From the CP/M Users Group, I have obtained a program called PRINT which divides a listing up into pages of any desired length, and then titles and numbers each page. The address for the CP/M Users Group is given in a box near the end of this article.

## Implementation

The procedure I usually follow is:

1. Write or load the TRS-80 program.

Text continued on page 94

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Listing 1: This routine, called TRSZ2, allows the Cromemco Z-2 to continually read the serial RS-232 input port. Most transfers are completed in a short time.

## 0790 6190 6998 6040 6999 $F 893$ 0990

D709 210601
D793 D808
D765 E640
D797 Cag3D7 D7GA DB69 $\begin{array}{ll}\text { D7GC } & \text { E67F } \\ \text { D7GE } & \text { FEGG }\end{array}$ D716 CA21D7 D713 FEGD D715 C21CD7 $\begin{array}{ll}0718 & 77 \\ 0719 & 23\end{array}$ D71A 3EGA D71C 77 D71D 23 D71E C3@3D7

D721 366D

$$
0
$$

$$
\text { D723 } 23
$$

D724 366A

D726 23
D727 361A
D729 3E0D
D728 CD03F
D72E 3EGA D736 CDG3F8 D733 EB D734 7A
D735 E6F0 D737 6F D738 GF D739 6F D73A GF D73B CD55D7 D73E 7A D73F E69F D741 CD55D7 D744 2186D7 D747 0699

## D749 7E

D74A CDG3F9
D74D 23
074E 65
D74F C249D7
D752 C3900
D755 2166D7
D758 BE
D75A C2G2D7
D75D 7E
D75E CDG3FE
$0761 \mathrm{C9}$
D762 23
D763 C359D7
D766 60396131
D76A 62329333
D76E 04349535
077206369737
D776 68389939
D77A BA419842 D77E 0C439D44 D782 GE459F46

D786 482959
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Text continued from page 90:
2. Append shift-@ to the TRS-80 program.
3. Load TRSZ2 in the Z-2 and execute.
4. LLIST the TRS-80 program.
5. SAVE $X X$ pages on $\mathrm{Z}-2$.
6. PRINT resulting file.

The actual transfer happens very rapidly because of the speed of the RS-232 interface, the disks, and the printer.

Under CP/M, TRSZ2 can be loaded and executed in two different ways. After TRSZ2.ASM has been assembled, the file TRSZ2.HEX will reside on the disk. Typing "DDT TRSZ2.HEX" will load it starting at hexadecimal location D700, and then "GD700" will execute it. TRSZ2 loops continually until characters are detected at the input serial port.

As a preferred alternative, I have a utility routine from the CP/M Users Group called MOVDOWN which greatly simplifies this process. I have modified MOVDOWN so that any program which does not execute at the normal $\mathrm{CP} / \mathrm{M}$ hexadecimal address of hexadecimal 0100 can be
loaded and executed in the same way as any $\mathrm{CP} / \mathrm{M}$ command file. My modified routine is called MOVUP.

## Other Computers

The basic principles discussed so far will work with other computers, but of course there are some detail changes that must be made. The most important consideration is the availability of a serial I/O port intended for a printer or other peripheral device. The main difference of using a serial port for intercomputer communications, when compared to the usual serial-port peripherals, is the high data-transfer rate possible.
For the receiving end, a great amount of flexibility is possible. When setting up the system, I picked hexadecimal D700 as the location for TRSZ2 because this is free memory outside of the CP/M operating area. I set my $\mathrm{CP} / \mathrm{M}$ system size at 4 K bytes less than the available user memory to leave room for programs such as this, my printer-driver routine, and others that must run undisturbed during the normal operation of CP/M.

Note that in listing 1, BEGIN is

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given the hexadecimal value 0100 . This is the beginning of the text storage area, purely an arbitrary choice. I selected 0100 since it is the start of CP/M's disk-SAVE area.
SPSTAT is set to port 8 to indicate the status of my serial port. Whenever bit 6 is nonzero (tested by ANI MASK), a character is ready, and the next step is to read the serial data port (ie: SPDATA EQU 9). The received character is then stored in the memory location pointed to by the H and L registers. Bit masks and ports should be changed to match your particular configuration.

SCREEN defines the output port as my IMSAI VIO-C video interface board. Whenever location F803 is called, the character which is in the A register will appear on the screen. Finally, BOOT calls hexadecimal address 0000 , which is the reentry point for CP/M. Substitute your monitor entry point if you are not running CP/M.

On non-CP/M systems you will, of course, need to use whatever tape- or disk-saving procedures are available to you. If this is difficult or undesirable, you might rewrite TRSZ2 so that it sends each character directly to the printer as it is received. In this case, the data-transfer rate must be adjusted to accommodate the slower peripheral device.

## Flexibility

While the ability of the Cromemco Z-2 system to provide hard copy for the TRS-80 is a useful and economical feature, there are also many other advantages.
On the Z-2 I am using Microsoft Extended Disk BASIC which will accept TRS-80 Level II programs, except for a few statements. The reverse is also true. It is possible and desirable to write a program on one machine, then send it to the other for whatever modification is necessary. The Z-2 also runs a Z 80 assembler and debugger, which could be used to generate assembly-language programs for the TRS-80. All of these will result in enormous flexibility of software design and utilization.

[^4]

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# Communicating in Two Directions 

Mark R Titchener 40 Oxford St Room 230 Harvard University<br>Cambridge MA 02138

With the prices of microcomputer components becoming ever more attractive, the temptation to sprinkle terminals and peripherals throughout the house is becoming more difficult to resist. Since a computer is more flexible than a telephone, it's not unreasonable to have a bedside terminal (that wakes you in the morning and reminds you of your appointment with the dentist), a terminal in the study for serious work, another remote terminal in the den for the kids to play with safely, and the main system residing in the basement workshop.

The simultaneous and independent transmission of signals in opposing directions through a single line, as
discussed here, has been done for years in communications systems (such as telephone links). I have not seen it applied to remote terminals or processors, so I present the idea along with some obvious applications.

## Theory of Matching Bridges

In most systems the transmitters are simple current sources which, in the case of digital transmission, are switched on or off. Reception of the signals can be made by detecting the presence of a voltage across the nodes of a bridge, as shown in figure 1.
In order for the output signal to be unaffected by the local transmitter, the bridge must be balanced. For a transmission line to handle data
without reflection problems, the bridge network must terminate the line with an impedance that closely matches the line's impedance. By definition, the impedance of an ideal current source is infinite; but the receiver impedance must also be high. If the receiver draws too much current, it will affect the bridge balance and impedance.
From the two conditions shown along with figure 1, it is a simple matter to derive the values $R_{1}$ and $R_{2}$, in terms of the characteristic impedance $R_{0}$. The relations derived are:

$$
\begin{gathered}
R_{2}=2 R_{0} \\
R_{1}=2 / 3 R_{0}
\end{gathered}
$$



TERMINAL A
TERMINAL B
Figure 1: The fundamental transmission scheme. T1 and T2 are current sources (ie: transmitters) which may be either on or off. Proper termination of the transmission line is accomplished by the selection of bridge impedances to fit the equation:

$$
\frac{1}{R_{0}}=\frac{1}{R_{2}}+\frac{1}{3 R_{1}}
$$

where $R_{0}$ is the impedance of the transmission line. Solving this equation simultaneously with the bridge balancing equation:

$$
\frac{1}{R_{1}}=\frac{1}{R_{0}}+\frac{1}{R_{2}}
$$

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Figure 2: Typical bidirectional line-driver circuit designed for a 75-ohm transmission line. Capacitor marked with an asterisk has a value determined by the data-transfer rate. (See text.)


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For 75-ohm coaxial line, the values $R_{2}$ $=150$ ohms and $R_{1}=47$ ohms would be about right. Slight imbalance in the bridge may be corrected as will be described lat' $r$. The impedance of the bridge and cable combination is effectively 73 ohms. It is obvious that some variation may be introduced by the tolerance of the resistors, so you may have to choose the resistors carefully.

## The Transmitter/Receiver Circuit

With this configuration in mind, some other arbitrary specifications of the circuit can be chosen. The components specified in figure 2 will be unsuitable for cable impedances other than 75 ohms. The supply voltages were selected as those most likely to be available from the processor or terminal with which the circuit is to be used. In electrically noisy environments, it may be necessary to use higher transmission voltages to hide the interference, in which case higher supply voltages will be required.

Using the 5 V supply, about 2 V is left as a suitable transmission voltage after biasing transistors Q1 and Q2. (The transmission voltage actually varies depending on whether both

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transmitters T1 and T2 are in their on state.)

When a high input level causes Q3 to conduct, about 10 mA of current flows through the base resistors of Q1 and Q2. This biases each base at about 1.5 V with respect to the corresponding supply rails and defines the emitter resistor voltages at Q1 and Q2 to be 1 V . Thus, with a high input level, about 50 mA will be available from the collectors of Q1 and Q2. The two collectors of these transistors form the source and sink of the current transmitters, T1 and T 2 , shown in figure 1.
With the resistances given for $R_{1}$ and $R_{2}$, the voltage developed by the current source T1 is about 2 V at the cable. If the current sources at each end of the line are in the on state, this voltage rises to about 3.6 V . However, the voltage sensed by each receiver is about 1.2 to 1.3 V , with very little variation. When both T1 and T 2 are on, no current flows in the transmission line.
The transistor Q 4 is switched through a 6.8 k -ohm resistor which limits the base current to about 0.1 mA . This provides ample current for switching the output, and the 6.8 k -ohm resistor is of sufficiently high impedance to be ignored in the bridge balance and cable termination calculations. The output at the collector of Q4 is transistor-transistor-logic (TTL) compatible as is the input at the base of Q3.

The balance of the current source and current sink is crucial to good performance, and is adjusted using the 250 -ohm potentiometer at the base of Q2. The 1 k -ohm biascurrent control, used in setting up the base voltages of Q1 and Q2, should be adjusted to give 2 V at the cable connection. It will be found that this adjustment is not entirely independent of the balance adjustment; it may be necessary to readjust each to obtain proper operation.
Some immunity to noise and to the glitches produced by slight imbalance in the switching characteristics of Q1 and Q2 is given by the capacitor at the base of Q4. This value should be calculated to filter any frequencies greater than the third harmonic of the chosen data rate. The appropriate formula is:

$$
c=\frac{1}{188 f}
$$



Figure 3: Simple-ring network of three systems.
where $c$ is in farads and $f$ is in bits per second.

## Parallel-to-Serial Conversion

The output and input lines of this line driver may be directly coupled to the serial lines of a universal asynchronous receiver/transmitter (UART). Thus a simple link consisting of a single coaxial cable can connect a peripheral to the parallel port of the main system. This is possibly the simplest way to use such a scheme. However, in more sophisticated networks, some other arrangements are advantageous.

## Ring Networks

The networks described next assume some degree of intelligence in each system, because the simplicity of the transmission system is reflected in the need for some software monitoring. The UART is not particularly well suited for these configurations, so interfacing may be better achieved with an integrated circuit such as the Signetics 2651 peripheral communications adapter (PCI). The features of this circuit include:

- simultaneous operation of transmitter and receiver
- synchronous or asynchronous transmission
- characters may be from 5 to 8 bits wide
- automatic, serial echo mode
- internal data-rate generator with sixteen common rates
- error detection
- single 5 V power supply required

In figure 3, the simple ring network of three systems is reduced to a linear configuration. The ring need not be limited to three systems, but may form the basis of a simple network where each office or room might be equipped with a terminal. Using this scheme, the data is shunted around the ring from one system to the next until its destination is reached. The 2651 then signals a flag to the system involved and the automatic echo mode is ceased. The incoming data block is diverted to the system's memory while fill characters (synchronous idle, SYN, or data-link escape, DLE) are substituted onto the ring, indicating that the line is free. When the block transfer has been completed, the 2651 will return to its automatic echo mode, thus allowing following data to circulate on the ring.

With this configuration, some flexibility is available in the initial wiring of the ring. The order of the systems within the network is not necessarily dictated by their physical locations. Each system, apart from the two end ones, may intercept the data passing
in either of two directions. Thus if certain pairs are more often in communication, their placement may be arranged for greatest efficiency.

In figure 4 (see page 106), a somewhat more sophisticated system is shown. This time the physical linking of the systems is continued until a loop has been formed. Each system is now connected to the loop via two 2651s and has access to data circulating in either of two directions. The performance of such a network will depend largely on the sophistication of the associated software, but the possibilities are exciting.
The network might be described as being a reconfigurable dual-ring network, which enables simultaneous conversations between two or more pairs of systems, depending on their relative placement on the loop. If we consider any two systems, we see that one of four different conversation loops may be chosen (see figure 5, page 106); either one of the two rings may be used independently, or one of the two possible loops formed as a combination of the two data rings may be used.
At this point I sense that we may be beyond the reasonable, in terms of the experimenter's immediate interests. However, I believe these ideas may in one form or another stimulate thoughts on the subject from fellow BYTE readers. II

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Figure 4: Dual-ring network of six systems. Each system has access to data which may circulate in either direction.


Figure 5: Possible communications links using the dual-ring network.


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# Understanding ISAM 

Reginald D Gates<br>4244 Carfax<br>Lakewood CA 90713

More and more microcomputer systems are advertised as featuring ISAM files. The indexed-sequential access method (ISAM) permits rapid access to large amounts of data and is well suited to disk storage. However, ISAM does have some disadvantages. This article is intended to enable the personal-computer user to understand what ISAM is, how it works, and how to tell if the indexedsequential access method is appropriate for a given application.

A brief look at two other access methods will be a helpful prelude to describing ISAM. Sequential access is the most common method for reading Files, and it is easily understood. Records of a sequential file are accessed one after another in the order in which they are physically stored. The records are located adjacent to each other on the storage device.

In the random-access method, records are read or written via a unique key associated with each record. This key translates into a physical ad-dress-that is, the address in the storage device that contains both the specified key and its associated data. Here, the records are not necessarily located next to each other; they tend to be scattered over the storage area. Figure 1 shows the same file of three entries stored in both a random and a sequential manner.

The major problem with sequential files is speed. To obtain the one hundredth itemfrom a sequential file, it is necessary to first read the preceding ninety-nine records. If the program makes a lot of unordered accesses to a sequential file, the response will be slow since the preceding records have to be read for each entry that is obtained. Events in the real world typjcally occur in an unordered manner.

This means that the slow response time of a sequential file often precludes its use in real-time systems.
On the other hand, the advantage of the random-access file is speed. If the key of a record is known, we know exactly where to look for it. The programs can obtain any record in a random-access file with just one input/output (I/O) operation.

> ISAM represents a compromise between the random- and sequentialaccess methods.

The problem with the randomaccess method for files is related to the size and composition of the record's key. Since there is a one-toone correspondence between a key and a physical location, the storage medium must have a space available for every possible key value. If the key is a four-digit integer, that implies 9999 slots. However, if the key is a Social Security number, storage for $999,999,999$ records would have to be allocated. (There are various randomizing or hashing tectuniques available to deal with this problem. See "Making Hash With Tables" by Terry Dollhoff, January 1977 BYTE, page 18, reprinked in the book Program Design from BYTE Books.)

ISAM represents a compromise between the random-and sequentialaccess methods. ISAM access is faster than sequential actess but not as fast at random access. An ISAM file takes less storage than a random file but more storage than a sequential file.

Records in an ISAM file are stored adjacent to each other as they are in a sequential file, but the storage location of the individual record is not tied directly to the key of the record. (See figure 2.) Instead data records (called prime records) are grouped together and stored as a physical record. The size of the physical record is the largest number of logical, prime records that will fit into a fundamental unit of mass storage (in a disk, this whit is called a sector). Along with each physical record, an index record is built that contains a pointer (address) to the physical record and the highest key value of any record within that physical record. In other words, the ISAM index file provides means of translating from the key of a record to that recond's physical location. (In most cases, use of the ISAM index file is made solely by the operating system so that the use is transparent to (unnoticed by) the program that is accessing the record "randomly.")

To clarify the previous general discussion, observe the following example. Suppose you are asked to maintain the membership data for a local computer club. Each member is assigned a unique three-digit membership number that can be used as a key for your file. After studying the data to be kept on each member, you determine that four records will fill a sector on the storage device. Records are updated regularly as the members pay their dues, added fairly often as the club grows, and deleted infrequently. There are currently seventy t wo members, with membership numbers from 001 to 072.
In order to compare the three access methods, look at the storage space and I/O processing necessary

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RTC___VECTOR=6; (FOR RTC__ISR]
TYPE
TIME__OF__DAY = RECORD

| HOURS $:$ | $0.24 ;$ |
| :--- | :---: |
| MINUTES $:$ | $0 . .60 ;$ |
| SECONDS | $: 0 . .60$ |

VAR
NOW: TIME_OF__DAY;
SAMPLE: INTEGER;
PROCEDURE INCREMENT___ TIME__OF___DAY; BEGIN
["INCREMENTS NOW BY ONE SECOND*]
END;
PROCEDURE GET SAMPLE: \{TALK TOAIDCONVERTER\} BEGIN
SAMPLE: = INPUT [\$3B]; \{GET IIO PORT DATA) OUTPUT [\$FA] = SHR [SAMPLE, 3); \{USE SHIFT RIGHT\} WHILE TSTEIT [INPUT [\$6C]. 2] <> TRUE DO; (WAT)
INLINE ['LOA / \$FOCO / 'STA / \$309B]; \{OJB CODE\} END;

PROCEDURE INTERRUPT [RTC____VECTOR] RTC___ISR: BEGIN \{INTERRUPT SERVICE ROUTINE\}
GET SAMPLE [" EVERY SECOND ${ }^{\circ}$ ]
INCREMENT__TIME_OF___DAY
END:
BEGIN
NOW. SECONOS: $=0$; NOW. MINUTES: $=0$; NOW. HOURS: $=0$;
INLINE ["MVI A, / \$3E / ''SiM \{BOB5\}]; \{START CLOCK\}
GET SAMPLE: \{TAKE FIRST SAMPLE\}
WHILE NOW. HOURS $\diamond 3$ OD; [SAMPLE FOR 3 HOURS|
ENO. \{AT END RETURN TO OPERATNG SYSTEM\}

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[^5]for the following functions：
－Store the membership file．
－Update record 57.
－Add new member number 108.
－Delete record 12.
－Print a membership list for the entire club．

If the access method is sequential， the file will occupy eighteen sectors of storage（ $4 \times 18=72$ ）．To read and then update record 57，the fifteenth sector must be obtained．When using a sequential－access method，the preceding fourteen sectors must be read，giving a total of fifteen read operations and one write operation．

Adding a record past the current end of file entails first reading the entire data set（eighteen reads）and then ex－ ecuting a write．Deleting record 12 implies rewriting every record from record 13 to the end of the file．Since the point of deletion has to be read first，every sector is read，and sectors 13 thru 18 are written．Finally，print－ ing a membership list simply involves eighteen read operations．（This data is summarized in table 1．）

Suppose you choose to access the membership file using a random－ access file．Since the I／O package reads sectors from the disk，it will make a one－to－one correspondence between the sector of a record and a

| Sequential <br> Address | File <br> Record | Record <br> Data | Random File <br> Address | Record <br> Key | Record <br> Data |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 001 | 003 |  | DDDDDDDD | 001 | （empty） |
| 002 | 005 | DDDDDDDD | 002 | （empty） |  |
| 003 | 007 | DDDDDDDD 003 | 003 | DDDDDDDD |  |
| 004 | （empty） |  | 004 | （empty） |  |
| 005 | （empty） |  | 005 | 005 | DDDDDDDD |
| 006 | （empty） |  | 006 | （empty） |  |
| 007 | （empty） |  | 007 | 007 | DDDDDDDD |

Figure 1：Data organization in sequential－access and random－access files．In a sequential file，data records are stored physically adjacent to each other；this saves storage space， but the entire file must be rewritten if a new record is inserted．In a random file，data records are stored with respect to the record＇s key．This requires a larger initial invest－ ment in storage space but allows new records to be inserted without rewriting the entire file．

| INDEX FILE | INDEX SECTOR 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { HIGH } \\ & \text { KEY } \end{aligned}$ | SECTOR | ${\underset{K E Y}{\text { KIGH }}}^{2}$ | SECTOR | \} | $\begin{aligned} & \text { HIGH } \\ & \text { KEY } \end{aligned}$ | SECTOR | $\begin{aligned} & \text { HIGH } \end{aligned}$ | SECTOR |
|  | 004 | 01 | 008 | 02 | ＜ | 068 | 017 | 072 | 018 |


| ${ }_{\text {Prem }}^{\text {PRIME }}$ | SECTOR 01 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | оata |  | Data |  | Data |  | Ooro 4 |
|  | ${ }_{601}$ | data | 002 | Data | ${ }_{0} 003$ | DATA | 004 | dата |


| croo 02 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| RECORO 1 |  | KEr RECORO ${ }^{\text {a }}$ |  | RECORO 3 |  | \％RECORD 4 |  |
| KE\％ | data |  |  | ${ }_{\text {K }}^{\text {KEY }}$ | data |  |  |
| $\vdots \quad \vdots$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| RECORO 1 |  | ${ }_{\text {ORO }}{ }^{\text {SECTOR }} 1$ |  |  | ${ }_{18}^{18}{ }_{\text {RECORD }}$ | RECORD 4 |  |
| （key | data | ${ }_{\text {KEF }}^{\substack{\text { ¢ }}}$ | data | 戦 | data | 戦 | data |

Figure 2：Structure of an ISAM file．The ISAM file presented is actually two files．The prime file contains a series of contiguous physical records，each of which contains a number of logical records．（Here，one physical record equals one disk sector．）All the logical records contained within one physical record are in ascending－key sequence for the file．The second file，the index file，provides an index of physical records in ascending－key sequence．Together，these two files allow the ISAM file to be in ascending－key sequence without the use of the random－access method．

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person's membership number. This means that the random-access method will start by costing 999 sectors of storage, one sector for each possible membership number. Multiple records per secfor are not possible with this addressing scheme, so $75 \%$ of each sector is ynused (one sector could hold four records).

Once this price Has been paid, the rest seems fairly , simple. Reading record 57 costs the user one I/O operation, as does writing to update the record. The addition of record 108 takes just one write operation since the disk space is already there.

A deletion, though, raises some interesting questions for a randomaccess file. The sectoricannot be eliminated from the disk; so it must be written over with a standard pattern to indicate that the slot is empty. This implies that the I/O package (or program) must recognize the pattern that indicates an empty record. Because all records are empty before the file is created, a formatting program must be run to create 999 empty records before the first real record can be added to the random file.

The use of random access also sets a physical limit to the size of the file - that is, to a maximum of 999 entries. Will the club ever grow beyond 999 members? If it does not, this approach is fine. But if there is a possibility of having more than 999 members in the club, the key size must be changed and the allocation for the random-access file must be increased to 9999 sectors.

Producing a membership list from this random file means that every sector in the data set must be read unless you know the highest key currently assigned. Even if you know that the highest key is 108, you will have to execute a minimum of 108 read operations. Again, these figures are given in table 1.

If ISAM is chosen as the access method, the records can be stored four to a sector (the content of a sector is sometimes called a block). However, you must build an index file to tie the record's key to its physical location. (A good I/O package will create the index file automatically.) Records in the index file will consist of the highest key from the records in a given sector and the physical address (or sector number) of that sector. There are
only eighteen index records, since only eighteen sectors are needed to save seventy-two records. These eighteen sectors are called prime blocks. The index records are small enough to fit in one sector of the storage device.

Getting back to the evaluation questions in table 1, an update of record 57 involves reading the index (which can be done with one read operation), searching the index records until there is a high or equal compare, then reading the prime sector that corresponds to the sector number from the index. The sector from the prime file is then rewritten, but it is not necessary to update the index sector (which stays the same). Adding record 108 involves reading the index sector and updating it as well as writing a new prime sector. Record 12 is deleted by locating the logical record, writing over it with a predetermined pattern, and updating the corresponding index record so that it contains a high key value of
11. Printing a membership list calls for accessing the index and reading each of the eighteen prime sectors. A summary of these results for an ISAM file are given in table 1.

Most readers will notice that a situation where a new record is added between two existing records has not yet been discussed. This was done deliberately so that ISAM's basic features could be reviewed. Now we must look at overflow.

Overflow processing is unique to ISAM files and can cause a tremendous increase in the number of I/O operations necessary to access ISAM records. Since fast response time is one 'of the attractive features of ISAM, overflow will be discussed in some detail. (Please note that there are several ways to implement ISAM, all of which involve overflow processing of some kind. Although the guidelines that will be developed are based on a detailed consideration of one implementation, the general prin-

| Characteristic 1 | Sequential Access Method | Random Access Method | ISAM (IndexedSequential Access Method) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Number of sectors used for storage | 18 | 999 | 19 |
| Number of VO operations to update record 57 | 16 | 2 | 3 |
| Number of I/O operations to add record 108 | 19 | 1 | 3 |
| Number of I/O operations to delete record 112 | 34 | 1 | 4 |
| Number of I/O operations :o print memberships lists | 18 | 108 | 19 |
| Software must be able to recognize a deleted record? | no | yes | yes |
| Must run disk formatting program? | no | yes | no |
| Maximum file size | device limit | 999 | device limit |

Table 1: Comparison of disk-access methods. Using the example of a file containing seventy-two records, the characteristics listed here point up the relative strengths and weaknesses of each method.

Action
VO Count
Read Index file
1
Read Overflow Block 019
Read Overtlow Block 017
Read Overflow Block 009
Read Overflow Block 001
(Key 266 in overflow block 1 is high)
Write 252 as Overflow Block 020
Read Overflow Block 009 again
(Change Block 9 Link Field to 020)
Write Updated Overflow Block 009
Table 2: Processing a record that is in the overflow file of an ISAM file. Given the problem of writing a new record with a key of 252 to an ISAM file as reptesented in figure 6, this table lists the sequence of events necessary to add the new record, which will go into the overflow file between the records with keys 250 and 266.

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| Disk drive type | Doubledensity | Same |
| No. of drives (std/max) | $2 / 4$ | Same |
| Capacity per drive (on-line) | 200 Kb. | 180 Kb. |
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ciples will apply to all ISAM implementations.)
One of the advantages of ISAM is that records whose keys differ greatly may occupy physically adjacent locations in the storage medium. For example, it is perfectly proper to have the ISAM prime block illustrated in figure 3. The index entry for this sector would carry 266 as the highest key entry.

Suppose that record 200 is to be added. If this record is written in its normal place, something must be done with record 266, as there can be only four records in a block. If 266 is relocated to the next block, the highest record in that block will be bumped, and so on. Bumping records in this manner would increase the access time significantly by necessitating the rewriting of the entire prime file from the point of addition on (as in a sequential file). Because access speed is one of the reasons for considering ISAM, this approach is usually avoided by writing bumped records into an overflow file. In addition, the format of the ISAM index record is modified to indicate the presence and address of any overflow entries. Figure 4 presents the disk file example with the extensions necessary to add record 200 to an overflow file.
The pointer in the overflow field of the index is the address of the sector in the overflow file that contains the next record with a key that is higher than the prime block high key. In figure 4, the next record higher than 250 is found in overflow sector 1 ; apparently record 266 was the first overflow to occur for the prime file.

Each record in the overflow file consists of the key of the record, its data, and a link field. The link field contains a pointer to the next higher record in overflow associated with this particular disk sector. If more records are added to the original sector, the link fields in the overflow file form a chain of records displaced from the prime file. Suppose records with keys of 210 and 218 are added to the ISAM file on different days. Figure 5 shows how the blocks in the three files would appear.

The overflow pointer in the index record has changed to a value of 017, while the overflow key remains at 266. This shows three things: that there is an overflow chain for this set of prime records; that the highest key


Figure 3: A valid physical record in an ISAM file. Since an ISAM file does not require saving disk space for every possible key, records with nonadjacent keys can be adjacent in the file. If, for example, the record with key 252 were to be added to this file, this physical record would be rewritten with record 252 in the place of record 266. Record 266 would then be written in the overflow area for this physical record.
in the chain is 266 ; and that the chain starts with overflow block 017. In this example, the overflow chain has three entries.
If a record is added whose key is greater than the highest key currently in the prime area, then that record is written at the end of the overflow file. The index and overflow link values are altered to put the new record in its proper place. For example, if record 220 is added, the prime block remains unchanged while the overflow and index blocks are modified as shown in figure 6.

The overflow records have three distinct characteristics. First, they are not in key sequence. Second, the records are not blocked. Third, the overflow records do not have the same format as the non-overflow
records (link fields are present). Although there is only one overflow chain for each prime block, the chain may have multiple entries.

In order to access an ISAM record, the program may have to "walk" along an overflow chain until it finds the desired record. Any such overflow processing adds tremendously to the number of I/O operations executed during a retrieval. If the files looked like those in figure 6, it would take just two I/O operations to read record 198 (one read of the index file and a read of the prime file). However, retrieving record 266 takes five read operations, four of which are overflow reads. The processing necessary to add record 252 near the end of the overflow chain is listed in table 2.


Figure 4: Index entry for a given physical record in an ISAM file. Along with the pointer to the physical record (here, a disk sector), a pointer must be established to the first record in the overflow area that belongs to the current physical record. When record 200 is added to the file here, it bumps record 266 out of the same physical record. Record 266 is placed in the overflow file with a pointer to it from the index entry.

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This brief description of the I/O operations associated with processing overflow chains indicates why ISAM overflow processing must be avoided at all costs. There is no more certain way of slowing down a program than to force it to process long overflow chains.

> Each record in the overflow file consists of the key of the record, its data, and a link field.

Since it is fairly common to add new records to an existing file, some overflow is bound to occur. How can this overflow be removed? Many ISAM I/O packages provide a utility program that will reorganize an ISAM file - that is, rewrite the entire file so that all records are written into the prime disk file. After reorganization, the overflow file is empty and all delay associated with overflow records is eliminated. If such a utility is not available, a program to do the reorganization may have to be created.
The obvious next question is, "When should an ISAM file be reorganized?" Unfortunately, there is no precise answer. One guideline used in the past by this author is as follows: an ISAM file should be reorganized whenever the file response time increases by more than $30 \%$, or whenever more than $20 \%$ of the records in the file are stored in overflow.
The first part of this guideline implies that there must be some way of measuring response time, even if it is subjective. There also must be someone assigned to a monitoring function. The second part suggests that there should be another utility program that will give certain information about an ISAM file. It must at least show the ratio of prime to overflow storage, and it might also tell the number of blocks that have overflow chains and the number of entries in each chain.

