



FREWARE: DISK MAINTENANCE

By LARRY PHILLIPS

There has been a lot of talk recently about the concept of 'Freeware'. Basically, freeware is software that is offered on a 'try it first' basis. If you try it and like it, you then send the author whatever he's asking for the program. The money you send goes directly to the author without any intermediary profits being taken by distributors or stores. The author gets the amount he wants for his program, and you get the program at a lower price than you might expect. The program you get to try out may be of reduced function or be lacking documentation in order to encourage you to send your money to get the full package. Generally, the concept is a good one and it only remains to be seen how well it works in practice. If you're wondering what this has to do with disk maintenance, read on.

Two young men from Seattle have written a program called 'Disk Maintenance' and have decided to offer it as freeware. The program available on the CCC library disk is a reduced function version, and you may get the full blown program and documentation by sending \$20.00 US to the address contained in the program. This will also entitle you to any future updates that come out. Try the program, and if you like it, please support it, as this will encourage authors to offer good software at a reasonable price.

As for the program itself, it has a number of similarities to the old standby, Disk Doctor, with many added features. It is well written, and so far I have been unable to find any bugs in it. The program consists of two main subprograms, Disk Maintenance and ABLE, an acronym for Advanced Block Editor. Disk Maintenance is a directory manipulator. Let's look at it first.

A directory manipulator should allow you to at least rename, scratch and unscratch files. This program does all that and more. You may use it to:

Find start/end address of any program

View/edit BAM (block availability map)

Disassemble a machine language program (with or without showing undocumented opcodes)

Exchange the position of any two files

Jump to ABLE starting at the first sector of any file

Kill a file (wipes out dir entry completely)

List a BASIC program file

Make a menu of selected files on disk

Rename a disk

Append two Basic files
Compare two BASIC programs and show any different lines

Validate disk

List a sequential file to screen

All functions are accessed from the special directory screen, and can be selected merely by positioning the smooth scrolling arrow next to the entry, and pressing the appropriate key.

Going on to the Advanced Block Editor, we find that it will perform all the functions of Disk Doctor (or Doc/64), and has many enhanced features not previously seen in any other block editor. A block editor allows you to view/change the contents of any block on the disk. It is the manner of editing and viewing that separates the good from the bad. This

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ON THE BENCH:

THE LIEN YIG DISK DRIVE

By KEN MOREN

The first time I laid eyes on the Lien Yig drive, I thought, "Hmm...an MSD clone." For those of you who haven't seen one, that's exactly what they look like: an MSD single drive. Being one of those hardware freaks, I was seized by an overwhelming desire to open it up and see if the internals showed as close a resemblance.

To my surprise the circuit board did not look at all like the MSD board but was an original design from a manufacturer of Apple clones. The main chips were the same as the 1541 (i.e. 6502 and two 6522's); the minor logic implementation was somewhat different.

The drive itself was a TEAC direct-drive mechanism. It had a heavy duty stepper motor and head positioning mechanism which, although somewhat noisy, looked as if it would give years of trouble-free service.

The interesting thing about this unit was that it had an Apple type analog board (the circuitry which controls the drive motor and head positioning) on it. You could connect it to an Apple II and it would work just fine. In fact, the main board was designed to work with an Apple drive. However, when you consider the main business of the manufacturer, this is

one is so versatile that you will seldom think of something that can't be done with it. The display includes:

Track/sector in decimal

Position of cursor in dec and hex

Value of byte under cursor in dec and hex

ASCII (CBM ASCII) character

The screen POKE value

Track/sector link in decimal

Address of cursor position (if in a program)

Binary value of byte under cursor

Word value of byte under cursor and following byte (LSB,MSB)

BASIC keyword of token under cursor

Disassembled contents of instruction under cursor

Mode of upper display (screen poke or PRINT value)

Operation is eased with the addition of HELP screens that include all commands, addresses of all KERNAL routines and a list of all opcodes (including those mysterious unimplemented ones). To change the contents

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not so strange. It's nice if you only have to stock one type of drive for all your products.

After thoroughly checking out the hardware, I then began to put it through its paces. Loading; saving; file handling....all seemed to be fine. Then I tried loading some commercial software. The first two, which were older stuff with relatively unsophisticated copy protection, loaded fine. Then I tried Flight Simulator II. No go. Some other newer ones yielded similar results. Hmm....

Then I tried copying. SCOPY and SBACK worked fine, as did all normal (slow) copy programs. However none of the fast copy programs at my disposal would work, nor would Fast Format.

So it would seem that this drive's DOS was not all that compatible with that of the 1541. No program which made calls to specific DOS routines would work.

Then I began to wonder how such compatibility there was in the hardware itself. Only one way to find that out: I pulled the ROMs from my 1541 and, with the help of adaptor sockets I made up then and there, installed them in the EPROM(2764) sockets of the Lien Yig drive.

