

PROFILES

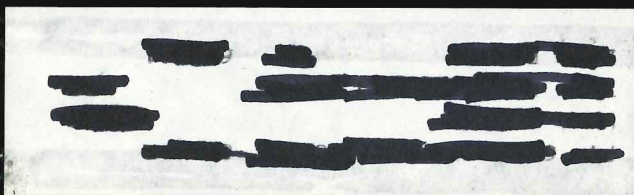
The Magazine for Kaypro Users
April 1986

MS-DOS graphics



Pop-up desktop utilities

Hardware upgrades



HANDYMAN

TURN YOUR KAYPRO ON TO HANDYMAN!!!

AUTO DIALER

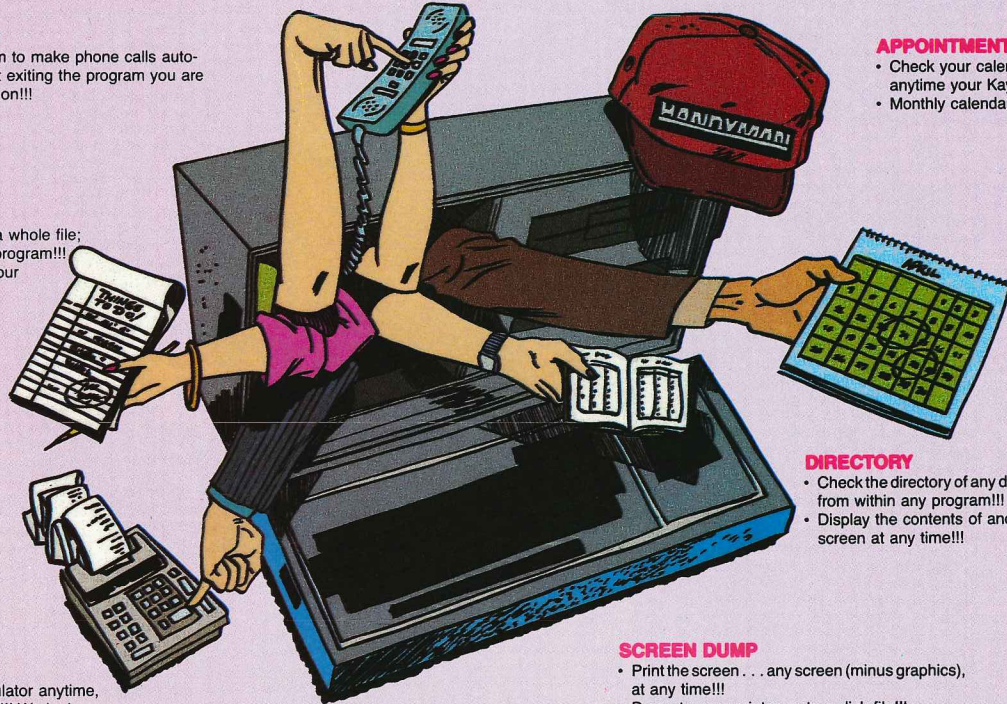
- Use your modem to make phone calls automatically without exiting the program you are already working on!!!

APPOINTMENT CALENDAR

- Check your calendar, schedule appointments anytime your Kaypro is on!!!
- Monthly calendars 1752-2099 AD!!!

NOTEPAD

- Write a note, paragraph, letter, a whole file; anytime, from within any other program!!!
- Edit another file without leaving your current file!!!



DIRECTORY

- Check the directory of any disk, any user number, from within any program!!!
- Display the contents of another file on your screen at any time!!!

CALCULATOR

- Punch up a four function calculator anytime, whenever your computer is on!!! Works in decimal, binary, hex!!! Works from within a spread sheet, or any other program!!!

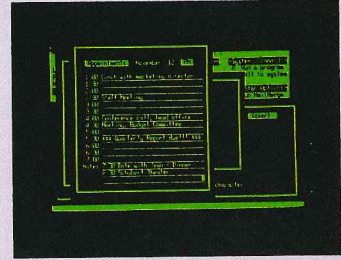
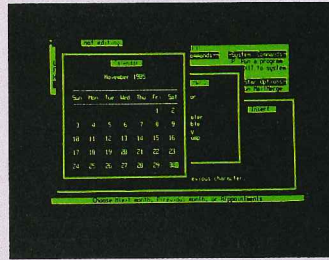
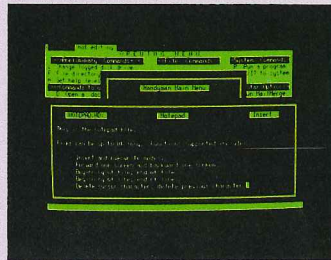
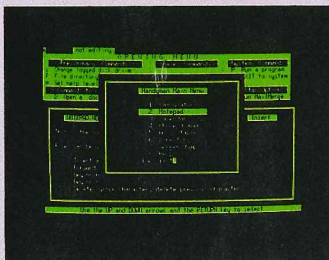
SCREEN DUMP

- Print the screen . . . any screen (minus graphics), at any time!!!
- Dump to your printer, or to a disk file!!!



"Disk Full" message?
With **HANDYMAN** you can check the disk directory and erase superfluous files from within any program!!!

Turn your Kaypro on!!! HANDYMAN is there!!!



HANDYMAN is a plug-in board for your Kaypro!!!
HANDYMAN Works with all Kaypro CP/M models!!!
HANDYMAN Easy to install!!!
HANDYMAN We'll talk you through it over the phone!!!

HANDYMAN Includes software in ROM and its own working RAM!!!
HANDYMAN You never have to load it!
HANDYMAN Single stroke commands!!!
HANDYMAN is compatible with all CP/M application programs!!!

HANDYMAN Uses no main memory!!!

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_____ (quantity) at \$124.95 \$ _____
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2X 4
4-84 10
Robie 10-84
4X 12X

Wordstar Perfect Writer **NOTEPAD** command set

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Capture your fleeting ideas. And keep 'em organized with OUT-THINK, the incredible, new outline processor from KAMASOFT. OUT-THINK unleashes the power in your workhorse CP/M computer and turns it into an Idea Processor.

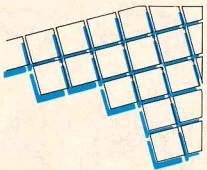
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- + idea leverage
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OUT-THINK is brought to you by KAMASOFT. We pioneered outline processing and brought this amazing new technology to CP/M computers. For over 2 years, our

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"The outline processor is simple, easy to use, and will appeal to all users."
- Mark Renne, INFOWORLD

"If you're a writer using a CP/M based system, get KAMAS. You'll love it. It's that simple."
- Marybeth Highton, FOGHORN

"Considering the quality of the program itself, the documentation, and newsletter, it has to be rated an outstanding value."
- Thomas Tucker, PROFILES
November, 1984

Our new OUT-THINK is simpler and easier to use than KAMAS. Yet, it offers more printing and formatting options, better handling and control, and faster operations. And at \$49.95 your ideas have never had it so good. OUT-THINK is simply spectacular. Try it for 60 days. If you're not completely satisfied, return it for a full refund.

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OUT-THINK
the simple and easy to use outline processor:

special introductory \$49⁹⁵*



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the programmable powerhouse:

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KAMAS COMBO PACK
the power and the glory:

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Signature _____

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Our software is available for most CP/M computers. Tell us about yours:

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Disk Size: 5 1/4" SSDD
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Requirements: CP/M 2.2 or above (48K TPA). Minimum 200K of disk storage. 80 column x 24 line screen. (Note: KAMAS requires 56K TPA and Z80 processor.)

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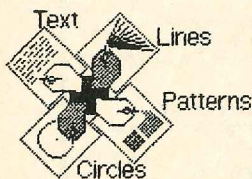
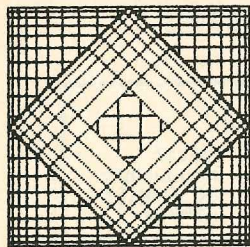
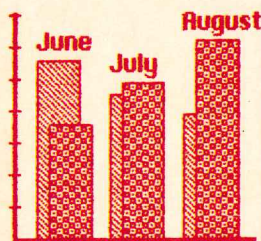
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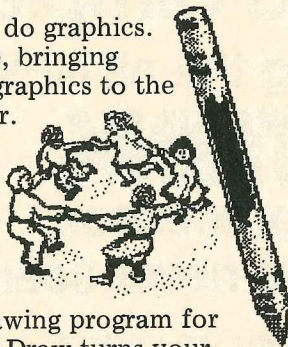


"Kaypro makes a nice computer- too bad it doesn't do graphics"

Graphic Designer



Make that *didn't* do graphics. SCS-Draw is here, bringing Macintosh-style graphics to the Kaypro computer. With SCS-Draw, you can use your Kaypro to draw a picture. Of anything.



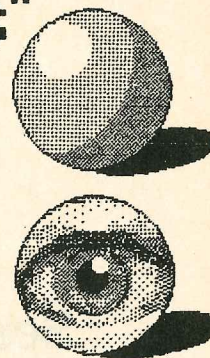
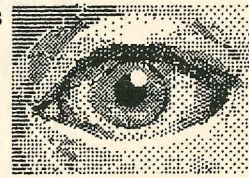
The first true drawing program for the Kaypro, SCS-Draw turns your computer screen into a sketchpad on which you can draw detailed images like those shown here. These images can be saved on disk or printed on your dot-matrix or letter-quality printer.

There are many applications of SCS-Draw. For example, you could use SCS-Draw to design and print party invitations, banners, or technical diagrams. You could also use SCS-Draw to promote your business or design your company logo.

And the best thing about SCS-Draw is that it's fun to use — when was the last time you had some fun with your Kaypro?

SCS-Draw gives you a variety of useful drawing tools to choose from. You can draw a detailed image dot-by-dot, or do a rough sketch with straight lines. Need a compass? SCS-Draw can draw circles of any size, wherever you need them. For subtle shading effects, use one of 23 pre-defined patterns, or create your own.

Other features include block moves, four built-in fonts, and powerful print options like enlargement, indentation, mirror image and rotation. And SCS-Draw's windowing capability lets you work on images much larger than your Kaypro's screen.



How good is SCS-Draw? Every day, we get unsolicited letters and phone calls from SCS-Draw users around the country — here's what they have to say:

- "Very easy to use." — G.H., WPAFB, Ohio
- "Keep it up ... the program is great fun." — J.S., Roseburg, OR
- "A pleasure to use ... user-friendly, fun, well put together." — D.A., Kalamazoo, MI
- "Everything is bug-free!" — D.C., Los Angeles, CA
- "Worth much more than its cost." — B.H., Birmingham, AL



your **KAYPRO** can *draw*

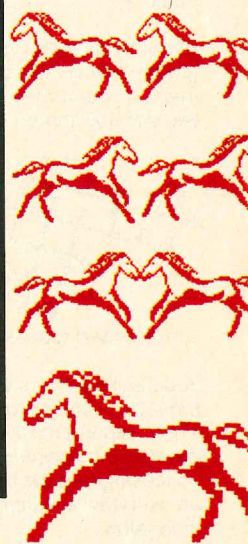
... with SCS-Draw! Available now for all '84, '85 and '86 Kaypro CP/M computers. Send \$59.95 (check or money order) to Second City Software, Box 267960, Chicago, Illinois 60626. Call 312-577-7680 for COD orders or more information.

Simon & Simon Photography

AAAaaa
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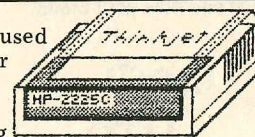
Banners



SECOND CITY SOFTWARE

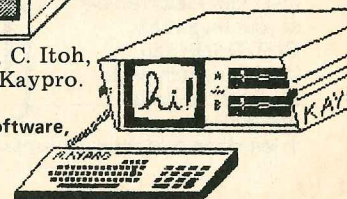
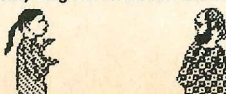
NEW for PrintMaster Owners: Now you can use your favorite PrintMaster images in your SCS-Draw drawings. The Image Extractor converts PrintMaster images to SCS-Draw image libraries. Price: \$24.95 SAVE when you buy SCS-Draw and the Image Extractor together: Only \$79.95

SCS-Draw can be used with most popular dot-matrix and letter-quality printers, including those from Epson, Star, Okidata, C. Itoh, Panasonic, IBM, HP, Diablo and Kaypro.



SCS-Draw, KAYPRO, Macintosh, CP/M and PrintMaster are trademarks of Second City Software, Kaypro Corporation, Apple Computer, Digital Research and Unison World, respectively.

TYPESET



PROFILES

The Magazine for Kaypro Users • Volume 3, Number 9 • April 1986

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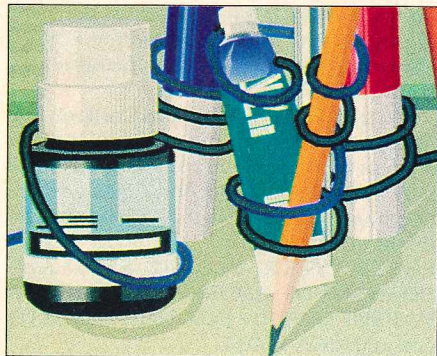
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Part 2: Surveying the field
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On the cover:

The cover design was created by computer graphics artist Lisa Estes of Geniographics® Corporation. It was created on the Geniographics® artist's console and imaged on the Geniographics® PS4000 camera.

Keep in Mind

As you read *PROFILES*, there are a few things we recommend you keep in mind.

First, there is unavoidably at least a three-month delay between the time we receive an article and the time it is published. We make every effort to provide current information, but both commercial and public domain software is revised frequently, so the versions discussed in *PROFILES* articles may not be the latest ones.

For this reason, we suggest that before you purchase *any* program you call the manufacturer for details about the latest version, including the version's number, the date of the last revision, and specifics about what makes the latest version different from previous ones.

The same general rules also apply to hardware purchases. The important point here is to be sure about which model *and* series ('83 or '84) it works with.

Second, *PROFILES*' readership includes users with all levels of experience, from beginner to advanced, as well as users of both the CP/M and MS-DOS operating systems. A legend at the beginning of each feature article indicates which operating system and what level of expertise the article addresses.

For example, Beginner/8/16 indicates that the article is for novice users of either the CP/M (8-bit) or MS-DOS (16-bit) machines.

We will strive to provide a full range of material in each issue to meet the needs of all our readers. ■

About PROFILES

PUBLISHER & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Geoffrey W. Soule

CO-EDITORS

**Diane Ingalls
Terian Tyre**

TECHNICAL EDITOR

Tom Enright

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

**Brock Meeks
Ted Silveira**

ART DIRECTOR

Lorraine Leung

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER

Gwyn Price

CIRCULATION

Mary Boggy

CIRCULATION/EDITORIAL OFFICES

**533 Stevens Avenue
Solana Beach, CA 92075
619/481-4353**

ADVERTISING

**Nancy Donabedian
249 S. Highway 101, Suite 321
Solana Beach, CA 92075
619/436-6112**

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Intersecting Concepts Announces 3 Solutions To Solve Your Computer Incompatibility!

"But will it work on my computer?"

Yes! Finally, there are three easy ways to exchange information, transfer files, and run CP/M software on MS-DOS machines.



1. **MEDIA MASTER™** is our direct disk-to-disk format conversion program. Already an accepted industry standard, this \$39.95* program uses simple screen prompts that lets you read, write and format up to 150 different 5 1/4" diskettes from CP/M, MS-DOS and PC-DOS operating systems. So if you work on a IBM-PC compatible at the office, but use a CP/M computer at home, now you can easily transfer files that would otherwise be "foreign" to your computer's operating system.



2. **MEDIA MASTER PLUS™** goes one step further by converting 8-bit CP/M software to run on 16-bit MS-DOS and PC-DOS machines. This newly released \$59.95 product combines our IBM-PC version of *Media Master* with ZP/EM, a powerful new emulation program. The results are amazing: CP/M programs using 8080 instructions *and* data can be transferred from popular computers like Osborne, Kaypro and Zenith to run on MS-DOS and PC-DOS machines!



3. **ACCELERATE8/16™** is also new and dramatically improves the performance of *Media Master Plus* by tailoring the CP/M emulation around a NEC V20 microchip. This user installable plug-in chip simply replaces the 8088 processor in your MS-DOS computer. Once installed, it'll run your CP/M and MS-DOS software much faster. (Speed improvements are roughly 15% faster in MS-DOS and 350% faster in CP/M!) *Accelerate8/16* includes *Media Master Plus*, V20 CP/M Emulation Software, and the NEC chip for only \$99.95!

SEE US AT THE WEST COAST COMPUTER FAIRE — BOOTH 1833!

THE CHOICE IS YOURS!

So if you just need to exchange files between different computers using different operating systems, there's *Media Master* at \$39.95.

If you're upgrading to an MS-DOS or PC-DOS machine or already have one but don't want to spend money buying "new" software programs you already own, there's *Media Master Plus* for \$59.95

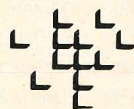
And if the execution speed of your CP/M programs is important, there's *Accelerate8/16* for \$99.95, which provides a simple hardware *and* software solution to making your MS-DOS computer CP/M compatible.

TO ORDER

To order *Media Master*, *Media Master Plus*, or *Accelerate8/16*, call **800-628-2828, ext. 629**.

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Genealogy updates

We were pleasantly surprised to find our program, Family Roots, mentioned in your article "Tracing Your Family Tree" (February) and are receiving many inquiries about it. Please let your readers know that the cost of the program is \$185. We do not charge for shipping and handling within the United States. [The cost of the program was listed as \$188.50, plus \$3.50 shipping and handling, in the article mentioned.]

Family Roots is available for all Kaypros, MS-DOS as well as CP/M. Readers who are curious about our program may be interested in our demo disk and demo guide. This limited working version is priced at \$9.50 to cover our cost for materials and shipping.

Pat Vorenberg
Vice president, Quinsept, Inc.
Lexington, Massachusetts

Thank you for the favorable review of my genealogy program, My Family Record. In respect to the timeliness of the article, I should like to point out that I shipped the review copy of MFR in May 1985. I was told at the time that the article would appear in the August issue of *PROFILES*. It is my opinion that a nine-month delay in publishing details about a program reflects a degree of irresponsibility, especially since no effort was made to contact me for up-to-date details on cost, etc.

Last summer, because of numerous requests, a significant number of enhancements were made to MFR. This, together with the fact that I could barely break even at the \$35 price, forced a price increase. Since October 1985, the price of MFR has been \$60, with an additional \$2 charge for postage and handling in the continental United States (the price is \$65 plus a \$5 postage and handling charge outside the continental U.S.).

A new version of MFR (version 2) will become available in May 1986

with the following features: compiled executable program; source language is the C Language Compiler; runs faster than version 1; uses less memory than version 1; enhanced capabilities and user friendliness; one master disk instead of three; supports GEDCOM genealogy file format; conversion utility to convert version 1 files; fully supported for all Kaypro computers. The price remains the same as above.

I am now swamped with orders and checks for \$35, which I have to send back in every case. Not only the expense but the time wasted is exasperating.

Ronald P. Duncan
Salt Lake City, Utah

Because of our production schedule, we work three to four months in advance of the cover date on each issue, and review copies of software are requested even earlier so writers can meet their deadlines. For this reason, we sometimes print a disclaimer at the beginning of articles (as we did in the genealogy article) stating that the versions of software reviewed might not be the latest versions available at the time of publication.

However, we realize this does not solve your problem, and we do regret any inconvenience we may have caused you or our readers. We will continue to do as much as we can to ensure that information in review articles is as current as possible.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind readers again that the computer industry—hardware and software—is exceptionally volatile and fast-changing. Before you mail a check for any product, call first to make sure the product is still available and to find out about any revisions in its price and features.

More on packet radio

As a Kaypro user and amateur radio operator ("ham") I would like to clarify several points made in "Life at 300 Baud" in the March 1986 issue.

First, amateur radio is just that—amateur. The radio bands allocated to amateur use may not be used for any commercial purpose. The amateur radio service is authorized by law to provide emergency communications, promote technical development, and provide a pool of trained radio operators to meet national needs. Any use of these bands for personal gain is prohibited, and this includes becoming a "ham" just to beat the phone company.

Second, the use of codes or encrypted material of any sort on amateur bands is prohibited.

Third, there are currently five classes of amateur licenses with different privileges in terms of frequencies and modes of operation. I have never heard of a "Class One" amateur radio operator's license. I hold a General class license (the others are Novice, Technician, Advanced and Extra). The point is that different bands have different abilities to transmit short, medium, or long distances. A license that is easier to obtain may not give the user the permission to use bands that would allow him or her to contact specific locations.

I'm not trying to degrade packet radio; it's a wonderful mode of operation. However, anyone interested in packet on the amateur bands should know the ground rules before they start.