Now some criteria may be established for judging whether ISAM is appropriate for a given application. First, you must be certain that reorganization and diagnostic utilities are available (or that the user
is willing to create them). It is difficult to see how ISAM files can be considered without such utilities unless very few records will ever be added to the file.

Next, see if the other two access methods can be eliminated. Is the sequential access method really too slow? What kind of response is required (not just desired) for this application? If rapid response (less than 1 second) to the user is a requirement, then sequential files are probably eliminated. Of course, this judgement has to be made on an application by application basis: if an inventory system is being designed, it is reasonable to require a reasonably prompt response to an inventory question. On the other hand, the need for immediately answered inquiries to a membership file for the computer club is less obvious.

To evaluate the random-access method, the keys to the file should be examined. Can a unique key be assigned that will translate to a physical address? If this key is alphanumeric and of any length, the number of possible key values may easily exceed the storage capacity.

Even if the key is numeric, the range may be larger than the storage. In either case, the pure random-access approach is usually impractical.

If both sequential and random files are impractical, consider ISAM files. First, establish the approximate size and growth rate for the file. Once the system is fully operational, how many records are expected to be stored in this file? How often are records added to the file? Are they added uniformly with respect to time, or is there a particular period when there will be rapid growth for this file? For example, you expect a marked difference in the growth pattern for an inventory file for an auto parts store as opposed to an inventory file for a toy store, especially during the Christmas season. Rapid, irregular growth of an ISAM file indicates rapid growth of the overflow file; if computer time is limited, there may be potential problems with scheduling the file's reorganizations.

In connection with reorganizing the file, two questions must be asked. How long will it take to reorganize the full file? Can the user permit this file to be unavailable to him for the


Figure 5: Multiple-overflow records associated with a physical record. When more than one logical record originally from a given physical record is pushed into overflow, the records are threaded together in ascending-key sequence as presented. The overflow index points to the first overflow record. Each overflow record points to its successor, with a pointer of 000 indicating the end of the string of records.

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Figure 6: Comparison of record-access times for overflow and non-overflow records. It takes two disk-read operations to access any record that is in the disk file: one to read the index entry, and one to read the physical record. Since an overflow record is read by chaining through the over flow records associated with a given index entry, retrieving an overflow record may take many disk-read operations. It will take five disk-read operations to read record 266: one to read the index entry, and four to read through records 220, 222, and 250, before arriving at record 266.
length of time necessary for the reorganization? In particular, if the answer to the second question is "no,", the file must be redesigned (and probably the application as well). Although this point may seen trivial at the very least, it indicates that large ISAM files may be inappropriate for businesses that are operated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
Now it is necessary to determine roughly how often the file must be reorganized. How long will it take the file to grow by $20 \%$ ? If the answer is 90 days, you have 3 months to reorganize the file. If the answer is only 9 days, you may have a bit more of a problem in scheduling the processing necessary to do the reorganization.

In addition to the number of new records being added, also consider the relative activity of those records. Is a new record more likely to be accessed than an old record? If this is the case, then it is possible that the new record might be placed in overflow; this would cause either longer access time when the record is being referenced or time lost in reorganizing the file.

The indexed sequential-access method has many advantages, but it should not be selected without a thorough examination. When provided with a basic understanding of ISAM files and the questions suggested in this article, the personal computer user can determine if the ISAM method of data access is the best choice for his application.

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# A Time-Sharing/Multi-User Subsystem for Microprocessors 

Don Klazer<br>19972 NW Metolies Dr<br>Portland OR 972.29

Now that the personal computer has become firmly established, many users are developing an appetite for more complex and sophisticated systems. Disk-based systems, quite rare among users several years ago. are now commonplace.

Among the concepts being investigated and implemented by advanced experimenters are: real-time operating systems: multiprocessor systems (eg: resource tharing); advanced disk-operating systems; multitasking systems; parallel processing: and time-sharing/multi-user systems. Indeed almost every feature of large computer systems is being considered for implementation on microcomputers. This article will explain some of the problems, techniques, advantages, and disadvantages of time-sharing/multi-user microprocessor systems. For the most part, the techniques are applicable to all currently popular microprocessors (eg: $6800,8080,6502$ ). However, the exact implementation and circuitry required may differ depending upon the microprocessor.
The impetus for time-sharing or multi-user systems is to allow for more efficient use of processor time and to allow several people to share the processor. A microprocessor can do only one thing at a time the trick
is to make it appear to be doing more than one thing simultaneously. In most home computer applications. the processor is input/output (1/O) bound - that is, the processor spends much of its time waiting for $1 / 0$.

The only time the processor "wastes" is the overhead time required to change users.

The idea, then, is to let the processor execute the next user's job while the I/O interface handles the time-consuming serial 1/O. This may lead to the false proposition that we need complicated 1/O interfaces. But all serial I/O devices, such as the universal asynchronous receiver/ transmitter (UART), or the asynchronous communications interface adapter (ACIA), are I/O processors. After they get the character to transmit, for example, they are processor independent. allowing the processor to do something ebe fusually a loop to wait for the device to come to a ready state, as in single-user systems).

Imagine two programs, both in memory, two l/O routines, and two terminals. Program A (Spaceflight.
for example) use 1/O routine $A$ that drives terminal A. Program B, a BASIC interpreter, uses 1/O routine B that drives terminal B. Each 1/O routine has the flowchart shown in figure 1. One program executes until it needs its I/O device and the de vice is busy. At that time, control is transterred to the other program after first saving the contents of the processor registers. When the other program meets the same condition with its 1/O device, control switches back again.
But what happens if program A gets caught in a loop or if program B doesn't do any 1/Op The answer is, of course, that the multi-uter system fails What we need is some way to insure that each user gets a share of the processor time To accomplish this, we can adopt a whole new philosophy that gives each user equal time. The clock circuitry shown in figure 2 will interrupt the processor at regular intervals. The interrupt routine will consist of saving one user's registers, restoring the next user's register contents, and begin. ning execution. This solution is much more foolprool. No user can hang up the system unless interrupts are masked or disabled. However, this returns to the same problem we started out to solve if user $A$ is doing

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is User can select the system boot configuration.
- Occupies only 16 bytes of memory space (F760-F76F standard). User selectable to any 16 byte address space.
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- Standard real-time clock (time-of-day, day-of-week, day-ofmonth) with battery back up capable of generating programmable interrupts.
- Up to 20 K of EPROM can be installed on the CPU Board.
- Standard 1 K of RAM on board.
- Includes improved 6809 Monitor (and source listing).
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I/O and his device is not ready, processor time is wasted waiting for it.

The obvious solution is to use the best parts of both systems and eliminate the disadvantages of each: allow each user a timeslice, and when the time has expired, move to the next user. Furthermore, if a user needs his I/O device and the device is busy, truncate (ie: terminate) his time slice and move to the next user. With this system, a user's program will execute until the allotted time runs out or an


Figure 1: Flowchart of I/O routines in a multi-user system. The software controlling both programs leaves the control with one until that program requires the use of an I/O device that is not currently available. This scheme is too simple to be used in a practical situation.

I/O request receives a busy response. Hence, the processor is always doing something useful, and the only time it wastes is the overhead time required to change users.

The efficiency of the system, in terms of processor time efficiency (PTE), is defined as:

PTE $=\frac{\text { execution time }}{\text { (execution }+ \text { overhead time })}$
Although the system can never be $100 \%$ efficient, it will be the system designer's goal to make the processor time efficiency as high as possible. This is subject to other constraints to be discussed later.
It is clear that we need some means to terminate a time cycle and concurrently generate an interrupt to the processor. Furthermore, we want to insure that when the current user prematurely terminates, the next can still get his full time allotment. The circuit in figure 3 will implement this for a 6800 microprocessor. An 8080 implementation might use IN or OUT instructions instead of memorymapped I/O.
SEL is a signal that comes from a memory-mapped bit and indicates that we are addressing the interrupt circuitry, while VMA indicates a valid address on the bus. Normally, ICla will time out (ie: Q output will drop low) after a certain period of time set by its resistor/capacitor combination. It will trigger IC1b for a $1 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ pulse. This pulse is fed to the inter-


Figure 2: Schematic diagram of a time-slicing interrupt clock. This circuit generates a periodic pulse that is used to interrupt the processor. When coupled with the appropriate software, the circuit can be used to divide processor time equally among all the running programs.
rupt line of the processor through the open-collector inverter IC2. Furthermore, when IC1b times out, it triggers IC1a and starts the cycle over again. However, when VMA and SEL are true and the processor is doing a write (ie: $\mathrm{R} / \overline{\mathrm{W}}$ false), IC1a will be cleared early. This action fires IC1b which then interrupts the processor and also triggers IC1a to start a new cycle. We now have a means for the processor to interrupt itself!

In general, when the system is first powered up, we do not want these interrupts occurring all over. Unless the system is in read-only memory, we must first load in the software including the interrupt handler. Furthermore, back-to-back one-shots usually have startup problems so that the circuit of figure 3 may not always run.

We can fix both of these problems simultaneously as shown in figure 4. Upon power-up or pressing the reset button, the RESET line becomes active and sets the RS flip-flop formed by IC4a and IC4b. Through IC5, IC4b holds IC1a cleared and IC4a holds the A input of IC1b high. Because IC1a is cleared, the B input of IC1b remains high as well. When VMA and SEL are true and the processor is executing a read operation, the RS flip-flop is reset. This removes the CLEAR signal from IC1a, thus triggering IC1b, which causes the processor to be interrupted. When IC1b times out, it triggers IC1a and then the cycle is the same as before. As you can see, when the system powers up, the interrupt timer is disabled until the processor reads a particular location (ie: the memorymapped bit SEL), which then starts the timer. Furthermore, pressing the reset button will also disable the timer.

Memory management is important in such systems. For example, if we have a sixteen-user system and the users will never be running the same program, we can merely assemble all the programs so that they fit in the memory space available. Additionally, we need to set aside a separate temporary storage area for each user. With the 8080 this is no great disadvantage, but with the 6800 or 6502, there is the 256 -word page 0 which is most efficiently used as temporary storage. With large programs requiring large amounts of storage, there

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may not be enough page 0 memory to go around.

Further problems are encountered when we try to let all users run the same program at the same time. One approach is to have one copy of the program in memory for each of the users: sixteen users and sixteen copies. The amount of memory used may rule out multiple copies.

A second, more desirable approach is to overlay memory from the disk. Under this scheme, when we change users, we write memory out to the disk and load in the next user's memory. This is fine for extremely fast disks or very small programs, but the overhead time mentioned earlier becomes extremely large.

Hardware paging, a more reasonable solution, is very similar to diskoverlay paging. Using this technique, we set out to fool the processor by manufacturing our own address bits. Figure 5 shows a 16 K-byte memory system attached to a sixteen-user time-sharing system. As far as the processor is concerned, the 16 K bytes of memory occupy only 1 K bytes of memory. A 16 K-byte memory requires 14 address bits, $A_{13}$ thru $A_{0}$, and the lower 10 bits are supplied by the processor with IC2 enabling the memory for hexadecimal addresses

0000 to 03FF (1 K bytes of memory). The other four address lines are supplied by IC1, a 4 -bit binary counter.

Conveniently, we have sixteen blocks of memory, each of which is effectively the first 1 K -byte block in
memory. The processor has no idea which 1 K -byte block it is and couldn't care less. If we have sixteen users, each has his own 0000-thru03FF block of memory to use for temporary storage. Now, if every time we go to another user, we increment


Figure 3: Schematic diagram for a multi-user interrupt-timer circuit. IC1 and IC2 are monostable multivibrators set to work in a one-shot mode. Together they generate a $1 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ negative-going pulse used to interrupt the system at a rate equal to the time allotted to each user. If control is to be passed early to the next user, the current user can write a 1 to a given memory-mapped location. This causes the SEL pin to go high and the interrupt to be generated early.

|  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | :---: | :---: |
| Number | Type | +5 V | GND |
| IC1 | 74123 | 16 | 8 |
| IC2 | 7405 | 14 | 7 |
| IC3 | 7410 | 14 | 7 |
| IC4 | 7400 | 14 | 7 |
| IC5 | 7408 | 14 | 7 |
| IC6 | 7404 | 14 | 7 |

Figure 4: Schematic diagram for an improved multi-user interrupt-timer circuit. The figure 3 circuit has several disadvantages that are solved by this circuit. The IC4a and IC4b NAND gates act as a set/reset (RS) flip-flop. The part of the circuit that includes IC 3 thru IC5 disables the periodic interrupt signal until the memory location containing memory-mapped bit SEL is read.


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Figure 5: Overview of a 16 K -byte hardware-paged memory design. The 16 K -byte block of memory shown appears to the computer as a 1 K block with hexadecimal addresses 0000 thru 3FFF. The block of memory is enabled when IC2 goes low, which occurs when address bits A15 thru A10 are low (that is, when an address of hexadecimal 03FF or lower is seen on the address bus). The 4-bit binary counter IC1 is incremented when IC3 goes low. This occurs when a hexadecimal address of $06 x x$ (or $07 x x$ ) appears on the address bus; the software in listing 1 uses the hexadecimal address 0600. The SEL line goes high and causes an early interrupt in the circuitry of figure 4 when a hexadecimal address of $04 x x$ (or 05xx) occurs on the address bus. The software in listing 1 uses the address 0400 in two different contexts.
the page register (IC1), we have changed the physical memory which responds to addresses 0000 thru 03FF. This operation will take at most $6 \mu \mathrm{~s}$, so we keep overhead low.
Since the circuit that first increments the page register and later increments the interrupt circuitry must be memory-mapped to an address outside the 1 K -byte memory space, the whole system occupies a 2 K-byte block. An 8080 would not need to waste this extra memory if IN
and OUT instructions were used. Also note that RESET sets the page register to user 0 .
The paging scheme, while having separate storage areas with identical addresses, will allow us to have only one copy of each program. This, of course, rules out the use of selfmodifying code, unless that code modified is in the first 1 K of memory allotted to each user. On the other hand, code should not be written to modify itself.

Now that the hardware description is complete, I can discuss the software. Since my experimentation was done on a 6800 , it will be used as an example. Implementation for a 6502 will be similar and that for an 8080 only slightly more involved. General flow for initialization, interrupt, and I/O routines is shown in figure 6. The 6800 machine code used to implement the flowcharts is given in listing 1. It is assumed that all users

Text continued on page 134


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Listing 1: Software routines for the author's 6800-based multi-user system. INIT is an initialization routine called just after power-up or reset. INTERR is the interrupt routine that saves the status of a given user and prepares the system for the next user in line. OUTCH is the output routine used by the system. This software is assumed to work with the circuitry of figures 4 and 5 . In INIT, reading TIMER causes SEL line of figure 5 to go high and the interrupt system in figure 4 to be enabled for the first time. In INTERR, writing to NUSER causes the page register in figure 5 to increment, causing the next user's block of memory to be immediately enabled. In OUTCH, writing to FORCE causes the SEL line in figure 5 to go high, causing an early interrupt to occur.


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Figure 6: High-level flowchart for multi-user software routines. The figure $6 a$ flowchart is used to initialize the necessary pointers and devices for each user just after the system is brought up. Figure 6b flowcharts the interrupt routine necessary to set up the next user. Figure 6 c flowcharts the I/O routine that must be used by all programs. In listing 1, the names of these routines are INIT, INTERR, and OUTCH, respectively.

Text continued from page 128:
are running the same program (for example, BASIC) that starts at hexadecimal 0800. Furthermore, it is assumed that ACIAs are used for the I/O interface and are located contiguously at hexadecimal 8000, with each one occupying two memory locations. No pointer initializations are shown for any programs that require them. If you are going to run BASIC, you will need to set pointers in user areas to indicate the memory a,ea to be used as source-code storage for that particular user.

The overhead in the interrupt handler is a mere $36 \mu \mathrm{~s}$, including the time to respond to the interrupt, assuming that you have 1 MHz system clock. The interrupt rate, or time-slice length, depends on several factors and must be selected according to the software being run. If the I/O devices are running at 1200 bps , the character time is 8.33 ms . Continuing our example of sixteen users, a jood starting point would be $1 / 16$ of this time. This would allow each user to output at full speed, but would have $93 \%$ efficiency (ie: PTE). A more efficient system could be realized by lengthening the time slice at the expense of slowing effective output speed. The trade-off here
depends on the computing-to-I/O ratio to be encountered in the application.

The apparent efficiency perceived by a single user also depends on the amount of I/O being encountered. If no users are doing $I / O$, then the speed reduction factor (SRF) for each user will be:

$$
S R F=\frac{P T E}{16}
$$

where 16 is the number of users. As a worst-case example, if a certain operation takes $N \mu$ s to execute on a single-user system, it will now take $N / S R F \mu s$ to execute. However, if some or all other users are doing nothing but I/O, the apparent speed rises considerably.

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# A Telephone-Dialing Microcomputer 

John Renharger<br>Moore School of Electrical Engineerins<br>Universty of Pennsylvania<br>Philadelphis PA 19104

## Introduction

This article describes an application of computers to personal control of communication facilities 1 have added some simple hardware to my KTM-1 microcomputer and have successfully dialed local and longdistance numbers on my home telephone. Although 1 made use of an expanded KIM to develop the programs listed here. the final program and data tables fit into the standard KMM memory.
In the form presented here, the system accepts a single telephone number from the KIM keypad, dials it, and stores it for redialing. In my system, only one number is stored in the compuler at a time, but the routines could be used by a supervisory program to select and dial from a list of several stored numbers.
Two methods of dialing are available. One method uses pulses to control a solenoid that interrupts the telephone connection. The other method, which is faster, generates dual-tone, multiple-frequency signaks that are acoustically coupled to the telephone receiver.

How to Use the Program
After loading into KIM, the dialer program is started at address hexa-

[^7]decimal 0200. The program will accept any teleptone number up to eleven digits long from KIM's keypad As the number is entered, the last six digits appear in the display. rolling earlier digits off the left edge of the display. $A D$ eleven digits are stored in the computer's memory. If you make a mistake, pressing the GO key clears the number, pults six Fs in the display, and lets you start over.

You can generate higher frequencies by using a larger increment to step through the waveform table.

When the number has been entered correctly. there are two options for dialing. The first option is to.push KIM: AD key. The system will produce data for a digitab-lo-analog (D/A) converter to generate a pair of audio tones for each of the stored digits. These tones are the same ones produced by pust-button telephones. The tones will operate the telephone switching circuits if the sound is coupled to the receiver mouthpiece by a speaker held nearby.

The second option is to push KIM's DA key. The syslem will briefly break the telephone connection the proper number of times and at the correct rate, the way a rotary-dial telephone does. A solenoid must be connected to the cradle button of the
telephone receiver to operate the telephone swilching circuils.

After the number has been dialed, it remains stored in the computer, ready to be dialed again. A new number can be entered by first pressing the clear (CO) key and then using the keypad to enter the new number. Since the present system can store and recal only one number, the primary usefulness of the device is to eliminate reentering a number when repeatedly calling a line that is busy.
If your telephone line to the central office is not set up to accept the Touch-Tone frequencies, you will be limited to the pulse-dialing method, using a solenoid to depress the cradle button. On the other hand, if you have a push-button telephone, your computer will be able to use both methods to dial.

Telephone Syatem Basics - Tones
Push-button telephones dial other telephones by sending pairs of audio frequency tones over the telephone voice channel each time the user holds down a key on the telephone set. The telephone company selected the particular tones that are employed so they could be easily decoded, but we need only know what the frequencies are. Table 1 lists the frequencies generated by the various buttons.

Central-office switching facilities decode the tones and connect the desired circuits based on the sequence of tone pairs received. Each tone pair must last long enough to be recog-

| Hexadecimal Offset | Hexadecimal Data | Telephone Digit | $\begin{gathered} \text { KIM-1 } \\ \text { Key } \end{gathered}$ | $\underset{(\mathrm{Hz})}{\text { Frequencies }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 00 | 08 OC | , | 0 | 941. 1336 |
| 02 | 02 OA | 1 | 1 | 697. 1209 |
| 04 | 02 OC | 2 | 2 | 697. 1336 |
| 06 | 02 OE | 3 | 3 | 697. 1477 |
| 08 | 04 OA | 4 | 4 | 770. 1209 |
| OA | 04 OC | 5 | 5 | 770. 1336 |
| 0 C | 04 OE | 6 | 6 | 770, 1477 |
| OE | 06 OA | 7 | 7 | 852. 1209 |
| 10 | 06 OC | 8 | 8 | 852. 1336 |
| 12 | 06 OE | 9 | 9 | 852. 1477 |
| 14 | O8 OA | * | A | 941, 1209 |
| 16 18 | $080 E$ 0000 | \# none | $\stackrel{B}{\mathrm{~B}}$ | 941,1477 silence |
| 18 | 0000 | none | C | silence |

Table 1: Dual-tone, multiple-frequency (ie: Touch-Tone) signals and tables within the DIAL program. Each Touch-Tone digit is composed of two frequencies, with a total of eight basic frequencies producing the tones for the twelve valid Touch-Tone keys. (See table 2.) The numbers necessary to produce each of the eight frequencies are contained in the table FRQINC (at 2 bytes per frequency). The two numbers in the DATA column point to the appropriate numbers in the FRQINC table necessary to make the two frequencies used by this key. These same numbers (the contents of the DATA column) are in the table TONTAB (see listing 1), and the number pairs are pointed to by the number in the OFFSET column.
nized as a digit by the switching equipment, and there must be enough separation between tone pairs to distinguish separate digits. Experimentally, a tone pair duration of about 150 ms and a separation of about 75 ms seem to work with my telephone.

## Telephone System Basics - Dial Pulses

When you pick up the receiver on a telephone, an electrical connection is made to the lines leading to the central office. When you replace the receiver on the cradle the connection is broken or interrupted. This applies to both push-button and rotary-dial telephones.

The rotary dial on a telephone is a mechanical device which periodically breaks the connection leading to the central office. As you place your finger in a numbered hole and rotate the dial to the stop, the connection is still maintained. When you release the dial, as it travels back to its resting position it breaks the connection at the rate of about ten times per second, thus dialing that digit.

A number of interruptions equal to the value of the digit you dialed will occur each time you release the dial, with the exception that 0 (ie: the digit zero) causes a total of ten interruptions. If you dial a 7, for example, seven interruptions will occur when you release the dial.


Figure 1: Schematic diagram for solenoid interface to the computer. In this method, the computer interrupts the phone line by pressing and releasing the cradle switch button on the body of the telephone set. IC1 is a TTL-compatible peripheral driver capable of switching up to 300 mA at 30 V . A logical 0 at the output bit PBO leaves the push-type solenoid unenergized, and a logical 1 energizes the solenoid, pushing the cradle switch button down and interrupting the telephone line.

The central-office circuitry counts the number of interruptions to determine which digit was dialed. The longer pause between digits is interpreted as evidence that one digit is complete and that another may begin.

Numbers can also be dialed by pushing the cradle switch button at the rate of ten times per second. This means that a solenoid plunger can be mounted to depress and release the cradle switch on the telephone set.

Since the telephone company prohibits the installation of unapproved equipment on the telephone lines, the only method of interrupting the phone line to be considered here is that of using a solenoid to push the cradle button rather than the method of making any direct connection to the line. Jules Gilder's book Telephone Accessories You Can Build (see References) contains solenoid installation suggestions.

There is no problem with using the dual-tone, multiple-frequency method of dialing as long as the coupling is done through the microphone of the handset and not by direct connection to the lines leading to the telephone.

If you are interested in learning more about the operation of the telephone system in general, the References include other sources, such as Peter Luff's Scientific American article.

## Software Required - Pulses

For generating interrupting pulses, an output bit on one of the KIM's in-
put/output (I/O) lines connected to a solenoid driver can be used. KIM's programmable interval timer can help to simplify the programming to control the duration of the solenoid on and off periods. The on time for a pulse (ie: the length of the interruption) seems to be about 35 ms and the
off time (ie: the time between interruptions) seems to be about 65 ms .

When a telephone number is entered to the program for dialing, each digit must cause a corresponding number of pulses to be output (eg: one pulse for a 1 digit, two pulses for a 2 digit, and so on). Ten pulses are
sent for the 0 digit.
The program must generate these pulses at the rate of ten per second and pause for about $1 / 2$ second between digits, thus allowing the telephone system to distinguish between digits. For the program in this article, pulses on the KIM output line PBO control a solenoid connected as shown in figure 1.

## Software Required - Tones

One method of generating tone pairs for the telephone network is to produce two square waves of the correct frequencies using just two computer output bits, combining the resulting tones by filters and a resistive network. This would give a waveform with much distortion, but it might be adequate for the telephone system.

I have chosen to generate lowdistortion sine waves by using the computer to shuffle data and send values to a digital-to-analog converter. I generate audio waveforms in real time by transmitting a byte to an 8 -bit converter at a rate that is more than triple the frequency of my highest tone. This technique, described below, uses a table that holds the values for the shape of a sine waveform. The idea is based on Hal Chamberlin's work. (See References.)

The sine waveform table occupies exactly 256 bytes and starts at the beginning of a page boundary. So that I need deal only with positive values, and to avoid overflow with addition, the values stored in the table range from a minimum of 0 to a maximum of hexadecimal $7 F$. See the SINTAB table which starts at hexadecimal 0300 in listing 1 for the values stored in the table. Since exactly one cycle is stored, going from the last entry in the table to the first entry will give a smooth transition to the next cycle of a continuous waveform. My table is stored in page 03 of memory.

## Waveform Generation

To give you an idea of how the real-time waveform generation works, I will use an example. Starting at the first table location, I get a value from the table and convert that value to a voltage. Later, after a fixed interval, I will go to the next table location, get the value stored there, and

Text continued on page 160

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Litutng 1: Progrant bisting for the main program, which inchefes the telophone mumber entry, audio-tone diading. and padse-diding routines. The main routine, DIAL, sterts at hexadecimal 0200. The sine weres tabit starts at hexadecimal 0300; it can be moovd if the nrw beginning adtress starts on a page boumdary and if the byte at PAGEI points to that page mumber. The progrent usts routives SCANOS and GETKEY of the KIM monitor.


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## Requires: 24K CP/M.