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SOFTWARE & BOOKS

Reviewed by MIKE QUIGLEY

QUICKWRITER III

Quickwriter III is a budget-priced, disk-based, machine-language word processor for the Commodore 64. Its main attraction is a wide variety of features, some of which are comparable to those on word processors costing many times more.

In addition to control over all four margins of the page, the user can change the screen and character colors, search for a string of up to 40 characters, print copy which is either justified (with parallel margins), flush left, right or centered, and go into a mode which produces continuous shift lock on letter keys only.

Commands such as Initialize (I0), Validate (V0) and New (N0) can be sent to the disk drive and the directory viewed without destroying the current text. REMS (which are not printed out) can be placed in the text, and files can be chained together during printing if their length exceeds the program's total memory capacity (about 53 blocks or 13,650 bytes).

If the printer allows it, the program allows redefined character codes to produce underlining, italics, different type styles and so forth. It also allows the use of different device and drive numbers and secondary addresses. Text can be previewed on the screen, though you can only see the right or left half of it. There is also what is called "semiautomatic hyphenation" which allows you to hyphenate at the end of lines as text is being printed out. This would be more useful if the user's participation wasn't required in such a direct manner.

Quickwriter III's most interesting feature is its ability to create form letters by using specially created files to "drop" information such as names, addresses, postal codes, etc. into specific locations in the letter's text.

Unfortunately, the kind of care lavished on all these goodies relating to formatting does not extend to the program's editing commands. One of the main functions of a word processor should be its ability to easily and efficiently manipulate text, and Quickwriter III disappoints in this regard. The reason for this is that despite several commands which give the impression of a full-screen editor such as going to the beginning and end of text, the program is basically a line editor, similar to Meswriter and Quick Brown Fox. This produces some peculiarities with cursor movement.

Let's say the cursor is in the middle of a line and I want to move directly above. Attempting to do this makes the cursor to go to the leftmost column which is reserved for moves of this nature (the text itself is only 37 columns wide). You can then proceed to the position you originally wanted to go to with the cursor right or F7 key -- the latter moves the cursor eight keys to the right at a time. If you make a lot of errors in your text, correcting them with this method becomes very tiresome.

The program's "insert mode" is not much better. If you want to put a lot of copy in the middle of previously typed text, pushing the INSERT key causes material to the right of the cursor to drop to the next line, creating a blank space for new copy. This method creates leftover spaces in the text which can be removed with the Rebuild command, but sometimes this command doesn't work, resulting in spaces which have to be taken out manually with the DELETE key.

One method of inserting a lot of copy into text without the above hassle would be to create a block at the end of text and use the program's block manipulation commands to put it in the right place. These commands -- Append, Bank, Copy, Delete, Insert and Transfer -- however, require further peculiar moves with the INSERT key similar to those mentioned above.

Another feature I found annoying was that the letters did not always appear on the screen as soon as my fingers typed them (they were instead printed with a jerky kind of rhythm) and keys held down would repeat if not released immediately.

In short, Quickwriter III seems best suited to economy-minded typists who want a lot of fancy printer

features and don't make many mistakes or need to edit their copy.

The program's manual, though only 35 pages long, is concise and well-written and contains a "quick reference chart" with all the basic commands summarized. The section dealing with how to use the program with a wide variety of printers and interfaces -- an area of real concern for many computer novices -- is well handled. Samples of printer files for Gemini, Epson and Okidata are included. (It should be noted that some of the commands in the manual are not correct. Several of them use lower-case instead of the correct upper-case characters.)

The disk is copy-protected with an error on an unused track. This causes the drive head to knock like when it NEMs a disk, a procedure I thoroughly dislike because of its effect on the drive's alignment. The disk is warranted for 90 days and updates can be had for an additional charge when available. (Educorp, 2139 Newcastle Avenue, Cardiff, CA 92007. \$19.99)

ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE FOR KIDS

Are you bewitched, bothered and bewildered by assembly language? Possessing knowledge about this subject is much like belonging to some kind of secret society where you need passwords to enter, and where you dabble in a lot of a arcane numbo-jumbo once admitted.

There are numerous books written designed to initiate novices into these mystical rites, but most of them have one thing in common: they are written for people who already know assembly language.

Fortunately, there are a few books recently available written for the average person. One of these is *Assembly Language for Kids: Commodore 64* by William B. Sanders.

Its title is deceptive, since the book is not really designed for kids, but rather for people who want to have "a good time learning assembly language." It's written in a chatty, easy-to-understand style as opposed to the advanced scientific jargon adopted by many other books on 6502 and 6510 programming.