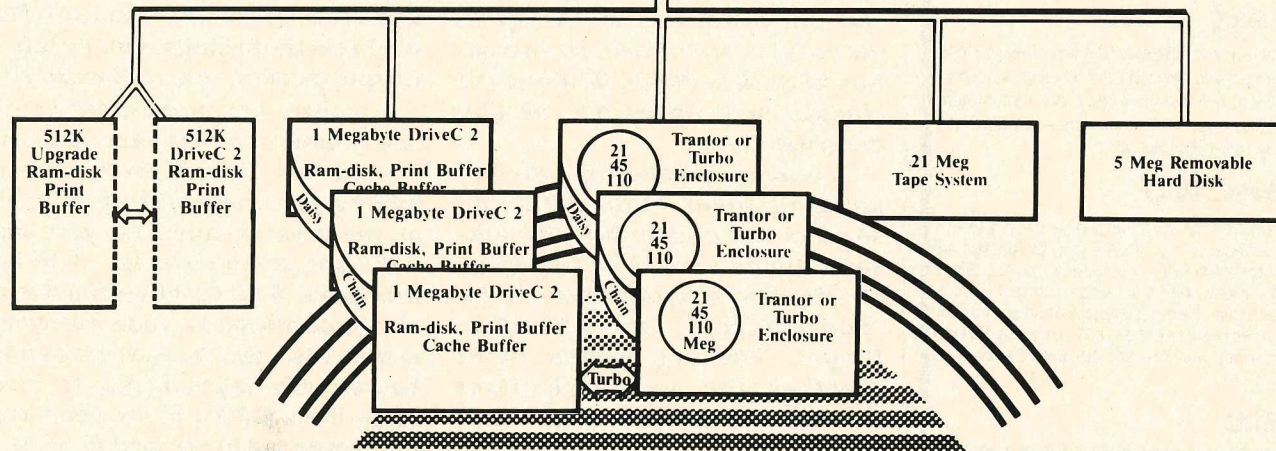
Stephen R. Klipfel
Springfield, Ohio

FCC engineer Jerome Man corroborates most of your points. Amateur radio bands are strictly for non-commercial, not-for-profit use. The FCC monitors their use and issues sanctions against

CP/M® LIVES!
One of a Series

The \$100
WW Interface

WestWind
The NEXT GENERATION



CP/M® LIVES!

THE WestWind INTERFACE

If you're a CP/M user who's grappling with whether to keep your computer, invest in upgrades, or switch to MS-DOS, the WestWind Interface frees you to do what YOU want—right now!

The WW Interface for CP/M includes everything you need for attaching WestWind's Next Generation products to a CP/M computer, so it's easy to use our Hard Disks with your Osborne, or your KayPro, or your Morrow . . . or just about any Z80 system, by adding a WW Interface to your computer.

Best of all, our Dual Operating System feature lets you share our Trantor and Turbo (DriveC 2 Cache Buffered) Hard Disks between CP/M AND MS-DOS computers. Get a WW Interface for CP/M and a WW Interface for MS-DOS to connect our Hard Disk to either kind of computer and automatically access the right files.

And, when you're ready, use our Hard Disks completely for MS-DOS operation.

You see, we want you to get the utmost performance from your CP/M computer, to have the resources you need to make the transition to MS-DOS, and to know that an investment in a powerful enhancement for your CP/M computer NOW . . . will be just as valuable an investment for an MS-DOS computer LATER!

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Letters

those who use them for commercial purposes. Use of encrypted material is prohibited, so encryption of data is illegal. Finally, the classes of licenses are as you describe them.

A crucial question is whether using amateur radio bands instead of the phone lines for telecommunications is permissible, or whether it constitutes use for "personal gain" and is therefore illegal. The key seems to be whether the communications themselves are for profit. Personal, non-commercial communication on amateur bands is permitted, according to Man, and use of packet radio for such purposes appears to be acceptable.

Flattery will get you everywhere

It appears the format of *PROFILES* is changing—and for the better! Your idea of labeling the articles [for reader level and operating system] is fantastic. So is the "Beginner's Luck" column. How about an article on numeric keypad configuration for the neophyte?

Joseph Liotta
Staten Island, New York

I had decided not to renew, but the past two issues have been such an improvement that I decided to continue for another year.

If you could stick directly to matters concerning Kaypro users who are bound together because they bought a certain brand of computer, you would be doing a better service.

Robert Goodman
(No city given)

The dissenting opinion

It is with a certain amount of hesitation that I renew my subscription

to *PROFILES*. I hope you will take this letter to heart, as I am sure that it reflects the feelings of many other Kaypro owners. I own a Kaypro 2X.

I realize you must cover some new products, but as I am sure you know better than I, there are too many magazines covering PC-DOS at the present time. As you add more and more coverage of 16-bit machines, 8-bit coverage must suffer. Regardless of your editorial comments, I feel that the magazine has already taken a steady turn away from CP/M. If my concerns are proven out in the next 12 issues, you can be assured that I will not renew at that time. This should not be taken as a threat, but as a plea. I need you as much as you need me.

There are a couple of changes that I believe would help assuage my fears:

1. Add a regular feature that would teach us programming through simple programs that have some use.

2. Have at least as much text as advertisements. Too often, after flipping through page after page of ads, only to find articles scotched in here and there, I wonder what the real purpose of your magazine is. Sell my address to your advertisers. I will be glad to read the blurbs, but send me a magazine that says something.

Sid Helper
Hickory, North Carolina

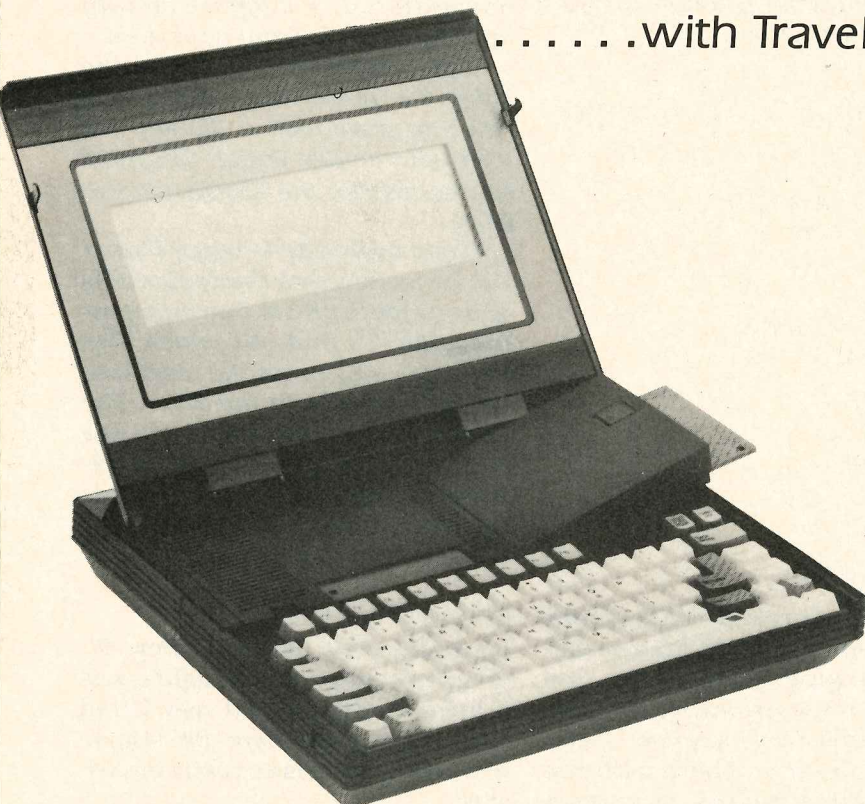
To respond to your concerns, first we must say once again that since PROFILES is "the magazine for Kaypro users," it has to be for all Kaypro users, and we strive for that balance. Second, there seems to be considerable interest in practical articles on programming, and we will attempt to provide more of them. Last, without the advertisements, there would be no magazine at all—advertising revenues pay the lion's share of almost every magazine's operating expenses.

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Q & A

by Tom Enright

We welcome and read all your letters. Those of general interest are printed in the Letters column; pleas for technical help are dealt with here if they lend themselves to simple, concise answers, or in Technical Forum if the answer is more involved.

Due to the volume, we simply can't respond individually to all requests for assistance. If you have a question requiring an immediate reply, contact your dealer. You can contact Kaypro Technical Support, but be aware that they give dealers' calls priority. Call them at (619) 481-3920, or write to P.O. Box N, Del Mar, CA 92014. Please include a daytime phone number.

CP/M 3.0

I am a member of the Kaypro Club Deutschland (KUG Germany), section Frankfurt. I am interested to hear whether there is a possibility of changing my Kaypro 4'84 from CP/M 2.2 to CP/M 3.0 with more than 64K of on-board memory.

Among the advertisers in PROFILES, I couldn't find such an enhancement advertised. The only thing that I could find were advertisements for various hard disks and RAM disks.

In the case that you don't know of anyone offering CP/M 3.0 for the Kaypro, can you offer any alternatives to increase the speed of word processing applications?

Herbert Brichta
Gensingen, West Germany

The only way I know of to get CP/M 3.0 on a Kaypro is to replace the mainboard as part of the process. A replacement mainboard based on the Hitachi HD64B180 chip is available from Southern Pacific Limited of Yokohama, Japan. I have seen their advertisements in both Micro Cornucopia and Byte magazines.

This replacement mainboard comes with 512K of RAM and can

run the Turbo DOS, MPM, or CP/M 3.0 operating systems. I don't think an operating system is included in the \$674 purchase price. The distributors should be able to give you more complete information.

Southern Pacific sells its products world-wide through the following distributors:

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Denmark
Danbit
03-662020

Finland
BB Soft
90-692-6297

Please be aware that neither I nor anyone else at PROFILES has ever seen this product in action, and we have no information on product quality or user support. If you replace your mainboard with one from another source, your computer effectively ceases to be a Kaypro, and I doubt that Kaypro would be able to help with problems that may occur.

The empty file

I tried to type the CBIOS.PRN file on the CP/M disk that came with my Kaypro 2X. It seems that this should be possible, but TYPE just returns me to the A0> prompt when I try to see what is in the file.

Can I find out the contents of this file any other way?

Michael D. LaMarr
Santa Monica, California

There should not have been a file by that name on any distribution disk that you received from Kay-

pro. If a file by that name was on a disk delivered by Kaypro, it is an error.

From your description it appears that the file is either empty or does not contain readable text, which is why the TYPE command produces the result you encountered. I suggest simply erasing that file from your disk.

If you want information on the BIOS for your machine, you'll have to purchase a Tinker Kit from your dealer. Tinker Kits have source code for the CBIOS and the ROM.

If you do decide to buy a Tinker Kit, be certain that the dealer sells you one for the ROM that is in your machine. To find out which Tinker Kit to buy, press the reset button with no disk in the drive. The numbers on your screen tell the revision level of your ROM. Write those numbers down and have the dealer order a Tinker Kit for that specific revision level.

Single drive problems

I purchased a Kaypro "New 2" about a year ago and thought it was a great computer. But now I find that buying software for single-drive computers is virtually impossible.


I recently purchased a Print-Master disk that I thought would be great, but when I received it, I could not copy the disk because it was single-sided. I had to take it to my dealer to get it fixed, which annoyed me greatly. When I got home after having the disk fixed, I found that it kept giving a "BDOS ERROR ON B: SELECT" error. Now I'm going to have to take it to the dealer again.

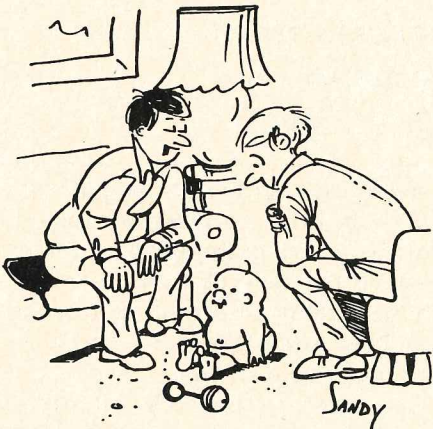
What I am trying to say is why did Kaypro even bother to make a "New 2" and then not have any software available for it? Right now I am completely frustrated with the Kaypro Corporation and would like to know how to get software for my computer, or I am just going to buy an IBM and be done with it.

Shaun Lippy
Hanover, Pennsylvania

Your use of the of the word "fixed" in this context is a little puzzling. Unless your dealer has the source code for PrintMaster, which is very unlikely, he is not going to be able to help you. The error message you got indicates that the program requires two drives in order to function. It is the buyer's responsibility to find out the hardware requirements of software before purchasing it.

The best solution to your problem would be to add a second floppy drive to your computer. Any computer with only one disk drive—even the hallowed IBM—will be of limited use. That's why Kaypro no longer sells the "New 2." There just isn't enough useful software that will function with only one disk drive.

If your dealer hasn't mentioned adding a second drive, take your business elsewhere. Kaypro sells a drive upgrade kit for the "New 2." However, any competent technician can add a second drive to your computer; you don't have to use Kaypro's kit. Any half-height, double-sided, 48 tpi drive can be fitted in your Kaypro. If you don't have any experience working on hardware, I'd recommend having a technician do the conversion. 



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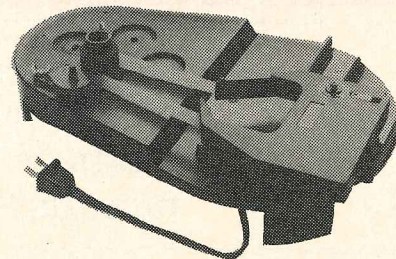
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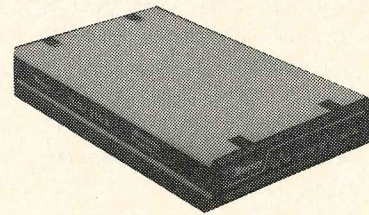
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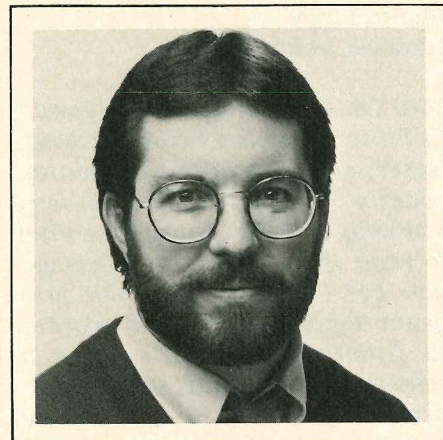
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Desert island book list



by Brock N. Meeks

One evening G. K. Chesterton and several other literary figures were asked what books they would prefer to have with them if stranded on a desert island.

"The complete works of Shakespeare," said one writer without hesitation.

"I'd choose the Bible," interrupted another.

"And how about you?" somebody asked Chesterton. "I would choose," replied the portly author, "*Thomas's Guide to Practical Shipbuilding*."

From time to time such "desert island list" conversations grace general-interest bulletin boards. Anything that can be placed on a list is fair game for discussion.

Suppose you were exiled to a desert island with your Kaypro, a modem, and, through some act of mercy, a toll-free phone line. What books on telecommunications would you take with you? Let me give you my list and see how it compares to yours.

Desert island 1986

The Complete Handbook of Personal Computer Communications, by Alfred Glossbrenner. (St. Martin's Press, 1985.)

This book is to a telecomputer what Thomas's book was to Chesterton. Glossbrenner's 1983 edition became a telecommunications bible for more than 125,000 modem warriors. His revised 1985

edition—almost a complete rewrite of the original—is a definitive work on "the big picture" of telecommunications.

This book cuts through the high-tech jargon we online veterans are inclined to throw around when enthusiastically describing our addiction. This is more than just a basic "how-to" telecommunications handbook; Glossbrenner gives you an understanding of the history of telecommunications, from bulletin boards to the nation's first computer conferencing system (the Electronic Information Exchange System). In addition, he gives the most understandable explanation of the technical aspects of online communications I've ever read.

base Source Book, by Matthew Lesko. (Avon, 1984.)

This 900-page reference work is overwhelming at first glance. Lesko lists more than 1,000 commercial databases by subject and includes the cost of each, plus names, addresses, and phone numbers. This book also lists hundreds of governmental databases where you can get, often for free, much of the same information contained in commercial databases.

I think of this book as my dictionary of online sources. In the front of the book Lesko gives 47 practical examples that illustrate how to use the information inside. Examples range from an accountant who provides his clients with an online database that determines audit

*Glossbrenner seasons
his text with irresistible
bits of information
he calls "Online Tips."*

Glossbrenner also seasons his text with irresistible bits of information he calls "Online Tips," which will save you money and hours of frustration. There is something in this book for every level of telecommunicator, from novice to veteran.

Guide to everything
The Computer Data and Data-

possibilities (from data he gathers annually from an IRS-maintained database) to a doctoral student writing her dissertation on social change using information from a database maintained by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

For those frustrated by attempts to obtain information from the government, Lesko explains how to use the Freedom of Information Act

and includes a sample FOI request letter.

For all you entrepreneurs, there is a description of how to turn a governmental database into a commercial database for your own profit.

Business online

Databasics: Your Guide to Online Business Information, by Doran Howitt and Marvin Weinberger. (Garland Publishing, Inc., 1985).

Dedicated solely to business, this 614-page book is a valuable reference tool for business people trying to make sense of the information industry. The authors provide profiles of 100 databases that cover such topics as management, new companies, stocks, finance, marketing, and technology.

Most business information seekers will find all they need in the well-written chapters on hardware, software, online searching techniques, costs and communications. A "buyer's guide" details specifications on terminals, software packages and modems.

Databasics has some things you won't find in other online reference books, such as the excellent discussion of how online information can best be used in a business environment. A section on information brokers will let you decide if a pro should do your online research for you. As an added incentive, many online vendors offer free online demonstrations and discount coupons to buyers of the book.

Win or lose

How to Win With Information Or Lose Without It, by Andrew P. Garvin and Hubert Bermont. (The Consultant's Library, 1985.)

(This book is not available in bookstores. It can be ordered from Information Products Group, 800/223-2054, or 212/354-2424 in New York.)

Confused about what all this online information can do for you? Garvin and Bermont have written this book just for you. The authors define the term "information consciousness" in an effort to give the business executive or small business owner a foundation for eval-

uating various sources of online information.

You won't find detailed accounts of online services or mini-tutorials. Instead the authors provide a basic and intelligible guide to understanding your needs for information before you decide where to look for it.

The book analyzes the process of information-gathering by providing a breakdown of the various types of information sources, including the government; discussing how to determine the reliability of information sources; and also

describing, with examples, market research and gathering information on competitors.

Case studies

The Microcomputers User's Guide to Information Online, by Carol Hansen. (Hayden Book Co., 1984.)

A comparison of the titles of Hansen's and Glossbrenner's books might lead you to believe they are in direct competition. *Guide*, however, is more of a navigational chart, whereas Glossbrenner's book is a complete atlas.

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- Check printing with multiple invoices
- Supports handwritten checks & partial payments
- Complete ledger reports with sort options
- Job cost posting file for use with spreadsheet, database or other programs
- Open & closed items with full audit trail
- G/l dist. breakdown at end of open item report
- Vendor file with "activity history"

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

- Custom aging analysis, credit & debit memos
- Customer file with "activity history"
- Invoice, progress & partial payments
- Interest calculations, customized statements
- Job cost posting file for use with spreadsheet, database or other programs
- Open & closed items with full audit trail
- Complete ledger reports with sort options

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Hansen's *Guide* teaches general principles for online survival. Her "case studies" cut through the jargon and tell you only what you need to know. (I believe this is the first book on telecommunications that doesn't explain that "modem stands for modulation/demodulation.") Hansen stresses the "how" over the "what" and "where."

Hansen's book is an excellent tool for those of you just starting to venture into the world of online information. There's a lot more to the process than first appears and she brings that out.

The search process, as Hansen points out, is "an art, not a science," and she takes you through a study of online systems from bulletin boards to commercial vendors like Dialog.

This is *not* a "must" book for everyone. If your online sojourns never take you beyond the basement BBS, forget this book and look for something more entertaining. However, if you spend much time using commercial information systems, this book could save you from those end-of-the-month bank account blues.

Online philosophy

The Netweaver's Sourcebook: A Guide to Micro Networking and Communications, by Dean Gengle. (Addison-Wesley, 1984.)

Gengle's book is one to read by the glow of your desert island driftwood fire. *Netweaver* is about the philosophy of telecomputing. With terms like "netweaver" (a somewhat "self-actualized" telecomputer) and "Noöspherics" (the study of global consciousness) this book takes a little getting used to.

Netweaver is divided into four sections. In *Netweaving Development Tools*, netweavers learn about the languages and general concerns of information and networks. *Personal Systems* centers on the most basic information system—the self and the brain. In *Social Systems* you learn the basics of human organization, starting with organizing yourself. In *Building*

and *Weaving* you are taught the basics of hardware, software, and physical connections and learn how to weave them into a personal information system.