Supplied with extensive user manual: $\mathbf{\$ 8 5 . 0 0}$. Manual alone: $\$ 20.00$.
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| <11 | 230日 | 50 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| < 11 | J300 | 52 |  |
| <11 | 3300 | 53 |  |
| <11 | J30E | 55 |  |
| $<11$ | J30F | 56 |  |
| 212 | J310 | 58 | . еуte 88, 89,91,92,93,95,96,97 |
| 212 | 0311 | 59 |  |
| $\therefore 12$ | 3312 | 5 B |  |
| $\dot{C} 12$ | 0313 | 5 C |  |
| $<12$ | 3314 | 50 |  |
| $<12$ | J315 | 5 F |  |
| 212 | 0316 | 60 |  |
| $<12$ | 5317 | 61 |  |
| 213 | 3318 | 63 | - EYtE 99, 100.101,103.104,145,106,107 |
| 213 | J319 | 64 |  |
| 413 | 0314 | 65 |  |
| <13 | J318 | 67 |  |
| 213 | J310 | 68 |  |
| <13 | 2310 | 69 |  |
| $\therefore 13$ | J31E | 6 6 |  |
| ${ }_{C} 13$ | J31F | 65 |  |
| $<14$ | 3320 | 65 | - byte 108, 109, 111,112, 113,114,115,115 |
| 214 | 3321 | 60 |  |
| 214 | 5322 | 6 F |  |
| 214 | 3323 | 70 |  |
| <14 | 3324 | 71 |  |
| <14 | $J 325$ | 72 |  |
| 214 | 3325 | 73 |  |
| <14 | 3327 | 73 |  |
| 215 | 0328 | 74 | - Byte 116,117,118,119,120,120,121,122 |
| 215 | 3329 | 75 |  |
| $<15$ | J32A | 76 |  |
| 215 | J323 | 77 |  |
| 215 | J320 | 78 |  |
| 215 | 3320 | 78 |  |
| 215 | J32E | 79 |  |
| 215 | J32F | 7 A |  |
| <16 | 3330 | 7 A | - ВYte 122,123,123,126, 124,125,125,125 |
| 216 | 3331 | 7 E |  |
| ¢ 16 | J332 | 7E |  |
| ¢ 16 | 0333 | 75 |  |
| ¢16 | J336 | 75 |  |
| ¢ 16 | 3335 | 70 |  |
| ¿16 | 0336 | 70 |  |
| ¢16 | J337 | 70 |  |
| <17 | J338 | 7 F | -BYTE $126,126,126,127,127,127,127,127$ |
| $\dot{¢} 17$ | 0339 | 7 E |  |
| 217 | 033a | 7 F |  |
| $\dot{¢} 17$ | J333 | 75 |  |
| 217 | J330 | 7 F |  |
| 217 | 0330 | 7 F |  |
| <17 | J33E | 7F |  |
| 217 | J33F | 7 F |  |
| ¢18 | 3343 | 7 F | - В¢te 127,127,127,127,127,127,126,126 |
| ¢18 | 3341 | 7 F |  |
| 218 | 3342 | 7 F |  |
| <18 | 3343 | 7 F |  |
| 218 | 3344 | 7 F |  |
| ¢18 | 3345 | 7 F |  |
| < 18 | 3346 | 7 E |  |
| 218 | 3347 | 7 E |  |
| $\dot{+19}$ | 3343 | 7 E |  |
| 219 | 3349 | 7 D |  |
| 219 | $334 \wedge$ | 70 |  |
| $<19$ | 3343 | 70 |  |
| $<19$ | J34C | 7 C |  |
| $<19$ | 334D | 7 C |  |
| 219 | J34E | 7 E |  |
| 219 | D34F | 7 m |  |
| <20 | 3353 | 7 A | - BYTE $122,122,121,120,120,119,118,117$ |
| < 20 | 3351 | 7 A |  |
| 420 | $J 352$ | 79 |  |
| <20 | 3353 | 78 |  |
| $\stackrel{4}{4}$ | 3354 | 78 |  |
| ¢20 | 3355 | 77 |  |
| 220 | 3353 | 76 |  |
| 220 | $J 357$ | 75 |  |
| ¢ 21 | $J 355$ | 74 | - Byte $116,115,115,114,113,112,111,109$ |

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put．．cassette lape recorde output．．．speaker output． （serial output）line．．．printer interface（lessdrivers）on SOD four ${ }^{8}$－bit plus one 6 －bin $1 / 0$ ports ${ }^{\circ}$ Crystal Frequecicy； 6.144 MHz－Conirol Swiches：reset and user（RST 7．5） interrupt．．，additional provisions for RST S．S．6．5 and TRAP interrupts onboard－Couster／Timer：programmabie．14－bit binary．System RAM： 256 bytes located at F800，ideal for smaller syssems and for use as an isolaxed stack area in expanded systems．．．RAM expandabie to 64 k via $\mathrm{S}-100$ bus or 4 K on motherboard．
System Monitor（Terminal Version）： $2 k$ bytes of detuxe system monitor ROM located at F860 leaving bexos free for user RAM／ROM．Features include tape load with labeling ．．．．tape dump with labeling．．．examine／change contents of memory registers．．．single step with register display at each break poin． a debugging／training feature．．．go to execution address．： move blocks of memory from one location to another，．．rill blocks of memory with a constant．．．display blocks of memory ．．．automatic baud rate selection．．．．variable display line length control（1．255 characters／line）．．．channelized $1 / \mathrm{O}$ monito routine with 8－bit paraliel output for high speed printer．． serial console in and console out channel so that monitor ca communicate with $1 / 0$ ports．
System Monitor（Hex Version）：Tape load with labeling．． tape dump with labeling．．．examine／change contents of mem．
ory．．．insert data．．．warm start．．．examine and change all Netronics R\＆D LId．，Dept．RE 10

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| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 231 | J3AE | 06 |  |
| 231 | J3AF | 05 |  |
| 232 | 3383 | 05 | －EYTE 5，4，4，3，3，2，2，2 |
| 232 | 0381 | 04 |  |
| 232 | 3382 | 04 |  |
| 232 | J383 | 03 |  |
| $\dot{4} 22$ | J384 | 03 |  |
| 232 | 33日5 | 02 |  |
| 232 | 3385 | 02 |  |
| $\dot{<} 32$ | J387 | 02 |  |
| $<33$ | J388 | 01 | －BYTE 1，1，1，0，0，0，0，0 |
| 233 | Ј389 | 01 |  |
| 233 | J3BA | C1 |  |
| 233 | 3383 | 00 |  |
| 433 | 33日 | 00 |  |
| 233 | J3BD | 00 |  |
| 233. | J38E | 00 |  |
| c33 | 33 BF | 00 |  |
| 234 | J3CJ | 00 | －BYte 0，0，0，C，0，0，1，1 |
| 234 | J3c1 | 00 |  |
| 234 | 23c2 | 00 |  |
| 234 | 33c3 | 00 |  |
| $\dot{3} 34$ | J3C6 | 00 |  |
| ＜34 | 33c5 | 00 |  |
| ＜ 34 | J3C5 | 01 |  |
| 234 | $53 \mathrm{C7}$ | 01 |  |
| 235 | 23c3 | 01 | －BYTE 1，2，2，2，3，3，4，4 |
| 235 | J3C9 | 02 |  |
| 235 | J3ca | 02 |  |
| 235 | J3c3 | 02 |  |
| ＜ 35 | J3c | 03 |  |
| 235 | J3CD | 03 |  |
| 235 | J3CE | 04 |  |
| 235 | 33 CF | 04 |  |
| 230 | 3300 | 05 | －ВУте 5，5，6，7，7，8，9， 10 |
| 236 | J301 | 05 |  |
| 236 | 3302 | 06 |  |
| 230 | J303 | 07 |  |
| 236 | J304 | 07 |  |
| ＜ 36 | 3305 | 08 |  |
| 230 | 3305 | 09 |  |
| 236 | 3307 | Da |  |
| 237 | 3308 | OH | －BYte 11，12，12，13，14，14，16，18 |
| 237 | 3307 | OC |  |
| 237 | J3Da | 0 O |  |
| 237 | J303 | OD |  |
| 237 | J30C | OE |  |
| 237 | J300 | OE |  |
| 237 | O3DE | 10 |  |
| ¢37 | J30F | 12 |  |
| 238 | J3EJ | 13 | －BYte 19， $20,21,22,23,24,26,27$ |
| 238 | J3E1 | 14 |  |
| 233 | 33E2 | 15 |  |
| $\dot{¢} 38$ | J3E3 | 16 |  |
| $\dot{<} 38$ | J3E4 | 17 |  |
| 238 | J3E5 | 18 |  |
| 238 | J3ES | 14 |  |
| 238 | J3E7 | 1 e |  |
| 239 | J3E日 | 16 | －BYTE 28， $20,31,32,34,35,36,38$ |
| 239 | J3E\％ | 1 E |  |
| 239 | J3EA | 18 |  |
| ＜ 39 | J3E3 | 20 |  |
| $<39$ | J3EC | 22 |  |
| 239 | J3ED | 23 |  |
| ＜ 39 | J3EE | 24 |  |
| 239 | O3EF | 26 |  |
| ＜ 40 | 03FJ | 27 | －BYtE 39，41，42，44，45，47，48，50 |
| 240 | 03F1 | 29 |  |
| $<40$ | J3F2 | 2 A |  |
| $<40$ | J3F3 | 2 C |  |
| $<40$ | J3F4 | 20 |  |
| $<40$ | J3F5 | 2 F |  |
| 240 | 93F6 | 30 |  |
| 240 | j3F7 | 32 |  |
| ＜41 | J3F8 | 33 | －BYTE $51,53,54,56,57,59,60,62$ |
| 241 | J3F9 | 35 |  |
| ＜ 41 | J3FA | 36 |  |
| $\because 41$ | J3F9 | 36 |  |
| $<41$ | J3F¢ | 39 |  |
| 241 | J3FD | 30 | Listing 1 continued on |

The Compupro Dual Processor Board gives true 16 bit power with an 8 bit bus, is downward compatible with the vast library of 8080 software, is upward compatible with hardware and software not vet developed, accesses 16 Megabytes of memory, meets all IEEE S-100 bus specifications, runs 8085 and 8086 code In your exlsting mainframe as well as Microsoft 8086 BASIC and Sorcim PASCAL/ $\mathrm{M}^{\text {TM }}$, and runs at 5 MHz for speed as well as power.

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S-100 (1)
S-100
S-100 (2)
H8 (3)
S-100 (2)
S-100
S-100 (2)
H8 (3)
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| $\$ 299$ | $\$ 349$ | $\$ 429$ |
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Listing 1 continued:

| 241 | $J 3 F E$ | $3 C$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 241 | $33 F F$ | $3 E$ |
| 642 | $040 D$ |  |

- END

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| SYMBOL | value | LINE DEFI | VED |  | CROSS | REFE | RENCE |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| CLICK | 029E | 178 | 172 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CLICK1 | 02a8 | 163 | 181 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CLICK2 | 02A9 | 134 | 199 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CLICK3 | 0286 | 189 | 190 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CLICK6 | 0268 | 196 | 197 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CLICKS | O2E2 | 208 | 179 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CMND | 0263 | 145 | 105 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CMND 1 | 0269 | 149 | 147 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CMND 2 | 0272 | 154 | 150 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CMND 3 | 0278 | 159 | 155 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CMND 4 | 0284 | 164 | 160 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| CMNDS | 028 C | 168 | 165 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DAC | 1700 | 26 | 75 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DACDIR | 1701 | 27 | 111 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DIAL | 0200 | 94 | **** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DIGII | 0230 | 122 | 107 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DIGIt1 | 0262 | 144 | 123 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DIGTAB | 0036 | 21 | 38 | 100 | 101 | 118 | 125 | 126 | 130 | 171 |
| OLY | 013a | 65 | 00 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DLY 9 | 0202 | 201 | 207 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DLY? | 020A | 204 | 205 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DUMmy | 1948 | 32 | 161 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| FROINE | 0010 | 15 | 51 | 53 | 57 | 59 |  |  |  |  |
| GETKEY | $1 \mathrm{F6A}$ | 34 | 98 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| INCIF | 0000 | 2 | 54 | 78 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| INC1I | 0001 | 3 | 52 | 81 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| INC2F | 0005 | 7 | 60 | 85 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| INC21 | 0006 | 8 | 58 | 8 8 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| INH | 00F9 | 24 | 142 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| INIT | 0223 | 110 | 96 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| LOOK | 0206 | 97 | 102 | 104 | 106 | 109 |  |  |  |  |
| maxkey | 000 c | 23 | 45 | 122 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| NDIGIT | OOOB | 13 | 21 | 42 | 99 | 116 | 128 | 175 |  |  |
| PAGE1 | 0004 | 6 | **** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| PAGEZ | 0009 | 11 | **** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| PBDIR | 1703 | 29 | 112 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| PNTIF | 0002 | 4 | 77 | 79 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| PNT1I | 0003 | 5 | 73 | 80 | 82 |  |  |  |  |  |
| PNT2F | 0007 | 9 | 84 | 80 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| PNT21 | 0008 | 10 | 74 | 87 | 89 |  |  |  |  |  |
| POINIH | 00FB | 25 | 131 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| PORT3 | 1702 | 28 | 114 | 185 | 192 |  |  |  |  |  |


| SYMBOL | value | LINE | DEFINED |  |  | ros | S-REF | ERE |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| IEMPX | 000a | 12 | 37 | 40 | 170 | 173 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| IONES | 0100 | 36 | 151 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| JONES ${ }^{\text {I }}$ | 0102 | 37 | 43 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TONTA3 | 0022 | 17 | 49 | 55 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ISTAT | 1707 | 31 | 65 | 90 | 18¢ | 196 | 204 |  |  |  |  |  |
| T1024 | 1707 | 30 | 63 | 64 | 70 | 71 | 187 | 188 | 194 | 175 | 202 | 203 |
| 2ERO | 0230 | 115 | 156 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ZERO1 | 0234 | 117 | 119 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |



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Text continued from page 142: convert it. After going through all 256 table locations, I will return to the beginning of the table for the next value, continuing to go through the table for as long as I want a tone to be produced.
The fixed interval between output samples is $63 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ for my program when it is run on a KIM-1 with a 1 MHz clock. Using this time for the example, it will take 256 steps/cycle multiplied by $63 \mu \mathrm{~s} / \mathrm{step}=16.1 \mathrm{~ms}$ to go through the sine table once (one cycle of the waveform). As I continue to increment through the table for
subsequent cycles, I am producing a continuous sine waveform with a period of 16.1 ms , or a frequency of $1 / 16.1 \mathrm{~ms}=62 \mathrm{~Hz}$.

If I skip every other table location - that is, add 2 instead of 1 to get the next location - then it will take me half the time to step all the way through a complete cycle ((128 steps/cycle) $\times(63 \mu \mathrm{~s} /$ step $)=$ $8.1 \mathrm{~ms} /$ cycle) and the frequency of the tone will be doubled (1/8.1 $\mathrm{ms} /$ cycle $=124 \mathrm{~Hz}$ ). You can generate higher frequencies by using a larger increment to step through the waveform table. However, there is a

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practical and theoretical) upper limit to the increment size: it should not be more than one third (practical) to one half (theoretical) of the length of the table itself. This means that the practical frequency upper limit is 5300 Hz $((3$ steps $/$ cycle $) \times(63 \mu \mathrm{~s} /$ step $)=189$ $\mu$ s/cycle).

So far, the important points are that I use a fixed sample rate to step through a waveform table, using a small increment size for a low frequency and a large increment size for a high frequency. The increment sizes up to now have been exact integers, restricting me to discrete frequencies ( $62 \mathrm{~Hz}, 124 \mathrm{~Hz}, 248 \mathrm{~Hz}$, etc). How can I get all of the frequencies in between?

## The control program

 in this case was made very simple.I will use a 2 -byte increment and a 2-byte pointer. These have both an integer part and a fractional part. As I step through the table I will add both the integer part and the fractional part to the 2-byte table pointer, but will ignore the fractional part when I use the pointer as an offset from the beginning of the waveform table. Thus I will maintain a table pointer with both integer and fractional parts, but I will index into the table with just the integer part. For example, with 2.5 as the increment size used to choose successive samples within the 256 -entry table, the program will take (on the average) not 256 but 256/2.5 $=102.4$ steps to create one cycle of the sine wave. With each step taking $63 \mu \mathrm{~s}$, the waveform has a period of 6.45 ms , which is equivalent to a frequency of 155 Hz .

Combining two tones could be done by using two digital-to-analog converters and combining the audio frequency tones with a resistive network. However, I can let the computer add the instantaneous waveform values before sending the results out to the digital-to-analog converter. The resulting waveform is the same.

My program keeps track of two increment sizes and two table pointers. When the processor has both values for a single sample instant, it performs an ADC (ie: add) instruction and sends the result to the digital-to-


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Figure 2: Schematic diagram of circuit for audio dialing. The tones used for dual-tone, multiple-frequency (ie: Touch-Tone) dialing are generated by the conversion of an 8-bit digital quantity to an analog signal. Here, a resistive ladder converts the 8 -bit value to an analog voltage, and a resistor-capacitor pair acts as a low-pass filter with a cutoff frequency of about 3 kHz . The signal can either be sent to an external amplifier, or it can be amplified by the circuit centering around IC3.
analog converter. The maximum value of the sum must never exceed the 8 -bit range of a single byte, so the waveform values themselves must all be less than one half of hexadecimal FF. (This gives the previously stated value of hexadecimal 7F.)

The waveform produced is a staircase approximation to the superposition of two frequencies. The sharp transitions in the voltage levels produced by this method are full of highfrequency harmonics. Filtering will be required to get rid of these unwanted frequencies.

## Hardware Required - Tones

Hardware required to generate tone pairs consists of a simple 8 -bit digital-to-analog converter, a lowpass filter, an amplifier, and a small speaker. (See figure 2 for a schematic diagram of the circuit I used.)

The 8 -bit latched output from the computer is applied to a laddernetwork digital-to-analog converter using complementary metal-oxide semiconductor (CMOS) buffers. This
is unsigned binary conversion: a code of hexadecimal FF produces close to 5 V output and a code of hexadecimal 00 produces close to 0 V output.
A similar ladder network could be constructed using transistortransistor logic (TTL) integrated circuits, but CMOS buffers give more accurate results (even though the quality of conversion is not too important in this application). For each of the 50 k -ohm resistors shown, I used two 100 k -ohm resistors in parallel.
The output of the digital-to-analog converter goes through a single-pole, low-pass filter with a cutoff frequency of about 3 kHz . The output of the filter can be fed to an amplifier and speaker system. Use a capacitor in series (as shown in figure 2) to block the DC voltage offset from the converter. Make your connection at the wiper of the potentiometer if your amplifier lacks a volume control of its own. The volume-control potentiometer I used a 25 k -ohm linear
trimmer, but almost anything from 20 k thru 100 k should work fine.
I found it convenient to use an integrated-circuit audio amplifier to drive my speaker (one side of a pair of headphones). The manufacturer of the LM386 suggested the simple circuit I used. The input is direct coupled (ie: the DC offset voltage potential from the converter will be maintained through the amplifier stage). The output capacitor blocks direct current to the speaker; it must be of a value of at least $100 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ to produce a sound loud enough to work with my system.
Another factor in loudness is the supply voltage for the LM386. A 5 V supply will produce tones that are clearly audible but which are not loud enough to work the telephone circuits when I use the headphone speaker. The headphones work fine using a 9 V or a 12 V supply. If a speaker lower in impedance than mine is used, the 5 V power supply may be sufficient.
My circuits were constructed on an


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integrated-circuit breadboard without much attention paid to component layout and wire lengths. The $0.05 \mu \mathrm{~F}$ capacitor and 10 -ohm resistor on the amplifier output were recommended by the manufacturer for


Figure 3: Flowchart for DIAL, the main loop of the program used to store and dial a telephone number. SCANDS and GETKEY are KIM monitor routines to display data on the KIM readout and to check for a keypress, respectively. CMND executes the most recent keypress if it is a valid command, and DIGIT stores and displays the digit key just pressed during the process of entering the number to be dialed.
stability, but they were not required in my system.

When you run the program to generate tones, adjust the volume control to give an output as loud as possible without clipping distortion. If you have an efficient speaker, perhaps you can set the volume control lower than would otherwise be necessary. Try dialing some local numbers to test correct operation. I have found that (in my local telephone system) dialing my own number will give a busy signal if everything is working properly. If a dial tone remains after the system has produced the tones, or if there is silence, I know the system needs adjustment.

## Software Required - Control

There must be an overall controlling mechanism to accept user commands and digits and to execute the proper routines. The control program in this case was made very simple, relying on calls to subroutines to execute desired operations. The KIM monitor routines are used to collect input data from the keypad and to put information into the display. Other routines are called to set up I/O registers, to enter a digit from the keypad into memory as part of the telephone number, and to interpret and execute a command key when pressed.

The remainder of this article is a discussion of the individual routines used in the dialer program. Refer to the flowcharts in figures 3 and 4 for a general idea of the program's logic. I shall first describe the overall software structure and then each of the subroutines in more detail.

Listing I shows the main routine of the program. I kept it very short and relied on subroutines to do the work so that I could concentrate on getting the basic program flow to work before I tried out the more complicated and error-prone subroutines.

When I was testing the main routine, I changed the subroutine addresses to call KIM location hexadecimal 194B, which contains hexadecimal 60, a return instruction. Each such subroutine call is a dummy providing an immediate return. When the main routine worked to my satisfaction, I began writing the subroutines and one by one replaced the dummy calls with calls to a new routine to be tested.

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Figure 4: Flowchart for CMND, a command decoding subroutine. TONES and PULSE cause the telephone number currently in memory to be dialed by the audio-tone and pulse-dialing methods, respectively. ZERO clears the current number from memory, and $D U M M Y$ is a trivial subroutine used to test the calling routines. The CMND subroutine returns with the status of the carry flag denoting whether or not the last keypress is a valid command (set) or a digit (cleared).

The logic of the main program is not too complicated. First, a call to an initialization routine is made to set up

| Key Pressed | Code Returned |
| :---: | :---: |
| none | 15 |
| 0 | 00 |
| 1 | 01 |
| 2 | 02 |
| 3 | 03 |
| 4 | 04 |
| 5 | 05 |
| 6 | 06 |
| 7 | 07 |
| 8 | 08 |
| 9 | 09 |
| $A$ | $0 A$ |
| $B$ | $0 B$ |
| $C$ | $0 C$ |
| $D$ | $0 D$ |
| E | $0 E$ |
| F | $0 F$ |
| DD | 10 |
| + | 11 |
| GO | 12 |
| PC | 13 |

Table 3: Codes returned by the KIM monitor subroutine GETKEY. These values must be known in order to decode a keypress in the CMND subroutine.
data-direction registers of the I/O devices and to load variables with starting values. I then use two KIM routines to put data in the display (SCANDS) and to check for a key closure on the KIM keypad (GETKEY).
If no key is pressed, the GETKEY routine returns with a value of hexadecimal 15 in the accumulator. If one of the keys (except for reset and stop) is pressed, a hexadecimal code from 00 to 14 will be stored in the accumulator. (See table 3 for the key names and the codes returned by GETKEY.) The main routine waits for a hexadecimal 15 from GETKEY between separate closures on the keypad. In this way, the program can distinguish between an old key still held down and a second closure of the same key.
Further processing of a key will determine whether the key is a command (GO, AD, DA, PC, + ) or a digit ( 0 thru 9 and A thru C). If the key is a command, then the action called for will be carried out by invoking the appropriate subroutine.

The keycode is passed to the CMND subroutine in the accumulator. If that routine returns with the carry flag set, then a command was carried out and no further processing need be done. If the carry flag is cleared $(=0)$ when the subroutine returns, then it was not a valid command keycode and processing will be done in the DIGIT subroutine.

The DIGIT routine also checks for valid digit codes and returns immediately if the code is out of range. If the code is a digit, then the DIGIT subroutine will take that code and store it into memory as the next digit of the telephone number. The display will also show the new digit, as I will show later. When digit processing is over, the program makes an unconditional relative jump to service the keyboard and the display.

Subroutine INIT loads the I/O control registers with data-direction information, making all bits of application port $A$ and $B$ into outputs (although only lines PA0 thru PA7 and PBO are used in this application).

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| Location | Contents | Name | Description |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0001 | XX XX | INC1F. INC1\| | Frequency increment value for current note 1. |
| 0203 | XX XX | PNT1F, PNT1I | Pointer to SINTAB for note 1. |
| 04 | 03 | PAGE1 | SINTAB is page 03. |
| 0506 | XX XX | INC2F. ${ }^{\text {P }}$ (NC21 | As above for note 2. |
| 0708 | XX XX | PNT2F, PNT21 |  |
| 09 | 03 | PAGE2 | SINTAB is page 03. |
| OA | XX | TEMPO | Temporary storage |
| $\bigcirc$ | XX | TEMP1 | Temporary storage Maximum number of digits in telephone number |
| OC | OB | NDIGIT | Maximum number of digits in telephone number |

Table 4: Definitions and locations for variables and constants within the DIAL program. There are pointers (PNTxx) and increment values (INCxx) to two frequencies ( $x x x 1 x$ and $x x x 2 x$ ), each of which has a fractional ( $x x x x F$ ) and an integer ( $x x x x$ ) byte. PAGE2 points to the page boundary that contains the beginning of the sine wave table SINTAB. The increment values are valid only if the KIM-1 board is running at 1 MHz .

The entry point labeled ZERO can be called as a subroutine by other parts of the program. It clears out the digits stored in memory by replacing them all with hexadecimal OF . Then subroutine SHIFT2 (part of subroutine DIGIT) is called to update the display variables (INH, POINTL, POINTH) to show all Fs.

The CMND subroutine examines the keycode and passes control to the correct subroutine to carry out the action required. The CMND routine initially clears the carry flag. If the keycode in the accumulator from the DIAL routine does not match with a valid command code, then the routine will return with the carry flag still cleared.

Otherwise, the keycode is compared with each valid command code. If a match is found, the command is carried out by calling a subroutine. When that subroutine returns, the carry flag is set to 1 , and control is returned to the main program, which must examine the carry flag to see if a command was executed. If this is the case, then no further processing of the keycode is required.

The DIGIT subroutine also examines the keycode and appends it to the telephone number if it is a valid digit key. The routine first checks to see if the keycode is within the proper range to be a valid digit (hexadecimal 00 thru 0 C ). If so, then the new digit is shifted into the string of previously entered digits. This is facilitated by storing the keycode in the next byte beyond the string of old digits.

The KIM display contents, which are held in locations 00F9 (INH, the two rightmost digits of KIM's display), OOFA (POINTL, the next two digits), and OOFB (POINTH, the
two leftmost digits), are also changed to reflect the six most recent digits entered. At the start (or whenever the GO key is pressed), the display shows "FFFFFF", and the memory also contains all hexadecimal of bytes to act as a flag that no digit is to be dialed.

> Be aware of telephone company restrictions concerning direct connection to the telephone circuits.

The PULSE subroutine is called by the CMND subroutine when the keycode for solenoid dialing of the stored number is processed. It steps through the stored-digit table one digit at a time, passing each digit, through the accumulator, to the CLICK subroutine that pulses the solenoid to dial the digit. As the program is currently set up, the number of digits stored is eleven. This number can be changed by modifying hexadecimal location 000 C (NDIGIT) to some number other than hexadecimal OB (11 decimal). After calling CLICK eleven (NDIGIT) times, control is passed back to the CMND routine.
The CLICK subroutine pulses the output bit that controls the buttonpressing solenoid. The keycode in the accumulator is checked to see if it is a valid digit. In this case, the valid digits are those of a standard dial telephone, 0 thru 9. The basic function of this routine is to cause the solenoid to close the correct number of times for the digit which was passed to it. The user must make sure that the length of line interruptions caused by the solenoid actuation and the separation in time between inter-
ruptions is within phone company tolerances; the values given here will work for a KIM-1 running at the standard 1 MHz frequency.
One catch is that a dialed digit 0 is not zero interruptions but ten. The zero must be tested for and the value in the accumulator changed to ten if a match is found. The CLICK routine times the interruption for approximately 35 ms and waits approximately 65 ms between interruptions. Furthermore, after the last click for any digit, the routine delays an additional half second before returning. This is to simulate the pause taken between digits when a person uses a rotary-dial telephone.
Notice that each time I use the timer, I load the initial value twice. This is to avoid improper timer operation that occurs when the timer is loaded just as it times out from the countdown in progress (and it is always counting down). (See Timothy Martin's letter in KIM-I/6502 User Notes.)
The operation of the TONES subroutine is similar to that of PULSE. It is called by the CMND routine to count the eleven digits passed to the subroutines SETUP and SOUND, which do the dialing - in this case the sounding of tone pairs. A code for the digit to be dialed is passed to SETUP in the accumulator.
Subroutine SETUP prepares data for use by the tone-generating routine, SOUND. The subroutine checks the accumulator for a valid digit (in this case, anything between hexadecimal 00 and $0 F$ ). Only 00 thru $O B$ actually produce tone pairs, $O C$ produces a pause, and OD thru OF cause an immediate return.
The code in the accumulator is first multiplied by two (via a shift left

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(ASL) instruction) and used as an offset from the beginning of data table TONETAB. The reason for multiplying by two is that the table contains value pairs.
Two-tone or frequency-identifier codes are obtained from the table. These two identifiers are each used as indices into another data table, FRQTAB. From this table, we get increment values (both integer and fractional parts) that are used by SOUND to step through the waveform table.
SOUND will produce the dual tones for a fixed length of time. When control returns to SETUP, a delay of
approximately 75 ms is inserted before returning to TONES. The purpose of this delay is to allow the telephone company equipment to distinguish between individual digits.

The purpose of subroutine SOUND is to produce a waveform at the output of the digital-to-analog converter that is the superposition of two sine waves of different frequency. The routine actually computes the composite waveform by adding instantaneous values for two tones.

Data for a single cycle of a pure sine wave is stored in hexadecimal locations 0300 thru 03FF, filling all of

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page 03 of memory. A loop in the SOUND routine is repeatedly executed for 150 ms , determined by a value loaded into the interval timer (T1024). It is very important to remember that the loop always takes $63 \mu \mathrm{~s}$ to execute once. Each time through the loop, a new value of the waveform (the instantaneous voltage out of the digital-to-analog converter) is determined by adding together values from the table for the two frequencies. The waveform values are obtained by using only the integer part of a 2-byte pointer (PNT1I, PNT1F or PNT2I, PNT2F) kept for each tone as an offset into the sinewave table.

After one instantaneous value has been output to the digital-to-analog converter, the pointers are increased by adding both integer (INCR1I and INCR2I) and fractional (INCR1F and INCR2F) parts of an increment value. The carry out from the fractional addition must be added in with the integer part. If the sum of the integer parts for the printer goes above 255 , the carry is ignored, and the table reference will wrap around to the beginning of page 03. A continuous sine wave will be produced.

## Summary

Additional hardware needed to add to a microcomputer for controlling the dialing of numbers with a telephone receiver is minimal. The software shown here is complex, but it has been written in modular form to enhance its usefulness in customized applications. Be aware of telephone company restrictions concerning direct connection to the telephone circuits; do not use any method of connection that destroys the electrical integrity of the telephone system. $\quad$.

[^11]
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New IBM Microcomputer, More On The Way? IBM is not sitting by idly in the microcomputer revolution. It has introduced a new desktop computer, the model 5120, which sells for $\$ 13,500$ and features 16 K bytes of programmable memory and either BASIC or APL in read-only memory. But Electronics magazine, a McGraw-Hill publication, recently reported the prediction of a $\$ 4500$ IBM computer. The IBM 5105 microcomputer was predicted by Creative Strategies Inc of San Jose, California, an industry analysis firm. The 5105 will be made in Japan, and it will be designed to interface with the $\mathrm{S}-100$ bus. Creative Strategies predicts that the desktop machine will have, among other features, at least 16 K bytes of programmable memory, a high-speed magnetic tape cartridge for mass storage, and a small thermal printer. They also predict the introduction of the 5130, a multiterminal version of the 5105 machine.

## S malltalk For

 Microcomputers: Rosetta Inc, a company located in Houston, Texas, has been working for the past year on an original interactive language called "Rosetta Smalltalk." The language, inspired by but not connected with Xerox Corporation's Smalltalk lanquage,can be expanded to include
new features and has been designed to run on a 280 system. For evaluation purposes, Rosetta Inc is privately offering a pro totype version of the language to several selected owners of Z80-based systems.

## I MSAI Back In Business:

IMSAI is back in operation as the IMSAI Computer Division of Fischer-Freitas Corporation. IMSAI declared bankruptcy last summer. Its manufactured stock, trademarks, software, etc, were purchased by Fischer-Freitas. The company is now selling the complete line of IMSAI products and will continue to support all IMSAI hardware and soltware products.

Will Your Copilot Be A Computer? A research project at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, is working on an experimental computer system that will determine the correct procedures for airplane pilots to follow in unexpected situations. The system will monitor the flight plan and airframe stress; it will also adjust control settings in response to changing environmental conditions, detect malfunctions, and predict failures. Thus the computer will apply its data, analyze the problem, compute the solution, warn the pilot, and
provide instructions through a synthesized voice. The pilot will be able to request assistance from the computer via voice input. The research group expects to have an operational model within three years.

ZSenith To Produce Home Computer: Zenith Radio Corporation is the first television manufacturer to plunge into the homecomputer market. Actually, Zenith entered this market in a limited way last year with the acquisition of Heath and the formation of Zenith Data Systems. Zenith now plans to produce an under- $\$ 1000$ home computer on its color television production line. The unit will compete with the Radio Shack TRS-80 and other computers.

## N

 ational Introduces New 16-Bit Microprocessors: National Semiconductor will soon be shipping samples of its 16-bit microprocessors. There is the 16008 , a 16 -bit microprocessor with 8-bit input/output (I/O), the 16016 microprocessor with 16-bit I/O, and the 16032 16-bit microprocessor with 24-bit memory addressing (8 megabytes). Furthermore, the 16008 and 16016 are "bilingual"(ie: they execute two instruction sets, their own and the 8080's instruction set).IBM Testing Josephson-Junction-Based Computer: IBM's Research Division is currently testing a prototype computer that uses 4000 circuits employing Josephson-junction logic devices. These devices operate in the 35 to 40 picosecond range. This project could lead to a tiny computer (1 or 2 cubic inches) with a projected cycle time of 2.5 ns . This is eighty times faster than IBM's System 370/168.

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Video Cassette To Be Used For Winchester Backup: Pixel Corporation of Burlington, Massachusetts, plans to manufacture 500-megabyte data-storage systems that use video-cassette recorders (VCRs).