Almost a third of the book's 337 pages is introductory material, discussing such subjects as the use of assemblers and the difference between hex and decimal numbers. It assumes that you have a working knowledge of BASIC, since many of its examples either relate to BASIC or analyze short BASIC routines and programs.

The number of examples in the book, from a short subroutine which clears the screen to the design of a "noisy space sprite", is one of its major strengths. In order to enter the examples, a simple Kids' Assembler is included in the book which you can either type in or obtain on disk with other utilities from Microcoscribe at an additional cost of \$10. This assembler has a minimal editor, it uses non-standard opcodes and is somewhat slow since it's written in BASIC. The examples can also be entered with the Merlin 64 assembler, which author Sanders describes as "the best available for the 64" or the Macro Assembler Development System from Commodore. (A coupon in the book allows a discount on Merlin.) This may prove annoying to people with other assembler packages which do not accept the same conventions as these three.

For the most part, Sanders proceeds from Point A to Point B, telling the reader that everything will eventually fall into place, even if some matter is not fully understood at the moment. He occasionally drags in an opcode or procedure which is then not explored in sufficient detail, which might be a red herring to some readers.

It should be emphasized that this book doesn't deal with all the assembly language opcodes. It tries to teach the reader "how to learn to use the fundamental operations well and understand their use clearly [rather] than try and learn everything at once and not understand what you're doing." At its conclusion, Sanders gives some suggestions for further study such as books and magazines (including *Commander*, which, before it ceased publication,

contained a regular column on assembly language by Canadian Eric Biguere).

About the only negative feature of this book is an annoying number of typographical errors, surprising because Microcoscribe's motto is "literate microcomputer documentation." Some of these are in the programs, which may cause confusion for novices. Hopefully these errors will be corrected in subsequent editions of this otherwise excellent book.

(*Assembly Language for Kids: Commodore 64*. William B. Sanders. Microcoscribe, 8982 Stinson Court, San Diego, CA 92129 U.S.A. \$14.95 U.S.)

SPEEDWRITER

SpeedWriter is a compiler which takes a Commodore 64 BASIC program and converts it into a special kind of machine language so that it runs faster and more efficiently. It's claimed to be "easy enough for the novice," and there is a single sheet of instructions designed for those who are "not interested in the technical aspects" of the program's 40-page manual.

Using this simple method, I put SpeedWriter to the test with the 64 version of my own French Tutor, a BASIC program containing programmable characters. Although I had converted it successfully with another compiler, when I ran the SpeedWriter-compiled version, it failed immediately with an OUT OF DATA error in the non-existent line 4027.

I then compiled Taxman (Jan, November 1984), which would not run at all. Neither would a large BASIC game which moved memory locations around to emulate a PET. I was luckier with another program containing sprites which moved much smoother and quicker.

Turning finally to the manual, I discovered SpeedWriter, like most compilers, has a lot of "ifs, ands or buts" -- exceptions to the rules -- which have to be observed if programs are to run successfully. These "directives" include telling the compiler which floating point variables and arrays are to be treated as integers, disabling the RUN/STOP key, and relocating the list of variables to a memory location higher than normal.

Among the claimed advantages of using SpeedWriter to compile programs is a reduction in program size. One large game I compiled, 98 disk blocks long, was reduced from 24443 bytes to 20243 bytes or 84 blocks, a drop of about 17%. As a result, disk access time is also supposed to decrease. However, any program created with SpeedWriter must have a special machine language routine placed on the same disk to run properly. This sub-program is 33 blocks long and takes over 22 additional seconds to load in!

SpeedWriter did not seem to significantly increase disk access time in terms of loading in files with the GET# statement. An uncompiled version of Mike

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commodore

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THE HIDDEN SECRETS OF VIP

By LARRY PHILLIPS

VIP Terminal from Softlaw is an extremely well thought out program. The features it offers would take four or five articles to describe. One of the program's strongest points is the excellence of the documentation, both in the manual and on disk resident 'help' files, allowing you to re-read a section even while communicating. Imagine my surprise when I discovered that the seemingly complete documentation did not even mention a very exciting capability.

The book and the help screens did mention, in passing, a mode known as '64-graphics'. I say in passing, because all that was said about it was that some information services, such as Comuserve, can send the appropriate codes to put low resolution pictures on the screen. The way these pictures are formed will be familiar to anyone who has used the PET. They are made up of 'quarter-blocks', that is, the four quadrants of a character cell. On the 64, of course, these may also be coloured. During my investigations, I discovered that a local BBS, Delta 80, had a section called 'Pictures', and that the codes needed to put pictures on my screen were used on that system. The SYSOP, Charles Lindberg, answered my query about the actual codes, and I was off on a blitz of picture transfers. The only problem was that it was extremely difficult to make pictures with VIP, and difficult to test them properly with a BASIC program. From this point, I started looking for more hidden features. Help came from a friend who mentioned that he had the documentation for a program called VIDTEX, including many details on special features.