Gengle also discusses the technical side of telecommunications, from local area network protocols to multiplexing. His descriptions pale in comparison to Glossbrenner's and are unnecessary. The real value of this book lies in its description of creating personal information systems.

Gengle describes a strategy for getting together with online colleagues to pool information. Each person in the group accesses a different source of information and then shares it with the others. This increases your information base and can give the effect of being in many places at once. (For example, I have online colleagues who journey to Africa regularly and provide me with interesting on-the-scene updates that regular news services would never offer.)

There is an extensive appendix that provides excellent references and suggestions for additional reading. This is the book for you online veterans bored with the local BBS chit-chat. Spend a few nights with Gengle and going online will take on a completely different meaning.

Carrier detect

I have a problem. You see, I'm a self-confessed electronic pack rat. Because I'm online so many hours of the day, I find myself continually downloading an interesting bit of text here, a review there, or an "inside scoop" from one of my electronic mailboxes. Trouble is, most of this electronic scrap paper just sits around on a few unmarked disks, never to be heard of again. Next month I'll dig out those disks and do some housecleaning. Then I'll share with you some of the more interesting odds and ends I've come across, including an exciting update on the continuing saga of "Moscow Calling: Telecomputing From Inside the U.S.S.R."

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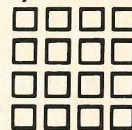
No system is perfect; CPI Business Systems are not exceptions. That's why users are entitled to support when they need it and that's why CPI continues to enhance each system regularly based on user's suggestions.

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CAPACITIES of 600 Vendors (CP/M), 2000 Vendors (MS-DOS) - no limit on transactions.

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CAPACITIES - 600/2000 emp. (CP/M/MS-DOS), 98 Tax File Rcds.

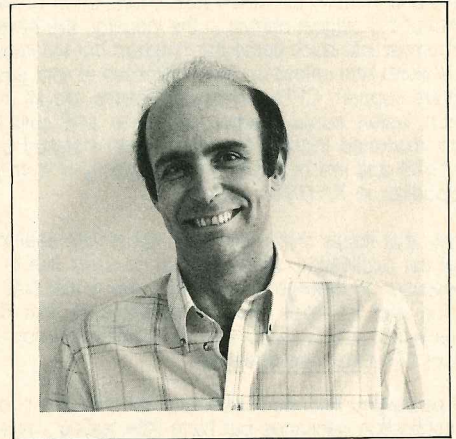
HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS
CP/M: 64K (53K TPA) & CP/M 2.0 or higher.
MS-DOS: 128K (or more) & MS-DOS/PC-DOS 2.0 or higher - ANSI.SYS.
Printer: 132 columns (compressed pitch supported), continuous forms.
Disk/s: Dual Floppies/Hard Disk/Both - 191K recommended, less works.
CRT: 80/24 with Clear, Home, Clear to EOL, Up, Down, Left, Right.

CURRENT UPDATE:

THE C.P.I. GENERAL LEDGER SYSTEM WAS REVIEWED IN THE NOVEMBER 1985 ISSUE OF PROFILES (STARTS ON PAGE 49). HERE ARE SOME OF THE BETTER QUOTES FROM PAGE 50, BUT BE SURE TO READ THE WHOLE REVIEW. "THIS TOP LEVEL PACKAGE RATES AS ONE OF THE BEST PROGRAMS WE REVIEWED. . . COMPARES FAVORABLY TO PACKAGES COSTING HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS MORE. . . FEATURES OFFERED BY THE C.P.I. SYSTEM MAKE IT EXTREMELY POWERFUL AND FLEXIBLE. . . THE DOCUMENTATION IS EXCELLENT. . . USER SUPPORT PROGRAM INDICATES A HIGHER THAN AVERAGE INTEREST IN USER SATISFACTION."

Flea Market

Free tools for dBASE II users



by Ted Silveira

No database program in the CP/M world has quite the combination of power, flexibility, and outside support that dBASE II has. True, it's no speed demon, though it's generally as fast as or faster than other complex database programs. And true, its quirks have created a healthy trade in how-to books, seminars, and add-on programs. But dBASE II lives on and prospers.

One of the keys to dBASE II's success is its structured programming language, which allows you to write programs in the form of CMD files (a text file, with a name like LEDGER.CMD, that contains executable dBASE II commands). The dBASE II language has all the basic features a programmer needs—variables, loops, conditional branching, even a method of incorporating assembly language subroutines.

As you might guess, public domain programmers have taken quite a liking to this language, so you can now find public domain dBASE II programs for everything from mailing lists and household checkbooks to inventory control and general ledger systems for small businesses.

Even better, you'll find some very helpful dBASE II tools in the public domain—both CMD files that you can incorporate into your own dBASE II programs and stand-alone programs (COM files) that help with your housekeeping.

These tools can save you hours of work when you start building your own dBASE II CMD files.

MS-DOS Users Note: Because the CP/M and MS-DOS versions of dBASE II are functionally the same, you can use many of the programs I cover here, even though they were written with CP/M computers in mind. You should be able to run almost any CMD file (just change the filetype to PRG) as long as it doesn't use any PEEKS, POKES, or other machine language tricks.

You definitely won't be able to use any of the COM files or assembly language files I cover because they're specific to CP/M. You probably won't be able to use the BASIC programs either—although MBASIC and GW-BASIC are similar, you will undoubtedly find some CP/M-specific stuff when you try to convert the programs.

On with the show . . .

See dBASE II run faster

DB2&3MAX.INF isn't a CMD file or a program. It's an electronic reprint of the article "Maximizing Performance with dBASE II and III," by Alan Simpson, originally published in *Personal Systems*, a newsletter put out by the San Diego Computer Society.

To those interested in maximum performance, Simpson points out that dBASE II usually offers more than one way to perform a particular sort, search, report, edit, or

other task. He then compares methods of accomplishing a task to show which is the fastest in a given situation, running his speed tests on a typical mailing list of 1,000 names (MAIL).

Take, for example, the task of copying all entries for "Miller" (10 of them) from MAIL to a new file (TEMP). The command **USE MAIL INDEX NAMES COPY TO TEMP FOR LNAME = "Miller"** took 200.6 seconds.

But the command **USE MAIL INDEX NAMES FIND Miller COPY TO TEMP WHILE LNAME = "Miller"** took only 18.7 seconds, less than one-tenth the time.

That's an edge worth knowing about, and the file is full of similar surprises.

DTUNE31.COM, by James Gronek, is a stand-alone program that processes dBASE II CMD files in several ways. Its main function is to "tune up" your CMD files by removing unneeded spaces, tabs, linefeeds, and comments and by shortening all reserved words and phrases to four characters only (the minimum necessary). The result is a smaller CMD file—4K instead of 14K in the case of one heavily commented file I processed—and this smaller file will run more quickly simply because dBASE II has less to read. (dBASE II reads everything when it executes a command file, even if it doesn't need to.)

At the same time that it's creating a leaner and faster CMD file,

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DTUNE31 can build a special file that cross-references all the variables used in your dBASE II program. And it can also create a structured version of your original source CMD file or even your new "tuned" file. These structured files use indentations to set off loops in the program, making it much easier to read, especially if it has loops inside of loops.

Through all this processing, DTUNE31 leaves your original file untouched. DTUNE31 is quite easy to use and comes with its own installation program.

ENCODE.COM, by Merlin Null, is a dBASE II compiler (or pseudo-compiler, as the author calls it) that claims to make your CMD files run up to 30 percent faster than before. Unlike DTUNE31, which does nothing you couldn't do yourself if you had the time and the patience, ENCODE creates a new "partially tokenized" version of your CMD file that has key reserved words encoded as single bytes (instead of four or more characters).

As a result of this reduction, the new file runs faster and, as a bonus for the security conscious, is harder for others to read or edit. In addition, ENCODE claims to support the use of dBASE II macros, which DBCODE, Ashton-Tate's own product, does not.

Customizing with assembly language

Unlike many database programs, dBASE II can be modified and enhanced through assembly language. Using the LOAD and SET CALL commands, it's even possible to include fast, efficient assembly language subroutines in your dBASE II programs.

DBASM.ASM is a collection of assembly language routines, including ones to right- or left-justify a string, to check for a valid zip code entry, and to add an "inkey" input function like that in BASIC. Most interesting of all, it contains a routine that lets you selectively clear three predefined areas on the screen (windows, in other words), either one, two, or three at a time. You could put together a slick-looking application with that trick.



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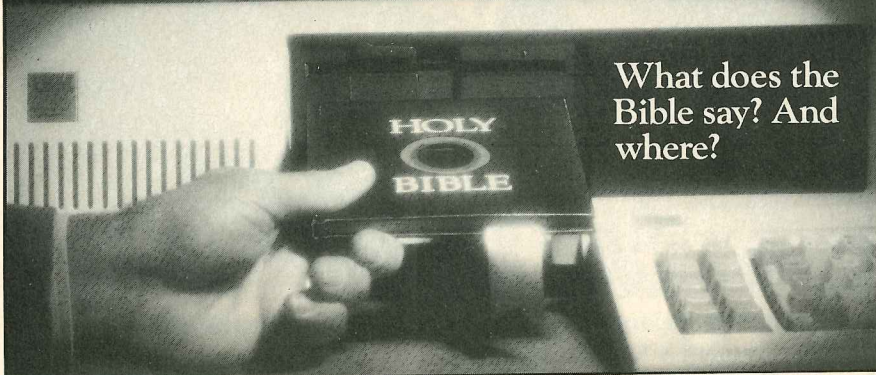
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Checks & Balances and Bowling Secretary system requirements—CP/M: 60K RAM MS-DOS/PC-DOS: 192K RAM. All require 2 floppies or hard disk, or one floppy with over 500K.

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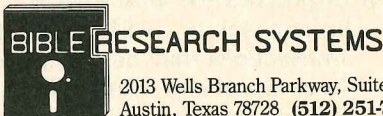


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Like all dBASE II assembly language subroutines, DBASM gets loaded at an unused address above 41984 (A400h), which is the highest address used by dBASE II in normal operation. If you run a sort, however, this area will be wiped out, and you'll have to reload DBASM (or whatever you're using).

VDBTYPE.ASM, by Norman Strassner, adds a neat file-viewing function to dBASE II. It allows you to view any text file onscreen—a normal text file, a squeezed text file, even a squeezed text file inside a library (LBR) file—all without ever leaving dBASE II.

It's nice to be able to scan a DOC file, for example, without having to exit dBASE II, but VDBTYPE has even greater possibilities. If you're writing a complicated dBASE II application, you can create help files (a dozen or more, if you want) to go along with it. If you include VDBTYPE in your application, you can squeeze all the help files and store them in a single library file (saving considerable disk and directory space), yet still give users quick access when they need it.

NEWBAS11.ASM, by Gene Head, is an assembly language patch file that adds features to dBASE II versions 2.3B, 2.4, 2.41, 2.41Z, and the current 2.43*. (Note the asterisk in 2.43*—versions 2.43 and 2.43Z have been dropped. If you have either of these versions, you should upgrade right away.)

The first two patches let you skip the opening date request and the sign-on message, except for the copyright notice. (But if you have a clock in your Kaypro, you should read Bill Kennedy's "dBASE II and the Real-time Clock" in *PROFILES*, April 1985.)

A third patch adds a KEYIN function so that you can tell if a keyboard key has been pressed just by PEEKing at a particular memory location.

Three other patches will help if you're creating dBASE II applications and are concerned about security. The FORCE patch forces a warm boot if a valid command file

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Prestige Elite 12	The Quick Brown Fox Jumps Right Over The Lazy Dog. [\] ^ ` { } ~
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isn't specified at startup. The PRE-DEFINED patch forces the execution of a predefined command file on startup. And the ESCAPE patch stops anyone from aborting to the dot prompt by hitting the ESCAPE key.

Together these patches will help prevent an untrained (or hostile) user from breaking out of your program and wreaking havoc at the dot prompt. They don't, of course, keep him or her from wreaking equal havoc at the CP/M prompt.

Finally, if you use ZCPR or a similar CP/M modification, another patch lets you leave DBASE.COM and DBASEOVR.COM on drive A and change your default drive to B (or C or D), where your command and data files are. With this patch, dBASE II will still be able to locate DBASEOVR.COM on A when it needs to.

Calling Dr. dBASE

There are also several programs available to help you out when things go wrong with dBASE II.

DBCLINIC.BAS, written by Dick Bollinger, is an MBASIC program to be used when you're working with unknown or possibly damaged database files. With it, you can do five things. First, you can display the record length of any dBASE II DBF or TXT file. Second, you can display the structure header information of any DBF file. Third, you can get an exact count of the number of records in a DBF or TXT file. Fourth, you can display and change the record count in the structure header of a DBF file. And fifth, you can display and change the date of the last update.

RECOVER.COM, by Brett Bonner, is another program that can help with file problems. RECOVER tries to bring back a trashed database file by removing all end-of-file markers and resetting the record count to 65,532.

DBUNIQ22.COM is a dBASE II program (a command file) itself, written by James Gronek and Stephen Aidikonis. It helps you clean up your database by purging any

duplicate records from your files.

DB2BAKUP.COMD, by Ralph Smotherman, is also a dBASE II program. Its purpose is to help you head off disaster by backing up your files. DB2BAKUP is actually two simple routines meant to be inserted in any dBASE II application program, one at the beginning and one at the end. Together, they automate the file backup process, making it part of the application.


SUPERBAK.COMD is another file backup program written in dBASE II. Unlike the previous program, SUPERBAK is specifically written for backing up database files from a hard disk to floppies and then later restoring them.

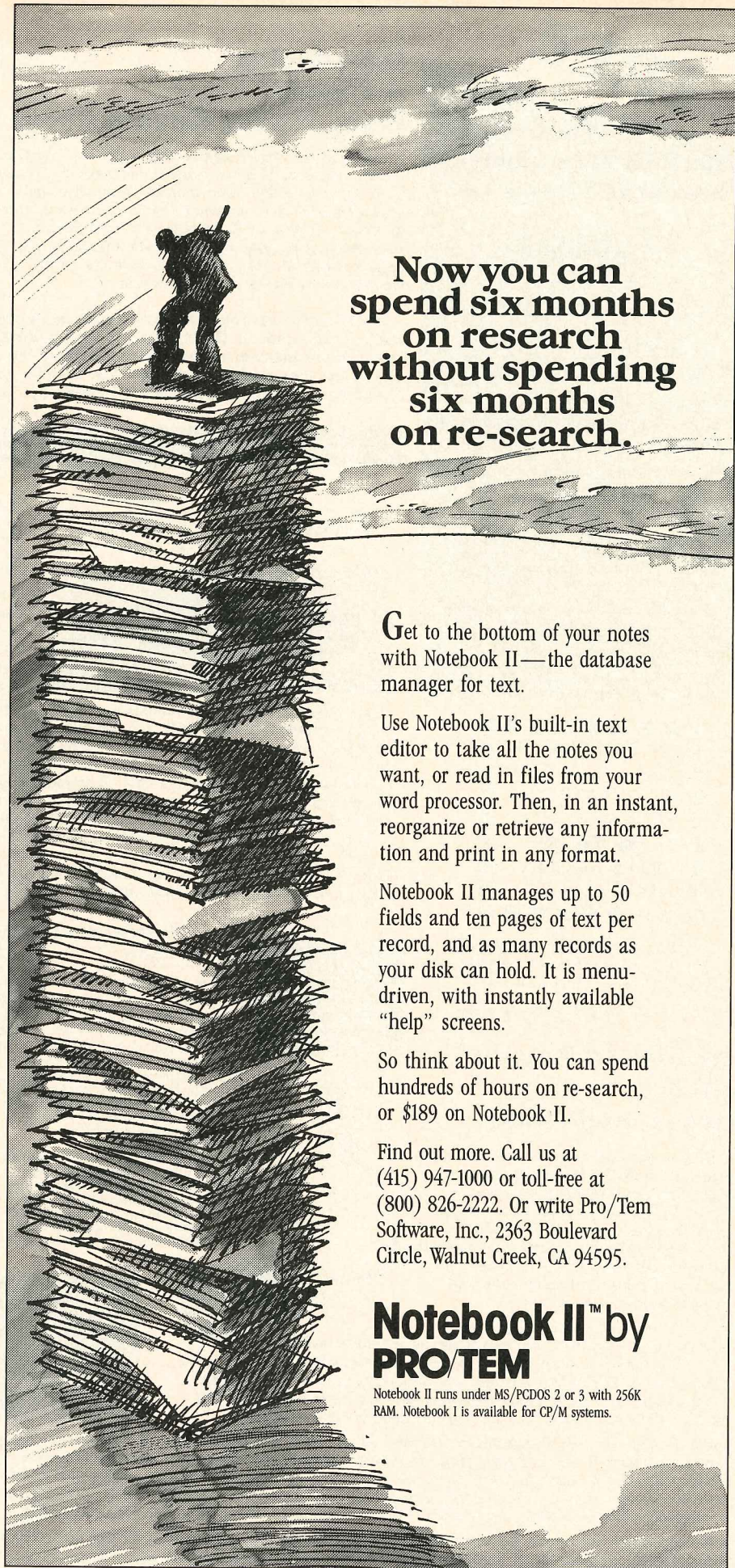
And still more programs

There are many more dBASE tools available in the public domain, but I've only got space to mention a few of the interesting ones. The following are all dBASE II CMD files that can be called as subroutines by any dBASE II program:

- WRITENUM.COMD takes a number input (such as 584.70) and converts it into words (five hundred eighty-four and 70/100) for a check-writing program or similar use.
- TALLY.COMD, by Rich Malm, makes an occurrence count on any field in your database file and can also deliver some simple statistics on the count.
- MATHLIB.COMD, by Keith Plossi and Steven Burns, provides extra math functions for dBASE II—absolute value; random numbers; square root; sine, cosine, and similar functions; exponentiation; degrees to radians and radians to degrees; and others.
- UGRAPH.COMD, by John Hathaway, can display bar or scatter charts on the screen.

Where to get it

The best source for all these files would be a local dBASE II users' group. Failing that, you can find them on most large bulletin board systems. Try Wayne Masters' Potpourri (408/378-7474), if you don't know a big system near you. 



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Enemies of Kaypro®... Spikes, Surges, and Noise

The Kaypro has enemies. But now you can protect it from the mish mash of electrical currents that race through your home or business. Powerful up-surges of current can actually blow out your machine. Less powerful, barely noticeable spikes, surges, and noise can silently degrade your system in time, ruining chips, destroying data, and causing expensive service calls.

The Kaypro manual states, "Line filtering will protect your Kaypro... from power surges or other undesirable occurrences from the power source." Surge protection will help your Kaypro provide years of trouble-free service. Also, if you plan to use your Kaypro to access information by modem, you must have a reliable high frequency noise (EMI/RFI) suppressor to insure against data loss and scrambling.

There are many "toy" surge suppressors on the market. They are smartly colored, but beware. The performance difference is amazing. The best surge and noise suppressors on the market are made by Panamax. Our "Panamax Challenge Certificate" tells all. It is a startling comparison of Panamax quality with 11 other well-known brands. One aspect of this revealing report tells how Panamax responds to and cuts surges in 5 or less pico seconds, while most other suppressors respond at a comparatively slow 5 to 50 nanoseconds!

Check our regular low prices. Try the Panamax of your choice for 15 days. Receive the "Panamax Challenge Certificate" with your purchase. If not completely satisfied with your purchase, return for immediate full refund. Your Kaypro deserves Panamax protection, the best there is. Order today.

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your keyboard, software commands are only a glance away, at your fingertips. This makes it easy to learn programs that come with your Kaypro. Stop going back to the book to get a software command. Now you can learn software commands super fast, so you can make better use of your powerful programs. The expertly organized Wordstar/Mailmerge template, for example, gets you into word processing in half the time. A special dBase II template cuts through the learning curve like a knife and gets you programming sooner. Kleertex templates for CalcStar, Perfect Writer/Filer and Perfect Calc get you moving fast on these programs too. Once you try Kleertex templates, you'll wonder how you ever got along without these useful tools. Central's special price for one template is \$17.95. Choose any two templates for \$34 and save. If you like, you may combine purchase of any of these four templates for super savings. Complete satisfaction is guaranteed or money-back. Makes learning software a breeze. Great value. Order today.

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6 outlets, LC S RB NF	\$ 99.00	\$ 79.00
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TeleMax, D 1OL 2PJ NF	\$ 89.00	\$ 69.00

D: Connects direct to grounded wall jack.
LC: Includes 6 foot long heavy duty line cord.
S: Includes illuminated on/off switch.
NF: Includes EMI/RFI noise filter.
RB: Includes reset button.
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Unique Panamax EMI/RFI noise filters provide protection in common and transverse mode. Essential for modem communications, multi-user stations, etc.
All Panamax units are factory guaranteed for 60 months.