Corvus Systems Inc of San Jose, California, a maker of Winchester harddisk drives, is presently field-testing an interface to its disk controller that enables it to be attached to a consumer VCR. Corvus claims a data-storage capacity of 100 megabytes for the system. Corvus

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$\checkmark$ Interrupt acknowledge (INTA) and dynamic RAM refresh signals (RFS) available on bus
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[^12]expects to sell its interface controller for $\$ 790$. Added to the cost of $\$ 1000$ to $\$ 1500$ for the video recorder, this gives a total cost of $\$ 1800$ to $\$ 2300$ for the disk backup system.

Development of video recorders proceeds apace. BASF, the German maker of floppy-disk drives and media, recently established the BASF Video Corporation in Fountain Valley, California. BASF Video will soon produce a consumer video-cassette recorder. BASF showed a 72 -track recorder at a recent electronic show. The unit stores 94.6 megabytes using a longitudinal-scan method, rather than the more common helical-scan technique. The longitudinal method is preferable for random-access applications. Some Japanese manufacturers may introduce low-cost longitudinal-scan video recorders that can be used for data storage.

In comparison with competing data-storage techniques, the VCR-based systems provide a good price/performance ratio. For instance, the 3M $1 / 2$-inch cartridge tape drive with controller stores 75 megabytes of data at a list price of $\$ 21,150$.

## 8 <br> Inch Winchester Disk Standard Being

Developed: An American National Standards Institute (ANSI) committee is nearing adoption of a standard interface for the 8 -inch Winchester fixed-disk drives. Such a standard would hasten acceptance of such drives by originalequipment manufacturers (OEMs), and large-scale integration (LSI) chips would be quickly developed to carry out the standard. The interface should support concurrent device operations, unidirectional data pass, nonreturn-to-zero (NRZ) data transmission, and should be able to handle variable data rates up to 10 megabytes/second
over cables up to 8 meters in length. Cost will also be considered. Final adoption of the standard should be reached in mid-1980.

UCSD Pascal News: The University of California, San Diego (UCSD) has arbitrarily revoked licenses to distribute UCSD Pascal. These licenses were previously granted to and paid for by a number of computer clubs. The clubs had paid $\$ 250$ for the license and they, in turn, had allowed club members to copy the software package at costs ranging from $\$ 5$ to $\$ 50$. A user now must pay $\$ 250$ to obtain a copy of the UCSD package....A newsletter for UCSD Pascal users is being published by Jim McCord, 330 Vereda, Legenda CA 93017. Send Jim $\$ 2$ to get on the mailing list. The first issue of the newsletter was 9 pages long and full of information....An international Pascal Users Group (PUG) has been formed. To join, send $\$ 6$ to PUG, c/o Dick Shaw, Digital Equipment Corporation, 5775 Peachtree Dunwoody Rd, Atlanta GA 30342. Your effort will get you an occasional newsletter that is several hundred pages long....

Economic Woes Of The Personal-Computer Industry: The current rocketing interest rates on business loans are said to be cutting profits and curtailing the growth of personal-computer manufacturers, distributors, and dealers. Some smaller businesses may collapse, while throughout the field decreasing inventories are prolonging customer waiting time. In some instances, finance charges and interest rates run as high as 24 to 30 percent, when money is available. Retail stores are finding it difficult to finance smallbusiness systems, and distribution of new pro-
ducts is curtailed.
ComputerLand Corporation of San Leandro, California, reports that potential store owners are having trouble buying franchises.

## M otorold Introduces

 32-Bit Microcomputer Bus: Motorola has introduced a new microcomputerdevelopment system with address and data buses that are 32 bits wide. The system can support 8-bit, 16-bit, and the forthcoming 32-bit microprocessors. (Most experts feel, however, that 32-bit microprocessors are still about five years away from production.) Called the "Versabus," it allows direct addressing of up to four billion words of memory. Motorola has published a specification for the bus, which can be obtained by contacting the Motorola engineering offices.
## M emory News: Intel

 Corporation has announced a new 16 K -by-l-bit metaloxide semiconductor (MOS) static programmable memory with a 40 ns access time. Known as the 2167, it will draw about 500 mW from a single +5 V supply and will be transistor-transistor-logic (TTL) compatible on all pins. The estimated date of availability has not been set; however, it will probably be the final quarter of 1980....Several manufacturers are in the initial production phases of $64-\mathrm{K}$ bit dynarnic memory devices. Included are TexasInstruments and
Motorola.

## $2_{56 \text { K-Byte }}$

Programmable-Memory Devices Announced: Nippon Telephone and
Telegraph and NEC.
Toshiba have announced that 256 K -byte programmable-memory devices are under development by the two companies.

The devices have been constructed in prototype form, and speculation is that production is still a couple of years away.

This announcement has great significance because it is one indication that leadership in the highdensity, integrated circuit technology has passed from the US to Japan.

B ell Laboratories Licenses UNIX For Microcomputer Systems: Bell Laboratories, via the AT\&T Western Electric Company subsidiary, has licensed Onyx Systems Inc of Cupertino, California, for implementation of UNIX on a Z8000-based microcomputer system. The system will be introduced this month.

RLandom Rumors And News Bits: Several toy manufacturers are working on electronic toys with voice output for the Christmas season. However, most manufacturers are reluctant to divulge any details. But you can expect the rage of Christmas 1980 to be talk. ing toys....Radio Shack is very secretive about the sales volume of the TRS-80 computers. But one top executive recently revealed that, as of March 1, 1980, Radio Shack had manufactured 370,000 TRS-80s. That means that since 1979 Radio Shack has been producing 600 to 700 TRS-80s per day.... Contrary to predictions, 8 -inch Winchester disks are meeting with resistance from potential purchasers. Most OEMs are adopting a "wait and see" attitude. One problem is that backup storage for the nonremovable disks that have a capacity of greater than 10 megabytes is still lacking. Furthermore, the prices for the larger 14-inch drives are very competitive with the larger 8 -inch drives. The greatest demand for hard 8 -inch

## ANNOUNCING AN APPLE II ${ }^{\circledR}$ COMPATIBLE SYNTHESIZER THAT PRODUCES MUSIC plus

 SOUND EFFECTS

HARDWARE FEATURES of the Juke Box Synthesizer

- Three simultaneous programmable voices and one programmable white noise generator
- Five octave range starting at 55 Hz (the A below bass clef) to 1760 Hz (the second A above the treble clef)
- On board amplifier capable of directly driving an eight ohm speaker. (no external amp needed)
- Up to six synthesizers can be installed to create stereophonic, quadraphonic, and polyphonic operation


## SOFIWARE FEATURES of the KIS Music Editor

- Three part interactive program consisting of a play mode, a composition mode and an edit mode
- Play mode displays low resolution color graphics of each voice while the song is playing
- Composition mode enables the user to hear and see, in high resolution graphics, each note as it's input
- Edit mode sounds and displays, in high resolution graphics, each note as the user single steps through the song
- Notes can be inserted, deleted and changed

SOFIW ARE FEATURES of the Sound Effects Program

- Uses the channel of white noise to create a vast array of sounds. Some of these are as follows: explosions, steam engine, whistle, phasers, gun shots, race cars, sirens, chimes and jet engines
- Modular so that any one sound can easily be patched into an existing program
- Detailed instructions illustrate how to generate unusual sounds


## AVAILABILTY

- All Juke Box synthesizers are shipped with the KIS Music Editor and are available at most computer stores for $\$ 129.95$
- The Flash \& Crash sound effects program is available separately for $\$ 39.95$
"Apple II is the registered trademark of Apple Computer Co.


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(214) 238-1815
disks is expected to be for drives with a capacity of less than 10
megabytes....Initial sales reports for the Texas Instruments (TI) 99/4 personal computer indicate a "ho-hum" response to the unit. Sales have not been up to expectations. TI will start shipping the unit without a color monitor (as is done with the Apple and Atari computers) and will reduce the price to $\$ 950$ in an effort to improve the lagging sales....Diablo printer and service prices are due to be raised by 8.5 percent this month. Labor and material costs were cited as reasons for the increases.

Tandy Signs FloppyDisk Supplier: Tandy Corporation (parent company of Radio Shack) has signed an agreement with Datapoint Corporation for the latter to manufacture 8 -inch and 5 -inch floppy-disk drives. Radio Shack currently purchases drives from Shugart, Control Data, and Tandem Magnetics.

RCobot Hand Developed: The Research Institute of Industrial Safety of the Japanese Ministry of Labor has announced development of a manipulator that operates like a human hand. It has 12 degrees of freedom, three joints, and can apply 10 newtons of force. It uses the Winsloweffect clutch, which is based on an instantaneous, reversible, and substantial change in apparent viscosity when a fluid is subjected to an external electric field.

Integrated Circuit Black Market Emerges:
Apparently a black market exists for integrated circuits. Intel Corporation reported in January that 10,000 unmarked
integrated circuits, mostly type-2732 erasable programmable read-only memories ( $E P R O M s$ ) valued at one million dollars, were stolen. One black-market dealer has already been arrested for illegal possession of integrated circuits manufactured by Intel, Signetics, and National Semiconductor. All the devices were cosmetic rejects. Two former Intel employees have been arrested for stealing parts. Last summer, Intel reported a large loss of parts that turned up in Germany. In February, Wang Laboratories disclosed that \$750,000 worth of Intel EPROMs had been stolen.

Z Iilog Increases 28000 Instruction Set: Zilog has introduced two new versions of the Z8000, called the 28001 and Z8002. Both operate in conjunction with Extended Processing Unit (EPU) integrated circuits to expand the Z8000's instruction set. One or more EPUs may be added to a system; the EPU uses previously undefined op codes to provide floating-point arithmetic, data-base search and maintenance operations, network interfaces, and graphics-support operations. This is a concept similar to Intel's 8087 mathematical coprocessor for the 8086. The standard 28000 will not operate with the EPU. Six instructions have been added to the Z8001/2 to allow these versions to work with the EPU.

Machine-Independent Language Offered: Systems Consultants Inc of San Diego, California, has introduced what they describe as the first universal high-level compiler language for microcomputers. Called PLMX, the language system contains a library of compiled programs, an I/O interface, and code generator. PLMX syntax is identical to that of

Intel's PL/M lanquage. Currently versions of PLMX are available for TEKDOS (Tektronix) and CP/M operating systems. Code can be generated for 8080, 8085, Z80, 6800, TMS 9900, and CDP 1802 systems. A single license for PLMX costs $\$ 1000$.

0
fife Of The Future To Include Personal Computers: Computer manufacturers are working hard on the "office of the future" where everyone will have a computer at his or her desk. Systems are now available for the engineer's desk, such as HewlettPackard's recently introduced HP-85 and Tektronix's 4050. Both computers are chiefly designed for electrical engineers and can function as a desktop computer work-station for computer-assisted design (CAD).

S everal 16-Bit S-100 Microcomputers Debut: Several manufacturers have announced 16 -bit processor boards for S-100 systems. I know of the following so far: Ithaca Intersystems and National Multiplex Corporation are introducing boards that use the Z8000; Ackerman Digital Systems, the 68000; Godbout Electronics, a dual-processor board using the 8085A and 8088 (which is a l6-bit 8086 with 8-bit input/output); Digicomp Research Corporation, a dual-processor system (two boards) with 280 and Pascal Microengine.

Videotext Test To Be Conducted in Ohio: OCLC Inc, which furnishes on-line catalog services to more than 2000 libraries in the US and Canada, will conduct a three-month test in Columbus, Ohio, of a home videotext system starting in October. The potential user will need a $\$ 500$ terminal
that attaches to a television set and holds information in an amount equivalent to ten full television screens, down-loaded from a central data base. Applications will include banking services, community information, catalog listings, and encyclopedia data. Users will be able to pay bills, transfer funds, and obtain financial data. The goal is to ultimately provide the terminal for less than $\$ 100$ with a typical $\$ 10$ monthly service fee.

More Random News
Bits: You can now lease the TRS-80 Model II computer system from Radio Shack, through an arrangement with the $A$ and $A$ Financial Corporation. The leases run for thirty-six months, preceded by a ninety-day warranty period....Percom Data Corporation has secured a contract with Texas Instruments to supply floppy-disk drives.

CORRECTION: The April BYTE News column contained an item reporting that Motorola was shipping samples of an erasable programmable read-only memory (EPROM) part that is organized as " 8 K by 8 bytes." The EPROMs are really organized as 8 K by 8 bits. [We apologize for this error....RSS]

MAIL: I receive a large number of letters each month, as a result of this column. If you wish a response, please include a stamped, selfaddressed envelope.

## Sol Libes

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## BYTEs Bugs










Taking a Dim View of Phọtographs
A series of photos in the article "A ComputerControlled Light Dimmer, Part 1: Design," by John H Gibson (January 1980 BYTE, pages 56 thru 72) was in-
advertently printed upside down. The series of pictures found in photo 2 on page 66 were inverted. The oscilloscope traces in the top row that appear to be positive pulses are in fact negative pulses from the timing-reference syn-
chronizer. The positive output pulses at the bottom from the timer, mentioned in the photo caption, did not reproduce sufficiently well in print to be seen. The sections of sine curves in the bottom row of photos were also upside down, and
therefore were meant to indicate opposite polarities from those implied.
To correct this error, we now present the series of photos here in the correct orientation, as they should have appeared in the January BYTE.

## Bugs in the Data Cartridge

Gremlins struck the BYTE editorial department recently during the preparation of the article "HewlettPackard's New Personal Computer, The HP-85" (March 1980 BYTE, page 60). At the bottom of the left-hand column of page 62 , the storage capacity of the data cartridge for the HP-85 should have been given as 780 program records con-
sisting of 256 bytes each for a total of 192 K bytes, or 850 data records of 256 bytes each for a total of 210 K bytes. In addition, the procedure for printing the information on the screen is to simply press the COPY key. Our thanks to Jerry Fisher of Hewlett-Packard for pointing out these errors.

Dropping Balloons Reliably
I thoroughly enjoyed the
balloon game in the article 'Writing Animated Computer Games," by Tony Estep (November 1979 BYTE, page 152). I do not have a Sol computer, so I had to make a few patches to the program. I also added a drop counter, which may interest other readers.

The game as published drops balloons unreliably. To make the balloons drop consistently, change the code at hexadecimal location 01F6 to

## CA 2602 JZ BALN

The FINAL SCORE message is not centered. Change the code at location 04DE to

## 2198 CD

LXI H, VDMBAS + 410
to center the message.
Many video terminals can clear the screen after receiving a form-feed character (hexadecimal 0C). If this works on your terminal, you can change the code at
locations 0103 and at 0126 to

## CD FO 06 CALL CLSNFF

and add the code as follows
06FO OE OC MVIC, OCH 06F2 CD 09 F0 CALL

VIDEO 06 F 5 C 9 RET

The game as published allows an unlimited number of balloons to be dropped. While this is interesting, in a way, it can lead the player to engage in real block-
bombardment, dropping balloons without aiming at anything below. I have added a limit to the number of balloons available and a counter to tell how many balloons are left, to discourage waste of valuable resources. I have found that
thirty-five balloons is a fair number. The code to provide this feature is shown in listing 1.

Olli Urrila
SF-44800
Pihtipudas
FINLAND

| Address | Object Code | Label | Mnemonics | Commentary |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0291 | C3 1006 |  | JMP TITLE | Jump to add more titling |
| 0610 | CD 6405 | TITLE | CALL PRINT | Send the previous message |
| 0613 | 2119 CD |  | LXI H,VDMBAS + 119H | Load new message destination |
| 0616 | 116306 |  | LXI D,MSG | Load start address |
| 0619 | CD 6405 |  | CALL PRINT | Send it |
| 061 C | C3 9402 |  | IMP IN1 | JUMP back |
| 0497 | CD 2006 |  | CALL BALLS | Prepare to send "balloons left" message |
| 0620 | CD AB 04 | BALLS | CALL SCOUT | Send the previous message |
| 0623 | $21.1 A C C$ |  | LXI H, VDMBAS + 1 AH | Load new message address |
| 0626 | 117206 |  | LXI D,MSG | Load start address |
| 0629 | CD 6405 |  | CALL PRINT | Send it |
| 062C | C9 |  | RET |  |
| 062D | 000000 |  | NOP; NOP; NOP |  |
| 0137 | CD 3006 |  | CALL INIT | Initialize balloon counter |
| 0630 | E5 | INIT | PUSH H |  |
| 0631 | 217 D 06 |  | LXI H, COUNTB | Counter, 'tens' address |
| 0634 | 3633 |  | MVI M, 033H | Put decimal 3 to tens counter |
| 0636 | 23 |  | INX H | Move to units counter |
| 0637 | 3635 |  | MVI M,035H | Put decimal 5 to units counter |
| 0639 | El |  | POP H |  |
| 063A | C9 |  | RET |  |
| $01 F 6$ | CA 4006 |  | JZ DROP | Call counter if a drop was made |
| 0640 | 217 E 06 | DROP | LXI H,COUNTL | Load units counter |
| 0643 | 35 |  | DCR M | Decrease by one |
| 0644 | 3E 2F |  | MVI A,02FH | First 'digit' below 030H |
| 0646 | BE |  | CMP M | Is counter below zero? |
| 0647 | C2 2602 |  | JNZ BALN | If not, go back to game |
| 064A | 3639 |  | MVI M,039H | If yes, replace it with decimal 9 |
| 064 C | 2D |  | DCR L | Move to tens counter |
| 064D | 35 |  | DCR M | Decrease by one |
| 064E | 3E 2F |  | MVI ${ }^{\text {, } 2 \mathrm{FH}}$ |  |
| 0650 | BE |  | CMP M | Is tens counter below zero? |
| 0651 | CA 5706 |  | JZ WASTE | If yes, go to end game |
| 0654 | C3 2602 |  | IMP BALN | Else go back to game |
| 0657 | 218 ECC | WASTE | LXI H,VDMBAS + 8EH | Load message destination |
| 065A | 118006 |  | LXI D,MSG | Load message start address |
| 065D | CD 6405 |  | CALL PRINT | Send message |
| 0660 | C3 DE 04 |  | jMP OVER | Jump to game over |
| 0663 | 2A 2A 2033 |  |  |  |
| 0667 | 35204241 |  |  | 35 BALLS (balloons) |
| 066B | 4C 4C 5320 |  |  |  |
| 066F | 2A 2A 00 |  |  |  |
| 0672 | 42 41 4C 4C |  |  |  |
| 0676 | 5320 4C 45 |  |  | BALLS LEFT . . |
| 067A | 46542020 |  |  |  |
| 067E | 2000 |  |  |  |
| 0680 | 2A 2A 2059 |  |  |  |
| 0684 | 4F 552048 |  |  |  |
| 0688 | 41564520 |  |  | YOU HAVE WASTED |
| 068 C | 57415354 |  |  |  |
| 0690 | 45442041 |  |  | ALL YOUR BALLS! |
| 0694 | 4C 4C 2059 |  |  |  |
| 0698 | 4 F 555220 |  |  |  |
| 069 C | 42 41 4C 4C |  |  |  |
| 06A0 | 53202120 |  |  |  |
| 06A4 | 2A 2A 00 |  |  |  |
| TITLE 0610 | BALLS 0620 | INIT 0630 |  |  |
| DROP 0640 | WASTE 0657 | COUNTB 067D |  |  |
| COUNTL 067E |  |  |  |  |

# One small word about computers. Osborne 

The 8089 I/O Processor Handbook, by Adam Osborne

Intel ls developing the co-processor concept; the 8089 Is the flist of the Intel co-processors. The 8089 I/O Processor Handbook provides a fully detalled descrlptlon of this Innovative device, its operation, and use In 8086 systems. Thls Osborne Handbook contains complete discussions of plns, slgnals, timing, the Instructlon set, and programming and conflguratlon guldelines. Also describes the 8289 Bus Arblter.

$$
\text { \#39-x } \quad \$ 5.95
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The 8086 Book
by Russell Rector and George Alexy


A handbook for all
8086 mlcrocomputer users. It Includes 8086 programming Instructlon, a thorough analysls of the 8086 Instruction set. and detalled hardware and Interfacing guides which reveal the full power of the 8086 multiprocessing capabilities.

$$
\text { \#29-2 } \quad \$ 15.00
$$

28000 Assembly Language

## Programming

by Lance Leventhal et al.
The flrst in thls popular serles of books
to have the comblned authorshlp of Dr. Leventhal, Dr. Adam Osborne, and Charles Collins. The 28000 processor instruction set is described in detall, and the dlscussion of assembly language programming technlques makes the book an Invaluable teaching tool,
programming manual, and 28000
reference book.
Avallable July.
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An Introduction to Microcomputers: Vol. 1, Basic Concepts, 2nd Ed. by Adam Osborne
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## Bills Introduced in Congress

The Congress of the United States is beginning to take notice of personal computers. Two bills dealing with personal computers have been introduced in the House of Representatives. We believe that many of our readers will be interested in these bills, so we are printing the text of the bills here.

One bill, HR 3822, was introduced by the Honorable Thomas J Downey, Representative from New York. This bill would establish a National Center for Personal Compouters in Education.

The other bill, HR 4326, was introduced by the Honorable James H Scheuer, also a Representative from New York. HR 4326, which is less directly concerned with personal computers, would establish a National Commission on the Scientific and Technological lmplications of Information Technology in Education.

Presently both bills are sitting in committees. HR 3822 was sent to the Subcommittee on Elementary, Secondary, and Vocational Education of the Committee on Education and Labor. Both the committee and subcommittee are chaired by the Honorable Carl D Perkins of Kentucky. As of mid-March 1980, hearings have not been held nor any other action taken.

HR 4326 was referred jointly to the Committee on Education and Labor and to the Committee on Science and Technology. The Commitre on Education and Labor has not referred HR 4326 to a subcommittee. However, the bill has been referred by the Committee on Science and Technology to the Subcommittee on Science, Research, and Technology, which is chaired by the Honorable George E Brown Jr from

California. A hearing on HR 4326 was held for one day, on October 9, 1979. No further action has been taken.

## H.R. 3822

## 96th CONGRESS <br> 1st Session

To amend title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a National Center for Personal Computers in Education.

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

 MAY 1, 1979Mr. Downey introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

## A BILL

To amend title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to establish a National Center for Personal Computers in Education.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 2941 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new part:
"Part N-Computers in Education
"Program Authorized
"Sec. 393. (a) The Commissioner shall award grants to one applicant for the establishment and operation of a National Center for Personal Computers in Education (hereinafter in this part referred to as the 'Center') to instruct students in the use of personal computters and to develop programs designed to utilize personal computers and microcomputers as educatonal tools at all educetonal levels. The Center shall be operated during the fiscal years ending September 30, 1980,

September 30, 1981, and September 30, 1982.
""(b) The responsibilities of the Center shall be to-
"(1) identify sources of courseware materials and provide information about such materials to interested parties;
"(2) develop courseware materials for use in areas in which available courseware materials are inadequate;
"(3) identify and develop curriculum materials for instructing students at all educational levels in the uses of computers;
"(4) provide special teacher training and demonstration computer systems to schools at all educational levels that have a large proportion of minority students;
"(5) develop methods for enabling handicapped individuals to use computers for communication and educational purposes;
"(6) conduct programs demonstrating the various educational uses of computers which shall include, but not be limited to-
" $(\mathrm{A})$ the provision of computers in the classroom for student use which may include as many as one computer per four students,
" $(B)$ the establishment of a laboratory that uses computers to simulate live experiments, and
" $(\mathrm{C})$ the establishment of a computer library that would allow students to borrow personal computers for use outside the classroom;
"(7) assess the relative quality and merits of commercially available microcomputers and disseminate such assessments to educators;
"(8) monitor new developments in educational technology, including microcomputers and video disk systems, and disseminate information about such developments to educators;
"(9) develop teacher training materials, including computer programs, films, slides, pamphlets, and audio and video cassettes, that will-
"(A) instruct educators about personal computers and their uses to enable them to determine the amount of financial resources and personnel to commit to the use of computers in their educational system,
" $(B)$ instruct educators in the methods of using computers to enhance the learning experiences of their students in the classroom, in laboratories, and at home, and
"(C) instruct teachers in computer programming and in the development of courseware materials;
"(10) establish a demonstration laboratory to exhibit examples of personal computer systems and courseware materials to enable educators to personally observe the operation of such computers and courseware materials;
"(11) publish a periodic newsletter to disseminate information on computers, computer training programs, and courseware materials;
'(12) assist Congress and interested Federal agencies in developing a program for establishing Regional Centers for Personal Computers in Education, that shall include, but not be limited to, appropriate goals and designs for such centers;
"(13) solicit from subscribers to the newsletter established under paragraph (11) of this section information concerning their computer education needs;
"(14) assist Congress and Federal agencies in identifying areas in which Federal funding will accelerate the educational impact of emerging computer technologies;
"(15) undertake any studies requested by Congress or Federal agencies relating to educational uses of computer technology;
"(16) establish a mechanism to inform the computer industry of the computer needs of the Na tion's educational system and to receive from the computer industry information concerning recent developments in computers;


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# Structured Systems 

"(17) monitor developments in the area of intercommunication among users of personal computers and devise means of utilizing intercommunication to inform educators of the potential uses of personal computers;
"(18) assist interested local libraries in establishing programs to provide personal computers and video disk systems to the public; and
"(19) establish a model Community Personal Computer Center in one local shopping mall which shall-
"(A) provide a site for field trips by groups of local students,
"(B) provide demonstrations of the educational uses of personal computers to patrons of the mall,
'"(C) conduct courses for community residents on the operation of personal computers, and
"'(D) provide com-
puter programs and books, magazines, and other information about computers on loan to the public.
"APPLICATION
"Sec. 394. The grants provided under section 393 of this title shall be awarded to one applicant from among those who have submitted an application to the Commissioner. Each application for such grants shall be submitted at such time, in such form, and containing such information as the Commissioner shall prescribe by regulation. An application shall not be approved unless it-
"(1) provides that the Center will be administered by, or under the supervision of, the applicant;
"(2) provides for the performance of the responsibilities described in section 393(b) of this title;
"(3) sets forth policies and procedures that will insure adequate evaluation of the performance of the

Center;
"(4) provides for such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as may be necessary to assure proper disbursement of and accounting for Federal funds paid to the applicant under this part; and
"(5) provides for making an annual report and such other reports in such form and containing such information as the Commissioner may reasonably require and for keeping such records and affording such access thereto as the Commissioner may find necessary to assure the correctness and verification of such reports.

## "REPORT

'Sec. 395. The recipient of the grants provided under this part shall transmit a final report to the President not later than January 1, 1983. The final report shall contain a detailed statement of the activities of the Center and the recommen-

dations of the recipient for using personal computers to improve the educational system of the United States.
"DEFINITIONS
"'Sec. 396. For purposes of this part-
"(1) the term
'courseware materials' means educational materials for use with personal computers and includes, but is not limited to, computer programs and student-teacher workbooks that provide-
"(A) simulated laboratory experiences in the natural and social sciences,
"(B) discovery learning in mathematics,
${ }^{\prime}(\mathrm{C})$ drill and practice in communications, mathematics, and science,
" ${ }^{(D)}$ ) educational games that provide learning experiences, and
"(E) materials to develop problem-solving skills in mathematics and science;
'(2) the term microcomputer means a digital computer constructed primarily of microelectronic components;
'(3) the term 'personal computer' means a microcomputer that is portable, costs less than $\$ 2,000$, and needs only an electrical outlet for use; and
'"(4) the term 'computer' means a microcomputer or a personal computer.

## "AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

'Sec. 397. There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the provisions of this part \$750,000 for the fiscal year 1980, $\$ 1,250,000$ for the fiscal year 1981, and $\$ 2,000,000$ for the fiscal year 1982."

## H.R. 4326

## 96th CONGRESS

1st Session
To establish a national commission to study the scientific and technological implications of information technology in education.

IN THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

REM MERGE SORT USING LINK () FOR INDEX
FUNCTION MERGE (I,I=INTEGER)=INTLEER
VAR T,KM,M=INTLGER
IF ARRAY (1) <ARRAY (j) THEN BEGW
$M-1$

BFent
$\mathrm{N}=1$
$1=1$
$T=M$
END
LNK $($ KM $)=1$
$\mathrm{KM}=1$
$1=$ LINK(1)
END
LNKK(KM) $=1$
$\mathrm{BND}=\mathrm{T}$
FUNCTION : SORT(IS,IS=WTLEER $)=$ WTEGER
VAR KS,II IJ=INTLGER
IF IS = IS THEN
BEGIN
LINK(IS) $=0$
GETURNED.VALUE=IS
GOTO OEND
END
$\mathrm{KS}=\mathrm{IS}+(\mathrm{IS}-\mathrm{IS}) 2)$
$\mathrm{II}=\mathrm{SORT}(\mathrm{IS}, \mathrm{KS})$
II $=$ SORT(KS +1, IS $)$
RETURNED.VALUE=MERGE(II,II)
OEND
END = RETURNED.VALUE


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June 5, 1979
Mr . Scheuer introduced the following bill; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Education and Labor and Science and Technology

A BILL
To establish a national commission to study the scientific and technological implications of information technology in education.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, POLICY
Section 1. It is the policy of the United States that-
(1) the capability of the Nation's education system to prepare young people for the developing informationbased society should be improved, with emphasis on achieving widespread development of computer skills; and
(2) computer-based techniques should be applied to the learning processes at
all levels of education, whenever qualitative improvements can be demonstrated.

ESTABLISHMENT
Sec. 2. To carry out the purposes of this Act, there is established a commission to be known as the National Commission on the Scientific and Technological Implications of Information Technology in Education (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Commission").

DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION
Sec. 3 (a) For the purpose of furthering the policy stated in section 1(1) of this Act, the Commission shall conduct studies that include, but are not limited to-
(1) a forecast of changes in information technology during the period from 1981 to 2000 , with emphasis on the effect of such technology on education and lifestyles;
(2) a forecast of the need for individuals with computer skills during the period from 1981 to 2000,
with emphasis on the need in the service sector of the Nation's economy for individuals skilled in information processing;
(3) a forecast of the effect of increased use of computers in education on school financing and local taxation during the period from 1981 to 2000;
(4) an investigation of incentives for increasing private sector involvement in the research and development, demonstration, dissemination, and utilization of computers for education purposes; and
(5) an investigation of the costs and benefits of alternative methods of training teachers in the use and application of information technologies and computerbased instructional materials.
(b) For the purpose of furthering the policy stated in section 1(2) of this Act, the Commission shall conduct studies that include, but are not limited to-
(1) an investigation of



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same manner in which the original appointment was made.