As luck would have it, all the information is essentially the same for the two programs. The special controls are all based on an ESCape sequence. Unlike the CTRL key, an ESC is a character in itself. It is CHR\$(27), and is generated in VIP by pressing the 'stop' key, or by sending

a CTRL [(square left bracket). An ESCape sequence is a series of characters starting with a CHR\$(27). In VIP, the important ESC sequences control colour and the cursor position. The sequence for setting colour is:

ESC k x

In this case, ESC is CHR\$(27), k is always the character 'k', but 'x' is the character that sets a background and character colour, and will be different for each combination of colours you want to send.

The colours are determined as follows:

```
bit 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0
    c c c c b b b b
```

The bits marked 'c' are the ones that determine the character colour, the ones marked 'b', the background colour. The colours for both fields are:

- 0 - Green 5 - Cyan
- 1 - Yellow 6 - Purple
- 2 - Blue 7 - Orange
- 3 - Red 8 - Black
- 4 - White

For ease of reference, the colours and the keys needed to send them are laid out in the chart in Figure 1.

The next sequences have to do with cursor positioning. The cursor may be manipulated by either CTRL keys as long as you don't want to get too fancy. For example, a clear screen may be sent with a CTRL L (unshifted L). In ASCII, this is a form feed, otherwise known in videoland as 'wipe the tube'. You may also send it with an ESC sequence, but it will take one extra character, ie. ESC j, two characters instead of one.

For fancier movements, we have a series of sequences that will put the cursor anywhere on the screen without having to move it through all the intermediate positions. The visual effect of this must be seen to be appreciated. At 300, 600, or even 1200 baud, the movement of the cursor from point to point one space at a time is noticeably slow. With absolute positioning, it is startling, to say the least. The cursor seems to come alive, jumping immediately to wherever

you've sent it. The shifted Y is the prime ingredient in positioning the cursor. The sequence is:

ESC Y v h

Again, ESC is CHR\$(27), the Y is always used, v is a character used for vertical position, and h is a character used to position horizontally. The positions are determined by the 7 low order bits:

```
bit 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0
    x p p p p p p p
```

Where x signifies an unused bit, and bits marked 'p' give a position according to the binary value between 0 and 127. To determine the cursor position, you just use the decimal value of the ASCII code for the character and subtract 32, position 0 being a 'space'. Of course, the maximum you would ever use is 106, as VIP Terminal will not allow any more characters on the screen. For that matter, if you use 106 columns, your eyes are a lot better than mine, but not for long. If a vertical position greater than 24, or a horizontal position greater than 39, 63, 80 or 105 is sent (depending on the number of characters you are using), the cursor will not wrap around to another line or cause the screen to scroll. It will merely go as far as it can, and stick to the bottom or right hand side.

Here's a real life example of cursor positioning:

ESC Y 8 A

This will set the cursor to line 10, column 33. If you look at a standard ASCII chart, you will see why. I have provided a chart in Figure 2. Use it to avoid having to work out the values each time.

Most bulletin board systems will not allow you to send special characters in a message or your E-mail, but there are some that do. It's a lot of fun sending a message to someone using colour changes and cursor positioning, and many VIP users have developed some very fancy signatures that may be stored in the programmable keys and sent with one keystroke. There are more sequences, but I'll leave them for now. If you

have a 1650 modem, or an equivalent that has a 'half duplex' switch, try this. Set VIP to full duplex, the modem switch to half duplex, and go to 'terminal' mode. Then send some ESC sequences for colour changes and cursor position. Try other combinations. If you don't have a modem that allows this, try phoning a friend who also uses VIP, and send the codes to each other. You'll soon get the idea, and can dazzle everyone with your creations.

FIGURE 1

		Character Colour							
		Grn	Yel	Blu	Red	Whi	Cya	Pur	Orn
S									
c	Grn	↑!	↑p	spc	0	!	P	+	p
r	Yel	↑a	↑q	!	1	A	D	a	q
e	Blu	↑b	↑r	"	2	B	R	b	r
n	Red	↑c	↑s	#	3	C	S	c	s
C	Whi	↑d	↑t	\$	4	D	T	d	t
o	Cya	↑e	↑u	%	5	E	U	e	u
l	Pur	↑f	↑v	&	6	F	V	f	v
o	Orn	↑g	↑w	'	7	G	W	g	w
u	Blk	↑h	↑x	(	8	H	X	h	x

Note: \ = Pound Sign ↑ = control char.
 + = Shift@ ("at")

FIGURE 2

	TENS									
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
0	spc	#	4	>	H	R	\	f		
1	!	+	5	?	I	S	J	g		
2	"	,	6	@	J	T	↑	h		
3	#	-	7	A	K	U	←	i		
4	\$	.	8	B	L	V	↑	j		
5	%	/	9	C	M	W	a	k		
6	&	0	:	D	N	X	b	l		
7	'	1	;	E	O	Y	c	m		
8	(	2	<	F	P	Z	d	n		
9	)	3	=	G	Q	[	e	o		



A LEGAL OPINION...