"Spikes and surges can be the greatest threat to your computer outside a 4 year old child with a jelly sandwich aimed for the disk drive slot."

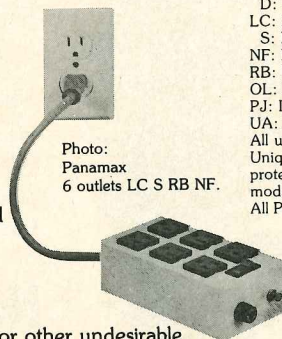


Photo:
Panamax
6 outlets LC S RB NF.

"Power line-associated problems are estimated to cause nearly 70 to 90 percent of the malfunctions in the IBM PC."

"Overvoltage can be fatal to both data and hardware alike."
P.C. Magazine, March 1983

Lockable Diskette Defender

Handsome, sturdy, smoke-tinted acrylic tray holds 70 Kaypro-size diskettes. Flip-up lid keeps out dust, debris, and moisture, and locks securely to guard your important work. Comes with 7 dividers that make for easy filing and keep floppies upright to prevent bending, warping, and scratching. Tough metal lock never comes in contact with diskettes because it is enclosed in a plastic housing. Super value at \$23 for one, or \$21 each if you buy 2 or more. Keep prying eyes and sticky fingers away from your important data. Order today.

Cables

Top quality, individually tested 36 pin Centronics-type standard parallel cables for all model Kaypros. These are made to work hard and long. Guaranteed.

5 ft cables ... \$19.95 each
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Top quality, individually tested ribbon modem RS 232C cables designed with reinforced clamps for a sure continuous connection and made especially for your Kaypro. These work every time.

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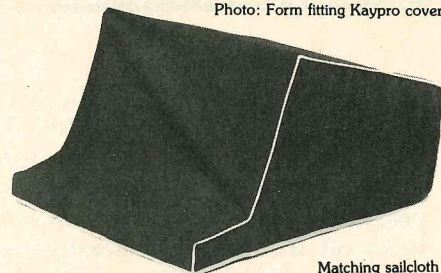


Photo: Form fitting Kaypro cover.

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Important Facts About Radiation And Your Computer

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The controversy rages. It's true. Your computer screen does shoot out dangerous ionizing x-ray radiation. Some people say, the emissions are harmless. Others say there is no such thing as harmless ionizing radiation.

So what's the problem? Simple. People are different. Some care about being safe, some don't. Here's the whole truth. You decide how you want to handle it.

The Apparent Danger

Most Video display terminals (VDTs) are cathode ray tube terminals. In this type of terminal, ionizing radiation is produced by a cathode ray tube. The cathode ray shoots electrons towards a phosphor-coated screen. The phosphors energized by the electron beam emit light that creates the display image.

This activity produces many types of radiation. One of the most dangerous is ionizing x-radiation.

Hospitals use x-radiation to take pictures of the inside of your body. Dentists use it to look through your face at your teeth. The important thing is, when these professionals work, they stand behind lead impregnated shields.

Doctors know that the effects of exposure to the high photon energy of ionizing x-radiation are cumulative. They don't wear off. Bit by bit, they keep piling on. Too much exposure can lead to radical molecular changes. The kind of changes in the body that express themselves in cancer.

Shocking Statistics

If you're a computer user, the question is, "Do I have to protect myself from the x-radiation that shoots at me from my video display terminal?"

Good question. At this time, the government says, "No." However, remember that things change. The government said yes to smoking for years. Now they say, "No." The truth is, as far as video display terminals are concerned studies aren't conclusive.

Some groups such as the National Association of Working Women, believe much more study is necessary. They point to shocking statistics like those uncovered by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, in which they found that half of the 48 pregnancies among VDT operators at the United Airlines reservations office in San Francisco between 1979 and 1984 ended in miscarriages, birth defects, or other abnormal outcomes including two premature births, one stillbirth, and one neonatal death. Some say it's coincidence, others say it's scary.

Low Cost Solution

Look at this. You can't protect yourself from all ionizing radiation. It's impossible. In fact, depending on where you live and even what kind of structure you live in, you're being exposed everyday to a natural level of background radiation.

However, the experts agree. You must do everything you can to limit your exposure to ionizing x-radiation.

If you're a computer user, the solution isn't to throw your computer out the window. Cars make smog, but you're not going to toss out your car because it smokes a little. Your car has a smog filter, so why not put a radiation "filter" on your computer?

It's easy to protect yourself against the ionizing x-radiation that shoots out at you from your video display terminal. A company called ACCO International makes an excellent combination lead impregnated radiation shield and anti-glare screen that easily attaches to your terminal. It works.

Acco Lead Shield

This lead impregnated, impact-resistant acrylic shield is like the ones used in hospitals, military installations, and nuclear power plants. It is 30% lead. But you can see through it. It also has a mesh-type anti-glare screen that actually improves the screen image while getting rid of glare. It costs more than a regular anti-glare screen, that's because it protects you from the x-rays that shoot out at you from your computer screen. Helps get rid of burning, watery eyes, and other symptoms of VDT associated eye-fatigue too. Find out why in a special report you'll receive free with your radiation screen.

Revealing Independent Study

In April 1984, ACCO International commissioned a hands-off independent study on their shield. At this time, few people know about this study. It was performed by Health Physics Associates, LTD., consultants in radiation safety. They're located in Northbrook, Illinois.

Health Physics Associates were asked to do an extensive test of the radiation screen. ACCO said, "Put it through the wringer."

The results of the tests are interesting. Foremost, because they prove the ACCO shield works. But, also, they prove that when you buy an ACCO radiation shield, you don't have to worry about getting a bad one. In fact, all three batches of ACCO Radiation Shields that were tested gave the same results. They were found to possess similar transmission or attenuation characteristics and similar lead contents. That means, when you buy an ACCO Radiation Shield, it protects you. Period.

Health Physics Associates reported that, "The ACCO Radiation Shield provided attenuation in excess of 8000 for x-rays incidents upon it at 10, 20, and 30 KVP." This means that for every 1,000,000 x-rays that your VDT shoots at you, only 125 will pass through the ACCO Shield.

Unfortunately, tests were not conducted on the anti-glare characteristics of this unusual screen. However, the fact is, the ACCO Radiation Shield is both a very effective radiation shield and anti-glare screen. You don't sacrifice one for the other here. You'll find that as an anti-glare screen, it's as good or better than any other on the market. In fact, it appears to actually enhance and make the image on the screen clearer.

Sample of Corresponding Sizes

- A. Portables: Kaypro II, IV, 10, 2X, 1.
- B. Compaq Deskpro. DEC PC. HP 100PC, HP 200PC, HP 80, 75. Honeywell 7200, 7300, 7801, Infowriter. IBM PC mono, Datamaster, Displaywriter, 3101, 8775. Lanier Easy. NBI 4000. NRC 7900. Wang PC-PM004. Zenith Z100, Z19, Z29, Z89, Z90.
- C. AT&T 6300 PC, Burroughs TD8000. DEC VT100. Epson QX-10. Hastech Edit3. Hazeltine Esprit.
- D. AT&T 5420. Altos 186, 486. Data General 6255. Digital VT240. Four Phase 5115. IBM PC 5154 Color. Kaypro Desktop PC. NCR Unix. Radio Shack TRS-80 I, II, III. Zenith ZT-1.
- E. ADDS Regent 20, 25, 30, 40, 60, Viewpoint 3A, 60, 90. Apple II, III. Burroughs B20. Hastech Edit 8, Magician. HP 264x, HP 86. IBM 3279 Color, 5151, 5153, 5291. NEC. Color. TI OPTI 900. Wangwriter. Wang Ergo II, III, Wang 5200, 5300, 5700, 5800, 5900, TC-5900, 6300, 6340, Wang 2336 DW, 2885 DE, 2886 DW. Xerox 860, 820. Zenith ZVM 134.
- F. CPT 8100, 8500. Hastech Edit 8, PTL Graphic, 4/Sight. HP 262x, HP 9836 desktop. IBM 3278. Phillips MICOM 3000.

** If your computer is not listed or you need further information, please call (805) 524-4189 for assistance. We have sizes to fit more than 500 computer VDTs. **

Easy Installation

If you spend long hours at a terminal day after day, you deserve not to worry about the possible

health hazards of over exposure to the x-radiation that comes from your video display. But, before making a decision for or against this radiation screen, think about how long it took for government studies to find that smoking was a health hazard, and to press the tobacco industry to warn about the danger. By then, millions had developed cancers and other equally vicious diseases related to smoking.

As one investigator on the hazards of VDT radiation put it, "To take the industry position that we should not provide precautionary measures until further research is complete is irresponsible." Sometimes, it's better to be safe than sorry.

Depending on the size of your terminal, your ACCO Radiation Shield will weigh one or more pounds. This solid weight proves the quality and insures good attenuation. The shield attaches to the outside of your computer's screen with a couple of strips of velcro tape. There's nothing to screw in, so you don't need any tools to put it on. It's easy to remove too. Just pull it off. Simple. By the way, although this transparent acrylic screen contains 30% lead by weight, it's easy to see through.

Attenuation

As applied to x-rays, attenuation refers to the loss of photons in the passage of radiation through a material like a lead impregnated transparent shield as a result of absorption and scattering by the Compton, photoelectric, and pair production effect. The pair production effect, for example, is the process whereby an x-ray photon in passing through the nucleus of an atom is converted into a positive electron and a negative electron. As a result, the dangerous quantum or high energy x-ray photon ceases to exist.

Money Back Guarantee

Ok. Those are the facts. Now, it's up to you. You can choose to start protecting yourself now, or think about it some more. In either case, you don't risk a thing by trying out this screen. It does everything claimed here. That's why Central Computer offers a 30-day money back guarantee on this tested product. You must be completely satisfied, or simply return it for a full refund. By the way, with your order you'll also receive a free copy of the complete report submitted to ACCO by Health Physics Associates. It's a little technical, but it proves the ACCO Radiation Shield is the best there is. Guaranteed. Order today.

Attention: There is nothing in this ad that has been over or understated. These are the facts. The question of possible health injury is so severe that major universities and health services are in the midst of extended studies. Unfortunately, these studies are just beginning and will last four or more years. Meanwhile, consider that working at a VDT is like holding your face about 18 inches from a television screen many hours a day, five days a week. Protection makes sense. Order today.

ACCO RADIATION SCREEN GUIDE

Screen Size (Inches)	List Price	Central
A. <input type="checkbox"/> Kaypro Portables	\$139 each	\$ 99
B. <input type="checkbox"/> 7 7/8 x 10 15/16	\$149 each	\$ 99
C. <input type="checkbox"/> 8 1/8 x 10 11/16	\$149 each	\$ 99
D. <input type="checkbox"/> 8 3/8 x 11 5/16	\$169 each	\$ 99
E. <input type="checkbox"/> 8 7/8 x 12 1/16	\$169 each	\$119
F. <input type="checkbox"/> 9 1/4 x 12 11/16	\$169 each	\$119

To order by mail use coupon on facing page. Specify computer model and or name of VDT.

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Central's super priced *SmartKey* combo pak includes a free copy of Paul Golding's \$15.95 book, *Screen Smarts, The Computer Tamer's Guide*. This book tells how you can use *SmartKey* to turn your computer into a supercharged mean machine. Saves money. Look at these prices. Order today.

Description ‡	List	Central
SmartKey 4.2 CP/M	\$49.95	\$45.00
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SmartKey & SmartPrint	\$69.00	\$57.00

‡ Includes \$15.95 *Screen Smarts* book free

Attention: When comparing *SmartKey* 4.2 to similar programs, please ask if they have a real delete key, windows, and other features that make *SmartKey* clearly superior.

Text Filing Machine

Turn your Kaypro in to a powerful text filing machine. *SuperFile* is a textual matter database manager unlike any other. It puts you in control of your information. It allows you to easily store and retrieve notes, letters, random thoughts, contracts, depositions, invoices, new product information, sales reports, reference articles, scripts, abstracts, bibliographies, customer profiles, and much more. *SuperFile* accepts as many as 65,000 entries per database; allows 512,000 keystrokes per record, each of which can have up to 250 keywords; and indexes information you've stored on as many as 255 diskettes per database. Powerful.

Input for a *SuperFile* database comes from your word processor, so you can easily include information you already have into a database without having to re-key it. No fancy fields to define. This is a completely free-form database system. No programming language to learn. There's nothing difficult here. You can be up and running within minutes. *SuperFile* uses logical searching procedures to find your information fast. *SuperFile* searches from 60 to 400 entries per second. Save yourself the time and effort of filing and cross-filing information by hand or in overly structured data fields. *SuperFile* lists at \$195. Central's price is \$145. Order today to get *SuperFile* fast.

Print Bright Pages

Wow! You'll be amazed at the compliments you'll get from using this program. No wonder. *FontStar* makes you look good. All you do is put a few *FontStar* commands in your letter, bulletin, invitation, or manuscript, and print. It's easy.

Don't let *FontStar*'s low price fool you. It's a powerful program. Although it's not as versatile as *Fancy Font*, it really brightens up plain jane dot matrix printing and for much less too. Works with Epson FX, RX, MX, and LQ1500 printers. Also works with Epson compatibles like Gemini printers too. Gives same results. Impressive. Good looking reports, letters, invitations, announcements, etc.

FontStar comes with 16 preprogrammed fonts, but it also lets you design your own fonts or character sets. *FontStar* doesn't require complex commands, or any tricks to operate. It makes typeset quality justification a snap, so everything you print looks super professional. Use as many fonts as you like in your documents. By the way, each font also comes with a complete set of foreign language characters, so printing in Spanish, French, or other European languages is a snap. Make your own Greek or Hebrew font sets too. Design special characters too. No matter what you print out, *FontStar* will make it look better. *FontStar* is only \$49. Order *FontStar* today. Get more from your dot matrix Epson or compatible than you every thought possible. Order today.

Attention: Imagine dot matrix printing with a flair. That's what *FontStar* does. Makes a page look bright. *FontStar* works with any word processor that produces plain ASCII files including *WordStar* and *NewWord*. Order today to get *FontStar*-type printing fast.

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continued on next page —

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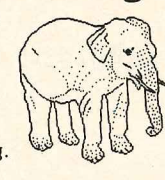


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MS-DOS Graphics: An Overview

The software, the hardware, and the applications

by Frederick Hannon

A quiet but colorful revolution is underway in computer graphics. New software and new expansion boards have turned DOS computers into formidable graphics work stations.

This article is not a review or a technical discussion. It is intended to provide an overview of DOS graphics—both software and hardware. In some ways, this article is like an overview of horseless carriages, written for a turn-of-the-century generation of potential drivers.

Software

The harbinger of this new generation of software was the commercially doomed Lisa computer and Apple's subsequent repackaging of Lisa's mouse-driven drawing program to run on the Macintosh. The immediate popularity of Macintosh's bundled drawing software, MacPaint, soon led to a number of "paint" imitations for IBM-compatibles.

The instant advantage of paint software on DOS machines is color—DOS microcomputers are built to support at least limited color, and their architecture allows the addition of special-purpose graphics cards.

Today there are more than 200 graphics software packages for DOS machines, and none has achieved market domination. Perhaps the best analogy is the American love of variety in ice cream: no single flavor is the universal favorite. The success of so many paint and business graphics software programs is a response to the diversity of needs and personal preferences among computer owners.

Graphics software generally falls into one of five categories: games, low-cost drawing packages, business graphics software, high-performance design and drafting packages, and graphics languages.

Games. Graphics-based games for DOS machines grew naturally out of the quarter-eating monsters at the local arcades. You can get everything from Pac-Man

to sophisticated battle simulations marching across your screen at surprisingly affordable prices (\$5 to \$50). A remarkable number of the newest games are targeted at adults rather than kids. GATO, from Spectrum HoloByte, is an excellent simulation of submarine warfare in the Pacific during World War II.

A subset of the games market is educational games intended for kids from pre-school to high school age. The idea here is to entice them into learning by concealing the lessons in a graphics game format. Math, science, history, and reading are all available.

Low-Cost Drawing Packages. Low-end drawing software includes Draw-It (two colors for \$30 from Paperback Software International), PC Paint (four or 16 colors for \$99 from Mouse Systems), Drawing Assistant (from two to 64 colors for \$169 from IBM), GEM-Draw (up to 16 colors for \$249 from Digital Research), Videogram (up to 64 colors for \$200 from Softel), and PC-Draw (three colors for \$395 from Micrografx), to name but a few.

All these drawing packages feature mouse- or graphics pad-driven drawing capabilities. Although some of them do allow keyboard control, this gets cumbersome, and a mouse should be considered the minimum input device. As a matter of fact, the Microsoft mouse and the Mouse Systems mouse come bundled with some painting packages. Each of these packages uses onscreen icons representing paintbrushes, pencils, spraypaint canisters, and other tools to perform all drawing functions. The number of available colors and the resolution, from 320 x 200 (low resolution) to 720 x 704 (high resolution), vary according to the graphics card installed and user mode selected.

Business Graphics. Business graphics are an offshoot of spreadsheets that offer graphics capability. Business graphics software converts these spreadsheet files, or files from database programs, into pie charts, bar charts, stacked bar charts, and line charts.

These programs allow you to embellish the charts with text fonts and various symbols. The more sophisticated (and expensive) business graphics packages also offer organizational charts, flow charts, PERT charts, and Gantt charts (PERT and Gantt charts are specialized charts designed to aid in planning and managing complex projects).

Typical of the more popular business packages are Boardroom Graphics (\$150 from Analytical Software), IMiGIT (\$295 from Chorus Data Systems), BPS Business Graphics (\$350 from Business and Professional Software, Inc.), The Graphics Gallery (\$585 from Hewlett-Packard), GDSS (\$795 from Data Business Vision, Inc.), and Autographix 35 (\$895 from Autographix, Inc.). Business graphics software is normally used to produce charts, overhead transparencies, or slides for business meetings and sales presentations.

High-End Drawing Packages. Upper-end drawing packages include computer-aided design (CAD) software and also three-dimensional surface modeling software.

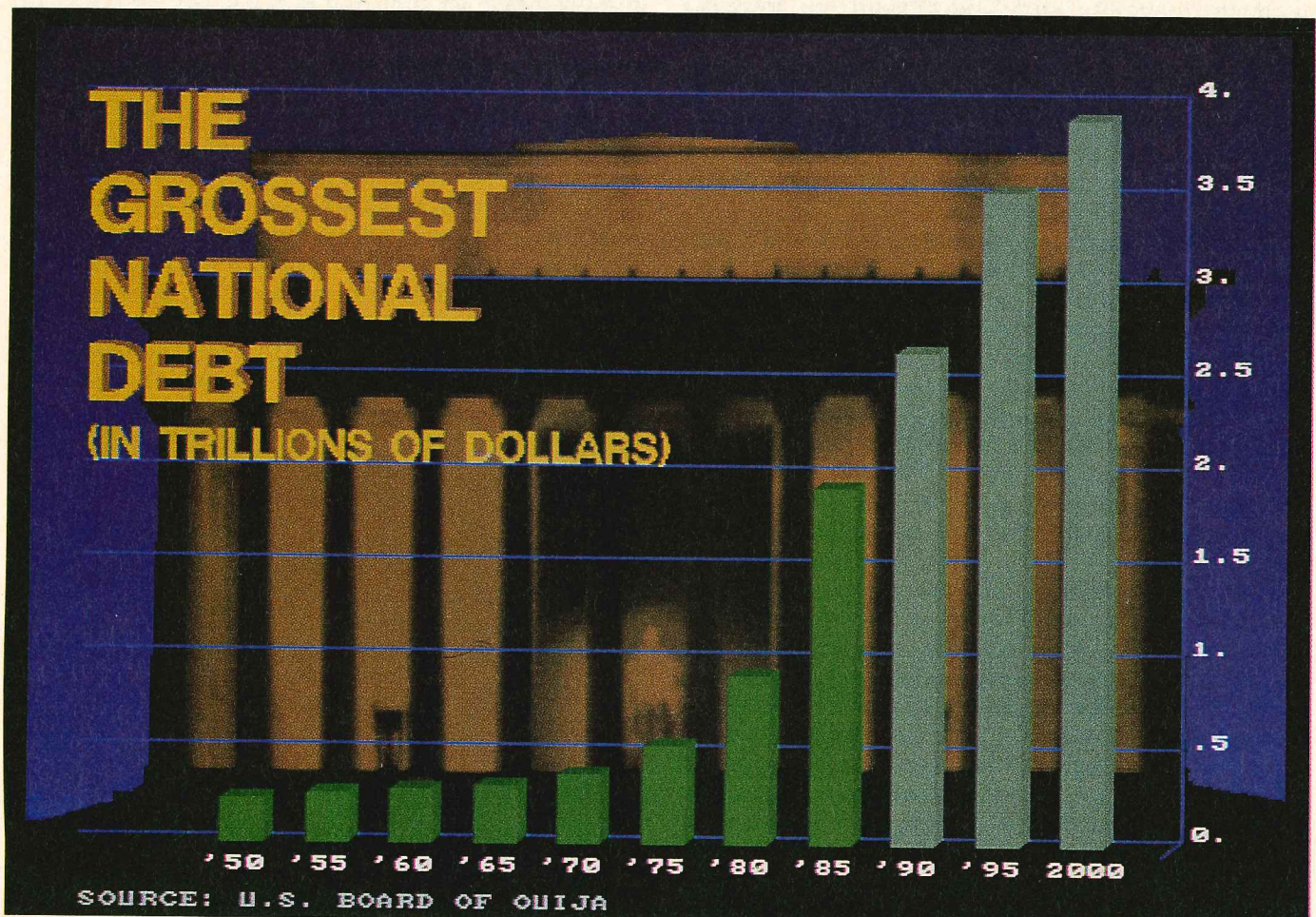
CAD software for DOS machines ranges from Pro-Design II (\$300 from American Small Business Computers) through the industry-standard AutoCAD (\$1,000 to \$2,500 from Autodesk, Inc.) to the \$20,000 and \$30,000 systems that use the DOS machine as an intelligent work station for a larger computer. CAD systems are typically dedicated to creating architec-

tural, mechanical, electrical, hydraulic or pneumatic system line drawings that are output on plotters. The more sophisticated CAD packages can also be linked to numeric controlled (NC) manufacturing and are called computer-aided design and computer-aided manufacturing (CAD/CAM) systems.