COMPENSATION
Sec. 5. (a)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, members of the Commission shall receive $\$ 150$ for each day (including travel time) during which they are engaged in the actual performance of duties vested in the Commission.
(2) Members of the Commission who are full-time officers or employees of the United States shall receive
no additional pay on account of their services on the Commission.
(b) While away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission, members of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as individuals employed intermittently in the Government service are allowed expenses under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

ADMINISTRATION
Sec. 6. (a)(1) Within sixty days after the date on which the member appointed by the President for the twelfth position on the Commission is confirmed by the Senate, the Commission shall appoint an Executive Director and shall fix the rate of compensation for such position at a rate not to exceed the maximum rate of basic pay currently payable for GS-18 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United States


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Code.
(2) With the approval of the Commission, the Executive Director may appoint such additional personnel as the Executive Director deems advisable and shall fix the rate of compensation for such personnel at a rate not to exceed the maximum rate of basic pay currently payable for GS-18 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5, United States Code.
(3) Except as provided in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection, the Executive Director and the personnel appointed under paragraph (2) of this subsection may be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and may be paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates.
(b) With the approval of the Commission, the Executive Director may procure temporary and intermittent services to the same extent authorized by section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates not to exceed $\$ 150$ per individual per day.
(c) The Commission is authorized to negotiate and enter into contracts with private organizations and educational institutions to carry out such studies and reports as the Commission deems necessary to carry out its duties under this Act.
(d) Under section 1862 of title 42, United States Code, the National Science Foundation was given a special mandate to foster computer technology for research and education. Therefore, the National Science Foundation is hereby directed to provide administrative support and services to the Commission.

## COOPERATION WITH

FEDERAL AGENCIES
Sec. 7 (a) Each department, agency, and instrumentality of the Federal Government is authorized

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and directed to furnish to the Commission, upon request, such data, reports, and other information not otherwise prohibited by law as the Commission deems necessary to carry out its duties under this Act.
(b) The head of each department or agency of the Federal Government is authorized to provide to the Commission such services as the Commission requests on such basis, reimbursable or otherwise, as may be agreed between the department or agency and the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Commission. All such requests shall be made by the Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Commission.

## POWERS OF THE COMMISSION

Sec. 8. (a) For the purpose of carrying out its duties under this Act, the Commission, or at its direction, any subcommittee or member thereof, may hold such hearings, sit and act at such
times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission, or such subcommittee or member, may deem advisable. Any member of the Commission may administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses appearing before the Commission, or before such subcommittee or member.
(b)(1) The Commission may require by subpena the attendance and testimony of any witness and the production of any evidence that relates to any matter that the Commission is empowered to investigate by this Act. Such attendance of witnesses and production of evidence may be required from any place within the United States at any designated place of hearing within the United States. Subpenas may be issued under the signature of the Chairman or the Vice Chairman and may be served by any person designated by
the Chairman or Vice Chairman. The subpenas of the Commission shall be served in the manner provided for subpenas issued by a United States district court under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure for the United States district courts.
(2) If a person who has been issued a subpena under paragraph (1) of this subsection is guilty of contumacy or refuses to obey such subpena, any United States district court within the judicial district within which the hearing is to be conducted or within the judicial district within which such person is found, resides, or transacts business may, upon application by the Attorney General of the United States, order such person to appear before the Commission, or any subcommittee. or member thereof, to produce evidence or to give testimony related to the matter under inquiry. Any person who disobeys such

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order of the court may be punished by the court as in contempt thereof.
(3) Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection, a person shall be excused from testifying or from producing evidence in obedience to a subpena issued under this subsection if such person states in writing to the court ordering such person to testify or to produce evidence that the required testimony or evidence may tend to incriminate such person or subject such person to a criminal penalty.
(4) Any witness subpenaed by the Commission shall be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence.

## REPORTS

Sec. 9. (a) The Commission shall transmit a final report to the President and to each House of Congress not later than one year after the date on which the Executive Director of the Commission is appointed. The final report shall contain the results of the studies conducted under section 3 of this Act, the Commission's recommendations for improving computer-based education, and proposals for such legislative and administrative actions as the Commission deems necessary to accomplish its recommendations.
(b) The Commission may publish such interim statements as it deems advisable, including consultants' reports, transcripts of testimony, and Commission findings. TERMINATION
Sec. 10. The Commission shall cease to exist thirty days after submitting its final report pursuant to section 9(a) of this Act.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS
Sec. 11. There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 1980, not to exceed $\$ 2,000,000$ to carry out this Act.

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# A Race-Car Monitoring Program 

Jeff Johnson, POB 2289, Socorro NM 87801

A computer-controlled racetrack was the final project in our computer science class in Real-Time Data Acquisition and Control Theory. Three of us assembled a Tyco two-lane track with lane-changing capabilities. We set photoresistors into the track as sensors and wrote FORTRAN code that displayed the status of a race in real time on a graphics display system owned by the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology Computer Science Dept.

Our system included the following components: PDP-11/34 computer with 80 K words ( 160 K bytes) of memory; an RX01 dual single-sided floppy-disk drive ( 256 K bytes per drive); a VT11 vector graphics display (1024 by 1024 resolution); an LA36 DECwriter; an AR11 16-channel analog-to-digital (A/D) converter; a DZ11 8-channel RS-232 interface, which also connects our com-


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puter lab with the DEC-20 main computer; and a diskoperating system (including two text editors, a macroassembler, and a FORTRAN compiler).

Originally, the computer was to control the laneswitching capabilities and the speed of one of the race cars. Our digital-to-analog (D/A) converter was never implemented, so we settled for merely keeping track of the cars, with the computer continually monitoring the analog-to-digital (A/D) conversion channels connecting the sensors in the track. This may not sound very useful, but the computer actually performed functions that cannot easily be performed manually: keeping track of laps completed, determining the winning car, and timing the racers.

On a lane-switching track, there is no simple mechanical way to count laps, because the cars can exchange lanes during any lap. Therefore, "serious" racing is not practical without an observer to referee the race. Our observer is the computer.

Listing 1: Race-car-monitor program written as a structured pseudocode algorithm.

```
begin race car progkam:
    umile nogoniy Ofjects to racing cars do:
    HEGIN
    INITIALIZATION:
        RECOGNIZE IAIA OF TRACK CONFIGURATION, TYPICAL REAMINGS OF A/D CHANNELS
        WHEN GIFFERENT SENSORS SHALUEDIIN FOKTRAN, THESE ARE DATA STATEMENTS)
            CaliHNatE SEMSOGS:
            DETEKHINE AHEIENT SENSOK VALIES ANL CORRESFONDING NOISE
        INITIALIzE vElocitIES, LOCATIONS, LAPS, TIME TO approfriate values
        CREATE DISPLAY:
            DISPLAY TEXT, NLMEERS(SEE FIGUNE 2), REHEHNERING LOCATION D-
            TEXT, NLHHERS TO HE CHANGED LATER
            READ IN NUMEER OF CAFS, tISFlaY COKRESSONNIING CARS, REMEMHERING
    WAIT FOR START SIGNAL.
    START Elafse tIME.
    WHILE NO CAR HAS COMPLETEO 2E LAFS DO:
            FOK EACH CAR DII:
                HONITOR A/I, CHANNEL OF NEXT TKACK/ IF REALING IS NOT WITHIN
                    NOISE LIHITS, WAIT THE TIHE REDUIRED FOG CAR TO GET FULLY
                    PARANETERS CAKO, ANE A/D CHANOEL
                    ** HERE WOULD NOFHALLY GO THE COHFUTER ACTION PROCEIURE CALL #/
            ENII FOR
            monitok emefgencr terhinate channel, if founth, go to heginning.
            UPGATE ELANSEDTIHE.
    ENI WHILE
    DECLARE WINNER, HONITOR REHAINING CARS UNTIL THEY FINISH, MLSO HONITOKING
            EHERGENCY TERHINATION CHANNEL.
END WHILE:
ROCETUURE rETECT(CARE,CHANNEL)
HEGIN
    IF THIS Proceture mas JuSt previduSly EEEN CALLED UNDER THE SAHE CONDITIONS,
    THEN RETURN /* CAR HAS NOT YET LEFT THE SENSOR AREA *''
PLACE CAK ON COKKESPONDING POSITION OF GISFLAYEB TRACK.
GETERHINE CURKENT, AUERAGE UELOCITY, DISPLAY THESE, ANO THE TRACK': AND
LANE COKRESPONLING TO THIS SENSOG.
    F THIS SENSOR IS DN THIS CAR'S STARTINGG TRACK, INCKEHENT THE MUHKER
OF LAPS FOK CAK:.
RETUKN
END FROCEDURE DETCCT
END FROGKAH.
```

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Photo 1: A look at the racetrack showing the positioning of the light sensors.

After assembly of the hardware, we wrote a racetrack monitoring program. This program creates a graph of the track and causes the location of the cars on the graph and relevant data such as the current and cumulative average speed, the lane, the number of laps, the current track section for each car, and the elapsed time to appear on the graphics display (see photo 2 ). The algorithm for the program is given in listing 1.

The program keeps track of the first 25 laps of each


Photo 2: Display on Digital Equipment Corporation VT11 vector graphics unit showing the layout of the racetrack and the position of the one car that is racing. The display resolution is 1024 pixels by 1024 pixels.
car; 25 laps are one race. The computer can distinguish between the cars until one overtakes the other, whereupon a number of problems arise.

Generally, when a car attempts to pass another, there is a pile-up. We decided to make it easier, The cars start in two different locations, about half a lap apart, and finish the race after 25 laps or when one car catches up to another.

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## Construction

The system was very simple to put together, taking about 20 man-hours. Three holes were drilled in the left, middle, and right lanes of each section of track (see photo 1).

Masking tape was placed on the top surface over each hole, the tracks were then turned upside down, and the photoresistors were placed in the holes. The holes were then filled with epoxy.

Since we had more sensors than analog-to-digital converter channels, we had to input several sensors into one channel. We decided to use six sensors per channel. To avoid confusion, resistors of various specific.values were put in parallel with the photoresistors, evenly dividing the voltages. Since the analog-to-digital converter could read from 0 to 60 , a car going over one sensor would give a value that was an integer multiple of 10 , and the particular multiple uniquely determined that sensor.

After we had installed the appropriate resistors, we wired everything together. The wires were attached to a terminal-strip extension cord going to the analog-todigital converter.

The final step was to place an incandescent lamp over the assembled track, because the only other illumination was provided by mercury lamps. Mercury lamps give sufficient 60 Hz noise to be detected by the photoresistors.

The problems encountered were as follows. Because the analog-to-digital converter channels were spread over more than one track, the motion of one car could conceivably affect the other's status. Two cars going over sensors connected to the same channel at the same time would give faulty information or none at all. There was a problem with race cars bouncing around and not keeping to their designated lane (especially around curves). This sensor restriction causes the difficulty in keeping track of passing.

## Possible Improvements

Because each track had its own channel, the greatest difficulty was in determining which lane each car was in, since a car often tripped two of the sensors. This difficulty could be resolved by using two channels (and only two, better-spaced sensors) per track. The ambiguity of track identification could be resolved with one sensor per channel. However, with twenty-five track sections, we would need fifty analog-to-digital conversion channels.

Sophisticated software might resolve this problem. By treating each car through a process that monitors both ahead and behind each car for two track lengths, a correct status could be found after at least every two track sections, since there are no more than two track sections per channel.

A higher-quality model race-car set would greatly help, and I hope that in the future toy manufacturers will make available higher-quality racing sets. Toy companies might even come up with something similar to our system, using a microprocessor and light-emitting diode display. Such a system could have not only circuits along the track to bring power to the cars, but also circuits connecting sensors built into the track, so that the tangle of

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wires that we encountered can be avoided.
The Computer Science Dept also has two LSI-11 systems that will someday be connected to the PDP-11/34 system through RS-232 lines. On these, programs could be used in a multiprocessing mode to monitor and control one particular car.

We determined that one output channel can control both the speed and the lane of the computer car. Should we be suitably inspired by the advent of a high-quality race-car set, we shall resume our original plan of racing against the computer. Our ultimate goal: having two computer programs race against each other.

## Acknowledgements

1 received advice and assistance in this project from Tom Nartker, Greg Freiberg, Russ Calvery, and Dick Carlson. A listing of the FORTRAN program to monitor the cars may be obtained by writing to me. Please include a self-addressed envelope with $\$ 0.28$ US postage affixed.

## Computing Time Between Dates

Paul E Condon, Staff Scientist, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory Bldg 90, Room 3078, University of California, Berkeley CA 94720

There is an easier way to find the elapsed time between two dates than the one given by W B Agocs in the Programming Quickie "Day of Week and Elapsed Time Program" (September 1979 BYTE, pages 126 and 129). Zeller's congruence as given by Agocs is a specialized version of a formula for the elapsed time in days since February 28, 0000 AD:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{N}= & {[(13 \times \mathrm{M}-1) / 5]+\mathrm{K}+365 \times \mathrm{Y}+} \\
& {[\mathrm{Y} / 4]+36524 \times \mathrm{C}+[\mathrm{C} / 4] }
\end{aligned}
$$

M is the month number minus 2 , except it is 11 or 12 of the previous year for January or February. K is the day of the month. $Y$ is the year (modulo 100), and $C$ is the century (ie: [(the year AD)/100]). The square brackets indicate the integer part of the enclosed expression. To find the elapsed time between two dates, evaluate N for each date and subtract.

If this leads to numerical overflow on a small system, one can replace C by ( $\mathrm{C}-16$ ). Then the formula will still work for all pairs of dates after the fifteenth century.

Also, Agocs should avoid so many GOTOs in coding the Zeller formula. Instead of lines 35 thru 115 of his listing 1, why not have:

```
35 LET M1 \(=\mathrm{M}\)
40 LET Y1 \(=Y\)
45 LET \(M X=\operatorname{INT}((M+9) / 12)\)
50 LET \(M=M-2+12 * M X\)
55 LET \(Y=Y-1+M X\)
60 LET \(C=\mid N T(Y / 100)\)
65 LET \(Y=Y-100^{*} \mathrm{C}\)
70 LET D1 \(=\operatorname{INT}((13 * M-1) / 5)+D+Y-2 * C\)
80 LET D1 \(=\mathrm{D} 1+\operatorname{INT}(\mathrm{C} / 4)+\mathrm{INT}(\mathrm{Y} / 4)\)
```

The variable MX is equal to 0 for January or February. and is 1 otherwise.

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## FLIGHT SIMULATOR

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(as described in SIMULATION, Volume 11)
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SIMULATION, Volume II (BYTE Publications): S6.00
VALDEZ
Price: $\$ 14.95$ postpald
A simulation of supertanker navigation in the Prince William Sound and Valdez Narrows. The program uses an extensive $256 \times 256$ element radar map and employs physical models of ship response and tidal patterns. Chart your own course through ship and iceberg traffic. Any standard ter minal may be used for display.

BRIDGE 2.0
Price: $\mathbf{\$ 1 7 . 9 5}$ postpeld
An all-inclusive version of this most popular of card games. This program both BIDS and PLAYS either contract or dupticate bridge. Depending on the contract, your com. puter opponents will either play the offense OR defense. If you bid too high the comDuter will double your contract! BRIDGE 2.0 provides challenging entertainment for advanced players and is an excellent learning tool for the bridge novice.

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## JUNE 1980

## June

Laboratory Short Courses, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg VA. Dr Peter Rony will conduct three short courses for scientists and engineers. For information, contact Dr Peter R Rony, Course Director, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg VA 24061, (703) 961-6370.

## June

Software International Seminars. These seminars cover the use of Software International business software. The courses are being held in the US and Canada. For a schedule, contact Software International Corp, 2
Elm Sq, Andover MA
01810, (617) 475-5040.

## June and July

Zilog Courses on Hardware and Software Products, Cupertino CA. A series of technical courses for engineers who use Zilog components and systems is being offered at Zilog headquarters and Zilog's US sales offices. Special emphasis will be placed on the Z 80 and Z8000 microprocessors. Contact Zilog, 10460 Bubb Rd, Cupertino CA 95014, (408) 446-4666.

## June 2-4

Improving Productivity and Distributed Data Entry, Sheraton Center, New York NY. The conference and seminar schedule includes discussions on word processing, data processing, the future directions of data entry, improving data-entry productivity, automated offices, installing a data-entry incentive system, and more. Contact Data Entry Management Association, POB 3231, Stamford CT 06905.

June 2-5
The Ninth Annual Symposium on Incremental Motion-Control Systems and Devices, Ramada Inn, Champaign IL. Exhibition space is available for this conference. Contact Professor B C Kuo, POB 2772, Station A, Champaign IL 61820.

## lune 4-5

Microprocessors: Hardware, Software, and Application, Holiday Inn, Boston MA. This course is recommended for technical professionals who need an understanding of microprocessors in relation to their corporate and business careers. Contact Office of Continuing Education, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester MA 01609.

June 4-6
Salon de l'Ordinateur Computer Show, Place Bonaventure, Montreal, CANADA. This exhibition will feature over eighty manufacturers' hardware and software. For more information, contact Industrial Trade Shows of Canada, 36 Butterick St, Toronto, Ontario M8W 328 CANADA.
lune 9-13
Microcomputer Workshop, Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh PA. Engineers, research scientists, educators, and managers will benefit from this course. It covers all aspects of microcomputers and software. Hands-on training will be provided. The tuition is $\$ 585$ and housing can be arranged. Contact the Post College Professional Education, Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh PA 15213.

June 10-13
Pascal Computer Programming, George Washington University, Washington DC.

Laboratory sessions and hands-on experience are two aspects of this course. For details of this and other courses being offered by the University, contact The Director of Continuing Engineering Education, George Washington University, Washington DC 20052, (202) 676-6106 or toll free (800) 424-9773.

## June 14

Microcomputers in Business and the Professions: Systems Selection, Butler University, 4600 N Sunset Ave, Indianapolis IN. This seminar will cover various types of hardware and software, how to evaluate the kinds and performances of computers, and their applications in business and the home. The registration fee is $\$ 75$. For information, contact College of Business Administration, Butler University, 4600 N Sunset Ave, Indianapolis IN 46208.

June 14-25
Introduction to Microcomputer Interfacing, Virginia Military Institute (VMI), Lexington VA. This handson course will feature the TRS-80 Level II system with one station for every two participants. The tuition is $\$ 450$. Contact Dr Philip B Peters, Dept of Phyșics, VMI, Lexington VA 24450, (703) 463-6225.

June 15-18
International Summer Consumer Electronics Show, McCormick Place, McCormick Inn, and the PickCongress Hotel, Chicago IL. The Consumer Electronics Show (CES) will feature exhibits from many companies and seminars and discussions. Items to be displayed will range from televisions, tape recorders, telephones, and translators, to computers, component
systems, auto sound systems, and electronic games. Attendance is limited to dealers and the press. Contact Consumer Electronics Show, Two Illinois Center, Suite 1607, 233 N Michigan Ave, Chicago Il 60601.

June 16-17
The BYTE Conference on Languages and Tools for Microcomputing, McGrawHill, 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York NY 10020. The program covers block-structured languages and software systems, Pascal, Ada, C, LISP, FORTH, background context of traditional assemblylanguage tools, and more. Some of the speakers are Carl Helmers Jr, Editorial Director of BYTE magazine; Dr Ken Bowles, Dr Peter Grogono, Dr Fred Martin, Dr Henry Baker, and John Morse. For more information, contact McGraw-Hill Conference and Exposition Center, 1221 Avenue of the Americas, Rm 3677, New York NY 10020 (212) 997-4930.

## June 16-19

The Thirteenth Annual Association of Small Computer Users in Education (ASCUE) Conference, University of Tennessee, Martin TN. Conference séssions will include presentations of papers and demonstrations of computers. Tutorials on structured programming, database management systems, programming in Pascal, and computer graphics will be included. Contact James Westmoreland, Computer Center, University of Tennessee at Martin, Martin TN 38238, (901) 587-7891.

## June 16-20

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stitute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge MA. MIT's program will cover principles of data-flow computer organization and programming language design and applications. Certain architectures will be covered and techniques discussed. Familiarity with languages and architecture is a prerequisite. The tuition is \$750. Living arrangements can be made through the school. Contact the Office of the Summer Session, Room E19-356, MIT, Cambridge MA 02139.

## June 17-19

Data Comm, Palais des Expositions, Geneva,
SWITZERLAND. Data communications and distributeddata processing are the main themes of this conference and exhibition. Software development and tools; computer languages; managing data-communications systems; and definitions, concepts, and applications of data communications and distributed-data processing are among the topics that will be covered in the conference.

For more information, contact Industrial and Scientific Conference Management Inc, 222 W Adams St, Suite 999, Chicago IL 60606.

June 16-27
Designing MicroprocessorBased Systems,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge MA. This course is intended to give individuals with a technical background the ability to create costeffective designs using microprocessors. Software techniques and hardware structures will be covered along with lab projects. Contact Francis F Lee, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Summer Session Office, MIT, Cambridge MA 02139, (617) 253-2598.

June 18-21
Association for Computational Linguistics, University
of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia PA. The meeting will cover theoretical and methodological problems of computational linguistics, speech acts, analysis of multisentence texts, dialogue, machine translation, and computational semantics. For further information contact Don Walker, Artificial Intelligence Center, SRI International, 333 Ravenswood Ave, Menlo Park CA 94025.

## June 20-22

The Fifth Annual Computerfest, Franklin University, Columbus OH. Sponsored by the Midwest Affiliation of Computer Clubs, this is a gathering of interested hobbyists, professionals, and businessoriented computer users. Workshops and discussions are the main features of the conference. Contact James Crowley, 4008 Rickenbacker Ave, Columbus OH 43213.

## June 23-27

The First World Conference on Transborder Data Flow Policies, Rome, ITALY. Legal and social implications, economic dimensions, regulatory environment, interdependence caused by global communications, and assessing the status of data flow developments are some of the topics that will be covered in this forum. Write to the Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics, POB 10253, 00144 Rome, ITALY.

June 30-July 3
Electronic Music Workshop, New England Conservatory, Boston MA. A combination of demonstrations and hands-on workshops are part of this course involving synthesizers, computers, and related materials. Arp, Moog, Buchla, and EML synthesizers will be available. Studio techniques will be discussed and demonstrations offered. Contact Robert L Annis, Summer School 1980—Electronic Music, New England

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## JULY 1980

July
TRS-80 Interfacing and Application for Scientific Instrumentation and Motorola 6801 Single Chip Microcomputer Design, Interfacing and Applications, Virginia Tech Facility, Dulles Airport. These are hands-on workshops sponsored by Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. For more information, contact Dr Linda Leffel, CEC, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA 24061, (703) 961-5241.

## July 1

IEEE Indy Microcomputer
Show, Sheraton Motor Inn East, Indianapolis IN. There will be exhibits, demonstrations, and technical seminars
addressing all the applications of microcomputer systems. Contact Publicity Chairman, IEEE Indy Microcomputer Show, Naval Avionics Center, D/810, 6000 E 21 St, Indianapolis IN 46218, (317) 353-3047.

July 7-11
Computers and Related Products, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Seoul, SOUTH KOREA. This show is limited to approximately forty firms for exhibition. For details, contact Robert Wallace, Rm 6015A, US Dept of Commerce, Industry and Trade Commission, Washington DC 20230.

July 14-16 Diagnostic Software: Planning and Design, SheratonLexington Motor Inn, Lexington MA. The seminar is -for design, test, and diagnostic engineers. Design

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examples, lectures, informal sessions, and programming are part of the course. The fee is $\$ 450$. Contact Professor Donald French, Institute for Advanced Professional Studies, One Gateway Center, Newton MA 02158.
july 14-18
SIGGRAPH '80, Seattle Center, Seattle WA. Panel discussions and readings will be included in this conference. The topics will include graphic displays, animation/dynamics, cartography, input techniques, video and color hardware, and more. For general information, write to SIGGRAPH '80, POB 88203, Seattle WA 98188.

July 22-24
Microcomputer Show, Wembley Center, London, ENGLAND. New products will be exhibited, along with presentations of papers. For information contact TMAC, 680 Beach St, Suite 428, San Francisco CA 94109.

## AUGUST 1980

August 4-6
Data-Entry Management and Supervision Seminar, Chicago IL. Data-entry managers and supervisors will benefit from the techniques provided in this seminar. Topics will range from data-entry control techniques and improving data-entry operator productivity, to personnel communications and motivation. Contact MIC, 140 Barclay Center, Cherry Hill NJ 08034, (609) 428-1020.

August 12-14 Computer Graphics ${ }^{\prime} 80$, Birmingham, ENGLAND. Computer Graphics ' 80 will bring together experienced users and specialists to present applications experiences and research findings. In addition to the conference, there will be an equipment exhibition and an animated film festival. To register, contact Paula Stockham, Online, Cleveland Rd, Uxbridge UB8 2DD,
ENGLAND, phone Uxbridge (0895) 39262.

## August 14-24

Electronics/China 80, Guangzhou (Canton), CHINA. This is the first exhibition of US electronic companies in the People's Republic of China. The United States-China Trade Consultants are the sponsors of the show. Products demonstrated will include circuit components, system elements, test instrumentation, product equipment, and materials. Details are available through Expoconsul Inc, Clapp and Poliak Inc, Princeton-Windsor Office Park, POB 277, Princeton Junction NJ 08550.

August 23-24
Personal Computer Arts Festival, Philadelphia Civic Center, Philadelphia PA. Tutorials, seminars, musical performances, and graphic extravaganzas will be featured in this show. Computer musicians and artists have until July 1 to submit material for presentation. Contact PCAF '80, c/o Philadelphia Area Computer Society, POB 1954, Philadelphia PA 19105.

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# Alubs and Newslatieps 

## Southeastern Michigan Computer Organization (SEMCO)

The objective of SEMCO is to share ideas on programming, troubleshoot problems, and review new products. Meetings are held on the second Sunday of the month at the Ford Automotive Safety Center Auditorium at 7 PM in Detroit, Michigan. SEMCO's newsletter, Data Bus, is a monthly publication. Membership is $\$ 10$ per year. Contact SEMCO, POB 02426, Detroit MI 48202.

Rochester Area Microcomputer Society (RAMS)
RAMS, which has been in existence for nearly four years, meets on the second Thursday of each month in
room 1250 of the Science Building on the Rochester Institute of Technology campus. A RAMS' monthly meeting features a speaker plus reviews of products and news of interest. Their newsletter, Memory Pages, is published monthly. Membership in RAMS runs from October to September, and the dues are $\$ 7.50$. For details, write RAMS, POB 90808, Rochester NY 14609.

## Homebrew Computer Club

This pioneering personalcomputer club is based in Mountain View, California. They meet monthly on the second Thursday at the Sherman Fairchild Medical Center Auditorium in Stanford, California. Their newsletter contains reviews of products, programs in
different languages for all types of systems, bulletin board news, and more. To obtain information, contact Homebrew Computer Club, POB 626, Mountain View CA 94042.

## Long Island Computer Association

The Long Island Computer Association is open to all computer users with interests in programming, applications, or related subjects. Dues are $\$ 10$ per year; members receive a newsletter called The Stack. There are groups for 8080 users, TRS-80 users, and 6502 users. The meetings feature guest speakers and reports on individual members' projects. The Stack includes reports of the meetings, want ads, computer store listings, pro-
grams, and more. Contact the club at 3788 Windsor Dr, Bethpage NY 11714.

> Delaware Valley Computer Society

The Delaware Valley Computer Society (DVCS) is dedicated to the development and improvement of its members' programming and hardware skills on the TRS-80. Meetings are held at 8 PM on the third Thursday of each month at the Bristol Township Municipal Building, near Levittown, Pennsylvania. Recent meetings have included discussions of fast graphics programming in Level II BASIC, interfacing with the real world, assemblylanguage programming, and beginner's BASIC programming. DVCS publishes a newsletter six times a year.


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> Apple's Contact 6 Newsletter

This newsletter is published by Apple Computer Inc, 10260 Bandley Dr, Cupertino CA 95014. It contains articles on programs, hardware, and other related items produced by the company. There is an editorial section and letters from Apple II owners and users. The newsletter also has product reviews of equipment for the Apple that is manufactured by other companies. Every issue includes valuable program listings for the Apple.

## New York Amateur Computer Club

The New York Amateur Computer Club is an organization to promote the exchange of information about computers for personal use and to encourage fellowship among those interested in computing. General meetings are held once a month, normally on the second Thursday. Several specialized user groups also meet on a monthly basis. Club dues are $\$ 10$ per year which includes a newsletter. For information, write to the club at POB 106, Church St Sta, New York NY 10007.

> Newsletter for Texas Instruments' Programmable Calculator Users

## The Texas Instruments

 Personal Programmable Calculator Club and its newsletter, TI PPC Notes, will continue coverage of all TI programmable calculators formerly covered by 52-Notes. The new format will be mainly concerned with practical programming aids and routines. Active member participation is encouraged. Write TI PPCClub, Maurice E T Swinnen, 9213 Lanham Severn Rd, Lanham MD 20801.

## Software Management Newsletter

Salt ' $n$ ' Pepper is a quarterly newsletter dealing with software management issues. An article in a recent issue entitled "Cost Effectiveness: A Challenge for OEMs" suggests that a higher degree of specialization and creativity will characterize successful original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in the 1980s. Another article gives reasons for software products firms to consider offering a processing service. Other topics have included industry trends in software maintenance and software pricing. Subscriptions are $\$ 35$ per year from Culpepper and Associates Inc, 4922 Heatherdale Ln, Atlanta GA 30360.

## BYTEsBirs

An Othello Tournament for Humans and Computers
An Othello tournament is going to be held at Northwestern University on June 19. A one-day competition of three rounds is planned. There will be eight players: two or three humans and five or six computer programs. David Levy's program will run on a Commodore PET. Professor Peter W Frey of Northwestern University is sponsoring the event. He will be running his secondgeneration Othello program on either an Apple or a TRS-80 personal computer. Fidelity Electronics has been invited to enter their new Reversi Challenger. The Carnegie-Mellon program, as described in Scientific American, will be entered by Hans Berliner. Jonathan Cerf, the US national

Othello champion, may also compete in the event. BYTE magazine is going to cosponsor the event. Contact Professor Peter W Frey, Cresap Neuroscience Laboratory, 2021 Sheridan Rd, Evanston IL 60201, (312) 492-7405.

## Call for Papers on Computer Simulation

Papers are being solicited for the 1981 Summer Computer Simulation Conference to be held July 21 to 23, 1981, in Washington DC. The conference theme is "Simulation: Foundations and the Future." A 500 -word summary or complete drafts of original papers must be submitted by November 15, 1980 to L G Culhane, The Mitre Corp, 1820 Dolley Madison Blvd, McLean VA 22102, (703) 827-6447.