By ROBERT A. KREISS
(from *Northwest Computing*, Seattle)

What do King Kong and Donkey Kong have in common? Do you think that the people who brought you King Kong also brought you Donkey Kong? These were the questions which Universal City Studios raised in court when they claimed that Nintendo Co., Ltd. violated trademark law by choosing the name Donkey Kong for their video game.

Trademark law states that a person or company cannot adopt and use a symbol or name for their product when it would be likely to cause the public to be confused, mistaken or deceived with an existing trademark. Back in 1933, RKO made a movie about a big gorilla. Richard Cooper, the son of the creator of the King Kong story, sold the rights to the name, character and story to Universal City Studios.

As you probably know, King Kong ended up climbing the Empire State Building and defiantly fighting off the world while clutching a beautiful woman in his giant hand.

Donkey Kong has a somewhat similar name, also involves a large gorilla who holds a woman captive, and the gorilla sends obstacles crashing at those who try to rescue the woman.

One of the legal questions raised in the lawsuit was whether the public was likely to be confused as to the source of the Donkey Kong game, i.e. whether they would be likely to believe that Donkey Kong was created or sponsored by those who brought them King Kong.

The court's answer was predictable. There was no likelihood of confusion.

In fact, the court stated that no reasonable jury could have found confusing similarity between the names, story or characters involved, and consequently the lawsuit did not have to be tried to a jury.

The judge in the case described the Donkey Kong gorilla as "farcical, childlike and nonsexual," who uses "silly obstacles of pies, cement tubs, birthday cakes and umbrellas" in contrast with King Kong, "a ferocious gorilla in quest of a beautiful woman who goes on rampages, chases people, crushes them underfoot, or throws them to the ground, and fights with dinosaurs, giant snakes, airplanes and helicopters."

Undaunted, Universal City Studios appealed this case to the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals, where it again lost. It remains to be seen whether they will try again at the Supreme Court level. I guess the moral is that where the stakes are large enough (Donkey Kong has presumably reaped considerable profits for its owner) lawsuits often follow.

The lawsuit also involved another interesting legal point about trademarks. Trademarks are based on the use of a symbol or name with a product. And trademark rights can be very valuable legal rights. But a person who sells a product under a particular mark cannot separate the two (the product and the mark) and sell the rights to use the mark while withholding the business of making and selling the particular product involved.

A hypothetical example will make that clearer. Suppose that Commodore were to decide to stop making home

computers, but it felt that the Commodore name might be valuable to someone else. So Commodore, in this example, assigns its rights to use the Commodore name to Atari. Atari develops a new product, totally unlike its existing products and also unlike Commodore's computers.

The courts would say that the sale of the Commodore name from Commodore to Atari was invalid, because the name was detached from the Commodore line of products. In a nutshell, you can't separate the rights to a trademark name from the use of that name with the product with which it is associated.

In the King Kong case, Richard Cooper, the son of the originator of the King Kong story had rights associated with King Kong, including the rights to the book and publishing rights. Cooper apparently sold the rights to the character and story to Universal City Studios. As a matter of copyright law, this may have been perfectly proper. But Cooper also assigned Universal the rights to the name, a right governed by trademark, not copyright law.

The district court stated that the name could not be transferred as a separate asset. It had to be sold in connection with a sale of a business and goodwill, and Cooper had not done that. Put another way, Cooper had retained the rights to the book and the publishing rights, so there was no business that went with the sale to Universal.

(Mr. Kreiss is an attorney with a Seattle law firm.)

FREWARE (from page 1)

of a block, just choose your preferred form of input. You may choose to change by TEXT (two formats), DECIMAL, BINARY, HEXADECIMAL, BASIC keyword, OPCODE/OPERAND, ADDRESS (hex or dec), WORD (hex or dec). I wouldn't be surprised if I've missed one or two. You can COPY a single byte to a range of bytes, SLIDE a range of bytes to another location in the block or PUT a range into or WRITE from memory, INPUT from keyboard to memory (for later WRITE or LOOK). There is an Encode/Decode function for disguising your data or programs, a LOOK for finding the occurrence of any pattern of data, and a VIEW command for re-viewing the block with no changes for those 'whoops' times. You can disassemble any block, with or without undocumented opcodes, and finally, the most fun feature of all, the SPRITE mode.