Three-dimensional surface modeling software ranges from the \$29.95 specials advertised in the back of *Byte* and *PC World* on up to a professional-level package for \$4,950 from SUPERSET. Some 3D surface modeling programs can take a series of CAD drawings—of a B1 bomber or the Statue of Liberty, for example—and create a realistic three-dimensional rendering. With a flurry of commands, the surface can be changed from one color to another, to chrome or textured, or made ghostly translucent in order to let interior details show through the outer layer.

Graphics Languages. Graphics languages like LOGO began in the world of mainframes two decades ago. Today a number of graphics languages run on PCs, allowing the user to specify shapes with words like LINE, BOX, CIRCLE, and ELLIPSE. Subsequent lines of code establish the dimensions of these forms, their placement on the screen or printed output, and their interaction to form complex images.

These graphics languages range from extensions (sets of subroutines) of existing languages such as Pascal to new languages designed specifically to



PHOTOS BY FREDERICK HANNON

GRAPHICS GENERATED BY LUMENA



manipulate graphics images. Of interest to PC users is the North American Presentation Level System (NAPLS), which is the standard language for videotex services. Using NAPLS, businesses can transmit pixel-level graphics images across telephone lines. To learn more about NAPLS, call (303) 632-4111, the Colorado number of CHARIOT—the only public-access NAPLS bulletin board in America.

Hardware

All computer graphics systems have certain hardware in common: a microcomputer, a keyboard, and a storage device (usually a hard disk). Beyond that, there is a wide variety of input, display, and output devices from which to choose, as well as a myriad of graphics cards.

Input Devices. Input devices are tools for creating and/or capturing data the computer can understand. They include the cursor (arrow) keys on your keyboard, paddles, joysticks, mice, trackballs, light pens, graphics tablets, and video digitizers.

Cursor keys control movement on the X and Y axes (horizontal and vertical movement). They come “free” with your keyboard, but are slow and awkward to use.

Paddles are potentiometers that generate voltage in proportion to how far you turn a large knob. Usually separate paddles are needed for the X and Y axes.

Joysticks allow simultaneous up-and-down and right-and-left control. The two main types of joysticks are switch activated (only slightly better than the cursor keys, but inexpensive) and potentiometer activated (giving greater control for delicate manipulations).

The mouse is a small box-like device with one or more switches on top. The device is called a mouse because of its tail—the electrical cord connecting it to the microprocessor. Mice generally are considered the minimal equipment necessary for efficiently creating images using paint-type graphics software. The two types available are an optical mouse or a mechanical mouse. You also get a choice of whether your mouse plugs into a serial port or interfaces with a separate adapter card.

A mechanical mouse has a hard rubber ball at its core. As the mouse is moved, friction with the tabletop

rolls the ball, which in turn rotates two wheels positioned at right angles to each other. As the wheels turn, they generate pulses that the computer interprets as signals governing the X and Y axes. (The ball should be removed and cleaned periodically to maintain proper contact with the tabletop and wheels.)

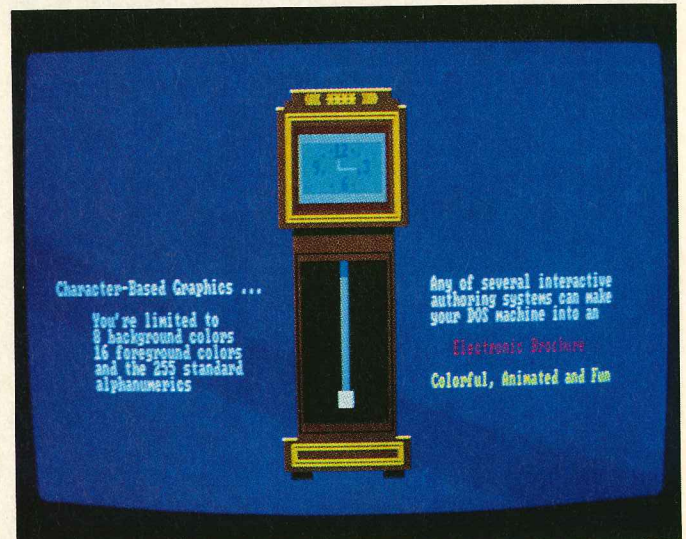
An optical mouse has a small infrared lamp and a receiver on its underside. Optical mice are moved on top of special pads with light and dark grid lines. The different reflective qualities of the light and dark areas are translated by the computer as pulses dictating the input. The quality of optical mice varies greatly with price, but many mouse-users prefer the optical devices with their near-frictionless motion over their mechanical counterparts.

A variation on the mechanical mouse is the trackball—a mechanical mouse turned upside down. Instead of rolling the ball on a tabletop, you rotate the ball in its stationary holder by rubbing it with your palm. Trackballs are best known for their use in video arcade games, but the commercial versions are useful where space is limited.

Light pens are photodetectors that respond to electron beams from the CRT screen. They are useful in CAD drafting, where you place the light pen exactly where you want to add or change a line. The obvious disadvantages are that your arm will tire from holding the pen to the screen and you must sit so close to the monitor that you risk eyestrain.

Graphics tablets are the most popular input device among graphics professionals. The graphics tablet (also called a graphics pad) is similar to the pad used with an optical mouse, but of higher resolution (up to 1,000 lines per inch). Covering the grid is a protective plastic sheet, against which the transmitter is placed. The transmitter is called a stylus (or pen) and can range in appearance from a mouse-like puck to something resembling a ballpoint pen. As the stylus is positioned over a juncture of grid lines, the signals are

(continued on page 32)



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Glossary of computer terms mentioned in each issue;
A vendor column of W/P software suppliers;
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Listings of local W/P User Groups.

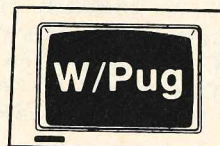
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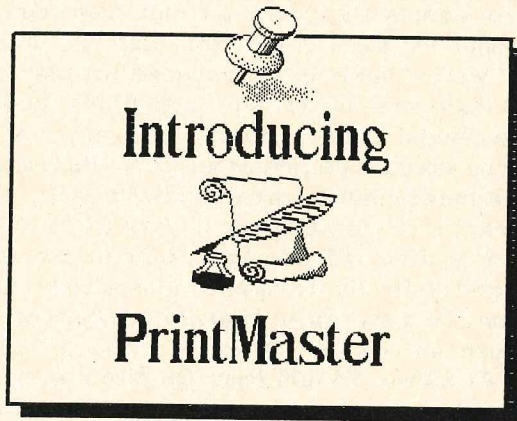
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received on the horizontal and vertical wires and converted to signals the computer can read. Graphics tablets offer excellent resolution, long life, and the natural "feel" of holding a pencil or paintbrush.

Video digitizers convert an image ("live" action or two-dimensional fixed pictures) into digital signals that can be stored in computer memory. The low-price/low-performance digitizers can take two or three minutes to capture a single image in gray tones. A black and white camera with interface card can cost as little as \$200 and is effective for applications where time and resolution are not critical. Higher-end digitizing systems (such as the Imageware Processing/Database system, \$1,895 to \$3,385 from Quadram Corp.) can make you look twice to be sure it isn't a television picture.

Graphics tablets offer excellent resolution and the natural "feel" of holding a pencil.

Display Devices. Mass-market economics are the key to the availability and affordability of superior monitors. As graphics software gains recognition as a necessity (rather than a luxury) in the workplace, higher-resolution monitors will become commonplace.

Monitor resolution is defined in terms of the distance (pitch) between the pixels (dots) onscreen—hence the term "dot-pitch" to designate resolution. Dot-pitch increments range from the old standard of 0.43 millimeters (approximately 3,500 pixels per square inch) to "high resolution" (0.31 mm, or about 6,700 pixels per square inch) to "ultra-high resolution" (0.22 mm, or about 13,330 pixels per square inch). To put these numbers into perspective, 0.43 mm roughly corresponds to the resolution of cartoons in the Sunday newspaper while 0.15 mm is close to the print quality of picture postcards.

The price of high-resolution monitors has dropped from more than \$1,000 two years ago to about \$750 today.

Closely related to the dot-pitch of a monitor are its horizontal and vertical scan frequencies. Higher resolution monitors with more dots have to use higher scan frequencies. A pixel only stays "on" for a short time, so the video card has to constantly "refresh" all the pixels on the screen. If the screen isn't refreshed often enough it will "flicker." Horizontal and vertical scan rates of the monitor and graphics adapter board have to match in order to work together properly.

The only time you have to be careful is when you are purchasing a color/graphics board with a resolution higher than the IBM standard of 640 x 200. Note that most "high resolution" RGB monitors have a horizontal

scan rate of 15 MHz, which matches the requirements for 640 x 200 IBM graphics. Once you get above that resolution, you'll have to buy a new monitor to go along with your new graphics board.

PC Graphics Adapters. If you want color and graphics, you need a color/graphics video card in addition to a color monitor. The video card currently included on the Kaypro PC and Kaypro 16 will support both a monochrome monitor and an RGB color monitor. This video card replaces both the monochrome card and the color/graphics card used in IBM PCs. The color/graphics capabilities of this video card are fully compatible with the IBM color/graphics standard. (The video card on the original Kaypro 16 is a color/graphics card and does not support a monochrome monitor.)

The IBM color/graphics standard gives you several video modes: 40- or 80-column by 25-row text in black and white, 40 or 80 x 25 text in 16 colors, 320 x 200 graphics in four colors, and 640 x 200 graphics in two colors. Almost all DOS graphics software is designed to use one of the IBM standard graphics modes. The monochrome mode (or card) is intended for text work only. The main advantage to monochrome mode, used with a monochrome monitor, is that the text is fully formed (you can't see the individual dots the way you can with a color card) and it is far easier on the eyes than text mode on a color/graphics card.

If you want more than the IBM color/graphics standard—more colors or higher resolution—then you're in the market for one of the third-party graphics cards. You can get video cards that will do graphics on a monochrome monitor, give you more colors at the standard resolutions, or give you both more colors and higher resolution than the IBM standard.

The original monochrome graphics card is the Hercules Graphics Card (\$499 from Hercules Computer Technology). This card lets you do graphics on a monochrome monitor with a resolution of 720 pixels horizontal and 348 pixels vertical. The only drawback to the

If you want more than the IBM color/graphics standard, then you're in the market for a 3rd party card.

Hercules card (and Hercules-compatible cards) is that a special video driver has to be loaded when you boot your computer. Not all commercial software is compatible with the Hercules video driver, so check before you spend the money on graphics software.

Other monochrome graphics cards can simulate the standard IBM graphics resolution on a monochrome monitor. A video card like the Everex Edge (\$399, Everex systems) or the Genoa Spectrum (\$429, Genoa Systems) will let you do anything with a monochrome

monitor that can be done with an RGB color monitor. Some of these cards can also hook up to either a color or a monochrome monitor.

If you simply want more colors than the IBM standard allows, but not higher resolution, then you can buy a new video card and keep your standard RGB monitor. A card like the Graphics Solution (\$299, Array Technologies) will give you up to 16 colors in 640 x 200 graphics mode, as well as emulate a monochrome card or Hercules card and do standard-resolution graphics on a monochrome monitor. Since the screen resolution is the same as the IBM standard, this card can use a standard RGB monitor.

When you get into color/graphics cards with resolution above 640 x 200, plan on buying a new monitor to go along with the video card. A card such as the Tecmar Graphics Master (\$695, Tecmar Inc.) will give you resolution better than the IBM standard. At a resolution higher than the IBM standard, the card has to run at faster sweep frequencies to keep all the extra pixels refreshed. The monitor must be able to accept the higher-frequency signal to work. Be ready to spend from \$800 to \$1,500 for a new monitor if you want to take full advantage of your new graphics card.

Output Devices. The main choices for graphics output devices are hardcopy printers, plotters, and

photographic film recorders.

Hardcopy printer/plotters include dot-matrix printers, ink jet printers, laser printers, and plotters. Dot-matrix printers are becoming more sophisticated,

The main choices for graphics output devices are printers, plotters, and film recorders.

with printheads of up to 24 pins arranged in overlapping configurations to give up to 200 dots per linear inch. Similarly, laser printers offer resolutions of 300 dots per inch, with the promise of doubling the resolution for the mass market in the coming years. The catch is that dot-matrix only offers up to eight colors, and laser printers currently print in only black, gray, or white (reverse video).

Ink jet printers support up to 128 colors, but the colors tend to wash out and lack the vividness of the luminescent images onscreen. Multiple-pen plotters can deliver excellent resolution, but lack vivid color. Plotters were originally designed to operate with CAD

(continued on page 74)



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Pop-Up Desktop Utilities

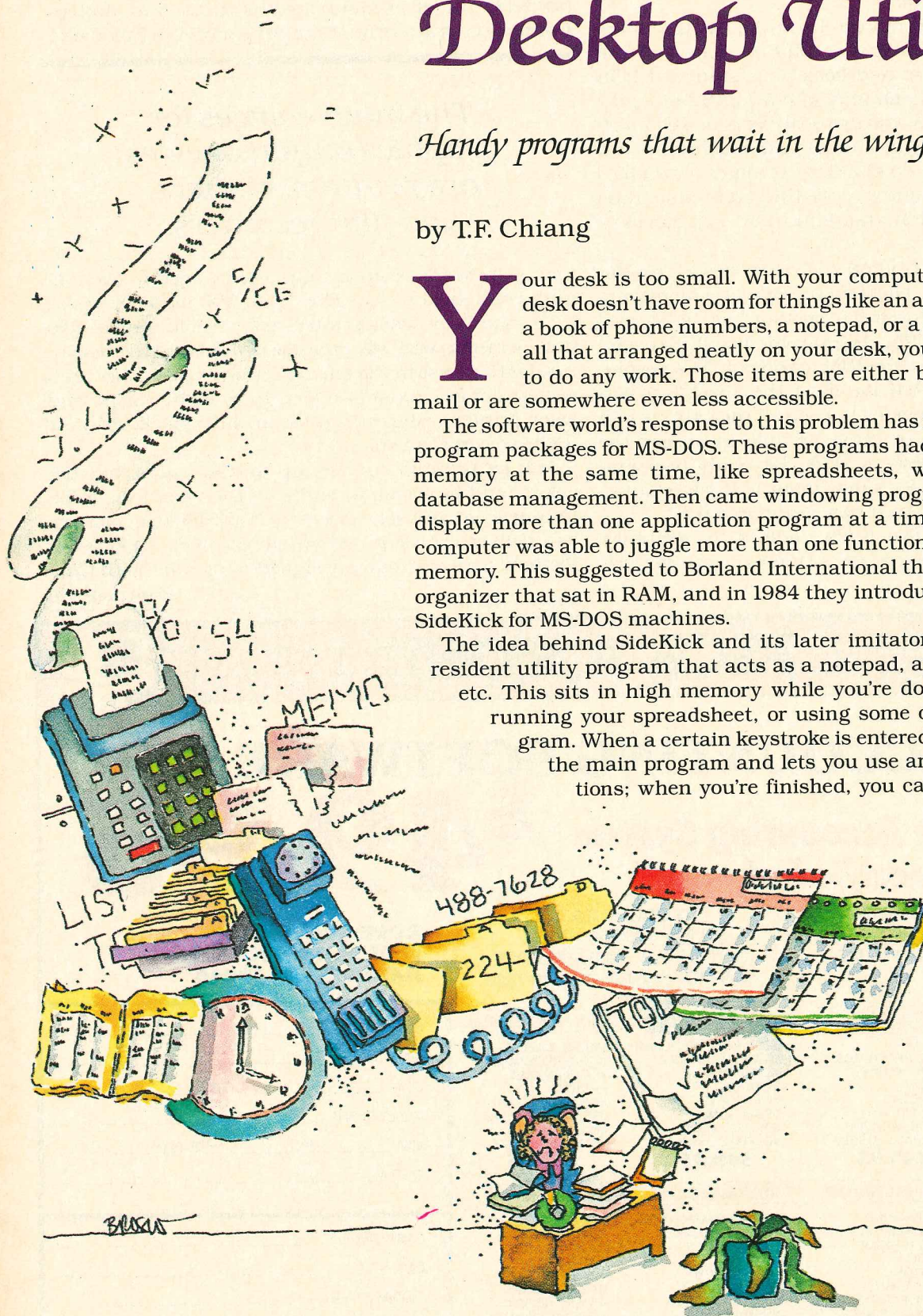
Handy programs that wait in the wings

by T.F. Chiang

Your desk is too small. With your computer sitting there, your desk doesn't have room for things like an appointment calendar, a book of phone numbers, a notepad, or a calculator; if you had all that arranged neatly on your desk, you wouldn't have room to do any work. Those items are either buried under a pile of mail or are somewhere even less accessible.

The software world's response to this problem has its roots in integrated program packages for MS-DOS. These programs had several functions in memory at the same time, like spreadsheets, word processing and database management. Then came windowing programs, able to run and display more than one application program at a time. It was natural; the computer was able to juggle more than one function within its capacious memory. This suggested to Borland International the possibility of a desk organizer that sat in RAM, and in 1984 they introduced a program called SideKick for MS-DOS machines.

The idea behind SideKick and its later imitators is to have a RAM-resident utility program that acts as a notepad, appointment calendar, etc. This sits in high memory while you're doing word processing, running your spreadsheet, or using some other application program. When a certain keystroke is entered, SideKick interrupts the main program and lets you use any of its various functions; when you're finished, you can continue with your



previous business, right where you left off. A program like this gives you those desk accessories in software form at the touch of a button whenever you need them—very convenient.

The only problem with such a program is that you must have the memory for it to sit in. With an 8-bit processor like the Z80, the memory that you can directly access is limited to 64K; with an 8088 (16-bit) processor you can easily have ten times that much. This allows 16-bit computers to run huge programs and have plenty of memory to spare for a RAM-resident program, while CP/M machines must hang out the “No Vacancy” sign.

Recently, however, SideKick-type programs have appeared for CP/M machines. How can they do that when your application program and data files are already using up most of the RAM you have? They work by using disk storage: A small master program resides in memory and goes to the disk whenever you call up one of its functions. Obviously such a program can't work as fast as one entirely in RAM, but it can be convenient anyway.