The major areas of interest include simulation methodology, chemical sciences, biomedical systems, energy, system engineering, and special topics. Some other areas of special interest are government applications; simulation applications in sports, television, games, and movies; and microcomputer applications.

## Call for Papers, Industrial Control

Papers are being solicited for the 1981 International Conference on the Application of Microcomputers to Industrial Control in the area of general systems to be held in Calcutta, INDIA. Hardware, software, and operational experience should be covered. A 300 - to 600 -word abstract is required by August 22, 1980. The full paper should not exceed twelve $81 / 2$ - by 11 -inch double-spaced pages. Three copies of the abstracts and papers are required. The deadline for the paper is September 26, 1980. Address material to Dr Sushil Dasgupta, Professor and Head of the Electrical

Engineering Dept, Jadavpur University, 40B, Southern Ave, Calcutta-700029, INDIA.

The 1981 International Conference on Microcomputer Applications to Industrial Control will be held February 14 to 16 at Jadavpur University in Calcutta.

## The First Annual National

 Conference on Artificial IntelligenceRecently we received a letter from Louis G Robinson, the conference coordinator of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI). He wanted BYTE readers to know that the First Annual National Conference on Artificial Intelligence will be held at Stanford University August 19, 20, and 21st, 1980.

The AAAI is headed up by professor Allen Newell of Carnegie-Mellon University and professor Edward A Feigenbaum of Stanford University. The AAAI is intended to serve as a vehicle for communication among researchers in the US artificial intelligence community. This communication will be accomplished through two means, One means will be a magazineformat publication produced by the organization and the other will be an annual US artificial intelligence conference.

The first of these conferences is the 1980 Conference this August. The activities during the conference will include a one-day tutorial examining the current state of the art of US artificial intelligence to be held on August 18th at Stanford University. We are sure that many of our readers will be interested in attending this tutorial, to say nothing of the formal conference sessions on August 19, 20, and 21. We know that the AAAI will be an important, vital organization within the computerscience community during the years to come. $\square$

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# Interpersonalized Media: What's News? 

James A Levin<br>The Condmunications Program<br>University of Cel Womis, Sen Diego La Jolla CA 9299

We are in the midst of a major change in the ways that we communicate. This change will affect many areas of our lives-the ways we are informed, educated, and entertained; the ways we interact with friends, organizations, and the world. New communication media are arising from the grass roots as personal computers become widespread and are interconnected. These media allow new possibilizies for interactive, personalized communication, so I will call them interpersonalized media.

Already there are small-scale efforts to interconnect personal computers via telephone lines. There are several national personal-computer networks and many local computer "bulletin board" systems, five in the San Diego area alone. These developments will lead to such radically modified institutions as personalized news, dassroomless education, and interactive soap operas, In this article. I will focus on the influence of these new media on the interchange of information that constitutes news.

[^14]
## Personalized News

Imagine your own personal news staff, preparing a report every day on only those topics that you have ex. pressed interest in: political news concerning Chana, reports of advances in altemate energy sources, sports news about certain teams, want ads for Volkswagen Rabbits for sale within fifty miles for less than $\$ 3000$, etc. By the time you specified a fairly detailed news profile, you would probably be receiving a unique, personalized news report.

If the current decrease in the cost of computation and data storage continues, a system for distributing personalized news will soon be economically feasible.

Is this concept of personalized news a notion for some distant time in the future? No. The requirements for such a system are quite minimal and well within current capability. A prototype for parts of such a system exists at the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at Stanford University. where the daily Associated Press wire contents are stored by a computer. and users are notified of stories that match their specified news profile.

The details of storing, indexing, and retrieving large amounts of text have been worked out well. (However, the retrieval techniques are not foolproof. One user at Stanford, interested in dolphin research. asked to see all stories containing the word "dolptoin." He was then puzzled that he was being notified of all the Monday moming football-score summaries, until he noticed the stories had the scores for the Miami Dolphins!)
The barrier to such systems has been economic-the costs of storage, computation. and communication have been too high to challenge the existing mass-distributed media of television, radio, and newspaper news. However, the cost of all three factors is rapidly dropping, and if the cwrent decrease continue, a system for distributing personalized news will soon be economically feasible. (See the econornic analysis by Panko in reference 11 for first-class business mail, for instance.) This development is especially likely when the interactive information system is integrated into a broader system for entertainment. education, and commercial interactions.

## Electronic Mall

Electronic mail is an almost accidental development of interactive computer networks, but it may become the most significant use of computers in our everyday lives. It

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began as interactive users of large computers needed ways to communicate with other users. Initially, mechanisms were developed to allow one person to type text that immediately appeared on the terminal of another user. However, these communication mechanisms could be used only if the other person was using the computer system at the same time.

Computer-mail systems were the next development, through which one user could type an entire message, to be seen by the other user whenever he or she next used the system. Since then, computer-mail systems have grown in power (and thus in convenience of usage) until they are now used even by people unable or unwilling to use computers for programming.

In the few organizations where they have been available for general use, electronic-mail systems have become a major communication medium. They are assuming much of the load previously carried by written memos and telephone calls, and even some of the interaction previously carried out face to face. For example, I have been using an electronic-mail system at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) called MSG (which will be described in more detail later). Over the course of the five days before I wrote this, I received fourteen messages on this system. Two of these were directed specifically to me; two had been written to another person with a copy sent to me. Two more were directed to me as a member of a defined group of nine people, all concerned with a particular problem. This ability to send messages to a defined group of people easily allows these mail systems to be used for teleconferencing (described later).

The remaining eight messages were addressed to a group called "all," a group consisting of all thirty-seven users of this computer system. We can say that such messages are posted on an electronic bulletin board. But such use also leads to a potential problem, especially for systems involving a large number of people-the widespread distribution of electronic junk mail.

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One unexpected property of text teleconferences is the tendency for multiple streams of conversation to form and flow in parallel.

## Electronic Bulletin Boards

The use of electronic bulletin boards has already spread through the personal-computing community. A student of mine, Mary Loughran, discovered five electronic bulletinboard systems in operation in the San Diego area as of June 1979; two local "nodes" of nationwide bulletin-board systems, and three systems set up by individuals.

## Electronic Junk Mail

The problem of electronic junk mail is a major issue for these bulletin-board systems, one that becomes critical for a widespread electronic-mail system. People get upset if they get a lot of junk mail. Fortunately, personal computers give us a direct way to deal with this prob-lem-we can design and use electronic junk-mail "filters," programs that preprocess our electronic mail and systematically discard recognized junk mail. For example, if every message I have ever received from Bill Smith has not been worth reading, I can program my mail filter to automatically discard any messages from him.

As such junk-mail filters become widely used, general announcements (advertisements) will become more sophisticated, so that announcements are targeted only to people that are genuinely interested in them (or else are disguised as interesting messages). We can predict several rounds of action and counteraction like this within an electronic-mail system-beyond that, the system is likely to evolve into novel, currently unpredictable forms.

## Teleconferences

Another mode of electronic interaction is the teleconference, which draws an analogy to more conventional, face-to-face meetings. Early computer teleconferencing systems had a chairman who assigned the
floor to a speaker (who was then allowed to type in text that everyone else in the teleconference saw, until either he or she relinquished the floor or the chairman reclaimed it).

However, it was soon discovered that this new medium does not require a "floor" since many people can enter text simultaneously. More important, the participants do not even have to be simultaneously in-volved-the "tele-" aspect was then extended to mean "remote in time" as well as "remote in space." In this way, the non-real-time teleconference was born.

You may ask, "Why bother with computer-text conferences if you can just arrange a meeting or even a conference phone call?" First of all, anyone who has tried to arrange a meeting time for even a small number of busy people knows how difficult it is to find a common free time. This problem is aggravated by differing time zones; in arranging a conference telephone call that includes people from both the east coast and the west coast of the United States, you have only four hours during which both sets of people are normally available during the working day. Between London and Los Angeles there is only a one-hour window, and for much of the world there is no overlap at all.

Even when there is a considerable overlap, even a normal two-person phone call is not easy to conduct. You call the other person; she is in a meeting, so you leave a message; she returns the call an hour later only to find that you are in a meeting, and so on. I have gone as many as five rounds like this to establish communication, even when I have known I was not getting a "tele-runaround." In addition, the interruption of another phone call is amazingly disruptive-have you ever been able to finish a coherent thought when your phone rings?

But you might wonder, "Isn't a non-real-time teleconference a stilted, artificial, and ineffective way of conducting discussion or decision making?" The answer to this seems to be (1) yes, at the start, and (2) no, not after the participants acquire some experience with this new medium. A number of transcripts from different types of text teleconferences that seemed to work for the participants quite smoothly and effectively are

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Isn't spontaneity lost without realtime interaction? My experience with text teleconferences over several years has been that spontaneity is just as possible as in face-to-face meetings (and just as problematic-in how many meetings have you felt free to be spontaneous in your participation?).

One property of text teleconferences that is unexpected (and a bit disconcerting at first encounter) is the tendency for multiple streams or threads of conversation to form and flow in parallel. Multiple streams are disruptive in a face-toface meeting, but are easily accommodated by many textteleconferencing systems. In my experience, a new conversational thread does not appear out of the blue, but instead starts as a response to a message that branches from the main, continuing stream. Some participants follow the main stream; others follow the new branch. Many participants follow both, especially in non-realtime conferences where the urgency of real time is lacking.

## Open News Networks: Being

 Your Own Editor and ReporterWe can now return to the general issues concerning the effect of new interpersonalized media on the ways that we exchange information. I started out with a discussion of personalized news. In effect, personalized news allows everyone to become his or her own news editor, since each person specifies which items he or she wants to see from the much larger pool of information.

Once editorial capability has become distributed, the restrictions on input and on transmission of information can be relaxed. Broadcast media structurally require strong central control of information, since the same few items are sent out to a large audience. Such restrictions are not needed for "narrowcast" media like personal letters, phone calls, personal conversation, or interpersonalized media.

Everyone can thus serve as a reporter of whatever he or she defines to be news and then act as editor,
again defining the small part of a vast information pool which is considered news. The structure of information flow can change from the current "hourglass" form to that of an open network; the constriction in flow can be removed.

## What Is News?

The kinds of changes discussed here may have a major impact on the ways we circulate information about the world. The general notion of what constitutes news will be challenged. Currently, "news" is information that is sufficiently interesting to a broad enough section of an audience to be judged worthy of being broadcast or otherwise disseminated by a commercial or governmental organization.

If a Little League baseball team in Peoria, Illinois, wins a local championship, that is generally not news for a San Diego, California, newspaper. However, if your nephew is playing on that team, then the result of the game is news to you (even if you live in San Diego). If you personalize the information you receive, then you are redefining what is news. Thus, news as information of general interest to a broad audience is replaced by news as information of specific interest to each particular individual.

There will still remain a role for news mediators in an open information network. Given a complex world and a large body of information about it, people will still depend on other people to collect, evaluate, and condense information. I will return to this issue of mediators after I consider a more general way to view these interactive information networks.

## Mixed-Intelligence Information Networks

The examples we have explored of new forms of news networks are particular cases of general systems for sending and receiving information. You can picture yourself as part of a vast network, branches going in all directions, with you at one of the many places where branches converge, a node of the net. Each of the branches entering and leaving your node represents a way in which you receive and transmit information: by television, by newspaper, by phone call, or by word of mouth. The

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possibilities discussed above are steps toward a mixed-intelligence information network, where some of the nodes are human (as in our current information networks) and some of the nodes are computers.

Let us look at the simplest case, in which you and your personal computer are sending and receiving electronic mail from a friend (and her personal computer). You type a message; your personal computer transmits it, placing a telephone call to your friend's personal computer (trying repeatedly if the line is busy). Your friend reads the message the next time she checks her mail, perhaps entering a reply message to be sent back to you. This network has four nodes: two human nodes and two computer nodes. By expanding the number of people involved, we can develop much more complex mixed-intelligence networks for sending and receiving information.

## Dispatcher Mediators

Imagine that you want to send a message to all people who are interested in a certain topic, but you do not know who they are. You can broadcast a general message to everyone and let everyone decide whether he or she is interested, but that would be extremely expensive. Instead, you can send the message to a single person who keeps a list of people interested in the topic and ask that person to send the message on to the appropriate people. This single person can thus serve as a dispatcher, mediating the distribution of messages.

If a human dispatcher grows tired of forwarding the same kinds of messages to the same list of people, he can program his personal computer to automatically distribute these welldefined group messages. Thus, both human and computer dispatchers are likely to emerge in interactive information networks, with computers handling the routine cases and humans called upon to handle difficult cases.

A dispatcher lowers the cost of reaching a desired audience, raising the efficiency of the whole network. The dispatcher can then charge for the service provided according to the amount saved. Therefore, dispatchers will have incentive to develop accurate knowledge of which nodes in the net are interested in receiving
what information.

## Standing Answers

In any information network, people come to have different kinds of knowledge. Experts in different areas emerge, and others go to these experts to ask questions in the area of expertise. Expert advice can be expensive, as anyone who has gone to an auto mechanic lately can testify. One function of this high cost is to control access, so that the experts are not overwhelmed by demands on their time. (Another function is to make the experts rich.) In situations where the cost of accessing experts is kept low (as in Great Britain's system of socialized medicine), other kinds of barriers arise (difficulty in getting appointments, long waits in office waiting rooms, and other problems).

How can access to expert knowledge be handled in mixedintelligence networks? Say that you are an expert member of such a system, on the topic of backpacking in San Diego County. You receive questions from all over, which you answer for a small fee. After a while, since you give good answers, questions pour in. Worse, most of the questions are the same. You get tired of answering the same old questions again and again and again.

What can you do? You can program your personal computer to scan through the incoming messages. Any that the computer can identify as a "standard" question, it answers with your "standard" answer. You have thus specified a standing answer, which is to be given to any incoming question matching your specification for the standing answer.

Slowly, you build up a computer data base of your specialized knowledge that is readily available to other people. You can easily add new information and remove incorrect or obsolete information. Questions that do not fit any standard pattern are automatically passed on for your expert human judgment, and any question that even you, the expert, cannot handle can be forwarded to another expert.

From the point of view of the question, it bounces around the network, with each node it visits attempting to answer it. Both computer and human nodes in this net can easily face the possibility of being unable to handle a question, since it is easy to pass the


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question on to some other node if the current node cannot answer it.

To keep the network from filling up with unanswerable questions, any question that is unanswered after traversing enough nodes can be sent back to the asker with the answer of "unknown." In fact, if a small "handling charge" is added to a question at each step, then the asker can specify exactly how hard the system as a whole should work in trying to answer a question by specifying a maximum cost for a question. A question judged by the asker to be unimportant would either be answered in the first few steps or returned unanswered, while an important question would keep circulating on to new experts for consideration.

Any question can be answered differently by different experts. A mixed-intelligence information network easily handles this kind of conflict by sending all answers back to the asker.

The asker may not want to deal with multiple conflicting answers. This situation provides for another kind of mediator in these interactive networks: one that collects divergent

> If a given piece of expertise is in great demand, then it will spread through the network, becoming common knowledge.

answers to a question and selects one. This "sifter" role is similar to that played by editors and other gatekeepers in the current massmedia systems. The flexibility of these new interpersonalized media is illustrated here by the fact that a person can choose to have his or her answers edited or not, and can directly select the mediator.

## Standing Questions

We started this exploration of interactive information systems by considering the possibilities for personalized news. I discussed the possibility for each person to specify his or her own "news filter." A more active way to view this personalization is that each participant in a mixed-intelligence network can for-


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Listing 1: A typical message sent using the electronic-mail system called MSG at the University of Califomia, San Diego. This particular message was sent to two recipients, the author (Levin) and Hutchins.

To: hutchins levin
From: dan
Date: Thu Nov 15 17:42:31 1979
Subject: wednesday at 3 pm
cc:
Message:
I have put the two of you down for 3 PM, Wednesday. OK?
My office.
$d n$

Listing 2: The procedure for generating a message under the MSG electronic-mail system. All input by the user is shown underlined. The caret ( $\Lambda$ ) indicates use of a control character, in this case a control-D.
$<$-sndmsg
To: hutchins
Subject: tomorrows meeting with dan
cc: levin
cc:
Type message, end with ${ }^{\wedge} D$
Should we get together shortly belore 3 to go over what we'll cover with dan? $\overline{\text { D }}$
now? If not, what capabilities are needed to make them feasible? These kinds of information networks depend heavily on distributed processing and storage, features that are optionally available with relatively inexpensive off-the-shelf personal computers. The existence of computerbased community bulletin boards demonstrates the feasibility of using current microcomputers (for example, the Apple II and Radio Shack TRS-80).

The physical interconnection can be provided by the dialed-telephone network (as in existing bulletin-board systems), by a combination of dialed and leased lines (as in existing nationwide packet-switched networks), by cable television lines, or by radio transmission.

The simplest format for message transmission is to transmit straight ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange) characters through an acoustic-coupler modem. With noisy lines (generated by all of the physical interconnections described above), you lose characters, but for many purposes this is acceptable (the English language is considerably redundant). However, a protocol called Dialnet is currently being developed at Stanford University for personal computers (see

Dialnet Protocol by M Crispin and I Zabala, Stanford Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, Palo Alto CA, 1979). This protocol, which sends information in error-resistant blocks called packets, and ones like it, can allow personal computers to use noisy lines to send noise-free messages.

In many cases, users are not overly concerned about the possibility that some unknown person might look at their electronic mail. Yet most often we prefer to know that nobody else is reading our mail. In some cases, this need for privacy is critical. There are many simple encoding/decoding algorithms that provide some security; unfortunately, these simple algorithms are relatively easy to decipher. (As an example of such a system, you can encode a message by calculating the exclusive-OR of text segments with a secret key, then have the receiver decode it by another exclusive-OR operation with the same key.)

Recently, a series of trap-door encoding/decoding algorithms have been developed, at Stanford by Diffie and Hellman in 1976 and later at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) by Rivest, Shamir, and Adleman in 1977 (see references 4 and 12). Trap-door algorithms prom-

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ise an extremely high degree of security for even everyday use. A clear description of these cryptic functions is provided by Martin Gardner in the August 1977 issue of Scientific American (reference 5).

MSG: A Usable Electronic-Mail System

Many different software approaches have been tried for sending and receiving electronic mail. However, certain features are common to many existing electronic-mail systems. These have been included in a system called MSG. Every message is structured in a way illustrated in listing 1.

One command that is needed is $S$ (an abbreviation for sndmsg), which automatically puts in the "From" and "Date" parts of the message header and assists in entering the rest of the message. For example, a messagegeneration sequence is shown in listing 2 (user input is underlined).

On the UNIX operating system, the MSG program announces the arrival of new mail to you with the following message:

From levin: tomorrows meeting with dan

Two commands are used to read mail. The $H$ (for header) command allows you to skim over mail, since it prints out only the sender and subject headers of the message. The $T$ (for type) command then prints out the messages specified. The D (for delete) command is used to delete messages.

A command that seems to add significantly to the utility of the mail system is the A (for answer) command, which quickly sends a reply to the originator of a message. When the A command is used, the MSG system automatically fills in the entire header, so that the user can easily compose a quick response.

The ability in MSG to define a group of people to receive messages allows this message system to be used

I want to thank the many Communications students at UCSD who participated in the development of these ideas, and Yaakov Kareev for helpful comments on earlier versions of this paper. My thanks to the many people across the country who participated in the evolutionary development of the MSG electronic-mail system, including Martin Yonke, John Vittal, and others at BBN, and Greg Haerr at UCSD.
for teleconferencing. With the MSG system, a user can type a list of names into a text file, then send one or more messages to all of these people simply by supplying the name of the text file.

The particular MSG system described here has other nice features, such as a forward commiand and the ability to keep several different mail files. But the capabilities described above seem to be the ones that make the system valuable enough to be used widely.

## New Images of News

We have explored a new world-a world in which "news" is defined by each individual. Everyone serves as his or her own editor of news through the establishment of a set of standing questions. Everyone also serves as a reporter of news by submitting standing answers to the information network. These standing questions and standing answers bounce around the net until they are appropriately matched, possibly through the assistance of various kinds of mediators. Knowledge spreads through the net, following the heavily traveled paths to where it is needed.

This new kind of information network has major implications for us and for our society. I have touched on some of these issues here; I am also exploring the effects of this kind of interactive media on education and on entertainment (see references 8 and 9). These other uses of interpersonalized media will affect the information-interchange uses, since the educational and entertaining uses are likely to carry personal computers into homes, thus bringing about widespread use. Costs are dropping substantially, but even so, not many people are likely to invest several hundred dollars to improve their information access. However, they are likely to invest that amount for entertainment. So the educational and informational uses may well follow interactive entertainment.

## For More Information

If you are concerned with developing new forms of interactive communication, I urge you to contact me and my associates by whatever medium you select. Our mailing address is given at the beginning of this article; our telephone number is (714) 452-4410. We are located at Third College, Media Center Communica-
tion Building, and my address for electronic mail is "catt:levin" for those with access to UCSD's wordprocessing system.

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BYTEs Bits

Fixing the Fee
A Bits item in the March 1980 BYTE ("Real-Time BASIC Available Free," page 174) reported that the LLL BASIC system developed at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory was available for just the duplication fee from the National Software Center in Argonne, Illinois. One of our readers called the Center and learned that the duplication fee for LLL BASIC is $\$ 159$.

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# Fifteen: A Game of Strategy (or Tic-Tac-Toe Revisited) 

John Rheinstein 10 Gould Rd<br>Lexington MA 02173

Most of us lost interest in the game of tic-tac-toe by the age of ten or twelve. By this time we had learned the strategy, and the game presented no further challenge. Upon casting the game in a different format, though, the strategy is no longer so obvious and a new, more challenging game may be developed. The game of Fifteen, described in Robert Teague's Computing Problems for FORTRAN Solution, is such a game.

Listing l: The game of Fifteen, written in Digital Group MaxiBASIC. The program can be easily modified to run in other versions of BASIC. Fifteen is a two player game. Players alternate picking numbers between 1 and 9, using each number only once. The object is to select numbers so that the sum of three of them is 15, while at the same time preventing the opponent from achieving the sum with three numbers.


The game of Fifteen is a two player game. The players alternate picking numbers between 1 and 9, using each number only once. The object is to select numbers such that the sum of three of them is 15 , and at the same time to prevent the opposing player from achieving a sum of 15 with three numbers. For example, assume that the two players are A and B. If the first player, A, picks the number 5 , the status of the game may be indicated as shown below:

$$
\begin{array}{lllllllll}
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9
\end{array}
$$

If the second player, $B$, then picks the number 3 , we have:

$$
\begin{array}{lllllllll}
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 \\
& & B & & A & & & &
\end{array}
$$

Continuing, we might have:

$$
\begin{array}{lllllllll}
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 \\
& B & A & A & B & & &
\end{array}
$$

Neither player can now achieve a sum of 15 in the next move, which might look as shown here:

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $B$ |  | $B$ | $A$ | $A$ | $B$ |  |  | $A$ |

On the next turn $A$ can win by picking 2 as follows:

$$
\begin{array}{lllllllll}
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 \\
\mathrm{~B} & \mathrm{~A} & \mathrm{~B} & \mathrm{~A} & \mathrm{~A} & \mathrm{~B} & & & \mathrm{~A}
\end{array}
$$

since the sum of $2+5+8$ is 15 .
The relationship between tic-tac-toe and the game of Fifteen, as described above, is based upon the 3 by 3 magic square:

| 6 | 1 | 8 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 7 | 5 | 3 |
| 2 | 9 | 4 |

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It may be seen that the sum of any horizon． tal row，any vertical column，or any diagonal is 15 ．In addition，no other combination of three of these numbers sums to 15 ．Thus playing the gome of Fifteen is the same as playing the game of tic－tac－toe if the rela－ tionship indicated in the masic square is known．If this relationship is not known， then derivation of the strategy，except by enumeration of all cases，is not trivial．

The accompanying listing was witten in MaxiBaSIC for a Digital Group 2.80 micro． computer．With minor changes it should run on any computer with BASIC．If your version of BASIC does not have an EXIT statement，then just leave this statement out of any lines in which it appears．The symbol \＃is a short form of the command PRINT． The program is based upon a modified ver． slon of the game of tic－tac－tos in David Ahl＇s 101 Bosic Gomes．As listed here，the com－ puter will make a random move on its first or second move，after which it will play perfectly．If you play periectly，you will either win or force tie，each of thase outcones having roughly an equal proba－ bility of occurrence．

If you are playing the game of tic．tactore as listed in Atl＇s book，inserting the follow． ing statement will make the game much more interesting by eliminating some less than optimal moves：

$$
1915 \mathrm{~B}(8)=\mathrm{A}(3.1)+\mathrm{A}(2,2)+\mathrm{A}(1,3)
$$

I have found that friends who evidence no intertest in playing the game of tic．tac－toe will play the game of Fifteen with great interest and find it to be challenging．As soon as I indicate the magic square relation－ ship with tic－tac－toe，the interest quickly wanes after just a few more games．I hope you＇ll find the game interesting，too．－

## Lieting 1 coverimupat：

| 380 | If A tR，Cl＜＞0 THEN 620 |
| :---: | :---: |
| 390 | LET A ©R，Cl－－1 |
| 400 | GOSUB 1660 |
| 410 | $1 F \mathrm{ZEI}$ THEN 400 |
| 420 | REM MACHINE MOVE |
| 430 | GOSUB 1100 |
| 449 | REM TEST FOR GAME WIN |
| 450 | GOSUB 1660 |
| 480 | 1F Z＝O THEN 660 |
| 490 | ${ }^{6}{ }^{\text {ma }}$ |
| 500 | FORK－ 1 TO日 |
| 510 |  |
| 520 | －TABt20）：K： |
| 530 | IF $6<>0$ THEN 560 |
| 540 | ${ }^{6}{ }^{* *}$ |
| 545 | GOTO575 |
| 550 | IF $\mathrm{B}>0$ THEN 570 |
| 580 | 両＂VOU |
| 565 | 9070571 |
| 550 | ＊＊ $\begin{gathered}\text {＊－80 }\end{gathered}$ |
| 571 |  |
| 873 | 嵒＊＊ |
| 575 | NEXTK |
| 580 | ＊＊＊ |


| $\begin{aligned} & 560 \\ & 600 \\ & 620 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { IF } Z<>0 \text { THEN } 2070 \\ & \text { GOTO } 330 \\ & \text { NHLLEGAL WOVE.TRVAGBAINN } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| 630 | ${ }^{* *}$ |
| 640 | GOTO 330 |
| 850 | LET T2－ 0 |
| 660 | FORJ＊TO3 |
| 670 | FORI－1TO3 |
| 680 | IF A $11 . \mathrm{N}<30$ THEN 700 |
| 680 | LET T2－T2＋1 |
| 700 | NEXTI |
| 710 | NEXTJ |
| 320 | IF T2＞0 THEN 270 |
| 730 | GOSU8 1340 |
| 740 | GOTO490 |
| 750 | If T2＞1THEN480 |
| 760 | FOR J－1 TO8 |
| 770 | IF B［J］－－2 THEN EXIT 800 |
| 780 | NEXTJ |
| 390 | 0010730 |
| 800 | 60SUB 2000 |
| 810 | GOTO 480 |
| 900 | FORJ＝ 1 TOS |
| 910 | $610=0$ |
| 920 | NEXTJ |
| 930 | FOR 1 － 1 TO3 |
| 940 | FORI－TO3 |
| 950 |  |
| 960 | $8(j+3)-8(y+3) \cdot A(1.0)$ |
| 870 | NEXTI |
| 980 | NEXTJ |
| 900 |  |
| 1000 | 6（8）－A 11.3$)$－ $1(2.21 * A(3.11$ |
| 1010 | AETUAN |
| 1100 | FORI $=2$ TO3 |
| 1110 | C［1］－INTI299＊RND（0l）+1 |
| 1120 | D 11 ＝INT $1299^{*}$ RND（01）$* 1$ |
| 1130 | NEXT： |
| 1200 | FOR＝TO8 |
| 1210 | IF B ［I］＞ 1 THEN EXIT $13 \% 0$ |
| 1220 | NEXTI |
| 1230 | FORI－1TOB |
| 1240 | If B （1）＜－I THEN EXIT 1370 |
| 1250 | NEXTI |
| 1270 | FOPK＝1 TOII |
| 1280 | LET |
| 1290 | LET J－D（K） |
| 1300 | IF A $11 . \mathrm{S}<3$－${ }^{\text {THEN }} 1330$ |
| 1310 | LETA ll．j－1 |
| 1320 | GOTO 1360 |
| 1330 | NEXTK |
| 1340 |  |
| 1350 | LET 2－3 |
| 1350 | RETURN |
| 1370 | IFI＞3 THEN 1440 |
| 1380 | FOR J＝1 TO3 |
| 1300 | If A II， D －OTHEN EXIT 1420 |
| 1400 | NEXTJ |
| 1410 | GOTO 1380 |
| 1420 |  |
| 1430 | GOTO 1340 |
| 1440 | IF I＞8 THEN 1510 |
| 1450 | FOR J＝ITO3 |
| 1480 | IFA W．1－31－0 THENEXIT 1490 |
| 1470 | NEXTJ |
| 1480 | GOTO 1360 |
| 1490 | LET A $(1.1-3)=1$ |
| 1500 | GOTO 1360 |
| 1510 | IF $\boldsymbol{\prime}>7$ THEN 1550 |
| 1620 | FOPJ－1 703 |
| 1530 | IFA $\mathrm{I}^{\text {d }}$ O 0 THEN EXIT 1590 |
| 1540 | NEXTJ |
| 1550 | IF A 11.310 THEN 1610 |
| 1680 | IFA（3，1）© THEN 1630 |
| 1570 | LET A $(2,2)=1$ |
| 1580 | GOTO 1360 |
| 1500 | LETA ${ }^{\text {d }}$－ 1 |
| 1600 | GOTO 1360 |
| 1640 | LET A 11.31 － 1 |
| 1620 | GOTO 1360 |
| 1630 | LET A $13.11=1$ |
| 1640 | GOTO 1300 |
| 1860 | LET TIO |
| 1700 | FORJ－1TO3 |
| 1710 | IF A W．If $<>A$（．）．2）THEN 1750 |
| 1720 | If A W，\｜l $\langle>$ A 9.31 THEN 1750 |
| 1730 |  |