When you are in SPRITE mode, you will see a 63 byte highlight in the block you are editing. In the bottom part of the screen will be four sprites in both high resolution and multicolour, as well as expanded and unexpanded. This will allow you to move the highlighted area to look for sprites within a file using the most sophisticated pattern matching

computer, the human brain.

In the immortal words of the kitchen gadget salesman, "Now how much would you pay? But wait! If you act now, we will also include...". Yes, there is more. Many of these functions have the ability to use the printer instead of the screen, and at any time you may dump your screen to a printer. The dump is done in Hi-Res, so that all characters will show up exactly as they do on your screen, shifted, reversed and all. There is a small utility that allows you to set up a definition for your own favourite printer. "Now how much..." Ah yes, one more bonus is included. It is a Compacter/Uncompacter written entirely in machine language for speed. There is a well written instruction book that further explains all the commands, and offers examples and usage suggestions.

Whether you just want to learn more about the disk formats or have other applications for a good utility program, I feel it is well worth the cost.

(Disk Maintenance by Chris Newman and Greg Valazza, Reflexive Software, 6507 39th Ave. N.E., Seattle, WA 98115. RATING: Excellent!)

LIEN YIG (continued from page 1)

Presto Chango, one perfect 1541 clone! Everything then worked.

So, it would seem that the hardware at least was compatible 100%. The software, however is something else again.

As it comes, out of the box, the unit has limited usefulness. It would be O.K. as a simple mass storage device or as a second drive. It would of course, be far better than no drive at all.

It is very well constructed and runs very cool (after 24 hrs. continuous use was only barely warm to the touch). Thus it would be an excellent choice for someone running a small B.B.S.

Priced at \$299 and with its software problems, it is not all that competitive with the new 1541 priced at \$339; however, it is better built and has a better drive mechanism than even the new 1541's TEC drive. It has an all metal case (steel) which should provide good magnetic and electrostatic shielding. If only it was priced at \$279 and had its EPROMs reprogrammed....

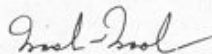
Available at Broadway Computer Centre, 683 E. Broadway, Vancouver.

THE FINANCIAL FACTS

AUDITOR'S REPORT

We have examined the balance sheet of Commodore Computer Club as at November 30, 1984 and the statement of income and expenses for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of Commodore Computer Club as at November 30, 1984 and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.



Vancouver, Canada
January 4, 1985

Marsh & Marsh
Chartered Accountants

COMMODORE COMPUTER CLUB

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 1984 (With comparative figures for 1983)

	1984 11 mos.	1983 12 mos.
Income		
Dues	\$ 6,139	\$ 11,435
Course fees	300	2,760
Vancouver Pet Users Club (Note 2)	-	1,875
Sundries	973	477
	7,412	16,547
Expenses		
Rent	2,859	2,943
Speaker	33	1,000
Printing & materials	234	1,024
Newsletter	2,106	1,924
Utilities	310	296
Legal	157	280
Depreciation	740	278
Course expenses	300	1,500
Office & sundries	763	1,159
	7,504	10,512
Net income (loss) for the year, to Members' Equity	\$ (92)	\$ 6,035

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Club meetings are normally held: *Workshop*: first Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., Thompson Secondary School cafeteria, 1755 E. 55th Ave. (near Victoria Drive); *Lecture*: third Wednesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., Emily Carr College of Art and Design, 1399 Johnston, Granville Island. These dates and locations are subject to change. For up-to-date information on any changes, please call the club's 24-hour answer phone:

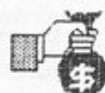
PET-3311 (738-3311)

Club Executive: President -- Jim Bauerle; Vice-President -- Philip Seligman; Secretary -- Al Townsend; Treasurer -- Hu Rejne; Directors -- Guenter Hake, Glen Hazlewood, Helen Hing, Doug Johnson, Ellenor Jonsson, Murray Kopit, Gary Lee-Nova, Ken Moren, Dave Norman, Larry Phillips, Kevin Pickell, Mike Guigley, Nick Shevchenko, Sig Steiner, Marvin Steinway.

BALANCE SHEET, NOVEMBER 30, 1984 (With comparative figures for 1983)

	1984	1983
ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash in bank	\$ 2,307	\$ 4,143
	2,307	4,143
Fixed Assets:		
Equipment	4,654	2,170
Less: Accumulated depreciation	1,018	278
	3,636	1,892
	\$ 5,943	\$ 6,035
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities	\$ Nil	\$ Nil
Total Liabilities	Nil	Nil
Members' Equity		
Balance, opening	6,035	\$ Nil
Net income (loss) for the year	(92)	6,035
Total Members' Equity	5,943	6,035
	\$ 5,943	\$ 6,035

This is the balance sheet referred to in the Auditors' Report of Marsh & Marsh, Chartered Accountants, dated January 2, 1985.



STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 1984 (With comparative figures for 1983)

	1984	1983
Funds Provided:		
Operations		
Income for the year	\$ -	\$ 6,035
Non-cash item - Depreciation	740	278
Total Funds Provided	740	6,313
Funds Applied:		
Operations	92	-
Loss for the year	2,404	2,170
Total Funds Applied	2,576	2,170
Increase (Decrease) in Working Capital	(1,836)	4,143
Working Capital, opening	4,143	-
Working Capital, closing	\$ 2,307	\$ 4,143

Represented by:

Current Assets	\$ 2,307	\$ 4,143
Current Liabilities	-	-
	\$ 2,307	\$ 4,143



NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS NOVEMBER 30, 1984

Note 1: The Club was incorporated on April 22, 1985. Fixed assets are depreciated on the declining balance method. One half normal rates are applied to new additions: Software 33%; Hardware 20%.

Note 2: Assets of the Vancouver Pet Users Club as at December 31, 1982 were transferred to Commodore Computer Club. The assets transferred were:

Equipment	\$ 159
Cash	1,716
	1,875

Note 3: The Club changed its year end to November 30th in 1984. The current year reflects an eleven month accounting period.

COMMODORE DISK DRIVES

By JOEL ELLIS REA

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(continued from last issue)

About two years later Commodore invented the Commodore 64! (Ever heard of one of those?) I won't go into all of its nice features, but it still had the serial bus and it still had BASIC V2.

Well, the 1540 was supposed to work with the 64, but it couldn't SAVE or LOAD programs due to timing problems. (Sound familiar?) This time, Commodore upgraded the disk drive instead of the BASIC in the computer, and so was born the 1541. The 1541 is almost identical to the 1540 except for the DOS in ROM.

Anyway, with BASIC V2, it is not easy to send commands to the disk. You have to OPEN the command channel. It's not easy to view the disk directory. You have to LOAD that as a program and LIST it. (Good-bye whatever program you were working on, unless you saved it). If the drive gets an error, it flashes its little red light as a sign. If you want to know what KIND of error, you can't just PRINT DS# (Disk Status) like you can with BASIC V4.

These problems existed in the old PETS with BASIC V2 as well, so an enterprising programmer by the name of Bob Fairbairn wrote the DOS Manager, or DOS Wedge as it has come to be known. (Also referred to as the DOS Support Program.) Commodore put this goodie on the TEST/DEMO disk they included with every drive.

So with the 1540/1541, two new versions of The Wedge were written -- one for the VIC-20 and one for the C-64. This program is included on your TEST/DEMO disk, and can really make life easier!

The manual included with the 1541 is actually a hurried revision of one of the earlier drive's manual. (For proof, just read the description of Error #74 "DRIVE NOT READY" on page 46 thereof! Not to mention the "redlight/green-light" mixup on page 8!)

As a reference manual for technical-types, the 1541 manual isn't half bad. As a tutorial manual for the first-time computer user, it's a joke!

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A COMPLETE GUIDE TO MACHINE LANGUAGE PROGRAMMING ON THE PET

By HAROLD BROCHMANN

THE IRQ VECTOR (9-1)

Despite the blinding speed with which the microprocessor executes ML programs, it nevertheless has time to do a lot of other things at the same time...such as scanning the keyboard and decoding the results, updating the clocks and timer, etc.

These "time out for housekeeping" events take place 60 TIMES PER SECOND and are called INTERRUPT routines. They occur automatically whether the PET is executing ML or BASIC.

If the PET has time to do so many things during its interrupts, maybe it wouldn't notice if we added one more item to its list of things to do!

Locations \$90 and \$91 contain an address which is used by the PET during its interrupts. SYS 4, followed by .M,0090,0091 will reveal this address. Compare it with the IRQ component of the microprocessor status display. Same number. This address is called the IRQ VECTOR.

We will now write a simple ML program that simply writes your name at the top of the screen whenever the SHIFT key is pressed. The program will be "transparent" to BASIC. In other words, you can write and execute BASIC programs with no interference. Only when the SHIFT key is pressed does the ML sequence come into play.

Because this program is so short, and to keep things simple, we will place it in the second cassette buffer. Briefly, here is what our program is going to do:

1. Change the address of the IRQ vector to point at our program.
2. Check to see if the shift key has been pressed; if it has not, let execution continue normally.
3. If the shift key has been pressed then write your name on the screen and then continue normally.