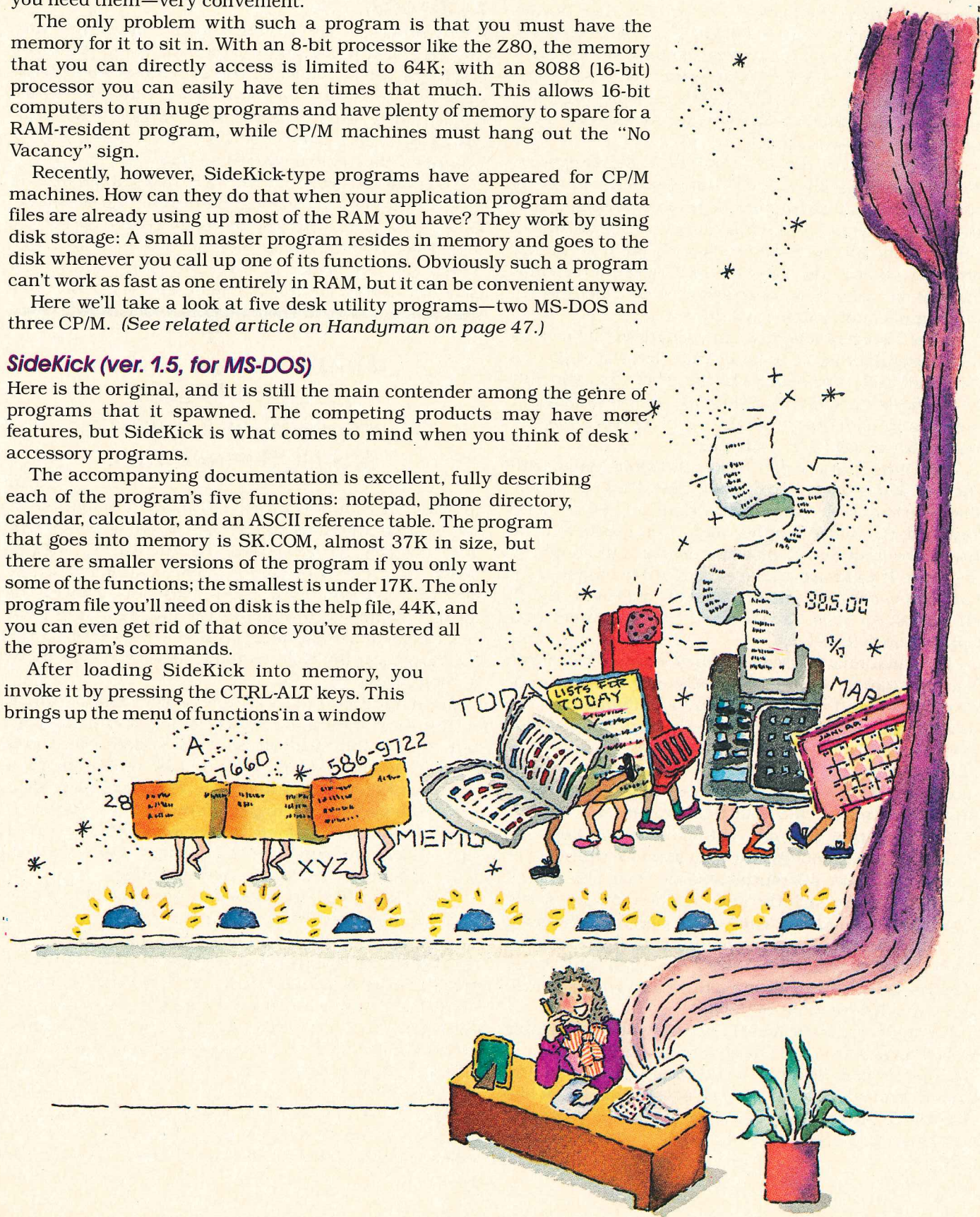
Here we'll take a look at five desk utility programs—two MS-DOS and three CP/M. (See related article on Handyman on page 47.)

SideKick (ver. 1.5, for MS-DOS)

Here is the original, and it is still the main contender among the genre of programs that it spawned. The competing products may have more features, but SideKick is what comes to mind when you think of desk accessory programs.

The accompanying documentation is excellent, fully describing each of the program's five functions: notepad, phone directory, calendar, calculator, and an ASCII reference table. The program that goes into memory is SK.COM, almost 37K in size, but there are smaller versions of the program if you only want some of the functions; the smallest is under 17K. The only program file you'll need on disk is the help file, 44K, and you can even get rid of that once you've mastered all the program's commands.

After loading SideKick into memory, you invoke it by pressing the CTRL-ALT keys. This brings up the menu of functions in a window



onscreen, and you can choose the options by any of several keystroke methods. Each function then brings up its own window. You can even call up other functions from within a function and move among several windows. Whenever SideKick is running, there is a command line at the bottom of the screen displaying commands for the function currently active; detailed help is available by pressing F1.

SideKick's most powerful feature is its notepad, a WordStar-compatible editor. It has almost the full set of editing commands, including find-and-replace and block movements. (And if you don't like WordStar, you can redefine all the commands with the installation program.) It can take a block of text off the screen and insert it into your own document, or send a block to the main application you're running.

Other features include a command to sort a block by lines (useful for alphabetizing lists) and the ability to have SideKick time-stamp the file every time you edit it. The file is loaded the first time you use the notepad; it remains in memory the entire time, so you'll have to remember to save it by yourself.

One thing that you can create and alphabetize with the notepad is the phone directory file. It's a list of one-line entries, each entry containing an abbreviated keyword, the phone number, and a comment. You can use different directory files and search a directory by keyword. If you have a Hayes-compatible modem, you can then use the autodialer to dial the number you pick off the list, or even have it dial a phone number that appears on your screen.

The calculator function imitates a simple four-function calculator, with some additional functions for programmers. It can display up to 18 digits, but it is fixed-point, with only four decimal places. You can also work in binary or hexadecimal, or use logical operations such as AND, OR and XOR. It will hold only one number in its memory, but you can assign a number to any key to "paste" into your main application.

The perpetual calendar with datebook initially displays the present month, but you can move to any other month. To make appointments, you can choose the present day or specify one; it then displays the datebook file, and you can create different datebook files for different people's appointments. The schedule allows just a single-line entry for each half hour. Besides direct entry of appointments, you can also print or delete sections of the file.

Finally, there is the ASCII reference table. This table in fact displays all 256 characters for the IBM, not just the ASCII ones. Besides the decimal and hex values, this table displays what the bytes themselves look like (if possible), so you know the values for your foreign and graphics characters, and what they look like on your screen.

PolyWindows Desk Plus (ver. 1.2A, for MS-DOS)

PolyWindows is the function-loaded program that Kaypro added to the software bundle for its MS-DOS machines. (Some models of the 286i do not come with software.) A version customized for Kaypros, called KDESK, has been included with MS-DOS Kaypros since July 1985. It has good documentation, with a helpful section on installation options.

The main program, DESK.EXE, takes about 50K; if all the functions are loaded, more than 120K will be used up. However, you can customize a batch file to load whichever functions you like; all text files (or date-books, etc.) are loaded in this process as well, so the program won't have to load them later on. When you

PolyWindows is the function-loaded program for Kaypro's MS-DOS machines.

invoke PolyWindows with CTRL-ESC, a menu line of five general functions appears at the top of the screen, with choices like DOCUMENTS and DESK TOOLS. When you move your cursor to one, a submenu drops down for you to choose from. This pull-down menu format continues throughout the program, and local menus for each function are available with SHIFT-ESC. You can have multiple windows onscreen and move among them.

From the DOCUMENTS menu, you choose which document you want to edit. The editor is easy to learn, but it's not the most efficient for serious word processing: commands are executed by pulling down a menu and choosing a function. There are menus for search and replace, changing editing modes, and printing (only block functions are keystroke sequences). If you change the window size, the text will automatically be reformatted for the new margins.

The CARD FILES window imitates a Rolodex. You're given a choice of "decks" of cards, which can differ in sizes or number of cards. These cards have index tabs, and by using a keystring you can search for a card by its tab. Included is a deck of help cards, with information on all the PolyWindows functions, that you can access by topic. The file cards are plain text, containing whatever you want. Although you can label each line like a field on a record, there is no way to search by a specific field.

The DESK TOOLS menu leads you to several miscellaneous functions, of which the main one is the clock/calendar. It boldly displays the system time or the

(continued on page 48)

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A.T. Cross Pen

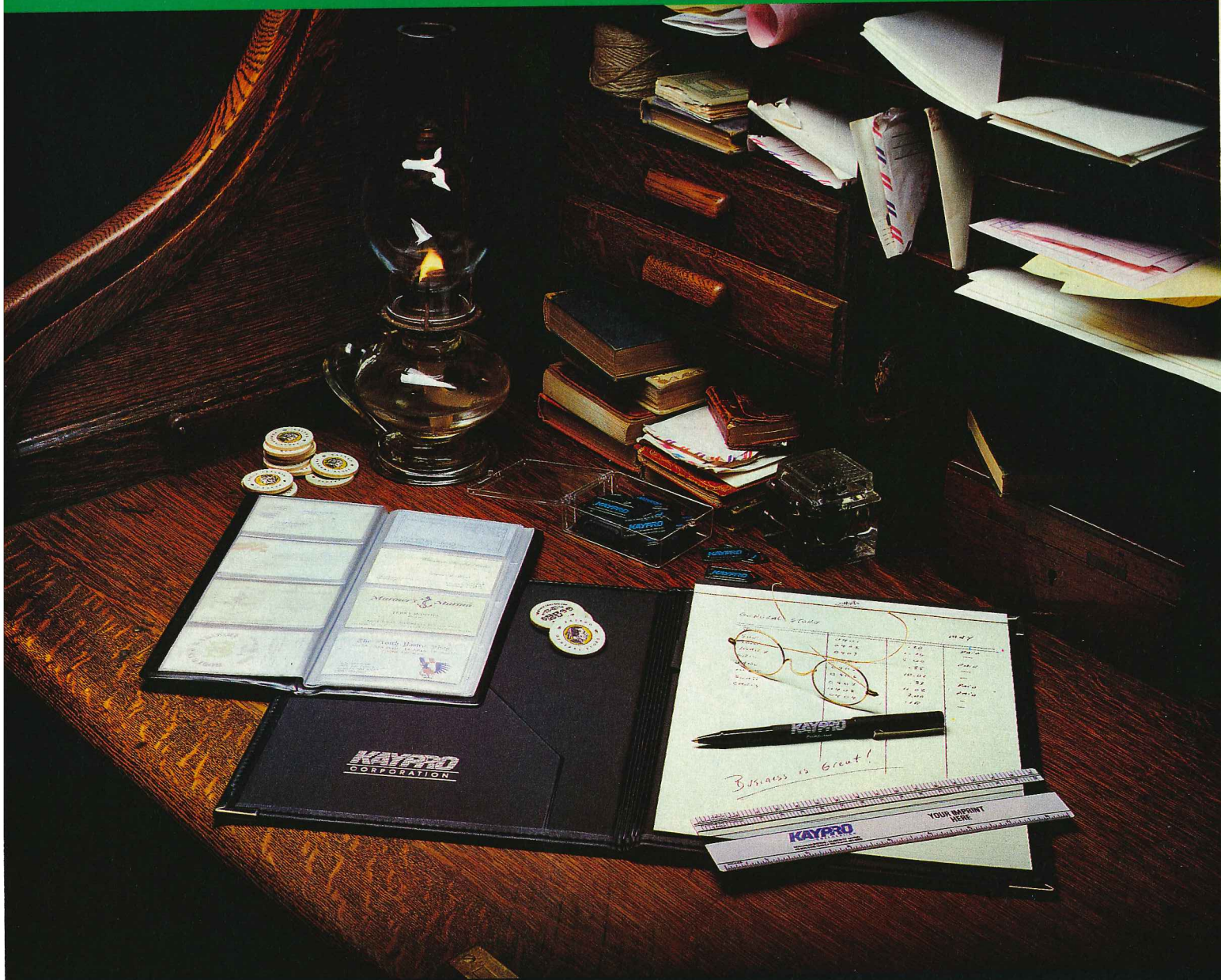
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For Your Desk ...



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Handyman: A Different Approach

by William Hogan

There are three fundamental differences between Handyman and "conventional" desktop utilities: it has its own memory; it's available only for CP/M Kaypros; and you have to take the cover off your machine to install it.

Other desktop manager programs have to be loaded into your computer's memory. They take up work-space—6K to 16K with the CP/M versions. Depending on the size of your computer's RAM, a program can be slowed down to tricycle speed with a desktop manager loaded in memory.

Handyman comes with its own built-in memory on a 3 x 6-inch mini-board that you plug into your Kaypro, and the programs are on a diskette. Handyman works by bank-switching its 16K of RAM into the RAM space normally occupied by part of Kaypro's CBIOS. This allows Handyman to operate without reducing the RAM available for normal programs.

Handyman's installation instructions are generally detailed, clear, and non-technical. I had no experience at all, yet did the installation in just a few minutes. Handyman's support includes a toll-free number, which has a technician who will talk you through the installation process.

From within any program, Handyman gives you quick access to a calculator, a notepad, a calendar, an appointment book, a disk directory, a phone dialer, an ASCII conversion table, and a screen dump.

Features

Handyman, with its limited onboard RAM, must bow before MS-DOS desktop software, but since it's only for CP/M machines, it should only be compared to other CP/M desktop utility programs. It does offer advantages in speed and, to varying degrees, features over these. It does not appear to affect the speed at which application programs run—perhaps its chief claim to fame—and certain details of its features are unique.

- Windows set the Handyman menu and functions clearly apart from your application program and from each other. A prompt line across the bottom of each window gives onscreen reminders of current key commands. Help files are available online from any function if the Handyman .HLP file is on your working disk.

- The notepad is a fairly complete word processor. It comes with word-wrap, insert/overwrite modes, and more than three dozen commands in either Perfect Writer or WordStar format (you have to specify which you want, because the commands are in ROM—you can't switch between the two), and it accommodates files up to 8K long.

- Handyman's calculator turns the comma key on the numeric keypad into a shift/control key, conveniently relocating all the numeric functions onto the keypad itself. Pressing the keypad's comma key followed by 5, for example, enters the multiplication

function into the calculator. And for programmers, hackers and DDT patchers, the calculator works in hex and binary modes as well as decimal.

- Handyman can check the disk directory of any drive or user area from any other drive or user area, while you are in any program. Even more interesting, Handyman can erase files from within a file.

- The calendar works both manually and automatically with the Kaypro's internal time clock. You can view any month and year and change or check your appointments for any specific days.

- You can print the contents of any application screen and then, with a keystroke, advance the printer paper to the top of the next form.

- Import and export functions are available in both the notepad and calculator, so you can move spreadsheet numbers into the calculator and move the calculations back again, as well as interchange text file contents.

- The phone dialer works with either the Kaypro's internal modem or a Hayes-compatible external modem. You can call any number from inside any program with a keystroke (you need a phone number file, and the phone dialer file must be on your diskette). The phone dialer does the dialing automatically.

Caveats

Ed. note: PROFILES informally polled some Handyman users, who generally praised the product but mentioned a few things to keep in mind. These are not necessarily faults, but they could cause you problems if you weren't aware of them:

Handyman will not work with Compat, a popular CP/M-to-MS-DOS file conversion program. It *does*, however, work with MFDISK, another such program.

If you use Handyman and XtraKey, you must use XtraKey version 2.4G. If you have an older version, you'll have to upgrade.

If you do "cutting and pasting"—that is, if you import text from another file—the process will be very slow. A good typist could probably type in the material just about as quickly.

If you are using a special ROM from Advent or Micro Cornucopia, you'll need to request a special version of Handyman to get the right replacement ROM. (Handyman's ROM offers an advantage to users of Kaypros with single-sided drives: the Handyman ROM will let you read double-sided disks.)

Finally, there is some uncertainty about whether Handyman will work with other hardware upgrades; to our knowledge, this simply has not been fully investigated, so you'd do well to conduct your own research. ■

William Hogan, novelist and screenwriter, closely followed the development of Handyman, was a beta-tester, and uses it on his Kaypro 4'84.

POP-UP DESK

(continued from page 36)

clock time if you have an internal clock; you can set alarms to interrupt you with a message at a specific time. There is a perpetual calendar that you can move around in, and a small square displaying "Notes for the Day" for whatever day the cursor is on. You can also highlight important days on the calendar. For something more detailed, there are datebooks (in separate files listed in the datebook submenu) that list all the appointments for a particular person.

There is a menu called ADD-ON TOOLS, which allows you to access functions that you can purchase separately from Polytron Corporation; some tools are already included with PolyWindows itself. There is a 14-digit calculator that works with either floating or fixed point. Besides the four basic functions, it's capable of one-number memory, percentages, and exponential notation. You can send a number to your outside application, or even have a tape of your calculations displayed or printed. A separate tool converts numbers among decimal, hexadecimal, octal, and binary.

Here's a quick run-down of PolyWindow's remaining functions: there is a "grabber" to take text from the screen and insert it into an application with various end-of-line delimiters. An autodialer tool will dial a number from the screen or from the keyboard. Another desk tool is Polykey, which is able to keep definitions for up to 60 keys in a macro file and have a macro file active

either inside PolyWindows or in other applications alone. Finally, there is a DOS menu allowing you to do various file and directory operations.

Extra Desk (ver. 1.1, for CP/M)

Extra Desk only comes with installation instructions; a note states that the program is meant to be so easy to use as to require no further printed documentation. And it's true: The program uses menus and is largely self-prompting. There are help screens, and a help function is available for all information that isn't immediately obvious.

Extra Desk uses menus and is largely self-prompting.

The program that goes into memory, XDESK.COM, is 16K, with all the files on disk totaling more than 200K (this program is only for '84 series Kaypros); the documentation says that you'll have to switch disks when you use Extra Desk.

When you invoke the program with CTRL-\, it "saves the current context," which means it writes to disk the memory contents that will be displaced when the

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program is executed. Extra Desk then presents a menu of eight functions: calculator, calendar, clipboard, disk commands, notepad, phone directory, help, and a reference file.

There is a bug worth noting: Extra Desk accesses the disk all the time—constantly, in fact. No matter which function you call, the disk drives will keep turning even after the overlay has been loaded. After you return to the main menu, the drives still won't stop turning. I found this perpetual running distracting, but more importantly, prolonged usage will result in excess wear and tear on your disk drives.

The clipboard and the notepad are both text editing functions, and both have basically the same editing commands. It is a simple editor, with cursor movement and delete functions, but little more. The clipboard is a single screen (a "page") for brief notes. It has the ability to "grab" the actual screen you were working on as text, allowing a practical screen dump. For more substantial word processing, the notepad allows up to nine pages of text to be entered, going to disk when you move to each page. It can take the clipboard as a page, or put a page onto the clipboard. Both the clipboard and the notepad contents can be printed and are written to disk every time you leave.

The clipboard also has one additional option—the ability to create key macros. You can create up to ten

macros (invoked by CTRL-] and a digit) that remain in effect for any of Extra Desk's functions and can be saved to disk. They have a useful, undocumented side effect: if you enter the CTRL-] and wait before you enter the number, the disk drives stop turning. This was handy for saving my drives.

The calculator handles 14 digits with floating point. It has the basic four functions and number memory, though once you recall a number from memory, it's gone. Calculations and notes can be put on a tape display for printing.

The calendar function simply displays a perpetual calendar, which you move around in and can send to the clipboard.

The phone directory is an alphabetical list of names and numbers, accepting up to 100 entries. You can edit an entry, search by name, or have it dial for you if your Kaypro has a built-in modem.

The reference file is a text file several screens long; you can edit it and enter whatever information you think you'll be referring to a lot.

Finally, CP/M commands are available: DIR, REN, TYPE, and USER.

Sidearm (ver. 1.2, for CP/M)

Sidearm has a nice installation program to let you customize it for either a graphics Kaypro ('84 series) or

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POP-UP DESK

an older machine ('83 series). You can also install it to have the files on one disk or two. The documentation is good, with clear descriptions of which files are needed after installation is done.

The program **SIDEARM.COM** will need only 8K of your RAM; disk files will take up an additional 62K. When you invoke it with a CTRL-\, you'll find yourself waiting through almost 20 seconds of disk accessing (saving the context) before the main menu appears. The functions available are a calculator, an ASCII table, a notepad, a phone book, a file editor, and a reference chart. It accesses the disk to load a function, but not when exiting from a function.

The calculator displays seven digits plus two decimal places. It will, however, accept as many digits as you like (the excess just disappears off to the left). I also found it to be inconsistent in clearing a number from the display. It has the four basic arithmetic functions and the logical functions, and will operate in hexadecimal mode as well.

The ASCII table gives the standard 128-character set, without the Greek or graphics characters, and it gives the value of each in decimal, hex, and octal.

Sidearm could be said to just have three functions: the two above, and an editor. The same basic routine is used for the notepad, phone book, reference chart, and file editor. The first three functions are different from

each other in that they operate on different, specific disk files; the last function will prompt you for a filename. Thus, you can have any format for your reference or phone files, but you don't need to specify their names to access them.

You can make your file up to 50 lines long; the general file editor will only load in the first 50 lines. The editor's commands are basically the same as **WordStar's** cursor movement and deletion commands. You can also print the text being edited, or import the screen data (allowing a practical screen dump). You also have the option of exiting without saving your text, but the text is not retained in memory if you do.