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Listing 1 continued:

| 1740 | $A(J, 1)=3 * A(J, 1)$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| 1745 | $A(J, 2)=A(J, 1): A(J, 3)=A(J, 1)$ |
| 1750 | NEXT J |
| 1760 | FOR J = 1 TO 3 |
| 1770 | IF A $(1, \mathrm{~J})<>$ A $(2, \mathrm{~J})$ THEN 1810 |
| 1780 | IF A $(1, \mathrm{~J})<>$ A $(3, \mathrm{~J})$ THEN 1810 |
| 1790 | $\mathrm{T} 1=\mathrm{A}(1, \mathrm{~J})$ |
| 1800 | $A(1, J)=3^{*} A(1, J)$ |
| 1805 | $A(2, J)=A(1, J): A(3, J)=A(1, J)$ |
| 1810 | NEXT」 |
| 1820 | IF $\mathrm{A}(1,1)<>\mathrm{A}(3,3)$ THEN 1860 |
| 1830 | IF A 11.1$)<>$ A 2,2$)$ THEN 1860 |
| 1835 | $\mathrm{T} 1=\mathrm{A}(2,2)$ |
| 1840 | $A(1,1)=3 * A(1,1)$ |
| 1845 | $A(2,2)=A(1,1): A(3,3)=A(1,1)$ |
| 1860 | IF A (1.3) <> A (3.1) THEN 1910 |
| 1870 | IF A (1, 3) <> A 2,2$)$ THEN 1910 |
| 1880 | T1 $=A(2,2)$ |
| 1890 | $A(1,3)=3^{*} A(1,3)$ |

1920 GOTO 900
2010 LET Z=1
2020 RETURN

```
```

2040 LET Z=2
2050 RETURN
2080 INPUT X\$
2120 \#"."
2135 \#"'"
2140 \stackrel{\#}{\mathrm{ GOO }9999}
9999 END

```
```

```
1900 A(2,2)=A(1,3):A(3.1)=A(1,3)
```

```
1900 A(2,2)=A(1,3):A(3.1)=A(1,3)
1910 IF T1>0 THEN 2030
1910 IF T1>0 THEN 2030
1915 IF T1 < O THEN 2000
1915 IF T1 < O THEN 2000
2000 # # Y O U I N - T H I S T I ME ...
```

2000 \# \# Y O U I N - T H I S T I ME ...

```


```

2070 \#"'DO YOU WISH TO PLAY AGAIN (Y OR N) '":

```
2070 #"'DO YOU WISH TO PLAY AGAIN (Y OR N) '":
2090 IF X$= "Y" THEN 250
2090 IF X$= "Y" THEN 250
2090 1F X$= "Y" THEN 250
2090 1F X$= "Y" THEN 250
2130 ##"THANKS FOR THE GAME. HOPE YOU HAD FUN!!"
2130 ##"THANKS FOR THE GAME. HOPE YOU HAD FUN!!"
2150 DATA 2, 2,1,1,3,3,1,1,3,3,1,3,3,1,1,2,3,2, 2, 3, 2,1
2150 DATA 2, 2,1,1,3,3,1,1,3,3,1,3,3,1,1,2,3,2, 2, 3, 2,1
2160 DATA 2,3,3,1,1,2,1,1,2,2,3,3,3,2,1,3, 2,1
```

2160 DATA 2,3,3,1,1,2,1,1,2,2,3,3,3,2,1,3, 2,1

```
```

READY

```

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\section*{Lengueges Fория}

\title{
Comment and Correction for Mouse
}

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}

I enjoyed Peter Grogono's article on Mouse (July 1979 BYTE, page 198). It demonstrates that an interesting and powerful language can be implemented with very little effort, if carefully designed. The decision to express the program in a machine-independent form such as Pascal was especially commendable; it makes the program easier to understand and useful to a wider range of readers. I hope that other authors will follow this example.

A major benefit of a high-level program is that it is more easily understood and debugged than the equivalent assembly-language program. I hope to graphically demonstrate this claim by reporting on several bugs which I found in the Mouse interpreter program.

First off, there were several typographical errors in the listing. Line 42 should have read "CAL \(:=C A L-1\) ", not "CAL \(:=\) CAL \(=1\) ". This kind of syntax error would be caught by an assembler as well as a compiler, so Pascal is not ahead here. Line 176 should have been "PARAM: PARBAL: = PARBAL +1 ;" (a plus sign not a minus). In order to catch this error, one must understand the logic of the loop on lines 172 thru 179. The equivalent assembler code would be much more than eight lines long, and would contain a lot of extraneous detail (eg: how to access the STACK data structure); the incrementing and decrementing of PARBAL would not stand out at all.

The next problem I found was in the SKIP routine. It fails if it has to skip over a quoted string containing one of the bracketing characters. For example, consider the program fragment:

\section*{A. [ "PRINT A BRACKET ] HERE" ]}

If \(\mathrm{A} \leq 0, \mathrm{SKIP}\) will be invoked to skip over the conditional clause. In its present form it will only skip to the first right bracket; the interpreter then tries to evaluate the rest of the quoted string. When the closing quote is reached, control takes off looking for a matching quote, which is never found. We can fix this by rewriting SKIP as follows:
```

CNT:= 1;
repeat
GETCHAR;
if CH = '"' then
repeat GETCHAR until CH = 'm'
else if CH}=\textrm{LCH}\mathrm{ then CNT:= CNT +1
else if CH}=\textrm{RCH}\mathrm{ then CNT := CNT -1
until CNT = 0

```

This bug looks like a simple oversight. Such oversights
are probably more common in assembler programs, simply because there is more code and thus there are more opportunities to forget something.

The same problem exists in the loop on lines 182 thru 190, which searches for the desired actual parameter in a macroinstruction call. Furthermore, this loop will fail when an actual parameter being skipped over contains two adjacent macroinstruction calls, as in:
\#A, \#B, 1; \#C, 2; , 34;

Here, after skipping over "\#B, 1;" by calling SKIP at line 187, the GETCHAR on the same line advances CH to the following " \#". But since this is already past the test for \(\mathrm{CH}=\) '\#', the second macroinstruction call is not recognized as such. If we were looking for the second parameter of A, " 2 " would be found instead of " 34 ". What is really needed, following the call to SKIP, is to return to the GETCHAR call at line 183. With both problems fixed, the loop becomes:
```

repeat
GETCHAR;
if CH = '"' then
repeat GETCHAR until CH ='"'
else if CH = '\#' then SKIP('\#',';')
else if CH = '', then PARNUM:= PARNUM - 1
else if CH = ';' then PARNUM := 0
until PARNUM=0;

```

Notice that we have to modify the loop exit logic so that it will not exit after returning from SKIP (for we are not done scanning, even though \(\mathrm{CH}==^{\prime} ;{ }^{\prime}\) ). I suspect that the original code did exit the loop in this case, and that this bug arose as a result of trying to fix the SKIP code rather than the exit condition. This particular bug would never have occurred in assembler code, since after the call to SKIP one would merely jump back to the top of the loop; it illustrates that "GOTO-less programming" has its own pitfalls.
Finally, there is a subtle problem with the allocation of local variables for macroinstructions. Consider the program:
```