It would be disastrous if an interrupt occurred while we were in the process of chaining the interrupt vector! For this reason, our first instruction is to disable or skip the interrupt sequence until we are finished. For this we use the SET INTERRUPT (SEI) instruction. The inverse instruction is CLEAR INTERRUPT (CLI).

```
003A 78 SEI ;set interrupt disable.
003B A5 90 LDA $90 ;move IRQ vector
003D 8D 66 03 STA $0366 ;...to new location
0040 A5 91 LDA $91
0042 8D 67 03 STA $0367
0045 A9 4F LDA #$4F ;new vector
0047 85 90 STA $90
0049 A9 03 LDA #$03
004B 85 91 STA $91
004D 58 CLI ;ok to interrupt again.
004E 60 RTS
004F A5 98 LDA $98 ;shift key
0051 F0 12 BEQ $0365 ;...not pressed
0053 A9 02 LDA #$02
0055 8D 00 80 STA $8000 ;write BILL
005B A9 09 LDA #$09 ;...on the screen
005A 8D 01 80 STA $8001
005D A9 0C LDA #$0B
005F 8D 02 80 STA $8002
0062 8D 03 80 STA $8003
0065 4C 00 00 JMP $0000 ;continue
```

Note that it doesn't matter what you place in bytes \$0366 and \$0367 because the program loads these bytes for you.

Now SYS 826. Press the shift key. There you are. Notice that you cannot get rid of this word by using the shifted CLEAR/HOME key. The word can be cleared by printing CHR\$(147), or by printing a clear screen from program.

Those whose names are not Bill, as well as for those who would like longer messages displayed, are left to modify the program accordingly. Naturally it isn't necessary to make the appearance of the name or message dependent on pressing the shift key. Other cues can be used.

As you can appreciate, adding your own custom designed procedures to the PET's regular repertoire can be a lot of fun - and maybe even useful!

Many programs make use of the IRQ vector. This includes many of the

utility programs such as Toolkit and Micromon! You can nearly always tell if a PET has such a utility program running in it because the IRQ vector will be altered.

SYS 4

The IRQ in a BASIC 3 PET is normally set to \$E692. In BASIC 4 PETs this is \$E455. If your microprocessor status display shows the IRQ vector to be something other than these numbers, then there is a utility program in operation. The SAVE command, by the way, will break the chain.

Try activating MICROMON, observe the IRQ address, exit, and then executing SAVE, followed by pressing the STOP key. Now SYS 4 and look at the IRQ address again.

We said that an examination of the IRQ vector will NEARLY always tell us whether or not the PET has a utility program operating in it. There is another way to do it. This is known as using a WEDGE, a technique discussed in the next section.

REVIEWS (Continued from page two)

Konshak's Datafile (Jan, November 1984) took 59.7 seconds to load in a large file consisting of 207 records; the compiled version took 55 seconds.

SpeedWriter's manual is extremely good, though there are references in it to the original English edition of the same program. One serious goof is a list of "ifs, ands or buts" on page 3 and 4 containing many technical terms not discussed for several more pages. This list is for "Speedwriter version 2.0" whereas the menu screen of the program reads version "1.1".

On the whole, SpeedWriter ran very smoothly. It found syntax and other errors in the program to be compiled and listed these either on screen or printer. There is even a method by which several programs can be compiled in succession. One feature I didn't like was what happened if the program to be compiled was not found on disk. The screen prompt -- "press space to continue" -- resulted in the computer being reset, which meant another 2-1/4 minutes to load SpeedWriter back in. (The documentation on how to handle this problem is poor.)

On the whole, I was not very impressed with SpeedWriter's compiling abilities. If a sample of BASIC programs had been included to compile and demonstrate some dramatic differences in speed, my opinion might have been quite different.

(Codewriter Corporation, 7847 North Caldwell Avenue, Niles, Illinois 60648. \$55.00)

OLLIE'S FOLLIES

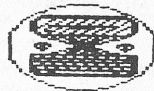
This is a well-designed program which combines elements of "jumping" games like Donkey Kong with the nasty robots of Impossible Mission. Your object is to get through various obstacles in 24 rooms. Impeding your progress, aside from robots, are hazards like drainpipes, lightning bolts, lasers, moving steps, elevators, balance beams, and fans. In order to escape to the next screen you have to open the exit door with a key, the path to which is fraught with more perils.

When I first started playing the game, I was intimidated by the prospect of 24 screens with no apparent bonuses, so I turned it over to my testing staff. They soon discovered that progressing to the end of level four resulted in a clue to starting the game at the fifth level, and logical deduction led to another clue which made it possible to start at level nine.

The game has plenty of imaginative touches, as well as a few peculiar ones. In order to defeat the robots, you have to jump up and touch the "energizer" which is like a giant fright wig. Its effect lasts for a few seconds while you are wearing it.

The ultimate object of the game is a mystery to me. However, for the arcade game junkie, its numerous challenges will provide hours of amusement ... and frustration.

(American Eagle Software, P.O. Box 46080, Lincolnwood, IL 60646 U.S.A. \$34.95)



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