Presto! (ver. 1.03, for CP/M)

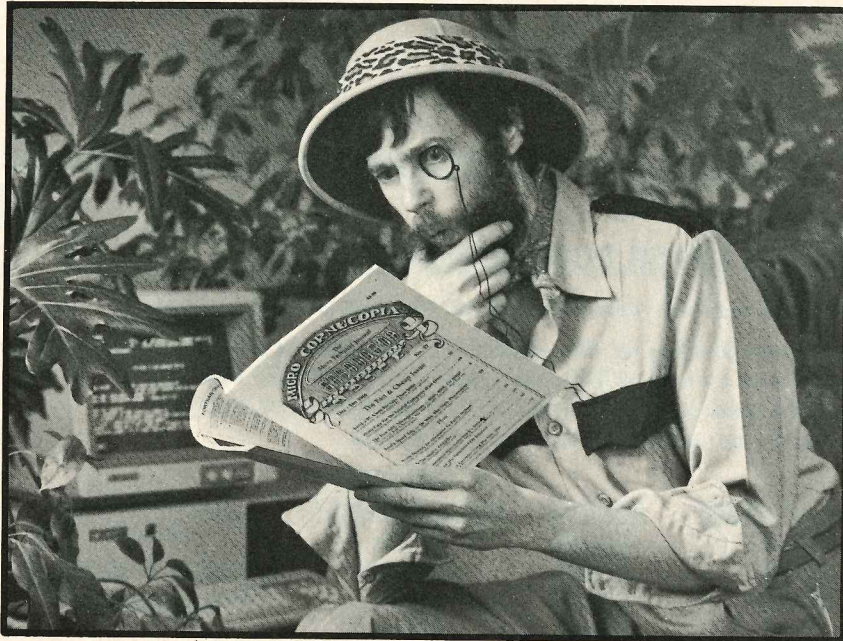
Here is a program that is actually RAM-resident within 64K. **Presto!** only accesses the disk for text files, not overlays; the entire program sits in memory. There are also different versions, depending on which model **Kaypro** you have and which brand internal clock is installed. Documentation is attractive and complete, mentioning possible incompatibility problems.

Presto! comes in four sizes. The full version has a notepad, clock/calendar, calculator, and screen dump and requires 18K of your memory. The version without the clock is 16K, just enough to let **WordStar** load and edit under four pages in memory. The smallest version,

(continued on page 54)

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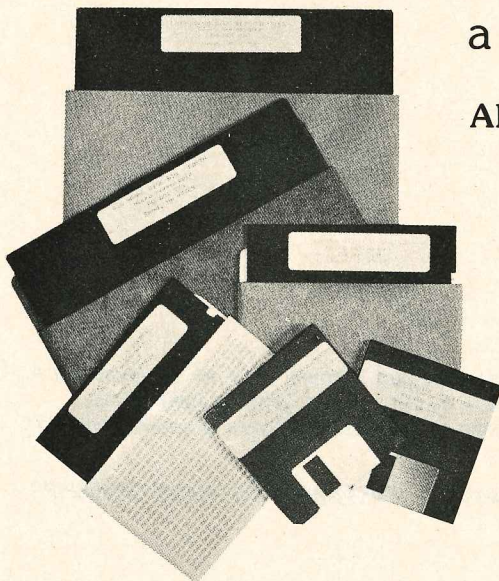
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Maximum number of characters per definition or all definitions combined.	NO LIMIT	3,838
Bytes of memory required per 500 bytes of definition data.	500	1,000
Definitions can be sent to printer, CRT, or punch device (in any combination).	YES	NO
Definitions can "chain to" or activate other definitions.	YES	NO
Automatic definition file loading.	YES	NO
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2. Men's Department Stores	188.0	18.2	225.0	15.8	288.0	15.8	311.5	16.1	384.0	15.9	456.0	16.2	528.0	16.3
3. Women's Department Stores	188.0	18.2	225.0	15.8	288.0	15.8	311.5	16.1	384.0	15.9	456.0	16.2	528.0	16.3
4. Men's Clothing	188.0	18.2	225.0	15.8	288.0	15.8	311.5	16.1	384.0	15.9	456.0	16.2	528.0	16.3
5. Women's Clothing	188.0	18.2	225.0	15.8	288.0	15.8	311.5	16.1	384.0	15.9	456.0	16.2	528.0	16.3
6. Men's Sportswear	188.0	18.2	225.0	15.8	288.0	15.8	311.5	16.1	384.0	15.9	456.0	16.2	528.0	16.3
7. Women's Sportswear	188.0	18.2	225.0	15.8	288.0	15.8	311.5	16.1	384.0	15.9	456.0	16.2	528.0	16.3
8. Men's Footwear	188.0	18.2	225.0	15.8	288.0	15.8	311.5	16.1	384.0	15.9	456.0	16.2	528.0	16.3
9. Women's Footwear	188.0	18.2	225.0	15.8	288.0	15.8	311.5	16.1	384.0	15.9	456.0	16.2	528.0	16.3
10. Men's Accessories	188.0	18.2	225.0	15.8	288.0	15.8	311.5	16.1	384.0	15.9	456.0	16.2	528.0	16.3
11. Women's Accessories	188.0	18.2	225.0	15.8	288.0	15.8	311.5	16.1	384.0	15.9	456.0	16.2	528.0	16.3
RETAIL	1112.0	10.8	1350.0	10.8	1680.0	10.8	1872.0	10.8	2304.0	10.8	2736.0	10.8	3168.0	10.8
12. Men's Clothing	440.0	4.3	528.0	4.3	672.0	4.3	756.0	4.3	936.0	4.3	1080.0	4.3	1296.0	4.3
13. Women's Clothing	440.0	4.3	528.0	4.3	672.0	4.3	756.0	4.3	936.0	4.3	1080.0	4.3	1296.0	4.3
14. Men's Sportswear	440.0	4.3	528.0	4.3	672.0	4.3	756.0	4.3	936.0	4.3	1080.0	4.3	1296.0	4.3
15. Women's Sportswear	440.0	4.3	528.0	4.3	672.0	4.3	756.0	4.3	936.0	4.3	1080.0	4.3	1296.0	4.3
16. Men's Footwear	440.0	4.3	528.0	4.3	672.0	4.3	756.0	4.3	936.0	4.3	1080.0	4.3	1296.0	4.3
17. Women's Footwear	440.0	4.3	528.0	4.3	672.0	4.3	756.0	4.3	936.0	4.3	1080.0	4.3	1296.0	4.3
18. Men's Accessories	440.0	4.3	528.0	4.3	672.0	4.3	756.0	4.3	936.0	4.3	1080.0	4.3	1296.0	4.3
19. Women's Accessories	440.0	4.3	528.0	4.3	672.0	4.3	756.0	4.3	936.0	4.3	1080.0	4.3	1296.0	4.3
TOTALS	1300.0	12.5	1550.0	12.5	1960.0	12.5	2187.5	12.5	2712.0	12.5	3264.0	12.5	3816.0	12.5

POP-UP DESK

(continued from page 50)

only a calculator, is 10K. The available functions are displayed on a menu invoked with CTRL-\ . I found that accessing these functions was instantaneous on a Kaypro II, but not very fast on a Kaypro 4'84. I also noticed a problem with Presto! loaded; on a Kaypro 4, you can no longer switch between single- and double-sided disks in drive B.

The notepad is very small, only 11 lines long, in a window that takes just the bottom half of your screen. The text remains in memory until you save it, and you can send it to any disk file you like, instead of to a specific notepad file—you can even specify whether to overwrite the file, or append the notepad to the file. Except for an undo command, editing commands are very basic and simple, but there are some other commands that are quite interesting. You can send the notepad contents to the outside application, or import from the outside screen; either of these operations is done one line at a time, letting you choose which specific lines you want to move.

Another powerful capability of the notepad involves reading from the disk: Besides just reading in the first 11 lines of a specified file, you can specify a "key string." This will search the file for the first occurrence of the string and then read in a block of 11 lines from there.

The calculator has several modes: a seven-digit floating-point mode and integer modes for decimal, hex, octal, and binary. Besides the standard four functions, it does logical operations, exponents and percentages. There is six-number memory; you can also send the displayed number to the notepad or to the outside application.

The calendar and clock function displays the time and date from your internal clock (if you have one) and a perpetual calendar. You can change the time or date, though I was unable to change the year. There is no appointment calendar, but there is an alarm clock; you can have the computer beep at a specified time and display a message string onscreen, no matter what application you're running. The date and time, too, can be sent to the notepad or to the outside application.

(Note: At the time of this writing, new versions of both Sidearm and Presto! were close to release.)

Some final comments

There is one other desk utility program for CP/M machines—Write-Hand-Man. I have not included it in this review because Ted Silveira covered it pretty extensively in a recent "Flea Market" (November 1985). He also included information on an updated version at the end of last month's "Flea Market."

Before you rush out and buy a pop-up desk utility (or any other piece of software), you should ask yourself whether or not you will find it useful. Many people's needs are met perfectly well by physical desk tools: a real notepad and real calendar. Moreover, you may not find every single function of a utility to be valuable. If

you don't do any programming, you won't need any programmers' utilities; if you need a calculator with scientific functions, you're not going to find one among these programs. For a notepad, will you want a real word processor or just a little text editor? Finally, when you do look at these programs, think of how much RAM and disk space you are willing to spare. CP/M users especially should take into account RAM limitations and disk access time when considering a purchase. ■

T.F. Chiang is a student at Brown University. He is a member of the International Kaypro Users Group and writes for their newsletter, the KUGRAM.

Quick Reference Summary

Product: SideKick

Manufacturer: Borland International

4585 Scotts Valley Dr.

Scotts Valley, CA 95066

Phone: (408) 438-8400

Price: \$49.95 (protected); \$84.95 (not protected)

Product: PolyWindows Desk Plus

Manufacturer: Polytron Corporation

P.O. Box 787

Hillsboro, OR 97123

Phone: (800) 547-4000

Price: \$49.95 (protected); \$89.95 (not protected)

Product: Extra Desk

Manufacturer: Point Data Products

6065 Mission Gorge Rd., Suite 403

San Diego, CA 92120

Phone: (619) 287-2052

Price: \$49.95

Product: Sidearm

Manufacturer: Colin D. Borrowman

2178 Grand Blvd.

Schenectady, NY 12309

(order by mail only)

Price: \$19.95 (protected); \$34.95 (not protected)

Product: Presto!

Manufacturer: Spectre Technologies, Inc.

22458 Ventura Blvd., Suite E

Woodland Hills, CA 91364

Phone: (800) 824-7888

Price: \$39.95

Product: Handyman 1.2

Manufacturer: High Tech Research

1135 Pine Street, Suite 107

Redding, CA 96001

Phone: (800) 446-3220; (800) 446-3223 in CA

Price: \$124.95, plus \$5 shipping and handling ■

TurboROM: Provides substantial improvements to your CP/M Kaypro computer. Adds many new features including ability to read and write up to 10 other disk formats directly. You can't get more performance with any other product.

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- 256 directory entries using Advent floppy format
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- Super speed disk copying with Multicopy program
- Allows redefining of logical drive assignments
- Up to 2 Mbytes more storage on K10 hard disks
- Add a second or larger hard disk to K10s
- Up to 3.25K more program area on K10s
- Built-in screen dump
- Programmable cursor -- block, line, flashing, non-flashing
- Video screen blanking after 10 minutes of non-use (optional on '83s)
- Improved video performance on '84 computers
- Time displayed on 25th line of '84 computers (Real Time Clock required)
- Hard disk support built in (up to 112Mb)
- Ram disk support built in (up to 2048K)
- 32 character type-ahead keyboard buffer
- ZCPR1 included
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- Software driver may be loaded above the system to conserve memory
- No software driver required if computer is equipped with TurboROM
- Can be assigned to any drive name (A thru P)
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- Mounts inside the Kaypro
- Works on all CP/M Kaypro computers
- Expandable to include Real Time Clock
- Expandable to include hard disks
- High reliability - Built to our proven high standards

Speed Comparison at 4 MHz - Times measured in seconds.

Function	Floppy	MicroSphere	SWP	Advent
Load "Ladder.com"	8.89	2.21	1.82	.80
Write 64K file	55.65	3.25	2.93	1.52

256K RAM Disk \$399.95 Expansion Board \$332.50
 512K RAM Disk \$459.95 256K Expansion Kit \$39.95
 768K RAM Disk \$519.95 Real Time Clock \$30.00
 1024K RAM Disk \$579.95

Clock/Calendar: Real time Clock/Calendar for all Kaypro computers without built-in clocks. Works with Plu*Perfect DateStamper or your own application software. Source code drivers provided for use with MBASIC, SBASIC, dBASE II, Turbo Pascal, C, and assembly languages. The Clock/Calendar also functions as a host adapter to our RAM Disk and hard disk add-on products. Add these other products as needed.
Clock/Calendar Interface \$99.95

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Acceler8/16 \$99.95

All items are warranted for 90 days. 30 day money back guarantee if not completely satisfied. Money back guarantee for software applies only if diskette seal is intact. VISA and MasterCard are welcome. Please add \$2.00 freight per total order (additional freight and insurance on hard disk products) and \$2.00 for COD orders. California residents please add 6% sales tax. Prices, availability and specifications subject to change without notice.

Trademarks: Kaypro - Kaypro Corp., CP/M - DRI, MS-DOS - MicroSoft, dBASE II - Ashton Tate

Hard Disk Systems: Now you can add hard disks to any CP/M Kaypro computer. Yet another reason not to sell your old work horse to get the extra performance you now require. Add an additional 10 or 20Mb drive inside your Kaypro 10, or install a single 32, 40 or 56Mb drive. If complete systems are not what you need, then order just the parts you want. Call for more information. TurboROM included.

- High speed disk read / write -- much faster than K10
- Supports 1 or 2 hard disks up to 56Mb each
- Each hard disk can be divided into 1 to 7 logical drives
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- User may select number of directory entries for each logical drive
- User selectable block size for each logical drive
- Expandable to include RAM Disk
- Expandable to include Real Time Clock
- Supports all features of our TurboROM
- Includes the Advent hard disk formatter software
- Advanced features include complete user definable disk formatting
- Supports a wide range of hard disk manufacturers and models

Floppy Disk Kaypro Systems (Internal): Add a single 10Mb drive to any Kaypro II, 4, 2X, 1 etc.

System - less drive \$576.38 **10 Mb System** \$1090.33

Kaypro 10 System (Internal): Add a 10 or 20Mb drive to the existing hard disk. The 32, 40 and 56 Mb drives replace the existing 10Mb drive.

System - less drive \$192.98 **32 Mb System** \$1309.93

10 Mb System \$706.93 **40 Mb System** \$1610.93

20 Mb System \$812.98 **56 Mb System** \$2638.93

External Hard Disk System: Add from 10 to 112Mb plus up to 2048K of RAM Disk to all Kaypros except K10s.

System - less drive \$862.34 **32 Mb System** \$1979.29

10 Mb System \$1376.29 **40 Mb System** \$2280.29

20 Mb System \$1482.34 **56 Mb System** \$3308.29

Large Storage systems (up to 112 Mb) \$CALL

Add a Real Time Clock to most systems above \$30.00

5 MHz TurboBoard: Our tried and true 5 MHz speed enhancement for the earlier Kaypro models.

5 MHz TurboBoard for Kaypro II & 4 \$74.95

Software: Advent stocks a large selection of software for Kaypro CP/M and MS-DOS computers. The following is a list of some of our more popular software products.

Utilities

DateStamper	\$39.00	Sidekick	\$54.95
General DateStamper	\$49.00	Smartkey II	\$49.95
Media Master	\$39.95	Smartprint	\$29.95
Media Master Plus	\$59.95	Uniform	\$69.95
MultiCopy	\$49.95		

Programming Languages

C/80 Ver 3.1	\$49.95	Turbo Pascal	\$69.95
C/80 MathPak	\$29.95	Turbo Toolbox	\$54.95
Toolworks C	\$49.95	Turbo Tutor	\$34.95

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Basic Business	\$89.95	Rembrandt	\$79.95
Checks & Balances	\$74.95	Rembrandt '83	\$89.95

Graphics

Education

Algebra	\$39.95	Trigonometry	\$39.95
Calculus	\$39.95	SAT Score Builder	\$39.95
Geometry	\$39.95	Reading Professor	\$59.95

Games

Adventure	\$19.95	MyDiet	\$49.95
Airport	\$19.95	Computer Chef	\$29.95
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MyChess	\$34.95	Best of Wok Talk	\$29.95
Word Wiggle	\$29.95		

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Free-Form DBMs

*How to find what you want
when you don't know where it is*

by Paul Ofman and Jim Spickard

Last month Paul wrote about bibliographic database managers—programs that let you keep track of books and journal articles. Students, professors, and anybody who spends a lot of time in libraries probably got a lot of ideas from the software he reviewed.

This month, we're going to look at a different kind of database program—one designed for a wider audience.

All Kaypro owners write. (Well, maybe not all, but the exceptions wouldn't fill a phone booth.) We've had our Kaypros for a couple of years and have each filled more than 100 disks with miscellaneous scribblings. Even with informative labels and a good sorting system, it's hard to find things when we need them.

You see, you don't just need to find files. Suppose you have to find a particular *passage* in something you wrote months or years ago?

Let's give an example.

The other day Jim was looking for a quote from Michael Polanyi (the famous philosopher of science). He was trying to remember what Polanyi said about scientists being "called . . . to an unthinkable consummation." (That's all he could remember.)

He could have thumbed through the 400-plus pages of Polanyi's magnum opus, but that might have taken days. Or he could have looked through his filing cabinet, where he had once written it down.

But *he had used that quote before*. It was on one of those hundred disks, waiting to be found!

To make a long story short, he called up Free Filer, one of the three programs we're going to review this month, and told it to find the paragraph containing the words "Polanyi," "unthinkable" and "consummation." In the blink of an eye (well, almost that fast), the quote was on his screen.

A beginning writer might not need this help, but those of us who are more experienced can't imagine doing without it.

And these programs have other uses. Do you want an alphabetized list of all your customers in a given zip code who purchased microwave ovens? You can have it, without having to put your data in a complicated form.

We'll outline some of these uses below.

Unstructured databases

Free Filer, SuperFile and FYI 3000 are what the *Whole Earth Software Catalog* calls "garbage bags." You throw your data in, and they give you easy access to it—without having to enter it in the limited "fields" of dBASE II, Perfect Filer or DataStar. Unstructured database managers provide much more flexibility than other programs, and require less typing—especially if your information is already on disk.

The trade-off is that you can't do things that require data to have been stored in highly structured ways. You can't cross-tabulate entries, compute sums, or search for values greater or less than a given value. Nor can you store bibliographic citations and print them in varying styles, as with the programs reviewed last month.

But in a matter of minutes you can have a fully functioning database filled with notes, correspondence, and manuscripts—everything you've written since you bought your Kaypro.

You can't beat that for ease.

Free Filer

The simplest (and cheapest) of the programs we tested is Free Filer, \$49.95 from Telion Software.

Free Filer treats your disk like a set of index cards. Every paragraph—everything divided by double carriage returns—becomes a record (the parcels of data that database managers work with). You tell the program what character strings you wish to find ("Polanyi," "95004," and the like), and the program produces them, one after another on the screen. You can also search relationally—getting only those records that contain *both* strings you've asked for. In fact, Free Filer lets you specify up to 15 strings at once. Only records that contain them all will be chosen.

You have some options. Instead of dividing records with double carriage returns, you can choose another marker—perhaps "^^", which seldom appears in everyday text. This way, a record can span more than one paragraph. Instead of printing the "hits" one by one to the screen, the program can also write them automatically to disk. By searching *this* file, you can get past the program's 15-keyword limit (though it's hard

to imagine ever needing to). If you're searching several disks, you can append the search results to one another. The program will only search one disk at a time, but this trick lets you collect your hits in one place, then search them further.

You don't have to search the whole disk, though. You can search a single file if you want.

Free Filer is fast. A 36-hit search of 314K of text took just 3 minutes, 50 seconds. A 1-hit search of the same text took 3 minutes, 8 seconds. It's much faster than WordStar's search routine ("^QF")—which won't search on two terms at once, anyway.

Free Filer's code is small enough to run from WordStar's Run option.

Speaking of WordStar, Free Filer and WordStar make a great combination. Free Filer's code is small enough (32K) to run from WordStar's Run option. If you've got a file of 100 quotes, for example, you can run Free Filer and read the results of your search into your text with WordStar's ^KR routine. It sure beats searching the quote file with WordStar directly, or exiting WordStar, running another program, and climbing back in.

Free Filer will sort your output for you, either on the first character in the record or on any "delimiter" of your choosing. If you're searching an address list, for example, and have set up the list so the last names are surrounded with "#'s ("# . . . [name] . . . #"), you can have your hits alphabetized. You can change the delimiter—along with the rest of Free Filer's options—on the fly. That's a real boon when you're doing several searches in a row.

Telion Software provides excellent customer support, an added plus. Paul suggested several changes to an earlier version of their program, which they have made.

And Free Filer is the only database program Jim trusts with his recipes. He can look in the icebox and come up with the one recipe that uses olives, eggs and mystery vegetable. *Voila! Haute cuisine!*

At \$49.95, this program is a steal.