\#A, \#B; ;
\$A Q1=%A Q.I @
\$B Q33= @

\$\$
```

When $A$ is invoked it sets its local variable $Q$ to $I$, then evaluates its parameter, which results in $B$ being invoked. $B$ sets its local variable $Q$ to 33 . Since $A$ and $B$ have independent local variables, this should not change $A$ 's $Q$, so when A finally prints out the value of Q it should print 1.
With the interpreter as published, it prints 33 . This can be seen by following the manipulations of OFFSET. Initially $\operatorname{OFFSET}=0$, signifying that the main program's variables A thru $Z$ occupy DATA locations 1 thru 26.

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When macroinstruction A is invoked, OFFSET is set to 26 (see line 160 in the interpreter), so that A's variables occupy 27 thru 52; in particular, Q occupies 43 . When we start to evaluate A's actual parameter, OFFSET is reset to 0 (see line 181). This is essential since variable names within the text of the actual parameter should refer to main program variables. When the call to $B$ is processed, OFFSET is set to 26 (line 160 again ), so B's variables are allocated on top of A's variables. Hence, when B stores into its $Q$, A's $Q$ gets changed.
The problem essentially is that the variable OFFSET is used for two incompatible purposes. One is to keep track of the current context (ie: the set of locations to which the names A thru Z refer). The other is to remember how much of the DATA array is in use, so that fresh locations can be allocated when a macroinstruction is called. These uses are obviously incompatible because the total storage allocation changes only at macroinstruction call and return, while the context changes at macroinstruction call/return and when accessing actual parameters.

Once the problem is phrased this way, the fix is simple. I chose to retain OFFSET for indicating context, and to introduce a new variable LASTUSED for keeping track of free space. The required changes are:

> In line 17, add LASTUSED to the list of global integer variables.
> In line 88 , add "LASTUSED $:=26 ; "$
> Replace line 160 with "OFFSET $:=$ LASTUSED; LASTUSED $:=$ LASTUSED $+26 ; "$
> In line 166, add "LASTUSED $:=$ LASTUSED $-26 ; "$

OFFSET is still saved and restored in the control stack; LASTUSED need not be, since it can only change as shown above.

All these bugs were found during two evenings of studying the interpreter listing, with no machine use whatever. The fixes were invented in the same period. I was later able to test the fixes on a Pascal machine; they all worked correctly the first time. I am sure you will agree that equivalent problems in an assembler program would not have been detected so easily nor fixed so readily.
The approach recommended by Mr Grogono, namely coding the algorithm in a high-level language and then translating to assembler, has great merit. It is capable of
producing bug-free programs in a shorter time than the conventional methods. However, to achieve best results one must spend time examining the high-level program before plunging into assembler coding. (It helps a lot if you can actually run the program in that form.) As I hope I have demonstrated, it is much easier and quicker to remove bugs at this stage than later on.

## Peter Grogono Replies:

First of all, I would like to commend Mr Lane for so carefully reading and checking the Mouse interpreter before rushing off to the nearest computer and attempting to implement it. If more programmers behaved likewise, there might not be a "software crisis" in industry today.
The proof copy of listing 6 that I received was a poor photocopy, hence the typographical errors in the program. The proof of the article was very clear, so I have no excuse for the error in the right-hand column on page 205; the definition of $F$ should read:

$$
\$ \mathrm{~F} \% \mathrm{~A}=1\left(\mathrm{~N} . \mid \mathrm{N} .^{*} \mathrm{NN} .1-=\right) @
$$

I have little to say about Mr Lane's other points. The problems that he identifies are all genuine bugs, and his corrections are simple and elegant. I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to other readers who have been inconvenienced by them.

As I mentioned in the article, Mouse is based on a language that I first implemented several years ago. The bugs are, perhaps, partly due to my confusion between the old and new versions of the language. This confusion also appears in the design. I now feel that I should have made $\%$ a postfix operator with a numerical operand, like the other unary operators. The formal parameters are then $1 \%, 2 \%, \ldots$ rather than $\% A$, \% B,.... In general, \% may be preceded by any expression that has a positive value. This extends the power of the language, as can be seen from the following program, which prints 15:
\#S, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 0; !
\$S $\mathrm{N} 0=0(\mathrm{NN} .1+=\mathrm{N} . \% \mid \mathrm{N} . \%+) @$
$\$ \$$
The changes required to the interpreter are very small; in line 170 change

GETCHAR: PARNUM: $=$ NUM (CH);
to


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patible with DEC LSI-11 and PDP-11 computers. It is possible to transfer data and applications programs written for IBM machines directly to DEC computers, and vice versa. The DSD 480 features hardware bootstrap, off-line disk formatting, and
"Hyperdiagnostics"-a library of routines that perform system self-tests. Priced at $\$ 4495$, the DSD 480 is available from Data Systems Design, 3130 Coronado Dr, Santa Clara CA 95051.

Circle 595 on Inquiry card.

## Light Pen for the Apple II

A self-contained light pen which plugs directly into the Apple has been announced by the 3-G Co, Rt 3, POB 28A, Gaston OR 97119. The light pen bypasses the keyboard and interacts directly with the information displayed on the video screen. A menu can be displayed on the screen and the user can
make a selection from that menu by using the light pen. By elimination of the need to use the keyboard, children can use computers with the pen for educational purposes. A demonstration cassette, sample program, and complete programming instructions are included with the pen. The package sells for $\$ 32.95$.
Circle 596 on inquiry card.

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The information printed in the new products pages of BYTE is obtained from "new product" or "press release" copy sent by the promoters of new products. If in our judgement the information might be of interest to the personal computing experimenters and homebrewers who read BYTE, we print it in some form. We openly solicit releases and photos from manufacturers and suppliers to this marketplace. The information is printed more or less as a first in first out queue, subject to occasional priority modifications. While we would not knowingly print untrue or inaccurate data, or data from unreliable companies, our capacity to evaluate the products and companies appearing in the "What's New?" feature is necessarily limited. We therefore cannot be responsible for product quality or company performance.

Modem for Digital Devices


The Bell-compatible model 103 LP modem enables digital devices (computers and/or interactive terminals) to communicate with each other via the analog facilities of the telephone network. The model 103 LP allows fullduplex data communication at speeds of up to 300 bits per second (bps). All necessary operating power is taken directly from the telephone line. Only three snap-in connections are required to set up the unit. Connectors for RS-232 and current loop interfaces are featured. A talk/data switch enables the user to return the telephone to the voice communication mode without disturbing cable connections. The model 103 LP is less than 3.2 cm ( 1.25 inches) thick and fits under an ordinary telephone. The price is under $\$ 200$. For details, contact UDS, 5000 Bradford Dr, Huntsville AL 35805, (205) 837-8100.
Circle 597 on inquiry card.

## Lobo Drives Offers Expansion Interface for TRS-80

Lobo Drives International, 935 Camino Del Sur, Goleta CA 93017, announced the addition of an enhanced expansion interface for the Radio Shack TRS-80 personal computer.

The model LX80 can expand memory storage capacity up to 40 megabytes. It provides facilities for up to 32 K bytes of programmable memory and offers a second serial port. The keyboard readonly memory (ROM) can be overridden for booting in diagnostics and customized operating systems. There is a bidirectional parallel port exclusively for Lobo Drives' model 7710T Winchester hard-disk drive. Other features include a parallel Centronics printer port, screen printer port, two microprocessorcontrolled bidirectional serial ports, and a crystal-controlled real-time clock. The model LX80 expansion interface is priced at $\$ 525$.
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# Whats Now? 

## SYSTEMS

## 6809 SS-50 Microprocessor Card Is Also Stand-Alone Microcomputer

The SBC/9 card can be used as a stand-alone control computer or as an upgrade processor card for SS-50 bus microcomputers. It includes its own operating system; 1 K of programmable memory; IK bytes of read-only memory; and a full-duplex, RS-232C serial interface. The card is completely compatible with the $\mathrm{SS}-50$ bus and requires no modification. The SBC/9 hardware features include a port for 8 -bit bidirectional data lines, a multilevel data bus, extended address line capability to accommodate up to 16 megabytes of memory, a serial interface for use with cassette recorders, and more. The SBC/9 with the operating system and a manual sells for $\$ 199.95$ from Percom Data Co, 211 N Kirby, Garland TX 75042.
Circle 599 on inquiry card.

## Mainframe for PC/M's 12-bit, PDP-8-Compatible Microcomputer



The PCM-12 Omega mainframe is compatible with Digital Equipment Corporation's PDP-8 series minicomputers. The PCM-12 is based on the 6100 microprocessor and is softwarecompatible with all PDP-8 systems. The mainframe includes connectors for 18 plug-in cards (enough for 32 K words of memory), and up to 14 peripheral interfaces and input/output ( $1 / \mathrm{O}$ ) devices. The power supply is over-voltage protected and fold-back current limited. Operation is from 100 to $240 \mathrm{~V}, 50$ or 60 Hz . The front panel structure provides real-time operational display and includes all PDP-8/E functions, plus built-in bootstraps for paper tape, RX01 and RX02 floppy disks, RK05 hard disk, and TU-58 DECtape. The Omega mainframe is priced at $\$ 889$. Contact PC/M Inc, 6800 Dublin Blvd, Dublin CA 94566, (415) 829-8700. Circle 601 on inquiry card.

## R2E Introduces a Single Board Microcomputer

The model $80-20$ is a small-business microcomputer system. The single board system includes a 280 microprocessor; 32 K bytes of programmable memory, expandable to 64 K bytes; two singlesided, double-density, 5 -inch floppy-disk drives with 140 K bytes of storage on each; an ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange) keyboard; parallel Centronics printer


## 64 K-Byte Board Compatible with S-100 Bus Systems and MP/M

The DMB6400, a 64 K bankselectable, dynamic-memory board, is compatible with Alpha Micro, Cromemco, North Star Horizon, and other S-100 bus computers, as well as MP/M systems. The memory board uses output-port addressing for the bankselect feature and is configured as 4 independent 16 K -byte banks of memory. Any of the 256 ports can be decoded, and 8 banks of memory are
interface; cabinet and power supply. The system also has a 1024 -character uppercase and lowercase video display. Software for the model $80-20$ includes R2E's BAL Language (Business Oriented BASIC) with sequential, indexed sequential, and random access file management, plus a macroassembler. Optional are FORTRAN, COBOL, Pascal, APL, CBASIC, and MBASIC (compiler and interpreter). These operate under CP/M. The $80-20$ is priced under $\$ 3000$. For more information, contact R2E of America, 47 Bedford St S E, Minneapolis MN 55414. Circle 600 on inquiry card. , is her M

## 8-Inch Floppy-Disk Controller

Disk $2+2$ is a single-density, 8 -inch floppy-disk controller for the Apple II computer. It increases the data on line, increases the individual file size, and reduces the number of disks handled by the user. The board operates under the Apple disk operating system 3.1 or 3.2 . It will control up to 4 standard 8 -inch floppy-disk drives. The card uses a 1771 LSI controller integrated circuit that allows exchange from the Apple to IBM 3740 format. Disk $2+2$ costs $\$ 400$ and is available from Apple dealers. For more information, contact Sorrento Valley Associates, 11722 Sorrento Valley Rd, San Diego CA 92121.
Clrcle 603 on inquiry card.

## Sink the Bismarck

Computer Bismarck is an historical simulation game of the British attempt to seek and destroy the German battleship Bismarck in 1941. The game is played on an Apple II with Applesoft read-only memory (ROM) or an Apple II Plus. The game requires 48 K bytes of programmable memory and a floppydisk drive. It features high-resolution


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Price for the LX140 in quantities of 100 and up is $\$ 199$.
Clrcle 604 on Inquiry card.
color graphics and can be played by one or two players. Players take turns moving their vessels and aircraft across the North Atlantic. Only enemy units which are spotted are revealed to the players. Rules cover all of the critical aspects of the naval campaign, from weather to ship fuel capacities. Combat
occurs when opposing units have spotted each other. Computer Bismarck comes with a program disk, rule book, and 7 player-aid charts for $\$ 59.95$ from Strategic Simulations Inc, POB 5161. Stanford CA 94305.
Circle 605 on inquiry card.

## 64 K-Byte Dynamic Programmable Memory Board

The ST4203, a 64 K-byte dynamic programmable-memory board, is compatible with any processor in the STD BUS environment, and will operate at any microprocessor speed, up to and including 4.0 MHz . The onboard refresh
controller feature allows the processor to synchronize to external events, or use peripheral controllers which require multiple WAIT states without regard to refresh timing. The ST4203 can take the place of four 16 K static programmablememory cards, and it can make a vailable 3 slots in the STD BUS card cage. Memory expansion for bankselection and phantom-memory opera-
tions are selectable. A number of WAITRQ options are also available. Prices range from $\$ 220$ for a card without memory to $\$ 700$ for a complete 64 K -byte unit in the 2.5 MHz version. For more information, contact Applied Micro Technology, POB 3042, Tucson AZ 85702.
Circle 606 on inquiry card.


## Memory Board for Hewlett-Packard 9845B/T Computer

Eventide Clockworks, 265 W 54th St, New York NY 10019, is manufacturing and marketing a board which adds 128 K bytes of programmable memory to the Hewlett-Packard (HP) 9845B/T computer. The Eventide WMAP-1 has identical capabilities to those of the HP part \#09845-66526, but it costs half as much. The WMAP-1 board carries a full 1 -year parts and labor warranty. Complete schematics, field installation instructions, and troubleshooting data are provided.
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Catalog for Micah Software

A four-page foldout catalog lists software from Micah, POB 22212, San
Francisco CA 94122. Micah software
products include Expand, which expands CP/M to run Cromemco software; Spool, a spooler for CP/M or Cromemco; CBIOS, CP/M for Cromemco computers; and DUP/1, disk utilities for

CP/M and CDOS. Micah also has Osborne business software and graphics software. Contact the company for a copy of the catalog. Circle 608 on inquiry card.

## Tabletop Winchester Tape Cartridge Add-On for DEC PDP-11

ABC Computers Inc, 500 Tonopah, POB 7529, Tahoe City CA 95730, (916)

583-5562, is offering a tabletop, 20-megabyte add-on Winchester system with a tape-cartridge backup unit for the Digital Equipment Corporation PDP-11 Series. The Winchester is the Marksman 14 drive from Cal Comp, a division of

Xerox. The 17-megabyte tape cartridge is produced by DEI. The entire system is delivered in a 27.5 cm ( 10.5 inch ) high cabinet complete with power supply and controller for $\$ 8600$.
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## A New Software Vendor Directory

The Software Vendor Directory, a listing of microcomputer software vendors, is available from Micro-Serve Inc, POB 482, Nyack NY 10960. The publication lists over 700 vendors within 35 categories of hardware and operating
systems. Software is classified into personal (games, etc), programming (operating systems, utilities, languages, etc), general business, and industry business (insurance, medical, etc). Vendors of books and other publications have also been included. The directory is designed for hardware and software vendors, computer stores, consultants,
programming services, sales and marketing people; in short, those who need information on software products for microcomputers. The Software Vendor Directory is priced at $\$ 37.95$. A quarterly update service is also offered at a price of $\$ 9.95$ per issue.

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## 12-Inch Monitor for Under $\$ 200$

Leedex Corp, 2300 E Higgins Rd, Elk Grove Village IL 60007, has introduced a 12 -inch black and white monitor, the Video 100-80. Built for industrial use, the monitor includes a metal cabinet and a removable face plate that provides mounting space for a floppy-disk drive. There is also space inside the cabinet for an 11-by-14 printed circuit board for custom-designed electronics. The 90 -degree deflection picture tube allows an 80 -character by 24 -line display, and the unit features a 12 MHz bandwidth.

The Video $100-80$ is plug compatible with Apple, Atari, Radio Shack, OSI, Microterm, and Exidy computers. It is priced under $\$ 200$.
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## Light Pen for Apple II Users

The Lipson Light Pen is now available for the Apple II. The pen is packaged with 12 BASIC programs on cassette, a manual, cable, and a connector to PDL(0) on the Apple II. The demonstration programs are designed to be incorporated into programs created by the user. The pen utilizes a cadmium selenide cell for light detection, enabling the user to detect and measure varying intensities of light. High-resolution graphics, sound, and color are implemented in the demonstration programs. The Lipson Light Pen is available exclusively from ARESCO, POB 1142, Columbia MD 21044, for $\$ 24.95$.

## Floppy-Disk HeadCleaning Kits from 3M

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# Whats New? <br> mISCELLANEOUS 

## Upgrade TRS-80 to Emulate Z80 CP/M System

The "Freedom Changes" are upgrades for the Radio Shack TRS-80 Model I personal computer. The Freedom Option reorganizes memory to emulate a standard Z 80 machine that responds to $\mathrm{CP} / \mathrm{M}$ software. The extended memory adds programmable memory to the Model I, bringing it up to 64 K bytes. Part of it is available in normal TRS-80 mode.
The Freedom Option consists of a board, system disk, and instructions. The board configures programmable memory at the bottom and the memorymapped areas on top. The disk has the T8 operating system and the software to utilize the switch to make the system compatible with CP/M software. The disk format is changed to read and write in the IBM-compatible 128 -byte sector convention. The system will recognize 35 - or 40 -track disk configurations. The extended memory puts certain unusable address locations into operation, thus adding 2560 bytes of programmable memory under normal TRS-80 operation. This space is ideal for programs

such as RS-232 communication, debounce, lowercase, and more. In the Freedom mode, the extended memory allows the machine to function on programmable memory only.

Both changes require a 48 K -byte disk system. Only the extended memory
requires minor hardware changes. The Freedom Option is priced at $\$ 245$ and the extended memory is $\$ 295$. Contact Field Engineering Consultants Ltd, POB 2368, Woburn MA 01888, (617) 944-5329.
Circle 614 on inquiry card.

Card File Consolidates AIM-65 with Expansion File

The MTU K-1005A-A card file integrates the AIM-65 computer, keyboard, and a series of expansion boards into a single compact unit. Drawing no power, the unbuffered motherboard utilizes the AIM bus structure to carry expansion connector signals to up to 4 additional boards. A fifth undedicated position is provided for a board not on the bus. The card file features a U-shaped black-anodized aluminum frame measuring 39.5 by 29.5 by 11.5 cm ( 15.5 by 11.5 by 4.5 inches). Other card files are offered for the PET, KIM-1, and SYM-1 computers.
The MTU K-1005A-A card file is

priced at $\$ 95$, including manual. For additional information, write Micro Technology Unltd, 841 Galaxy Way, POB 4596, Manchester NH 03108. Circle 615 on inquiry card.

## AC Remote-Control System for the PET

Honders Inc offers a complete AC remote-control system for the Commodore PET or CBM. Most electrical devices can be switched on or off and lamps can be dimmed or brightened under computer control. No additional wiring is needed. Up to 256 points can be controlled. This system is useful for security- and energy-control systems. The basic package includes a plug-in module to the PET's second port, 3 remote power controllers, and a cassette software package for demonstration and applications. The package may be ordered for $\$ 179$ from Honders Inc, Kennel Rd, Cuddebackville NY 12729.
Circle 616 on inquiry card.

## Sound Generator for the Apple II

Symtec Inc has introduced a soundsynthesizer card for the Apple II. The Super Sound Generator, or SSG, uses 13 programmable registers to control three voices. The SSG is provided with an output cable and RCA phono plug for hook-up to stereo systems. It features separate 8 -bit parallel input and output
(I/O) ports for connection to accessories, such as an alphanumeric keyboard, an organ keyboard interface, or a parallel printer driver. SSG control is accomplished with a series of 4 POKES to 3 memory locations. The SSG card may be programmed in any language available for the Apple. The music composing software provides for entry and editing of the entire music score using keyboard commands. The
score can be copied by a graphics printer. Stereo effects and orchestrations can be produced using multiple cards. Up to 21 voices can be accessed by the user with a complete complement of SSG cards. The Symtec SSG is available for \$159.95 from Symtec Inc, POB 462 , Farmington MI 48024.

# What's New? MISCELLANEOUS 

## Datagrid II ComputerAided Drafting Systems Brochure

The Datagrid II series of computeraided drafting systems is described in a brochure from Summagraphics Corporation. The Datagrid II series are used by engineers, draftsmen, and others to create designs and drawings. The brochure is free from Summagraphics Corp, Dept MS-80, 35 Brentwood Ave, Fairfield CT 06430, (203) 384-1344. Circle 648 on inquiry card.


## High-Resolution Video Display with a Refresh Rate of 60 Hz

A black and white high-resolution video display which refreshes at 60 Hz (eliminating the flicker of many highresolution displays) has been introduced by Calma, 527 Lakeside Dr, Sunnyvale CA 94086. The RB1000 uses an internal graphics processor with its own raster memory that controls all display func-
tions. This allows the refresh rate of 60 times per second. The high resolution of the 1280 -by-1024 video monitor eliminates the "stair-stepping" appearance of nonorthogonal lines. Separate video screens for graphic displays and for nongraphic alphanumeric data are provided. The unit features selective erase, on-screen menus, and multiport views. The Calma RB1000 is available on Calma interactive-graphics systems as an extra item.
Circle 619 on inquiry card

## Anniversary Catalog from V R Data

V R Data has introduced its eighth anniversary catalog. The complete Centronics and Apple line of equipment and supplies from MPI, Pertec, Nashua, NEC, Memorex, Maxell, and Dysan are
featured. V R Data also includes its disk head-cleaning kit for 5 - and 8 -inch floppy-disk drives, for $\$ 12.95$. For a catalog, call toll free, (800) 345-8102, or write V R Data Corp, 777 Henderson Blvd, Folcroft Industrial Park, Folcroft PA 19032.
Circle 620 on inquiry card.

## Letter-Quality Printer Interface from MicroPro

The I/OMaster S-100 interface board allows use of lower cost letter-quality printers and/or high-speed line printers within the same microcomputer configuration. The I/OMaster interfaces with less expensive versions of the NEC, Diablo, and Qume letter-quality printers, and can also be used with highspeed Centronics printers for draft and nonletter-quality applications. The board features two serial and two parallel ports, and 8-level interruptcontrol and dual-interval timer circuitry. The two 8251-based serial ports have built-in 32-character first-in, first-out (FIFO) buffers to prevent loss of data during switching operations. The I/OMaster costs $\$ 400$ from MicroPro International Corp, 1299 Fourth St, San Rafael CA 94901, (415) 457-8990. Circle 621 on inquiry card.

## Report on the Warnier-Orr Diagram

A Powerful Structured Tool: WarnierOrr Diagram is a report providing a strong introduction to the Warnier-Orr diagram. The report includes an overview of system and program design and documentation tools; the need for proper logical tools; how to read a Warnier-Orr diagram; benefits of the diagram; the use of the diagram to develop the mini-specs of structured analysis and to document existing systems; and more. The report includes an annotated bibliography containing 20 entries, a capsule description of a software package to automate the diagram, and 5 illustrations. The Warnier-Orr report is available for $\$ 12$ (prepaid) from Shetal Enterprises, Dept 2, 1787 B W Touhy, Chicago IL 60626. Circle 622 on inquiry card.

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-OEM (500 piece) price


Circle 237 on inquiry card.


# Wherls New? <br> SOFTWARE 

## Word Processing for the UCSD Pascal Operating System

Renaissance Systems Inc, 11760 Sorrento Valley Rd, Suite M, San Diego CA 92121, has announced two software packages for the UCSD Pascal operating system. PROFF is a program to format and print text files. The PROFF package features adjustable margins; filling, centering, and adjusting; automatic
pagination; text underscoring and printing. An "include" command allows reading from files other than the original ${ }^{-}$ input file.

The FORML package aids the user in document generation. Multiple copies of a form letter, each addressed to a different individual, can be produced. FORML requires a PROFF source file to perform textual substitution, then it calls PROFF to produce the modified copy of the document. The packages currently
support output to a Diablo Hytype II printer, a disk file, the system console, or the system printer. The packages are available in machine-readable form on an 8 -inch soft-sectored, single- or double-density floppy disk. Manuals are included with the package or purchased separately for $\$ 25$. The PROFF package costs $\$ 425$ and the PROFF and FORML package is $\$ 500$.

Circle 623 on Inquiry card

## Space Shuttle Landing Simulator for the Apple II

Modeled after the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Shuttle Mission Simulator in Houston, Texas, this program is a real flight simulator (except for roll motion) with a visual display of the sky and ground. High-resolution color graphics show the shuttle's forward view using animation, projective geometry, and machine language to depict the runway, sky, ground, and distant scenery. Flight data, messages, and warnings are printed on the screen. Functional features are angle of attack control, speed brakes, full stall capability, landing gear, wheel brakes, eject, variable pitch rate control, and more. Runway stripes on rollout give a visual indication of motion. The program requires 48 K bytes of memory. Version $A$ is for Applesoft read-only memory (ROM) and version B for Applesoft programmable memory. The price is $\$ 17$ for the cassette and $\$ 21$ for the floppy disk. It is available from Harvey's Space Ship Repair, POB 3478, University Park, Las Cruces NM 88003, (505) 522-1482 (evenings).
Circle 624 on inquiry card.

## Keyboard Expandor

This hardware and software modification transforms Apple II microcomputers into complete uppercase and lowercase systems. Cap and shift locks are included; all Apple characters and monitor editing functions are maintained. Software is transparent to the user and compatible with the Apple disk operating system. Uppercase and lowercase can be used in text files, in PRINT and REM statements within BASIC programs, in disk operating system file names, and in immediate mode. The software runs in 250 bytes of memory. It costs $\$ 20$ and is available from C and H Micro, POB 249, Clifton Park NY 12065. Circle 628 on inquiry card.

## Software for Music Board on CP/M-Compatible Disk

Software support for the Newtech Model 6 music board is available on CP/M-compatible disks. The MV80 Multivoice Music Interpreter allows the user to enter four-voice music in a simple notation. The waveforms for each voice can be individually controlled to create the impression of an instrumental quartet. MV80 requires CBASIC2 and a 40 K -byte or larger 8080, Z80, or 8085 CP/M system. MV80 is available on 8 -inch floppy disks for $\$ 29.95$ including a manual. Contact Newtech Computer Systems Inc, 230 Clinton St, Brooklyn NY 11201.
Circle 625 on inquiry card.

## 68' FORTH for 6809

$68^{\prime}$ FORTH is a 6809 implementation of the FORTH language, which is a combination operating system, interpreter, and compiler. It is well suited for situations where it is necessary to be able to quickly test and modify routines or data, especially in the development of algorithms, graphics, data collection and analysis, and instrument control. 68' FORTH consists of full FORTH Interest Group standard vocabulary to 31 characters, 16 - and 32 -bit integer mathematics, compiler error checking,

## Atari and Texas Instruments Software

Image Computer Products Inc, 615 Academy Dr, Northbrook IL 60062, has introduced a series of programs for the Atari 400 and 800 series and the Texas Instruments $99 / 4$ microcomputers. The programs include Baseball, Wall Street Challenge, Mind Master, Strategy Pack, Skill Builder, and Tournament Brick Bat. There are two copies of each program, which arrive on cassette. Some of the simulation games allow users to save the program on tape in the middle of a game, so that play can be resumed later. The prices for the programs are $\$ 19.95$ and $\$ 29.95$.
Clicle 626 on inquiry card.
and a source text editor, The system is supplied with additional vocabulary to simulate disk in memory, to use the disk for virtual memory, to interface with FLEX 9.0 text files, and to perform standard FORTH disk-block read and write. It is supplied on 5 -inch floppy disks configured for SWTPC MF-68 systems. The minimum memory requirement is 8 K bytes for FLEX plus 12 K bytes of programmable memory. The disk plus documentation is $\$ 39.95$ from Talbot Microsystems, 2433 Dorrington St, Houston TX 77030.
Circle 627 on inquiry card.

## Four-Part Music System for PET

A B Computers, 115 E Stump Rd, Montgomeryville PA 18936, has announced a system that enables PET users to create and play musical compositions of up to four parts. The KL-4M board includes an 8 -bit digital-to-analog (D/A) converter, a low-pass filter, and an audio amplifier. No additional hardware other than a speaker is required. Connection is made via the PET parallel and cassette ports. The KL-4M is compatible with any of the four-part music
monitors. The Visible Music Monitor is written in 6502 machine language and displays the musical staff and notes for all four voices on the PET screen. It includes edit capabilities, successive piece loading without intervention, userdefinable keyboard, tempo flexibility, transpose capability, and waveform modification capability. Music can be played with or without note display. The entire system is $\$ 59.90$. The KL-4M board is $\$ 34.90$ and the Visible Music Monitor is $\$ 29.90$.

## I/OS Disk Operating <br> System for Microcomputers

InfoSoft Systems Inc has introduced its I/OS disk operating system for 8080 , 8085 , and $Z 80$ disk-based systems. The system is designed for use with hard and
floppy disks and has a file capacity exceeding 268 megabytes. It features printer spooling, supports up to 15 disk units, includes a symbolic debugger, text editor, directory status, disk-copy and file-transfer programs, disk and memory diagnostics, and a printout formatting facility.

I/OS Version 3.0 is compatible with the CDOS 02.00 from Cromemco Inc. I/OS is also compatible with CP/M versions 2.0 and earlier. The price of the package is $\$ 150$ plus a dealer configuration fee. Contact InfoSoft Systems Inc, 25 Sylvan Rd S, Westport CT 06880. Circle 630 on inquiry card.

## Home Improvements Program for the Imagination Machine

APF Electronics Inc, 444 Madison Ave, New York NY 10022, (212) 758-7550, has announced the Space, Size, and Surface program for its personal computer, The Imagination Machine. The program assists
homeowners with home improvements involving maintenance, covering surfaces, and materials required. It calcuates the necessary materials for lawn projects, wall papering, painting, panelling, tiling, and more. The program asks for dimensions and areas to be covered or left uncovered, and then tabulates the amount of materials required to complete the job. The program

## Educational Programs for the PET

This series of documented programs will run in 8 K bytes of programmable memory and requires no peripherals. One series is entitled "Mathematical Enrichment." Programs such as "Symmetry" and "Third-Dimension" suit themselves to planned curriculum or experimentation. A second series features cooperative games for various ages; many are based on the ideas of Jim Deacove of Family Pastimes. Prices range from $\$ 10$ to $\$ 20$ per documented cassette. For complete information, contact Go:Forth Microcomputing, 329-22 St E, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, S6V 1N3 CANADA.
Circle 632 on inquiry card

## Lifeboat Puts CP/M on Altair Disk

The Lifeboat implementation of the CP/M operating system on the Altair and MITS 3202 series of floppy-disk systems takes advantage of the 300 K bytes of memory capacity per disk and the error-free characteristics of the equipment. No changes of any kind are required. With the use of CP/M on the Altair disk, users will have access to the broad range of systems and applications software available. Languages such as C , COBOL, FORTRAN, Pascal, and BASIC are available, as are applications from word processing to accounting. The price for the CP/M system is $\$ 145$. Contact Lifeboat Associates, 2248 Broadway, New York NY 10024. Circle 633 on inquiry card.
also compares the costs of different products and computes various percentage margins to allow for extra materials due to patterns and fittings around doors and windows. The price for Space, Size, and Surface Guide program is between $\$ 19.95$ and $\$ 29.95$, depending on the format.
Circle 631 on inquiry card

## North Star BASIC SCAN Command

Scan is a machine-language utility program that can be added to North Star BASIC. It allows the user to scan a BASIC line from a single character or variable to complete sentences or key words. The SCAN command operates like LIST except that it lists only those lines that contain the item being scanned for. In the debug mode, it will find all references to any line number such as in GOSUB or GOTO statements. Scan works with single-, double-, or quaddensity versions of North Star BASIC. It is available for $\$ 27.50$ from Electronic Technicians Software Services, 1072 Casitas Pass Rd, Carpinteria CA 93013, (805) 684-6049.

Circle 634 on inquiry card.


## VAK-4 16K STATIC RAM BOARD

- Designed specifically for use with the AIM-65, SYM-1, and KIM-1 microcomputers
- Two separately addressable 8 K -blocks with write protect.
- Designed for use with the VAK-1 or KIM-4* motherboards
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*Product of MOS Technology


# Whats Now? 

## PUBLICATIONS

## UCSD Pascal Newsletter

This newsletter is addressed to those using UCSD Pascal on LSI-11 computers. The first issue contains a detailed article on the situation regarding UCSD and Softech and the licensing problems. It also includes a precise report on the different versions of UCSD Pascal and the anomalies that exist in versions. The publisher is using 8 -inch floppy-disk drives with his system and includes articles on the use of the drives and text formatting with the systern. There are items of interest concerning new products for the system and letters from users. To get on the mailing list, send \$2 to Jim McCord, 330 Vereda Leyenda, Goleta CA 93017.
Circle 635 on inquiry card.

## Dataguide

Dataguide is a 500-page purchasing guide to original equipment manufacturers computer hardware, software, supplies, and accessories. It is published in the spring and fall; the subscription rate is $\$ 38$ per year. Dataguide features a manufacturers directory and a product

## Computer Careers Magazine

Computer Careers Magazine is dedicated to the computer job market. The audience is made up of systems analysts, programmers, data processors, and technicians. The magazine contains news and information directed to the computer professional, with an emphasis on career development. Feature articles in this twice monthly magazine cover career goals, communicating more effectively, preparing resumes, and choosing the right company. Other areas covered are company profiles, supportive editorials, and classifieds. Contact Computer Careers Magazine, 3901 MacArthur Blvd, Newport Beach CA 92660. Circle 636 on inquiry card.
directory. The manufacturers directory contains over 1500 listings of companies with detailed information on each company. The product directory lists nearly 6000 companies organized under categories which include computers and microprocessors, memory systems, disk drives, tape drives, video displays, printers, and plotters, and more.

## Catalogs for Printers and Punched Paper-Tape Readers

Design literature and catalogs for printers and punched paper-tape readers are now available. Printers are numeric and limited-alphanumerical and are largely used for data logging. The readers read punched paper-tape prepared to American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards for levels five to eight at up to 150 characters per second (cps) asynchronously, and are used for computer entry, numerical control, data transmission, and programmable read-only memory (PROM) programmers. For more information, contact Addmaster Corp, 416 Junipero Serra Dr, San Gabriel CA 91776, (213) 285-1121
Circle 637 on inquiry card.

Subscription order forms may be obtained by contacting Sentry Publishing Co, 5 Kane Industrial Dr, Hudson MA 01749, (617) 562-9308. Clicle 638 on inquiry card.


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$1149 \quad 525.16 \quad$ Apple, North star
$2330 \quad 577.01$ micropolis
$\begin{array}{lll} & 5331 & 577.01 \\ 577.10 & \text { soft sector certified }\end{array}$
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The EMAKO 22 microprinter is a dependable, low cost, addition for leatures a $9 \times 7$ dot-matrix character format. bu-directional printing at 125 CPS and sprocket feed paper
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| 2455 | Parallel Interface Model | 22 lb. | $\$ 834.75$ |
| 2456 | RS232-C Serial Model | 22 lb. | $\$ 894.00$ |

## Fuller Electronics

## TRS-80 LPRINT/LLIST PLUG

Many users are faced with the pro- tive! Simply connect the TRS. 80 blem of running programs with LPRINT/LLIST plug to your line want a print LPRINTS have to be removed from connected to your machine. Easy the program before it will run. and installation and detailed instruc this takes time and ties up your tions. Wt. 2 oz. \$17.95
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T.V.

TYPEWRITER


- Stand alone TVT - 32 char/line. 16 lines. modifications for 64 char/line included - Parallel ASCII (TTL) input - Video output - 1 K on board memory - Dutput for computer controlled curser Auto scroll - Nondestructive curser Curser inputs: up. down. left, right, home, EDL, EOS - Scroll up. down - Requires +5 volts at 1.5 amps , and -12 volts at 30 mA - All 7400, TTL chips $\cdot$ Char. gen. 2513 Upper case only $\bullet$ Board only \$39.00 Part No. 106, with parts $\$ 145.00$ Part No. 106A


## 44 BUS MOTHER

 BOARD

Has provisions for ten 44 pin (.156) connectors. spaced $3 / 4$ of an inch apart. Pin 20 is connected to $X$, and 22 is connected to $Z$ for power and ground. All the other pins are connected in parallel. This board also has provisions for bypass capacitors. Board cost $\$ 15.00$ Part No. 102. Connectors $\$ 3.00$ each Part No. $44 W P$.

- Converts serial to parallel and parallel to serial - Low cost on board baud rate generator © Baud rates: $110,150,300,600$. 1200, and 2400 . Low power drain +5 volts and -12 volts required - TTL compatible - All characters contain a start bit. 5 to 8 data bits, 1 or 2 stop bits, and either odd or even parity. - All connections go to a 44 pin gold plated edge connector - Board only $\$ 12.00$ Part No. 101. with parts $\$ 35.00$ Part No. 101A. 44 pin edge connector $\$ 4.00$ Part Connector
No. 44 P


## RS-232/20mA

 INTERFACE

This board has two passive, opto-isolated circuits. One converts RS-232 to 20 mA , the other converts 20 mA to RS232 All connections go to a 10 pin edge connector. Requires +12 and -12 volts. Board only $\$ 9.95$ part no. 7901. with parts \$14.95 Part No. 7901A.

## ASCIITOCORRESPONDENCE

CODE CONVERTER
This bidirectional board is a direct replace ment for the board inside the Trendata 1000 terminal. The on board connector provides RS-232 serial in and out. Sold only as an assembled and tested unit for $\$ 249.95$. PartNo. TA 1000 C

## ASCII KEYBOARD

53 Keys popular ASR-33 format - Rugged G-10 P. C. Board - Tri-mode MOS encoding - Two-Key Rollover •MOS/DTL/TTL Compatible - Upper Case lockout - Data and Strobe inversion option. Three User Definable Keys. Low contact bounce - Selectable Parity • Custom Keycaps • George Risk Model 753. Requires $+5,-12$ volts. $\$ 59.95$ Kit

## ASCII KEYBOARD

TTL \& DTL compatible - Full 67 key array - Full 128 character ASCII output - Positive logic with outputs resting low - Data Strobe - Five user-definable spare keys - Standard 22 pin dual card edge connector - Requires $+5 V D C .325 \mathrm{~mA}$. Assembled \& Tested. Cherry Pro Part No. P70-05AB. \$119.95.


COMPRINT
PRINTER
T.V. INTERFACE


- Converts video to AM modulated RF. Channels 2 or 3. So powerful almost no tuning is required. Dn board regulated power supply makes this extremely stable. Rated very highly in Doctor Dobbs' Journal. Recommended by Apple Power required is 12 volts AC C.T.. or +5 volts DC - Board only $\$ 7.60$ part No. 107. with parts $\$ 13.50$ Part No. 107A
SOROC IG 120


Upper/lower case dis* play - Numeric keypad \& cursor keys - Protected fields, $1 / 2$ intensity display • RS 232 interface \& aux. port. IQ120-\$799.95. 10140 Detachable key-board-\$1199.95

RS-32/TTL INTERFACE


- Converts TTL to RS232, and converts RS232 to TTL - Two separate circuits - Requires -12 and +12 volts - All connections volts - All connections
go to a 10 pin edge go to a 10 pin edge
connector, kit $\$ 9.95$ Part No.232A 10Pnedgeconnector $\$ 3.00$ part No. 10p.
- Converts a low cost tape recorder to a digital recorder • Works up to 1200 baud • Digital in and out are TTLserial - Output of board connects to mic. in of recorder - Earphone of recorder connects to input on board - No coils - Requires +5 volts. low power drain - Board only $\$ 7.60$ Part No. 111 with parts $\$ 29.95$ Part No. 111 A


## MODEM



- Type 103 - Full or half duplex - Works up to 300 baud - Driginate or Answer - Serial TTL input and output e connect 811 speaker and crystal mic. directly to board - Requires +5 volts - Board only $\$ 7.60$ Part No. 109, with parts $\$ 29.95$ Part No. 109A.

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With reg. keyboard MOD3 日K \$1595.95 MDD4 16K \$1695.95 MDD 5 З2K $\$ 1995.95$ Now includes $\$ 250$ more. worth of software and accessories with 101 key option add $\$ 134.95$ with 117 key option add $\$ 179.95$

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- Board supplies a regulated +5 volts at 3 amps.. $+12,-12$, and -5 volts at 1 amp. - Power required is $B$ volts $A C$ at 3 amps., and 24 volts AC C.T. at 1.5 amps. - Board only $\$ 12.50$ Part No. 6085 , with parts excluding transformers $\$ 42.50$ Part No. 60B5A


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16K \$975.95, Extra 16K E.S. RAM installed \$74.95. extra 32KE.S. RAMinstalled $\$ 148.95$

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 MT. HARDWARE Double the utility of your S-100 bus computer with a real-time clock that keeps time in $100 \mu \mathrm{~S}$ increments for over 273 years. Program events for the entire period with real time interrupts...without deraling the system. Maintain a log of computer usage, time and date transaction printouts. calluplists...virtually any activity where time is a factor: On-boand battery backup. MHPXOO4$\$ 249.95$
## SUPER MODEM



Orignate. RS-232 and 20 mA compatable, Full duplex, and half duplex. direct connect or acoustic coupled, on board power supply, carrier detect light. DB25 plug. 300 BAUD, Type 103 compatable frequencies. Bare board Part No. 2000, \$19.95. Kit Part No 2000A. $\$ 99.95$.

## 16K EPROM

## . New

Uses 2708 EPROMS memory speed selec tion provided, addressable anywhere in 65 K of memory. can be shadowed in 4 K increments. Board only $\$ 24.95$ part no. 7902. with parts less EPROMs\$49.95part no. 7902A.

OPTO-ISOLATED PARALLELINPUT BOARD FOR APPLE


There are 8 inputs that can be driven from TTL logic or any 5 volt source. The circuit board can be plugged into anyof the 8 sockets of your Apple II. It has a 16 pin socket for standard dip ribbon cable connection. Board only\$15.00. Part No. 120, with parts \$69.95. Part No. 120A

VIDEO TERMINAL


16 lines, 64 columns $\cdot$ Upper and lower case $5 \times 7$ dot matrix - Serial RS-232 in and out with TTL parallel keyboard input - On board baud rate generator 75, 110. $150,300,600, \&$ 1200 jumper selectable • Memory 1024 characters (7-21L02) - Video processor chip SFF96364 by Necu lonic - Control characters CCR, LF $\rightarrow$, -- \& non destructive cursor, CS, home, CL - White characters on black background or vice-versa - With the addition of a keyboard. video monitor or TV set with TV interface (part no. 107AJ and power supply this is a com plete stand alone terminal•alsos-100 compatible - requires +16 , \& - 16 VDC at 100 mA , and BVDC at 1 A. Part No. 1000A $\$ 199.95$ kit.

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This board has 8 triacs capable of switching 110 volt 6 amp loads (660 watts per channell or a total of 5280 watts. Board only \$15.00 Part No. 210. with parts \$119.95 Part No. 210A

## APPLE II々̆- <br> SERIALI/O INTERFACE



Baud rate is continuously adjustable from 0 to 30.000 - Plugs into any peripheral connector • Low current drain. RS-232 input and output - On board switch selectable 5 to 8 data bits, 1 or 2 stop bits, and parity or no parity either odd or even Jumper selectable address - SOFTWARE - Input and Output routine from monitor or BASIC to teletype or other serial printer - Program for using an Apple Il for a video or an intelligent terminal. Also can output in correspondence code to interface with some selectrics. Also watches OTR - Board only $\$ 15.00$ Part No. 2. with parts $\$ 42.00$ Part No. 2A. assembled $\$ 62.00$ Part No. 2C

8K EPRDM PICEON


- Programs 2708's address relocation of each 4 K of memory to any 4 K boundary © Power on jump and reset jump option for "turnkey" systems and computers without a front panel - Program saver software in 12708 EPROM $\$ 25$. Gare board $\$ 35$ including custom coil. board with parts but no EPROMS \$139, with4 EPROMS $\$ 179$, with 8 EPROMS $\$ 219$.


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card PCBO
\$49.95 with parts less EPROMS
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EPROM card PC8D
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aMB-9 MOTHEA BOARD. Short Version of b-12. S Slots PC8D .... 'gisi $\$ 30.95$ MEM-2 16KxB Fully Buffered 2114 Board
D.C. HAYES MICROMODEM


Fully $\mathrm{S}-100$ bus compatible including 16-bit machines and 4 MHz processors. - Two software selectable Baud rates-300 Baud and a jumper selectable speed from 45 to 300 Baud. (110 standardl. Supports originate and answer modes. - Direct-connect Microcoupler. This FCC-registered device provides direct access into your local telephone system, with none of the losses on distortions associated with acoustic couplers and without a telephone company supplied data access arrangement. Auto Answer/Auto-Call. The MICROMODEM 100 can automatically answer the phone and receive input: it can also dial a number automatically. Automatic Reset and Disconnect. - Software compatible with the D.C. Hayes Associates 80-103A Data Communications Adapter Micromodem-DCHA32625-\$379.95

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Tape Interface Direct Memory Access - Record and play programs without bootstrap loader (no prom) has FSK encoder/decoder for direct connections to low cost recorder at 1200 baud rate. and direct connections for inputs and outputs to a digital recorder at any baud rate e $\mathrm{S}-100$ bus compatible - Board only $\$ 35.00$ Part No. 112. with parts $\$ 110.00$ Part No 112 A

## SYSTEM MONITOR

8080, 8085, or Z-80 System monitor for use with the TIDMA board. There is no need for the front panel. Complete with documentation $\$ 12.95$.


This board has two active circuits, one converts RS-232 to 20 mA . the other converts 20 mA to RS-232. Requires +12 and -12 volts. $\$ 9.95$ Part No. 600A Kit.

SERIAL I/O


Four Serial I/O RS-232 ports. S-100 Bus, Software or jumper selectable baud rate (110. 300. 600, $1200,2400,4800,9600$, 19.2 KI , on board $X$ tal baud rate generator, Addressing, switch selectable. Parity or no parity fodd or evenl switch selectable, 1 or 2 stop bits. 5 to 8 bits/character. Board only $\$ 29.95$, Part No. 7908. With parts (kit) \$199.95. Part No. 7908A

## S-100 BUS ACTIVE TERMINATOR <br> 

Board only $\$ 14.95$ Part No. 900, with parts $\$ 24.95$ Part No. 900A

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## TRS-80 SERIALI/O

- Can input into basic - Can use LLIST and LPRINT to output, or output continuously -RS-232 compatible • Can be used with or without the expansion bus - On board switch selectable baud rates of $110,150.300,600$. 1200. 2400, parity or no parity odd or even. 5 to 8 data bits, and 1 or 2 stop bits. D.T.R. line - Requires +5 , -12 VDC • Board only $\$ 19.95$ Part No. 8010. with parts $\$ 59.95$ Part No. 8010A. assembled No. 80.9 Par assembled
$\$ 79.95$ Part 8010 C. No connectors provided, see below.

\$129.95: withcruisecontrol \$169.95


## THE TELESIS VAR-80 INTERFACE UNIT



For the TRS-80 with Levell Basic Provides Q outputs - Provides 8 inputs - 2 ft . of inter-connectingcablew/connector - Plugs directly into TRS-80 - Power supply provided - Assembled and tested Part No. VAR80. Intro ductory price\$109.95.

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Includes: 2 game paddes. interface. software, speaker. power supply, full documentation including: schematics. theory of operation, and user guide; plus 2 games on cassette (Pong and Starship War). $\$ 79.95$ Complete Part No. 7922C

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 PRODUCTS INC. Series 312 Acoustic Coupler

300 BAUD Originate. Part No. AC3122. \$219.95. 300 BAUD Answer, Part No. AC312д, \$219.95. 3008AUD Answer/Originate. PartNo.AC3123. $\$ 229.95$.

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 For YourTRS-80

Your TRS-80 Light-Pen is a carefuly yengineered instrument and with the proper care will give satisfactory use and many years of service. Part No. TRSBOLP $\$ 24.95$

## SYSTEM <br> EXPANSION from <br> LNW Research

- Serial RS232C/20 mA 1/O - Floppy controller - 32k bytes memory - Parallel printer port Dual cassette port - Real-time clock - Screen printer bus Onboard power supply - Software compatible - Solder mask. silk screen. PC board and user manual, Part No. LNW80. \$69.95.


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Box of 10.5" \$29.95. 8" $\$ 39.95$.
Plastic box. holds 10 diskettes, 5" - \$4.50. 8" - \$6.50.

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For the Apple. TRS-80 or Pet \$B eachPart No. $4116 /$ 2117.


12" Black and White • 12 MHz Bandwidth - Handsome Plastic Case•\$139.00


AN S-100 bus Adapter-Matherboard for the TRS-80. Kit. Part No. HUH81 DLXK, \$295.95. Assembeled.PartNo. HUH81 DLXA. $\$ 375.95$.

## NOW!

A FULL SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR TRS-80


- 32k of RAM - EPROM firmware - Disk control - Data acquisition - Parallel I/O Serial I/O - Plug into GPA's Motherboard. GPA's quality design includes - 6-44 pin edge connectors $+5 \mathrm{~V},-5 \mathrm{~V},+12 \mathrm{~V},-12 \mathrm{~V}$ external power supply required - Active termination. The Motherboard. Part No. GPA80, is only $\$ 149.95$.


## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GPA-EXPANSION CARDS FOR THE GPA80

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Thousands of personal and business systems around the world use this board with complete satisfaction. Puts 16K of software on line at ALL TIMES! Kit features a top quality soldermasked and silk-screened PC board and first run parts and sockets. Any number of EPROM locations may be disabled to avoid any memory conflicts. Fully buffered and has WAIT STATE capabilities.

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2 parallel, one serial and cassette.
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The Super Elf includes a ROM monitor for program loading, editing and execution with SINGLE STEP for program debugging which is not inSTEP you can see the microprocessor chip operating with the unique Ouest address and data bus ting with the unique Quest address and data bus
displays before, durling and after executing indisplays be fore, during and after executing in-
structions. Also, CPU mode and instruction cycle are decoded and displayed on 8 LED indicators. An RCA 1861 video or aphics chip allows you to connectloyour own TV with aninexpensivevideo speaker system included for writing your own music or using many music programs already written. The speaker amplifier may also be used to drive relays for control purposes.

## Super Expansion Board with Ca

This is truly an astoundng value! This board has been designed to allow you to decide how you want it optioned. The Super Expansion Board comes with 4K of low power RAM fully addressable anywhere in 64 K with buill-in memory protect and a casselfe interface. Provisions have been made for all other options on the same board and it fits neatly into the hardwood cabinet alongside the Super Elf. The board includes slots for up to 6K of EPROM (2708, 2758, 2716 or TI 2716) and is fully socketed. EPROM can be used for the monitor and Tiny Basic or other purposes. A IK Super ROM Monitor $\$ 19.95$ is available as an on board option in 2708 EPROM which has been preprogrammed with a program loaderf editor and error checking multi file cassette read/write software, (relocatible cassette file) another exclusive from Quest. It includes register save and readout. block move capability and videographics driver with blinking cursor. Break points can be used with the register save feature to isolate program bugs quickly, then follow with single step. The Super Monitor is written with

A 24 key HEX keyboard includes 16 HEX keys tect, monltor select and single step. Large, on board displays provide output and optional high and low address. There is a 44 pin standard connector slot for PC cards and a 50 pin connector slot for the Quest Super Expansion Board Power supply and sockets for ail IC's are included in the price plus a detailed $127 \rho 9$. instruc. tion manual which now includes over 40 pgs . of sottware info. including a series of lessons to help get you started and a music program and heb get you started and a music program and
graphics target game. Many schools and universities are using the Super Ell as a course of study. OEM's use it for training and R\&D. Remember, other computers only offer Super Elf features at additional cost or not at all. Compare before you buy. Super Elf Kit \$106.95, High address oplion \$8.95, Low address opllon \$9.95. Cuslom Cabinet with drilled and labelled plexiglass front panel $\mathbf{\$ 2 4 . 9 5}$. Expansion Cabinet with room for $4 \mathrm{~S}-100$ boards $\$ 41.00$. NICad Battery Memory Saver Kit $\$ 6.95$. All kits and
options also completely assembled and tested. Ouestdata, a 12 page monthly software publication for 1802 computer users is available by subscription for $\$ 12.00$ per year. Issues 1 -12 bound \$16.50.
Tiny Basic Cassette $\$ 10.00$, on ROM $\$ 38.00$, original Elf kit board $\$ 14.95$. 1802 sollware; Moews Video Graphics $\$ 3.50$. Games and Music \$3.00, Chip 8 Interpreter $\$ 5.50$.

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subroutines allowing users to take advantage of monitor functions simply by calling them up. Improvements and revisions are easily done with the monitor. If you have the Super Expanslon Board and Super Monitor the monitor is up and running at the push of a button.
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board. Parallel $1 / 0$. board Paraliel $/$ P/O Pors $\$ 9.85$, RS $232 \$ 4.50$,
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## page

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[^17]FOR SALE: TRS-80, Level 2.2 with 32 K , expansion interface, Radlo Shack disk, power supply, keyboard, cassette unit, manuals. Software includes Invaston Force, Business Income Tax Package, and eleven diskettes all In perfect condillon. Shipped prepaid. \$1850. Itm Handy, 2102 Courtland Cir, Carrollton TX 75007, (214) $492 \cdot 3670$.

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FOR SALE: Tektronix 4051.32 K programmable memory. All manuals included. $\$ 3000$. Jay Ross, POB 247, Ortonville MN 56278, (612) 839-6181.

## March BOMB

## Ciarcia Wins With Ease

"Ciarcia's Circuit Cellar" continued as the best-liked feature in the BOMB voting, as Steve Ciarcia won again with his article "Ease into 16-Bit Computing"' (page 17). It placed 2.30 standard deviations above the mean. Steve will take home another $\$ 100$ first-place prize. Second place in the tally went to Editor-in-Chief Chris Morgan for his article "Hewlett-Packard's New Personal Computer, The HP-85" (page 60), which had a standard deviation of 0.91 above the mean. Third place was taken by James R Lewis for "'TRS-80 Performance, Evaluation by Program Timing" (page 84), and fourth place was taken by D Martin Harrell for "Operation Codes for 8080, 8085, and 280 Processors" (page 194.)■

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