(Editor's Note: Free Filer version 4.0 is still available for \$49.95, but there is also a newer version for \$79.95 that includes additional features, such as the ability to combine logical operators and enhanced sorting capabilities. Those who have version 4.0 can send in their disks and get the newer version for the difference in price—\$30—according to Telion president Alan Gomes).

SuperFile

At \$195, Software Marketing's SuperFile is a more complete—and more complex—text manager. SuperFile's database may span up to 255 disks and contain

up to 20,000 records. Each record can be up to 512K in size (a ridiculous capacity because you'd have to search it to find what you wanted). Searches may use up to 64 keywords, which can be related by the logical criteria AND, OR, and NOT.

For example, let's say you're in the import business. You have a database of your correspondence—perhaps several thousand letters, if you write a lot. You want to find the letter you wrote last September to Smith—you don't remember his first name, but it's not John—about Martian Widgets. Smith is either in Singapore or Madagascar.

You tell SuperFile to find the record containing the keywords "Martian" AND "Smith" AND either "Singapore" OR "Madagascar" but NOT "John." Presto! The program tells you which disk contains the record, you insert that disk, and the record appears on your screen. If you desire, it can also go to a disk file or to your printer.

You can store the search criteria on disk, useful if you make the same search frequently.

SuperFile lets you have as many databases as you want—and you probably will want different ones for correspondence, product descriptions, personnel records, text, and so on. Each time you write something new, you have to update the database, but that's a small price to pay for the ability to find so much so quickly.

There's no reason, of course, that a given record couldn't be indexed in two databases at once. You don't have to enter it twice; just tell both databases what disk it's on.

Unlike Free Filer, however, SuperFile doesn't accept text "as is." SuperFile sorts records based on keywords, which you must append to the records with special symbols. A typical record will look like this:

*C

**This could be the text of a SuperFile entry.
The entry could have many pages of
text, and can have any format you want.**

*K

KEY WORDS / GO / HERE /

*E

The *C and *E signal the beginning and end of the record, while the *K signals the start of the keyword section. You can have up to 250 keywords per record. SuperFile maintains a dictionary for each database, which tells that database which records have which keywords. The program just searches its dictionary to find the record you want. You can print the dictionary to ease your data entry—it's nice to be reminded of the keywords you've used.

SuperFile is menu-driven. Once data was in the proper format, we found it extremely easy to create the database, and easy to add data later. Searching was a snap—just a matter of following screen prompts.

Printing search results was also straightforward: They can go to the screen, to the printer, or to a disk file.

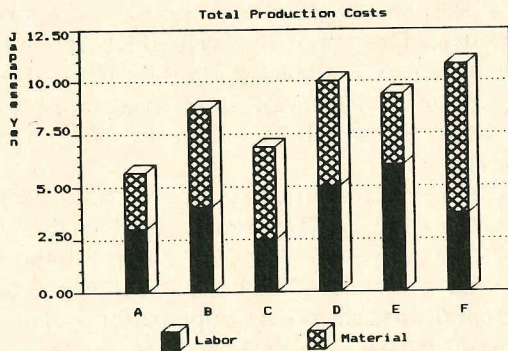
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GRAF 2.0 Update Policy: Returning your original GRAF 2.0 disk to MSC entitles you to \$20.00 off the above prices.

TERMS: We ship via first class mail. The above prices include domestic shipping and handling. Orders outside USA require additional \$5.00 for postage. N.Y. residents add state sales tax. When ordering you MUST state your computer and printer make and model. We support MS-DOS (PC-DOS) version 2.0 or later on computers with at least 192k RAM, and CP/M-80 version 2.2 or later on Z80 computers (other than modified Apples) supporting a TPA of at least 54k (requires 64k of RAM). Most soft-sector disk formats are available. (If you can read several formats, please send us a list.) GRAF 3.0 works with any printer fully compatible with one of the following: Epson FX, RX, LX, MX (with GRAFTRAX), or IQ-1500; C. Itoh Prowriter; NEC 8023A; Star Micronics Gemini 10X, 15X, SG-10, SG-15; IBM Graphics Printer; Okidata 192, and earlier Okidata models equipped with the "IBM Plug 'n Play" chips. (If you have an Okidata printer, other than the 192, the Plug 'n Play chips are required!)

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FREE-FORM

And you can print them with or without the special markers and keywords. If you're creating a customer list or bibliography, for example, you won't want the markers in your file. But if you're creating a new database as a subset of the old, you will want to leave them in.

Unlike Free Filer, SuperFile won't sort your output directly. But a special utility—now included—lets you sort and print labels, a real help for mailing list work.

Our only real complaint about SuperFile was having to add special markers and keywords to our text. It's one thing to add a few markers and keywords when you write a letter (you can put them on non-printing "comment lines" if you use WordStar). It's quite something else to go back over hundreds of pages of text adding asterisks and keywords. SuperFile seems best suited to those who churn out letters and short reports, rather than purveyors of discursive prose.

With that reservation, SuperFile is a fine program that will meet many people's needs.

FYI 3000

If you don't want to mess with markers and keywords, but still need to sift through disks and disks full of text, you ought to look at FYI 3000 (\$395 from Software Marketing).

Write-Hand Man

"Almost a Sidekick for CP/M"

Ted Silveira—Computer Currents, Aug. 27, 1985

"WHM is ingenious and works as intended"

Jerry Pournelle, BYTE Magazine, Sept. 1985 (c) McGraw-Hill

Now available for CP/M 2.2, CP/M 3.0 and ZRDOS!

The convenience of *Sidekick* on your CP/M machine! Trigger *Write-Hand-Man* with a single keystroke and a window pops open to run desk accessories. Exit *Write-Hand-Man* and both the screen and program are restored. Use with any CP/M program and most any CP/M machine. Takes only 5K of memory.

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\$49.95 (California residents add tax), shipping included. COD add \$2. Sorry, no credit cards or purchase orders. 30 day guarantee. Formats: 8 inch IBM, Northstar and most 5 inch (please specify).

Write-Hand-Man only works with CP/M 2.2, ZRDOS and CP/M 3.0 (please specify). Simple terminal configuration required. Not available for TurboDOS. Compatible with keyboard extenders, hard disks, and other accessories.

Poor Person Software

3721 Starr King Circle
Palo Alto, CA 94306
415-493-3735

Trademarks: *Write-Hand-Man* — Poor Person Software, CP/M—Digital Research, *Sidekick*—Borland International

SuperFile sorts records on keywords, which must be appended to a record with special symbols.

FYI 3000 provides two modes. A "keyword mode" is similar to SuperFile—which makes sense, because the same people put both programs together.

In keyword mode, entries are marked by "*C" and "*E," with keywords separated from the text by a "*K." (Look familiar?) The only difference between this mode and SuperFile is capacity: FYI 3000 can handle up to 500 keywords per record, and records can be as long as 2 million characters.

The "full-text" mode is similar to Free Filer: Records are paragraphs, separated by double carriage returns. These may be a maximum of 500 words long, not counting such words as "a," "and," "the" and others on an "omit list" the program maintains.

(A third mode uses markers but not keywords, allowing you to store records containing blank lines, but keeping the 500 word limit.)

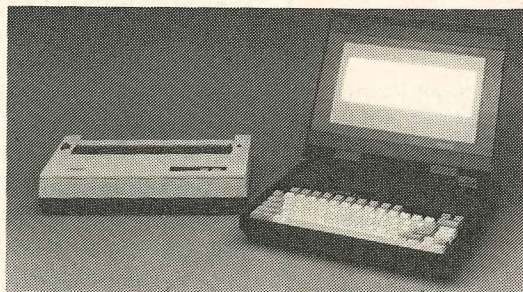
FYI 3000 indexes these non-keyworded paragraphs on every word, except those on the "omit list." (That's why the limit of 500 words—that's all the indexer can handle.) It's just as if you'd entered every word as a keyword, but the program does it for you!

A given database can only use one of these modes, so

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you have to choose. The program can manage several databases, however, so you might want to store text one way and correspondence another.

FYI 3000 lets you specify up to 128 search terms, connected with AND, OR, and NOT. Every record that meets the search criteria will be selected. You can ignore upper and lower case, if you want. You can also search "backward"—choosing every keyword *except* those you specify. This is useful for excluding certain zip codes from a mailing list, though otherwise it's a bit arcane. (The program stops searching after 1,500 hits, so you have to plan well.)

As with SuperFile, you can save the search results on disk and send them to the screen or to the printer. You don't have to look at the whole entry, though; you can print just the first sentence or the first line if you want. You can also add a comment line to your output, so you can tell what you did days or weeks later.

One utility program lets you sort your output. Another lets you print labels from it.

The advantage of FYI's indexing technique, of course, is its ability to access materials from many disks in a relatively short time. And in full-text mode, you don't have to worry about entering keywords. The approach has its drawbacks, however. In full-text mode, the ratio of indexed words to text is high, so the index files take up a lot of space.

The program and the index files must be on the same disk. That leaves about 300K on a double-sided floppy for index files, which should index about one megabyte of text (in FYI's estimation). Single-sided drives would be limited to half that. Splitting your text into multiple databases, of course, expands the amount you can store.

The real winners for FYI 3000 are those with hard disks: five megabytes of index will handle 20 mega-

If you need to sift through disks and disks of text, you ought to look at FYI 3000.

bytes of text—perhaps more, since English has a finite number of words. After a while, adding more text doesn't add more words, just more reference points.

In keyword mode, of course, the index takes less space. You just choose the words you want, greatly cutting down the total number. But you have to enter them manually; you might as well save \$200 and stay with SuperFile.

A better option is to stay in full-text mode, but

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3. **Color Board and Deluxe Logo package** ... ~~199.95~~ \$179.95
4. **Instant Grapher 2.1** gives labeled bar and line graphs; prints separate pattern for each color; use with color board only ~~\$40.00~~ \$29.95
5. **Standard TLC Logo** "turtle" graphics language uses internal graphics of Kaypro 1, 2-84, 2X, 4-84, 10 ~~\$99.00~~ \$79.00

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FREE-FORM

expand your omit list. More words will be left out of your index, but how often do you search on words like "search," "word" or "expand?" A large omit list will cut the index size drastically.

If you've really got a lot of text and don't want to have to modify what you've already written, we'd recommend FYI 3000. Otherwise, one of the other programs may be better for you.

What should you buy?

While most Kaypro owners will find a free-form database manager useful, not everyone is going to want the same program.

If you don't do much searching, but have outgrown WordStar's search capabilities (and who hasn't?), we recommend Free Filer. It's a good program, extremely easy to use, and requires no set-up. Its only drawback is that searches are limited to a single disk.

Academics and writers will especially like its ability to search long passages without prior modification. If you know which disk has what you're looking for, Free Filer is the program for you.

If you generate a lot of correspondence or short reports and don't mind going back to add markers and keywords, then take a good look at SuperFile. This program is best in a business environment, where long articles and books are not routinely produced.

And for truly massive searching, where you have access to a hard disk or similar storage device, there's no substitute for FYI 3000. Its power and unique strengths leave it without peer.

We reviewed the CP/M version of these programs; however, all are available in MS-DOS format. There may be differences in version numbers between CP/M and MS-DOS formats and the DOS version may have some added features because of the extra RAM available. ■

Paul Ofman is a freelance writer in New York who writes on microcomputer topics and is also a doctoral candidate in clinical psychology. Jim Spickard teaches sociology and is a frequent contributor to PROFILES.

Quick Reference Summary

Product: Free Filer
Manufacturer: Telion Software
P.O. Box 1464
La Mirada, CA 90637-1464
Phone: (213) 946-1015
Price: \$49.95 (version 4.0) or \$79.95 for new version

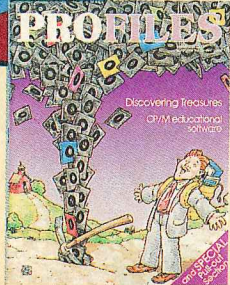
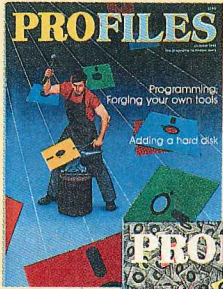
Product: SuperFile and FYI 3000
Manufacturer: Software Marketing Associates
4615 Bee Caves Road Austin, TX 78746
Phone: (512) 327-2882
Price: \$195 and \$395 respectively

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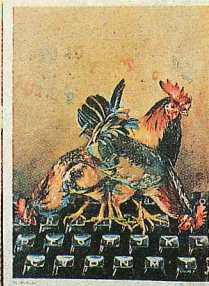
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Enhancing Eight-Bit Hardware

Part 2: Surveying the field of upgrade possibilities

by Loren Marshall

Last month I examined the ins and outs of preparing for an upgrade—shopping, general cautions and sources of advice—and offered a simple starter project: moving the reset button to the front of the machine. This time I'll talk about specific upgrades to Kaypro hardware. Naturally, in the discussions below, I'm assuming you've read the previous article.

Independent vendors of hardware upgrades are holding the door open for owners of eight-bit Kaypros to keep pace with later computer generations. Their offerings range from minor conveniences to major transformations. The list below appears in approximate order of cost, from several totaling less than \$100 to those that cost more than the computer itself.

These descriptions alone will not get you through an upgrade, and none is intended as an endorsement or testimonial. You'll have to educate yourself further and arrange the technical support you need before undertaking a project. Write to review publishers (see "Contact!") for information on back issues of publications that have carried pertinent articles.

Cooling fan, \$5-100

If your Kaypro came without a fan, consider the reasons for adding one. Even after years of trouble-free operation, heat could do in an EPROM (Erasable Programmable Read Only Memory) chip and send you running to the shop. Problems that repeatedly materialize late in your work sessions can be assumed to be heat-related until proven otherwise.

Heat also affects speed. Chips slow down as they heat up. If you plan to do the processor speed modification, described below, start with a fan.

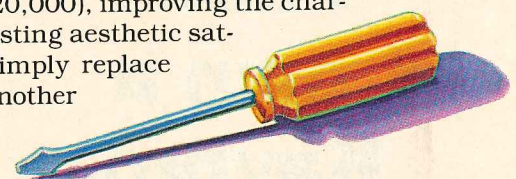
Fan prices vary considerably, and dealer installation adds to the possible range. Consider power supply, air-flow pattern, filtering and physical mounting before

you buy. Instructions with brands designed specifically for the Kaypro should simplify the power supply hook-up. Fans advertised for the Kaypro include the Dragonfly, the Beefan and the Kayfan. The vendors' addresses appear in "Contact!"

New video character set, about \$30

For video displays without real descenders on letters such as g, y, j and p (primarily Kaypro IIs with serial numbers under 20,000), improving the character set offers lasting aesthetic satisfactions. You simply replace one chip with another on the motherboard.

Micro Cornucopia sells the only character EPROM advertised at the time of this writing, although Advent Products and





other companies have offered them in the past. Some other upgrades, such as graphics boards, improve the character set as a bonus.

External monitor adapter, \$50-90

An external monitor offers relief for tired eyes and an easy way for several people to watch the action. Be prepared to buy a monitor, as a normal television screen won't display 80 columns.

Advent Products and MicroSphere make adapters in similar price ranges. They can be installed simply—there is a plug-in board and a jack for the back of the computer. Both companies advertise in *PROFILES*.

Jim Nickerson worked out a bit more technical approach to the project. His *PROFILES* article ("Add External Video to Your Kaypro," July/August 1984) details a homemade video adapter for '84 series Kaypros.

Five megahertz processor speed-up, \$39-75

There are probably more speed upgrades available than any other type of Kaypro modification—possibly all of them combined. Numerous companies offer them, and review opinions abound.

With this modification, you can decide how much technical work you want to do. Several vendors sell boards that minimize installation pain by plugging into the Z80 microprocessor socket. Make sure you get a toggle switch so you can return to your original speed to run formatting programs, arcade games and anything else that balks at 5 MHz.

More adventurous tinkerers, or those who suspect that they may later want their Z80 socket for another product, can try Micro Cornucopia's do-it-yourself method. This project has the particular advantage of running at the advertised speed. Many daughter board speed kits use "wait states" that reduce their actual

clock speeds to 3.5 - 4.5 MHz. The method's disadvantage: a fraction of Kaypros, perhaps 5 to 15 percent, will not run at 5 MHz at all unless you replace one or more "slow" chips. This is another good reason for the switch; in a pinch, you can toggle back to 2.5 MHz while you identify and solve the problem.

Two articles in *Micro Cornucopia* magazine contain more on this upgrade ("The Kaypro Column," by David Thompson, June 1983, and the same column done by Alan Barlow in December/January 1985).

Amber internal monitors, \$90-100

Some contend that amber screens reduce eyestrain during long sessions at the console. Amber monitor vendors offer an affordable upgrade for those who want a change and aren't satisfied with a non-glare screen. Amber monitor kits for Kaypro computers are advertised by Amber Visions and Langley-St. Clair Instrumentation Systems.

Graphics boards, \$145-299

The visual allure of screen graphics draws many people into computing. Graphics support in the world of Z80-based Kaypros, though, is limited for those not prepared to program their own.

Graphics require both hardware with display capabilities and software to create the images. Eight-bit Kaypros don't come with extensive screen capabilities, and programmers have focused much of their attention on Apple's Macintosh and the IBM and its clones. CP/M graphics software is in short supply, although it does exist. An investment in graphics can be a disappointment if you don't know what to expect.

An investment in graphics can be disappointing if you don't know what to expect.

Advent Products' ProGraphics system emulates the Televideo 925/950 terminal. Detroit reviewer Barney Nagel had high marks for Advent's installation directions, graphics quality, customer support, and the disk of utilities and demonstration programs ("Gadzooks! Graphics on the Old Kaypro II and IV," *DKUG.DOC*, Spring 1985).

JFN Industries markets one board to upgrade video attributes in the Kaypro's native environment and another that emulates the Zenith Z-19 terminal. The company advertises automatic software and operating system patches for the former, to ensure compatibility with bundled programs.

If you consider MicroSphere's color graphics board, you might also budget for a color monitor, although an inexpensive RF modulator will allow use of a television.

David Thompson reports that this board also installs with a simple plug-in, and he praises the quality of color graphics. (Thompson's *Micro Cornucopia* has a close business relationship with MicroSphere, and he candidly admits a bias.) The board comes with 16K of memory and a utilities disk.

Internal 1200-baud modem, \$349

An internal 300/1200-baud, Hayes-compatible modem could spice up any Kaypro, and it leaves the system completely portable. An external modem gives you more freedom to trade systems, but the Datasolvers 1200 SMT merits a look if you plan to hang on to your machine. After being used to transferring data at 300 baud, quadrupling the rate certainly streamlines the process.

The Datasolvers modem installs simply with IC plugging and double-sided tape. It won't conflict with Kaypro's built-in modems, but this model does deprive you of the use of your serial data port while it's in place.

RAM disks, \$395-995

Time is of the essence. In one way or another, the justification for most computer use boils down to saving time.

Souping the Z80 up to 5 MHz solves only one part of the delay problem. The remaining delay occurs in input-output activity. Drive operation—reading from and writing to disk—poses a problem not addressed by processing speed because much of it is a mechanical rather than electronic function. Head movement accounts for most of the wait time with floppy disks.

Logically, applications that rely heavily on disk function show the greatest speed increase. "Virtual memory" storage on disk, such as Perfect Writer's swap file, and overlays (Wordstar's OVL files) are the sort of program features that a RAM disk will expedite significantly. Most applications mix processing and input-output tasks, so a complete speed overhaul consists of both a processor upgrade and addition of a RAM disk.

Memory in a RAM disk, just as in a computer's RAM, is dynamic memory. Even a brief power loss wipes out everything. Unless you're using an uninterruptible power supply, important projects still must be backed up to real disks frequently.

Most RAM disk vendors sell boards for internal mounting, but MicroSphere tried an unconventional approach: an external box that communicates with the motherboard through the parallel port. This leaves your Z80 socket free for another upgrade.

SWP Industries markets a dual-function board. Its Co-Power products are actually co-processor boards that include the 8088 processor—the heart of the IBM PC and its compatibles—and an expandable 256K of RAM. While there is a consensus among reviewers that graphics and keyboard incompatibilities cripple the Co-Power in the IBM environment, many rate it highly on the basis of its second role: Under CP/M, it addresses

the extra memory as a RAM disk.

Other companies that make RAM disks are Advent Products and Semidisk Systems.

Quad density floppy disk drives, \$300 and up

Prices for this modification vary widely, depending particularly on how many drives you add, where you buy them and what upgrade method you choose. The project's allure is pretty obvious: A quadruple density disk will hold nearly 800K of data.

*The allure is obvious:
A quad-density disk
drive will hold nearly
800K of data.*

To get some perspective on the project, consider it in two parts. First, the motherboard has to learn to recognize new disk formats and system tracks, and—if you're upgrading from a Kaypro II to double-sided drives—how to select sides. This part of the job entails replacing the monitor EPROM and jumper wiring, if you accept *Micro Cornucopia's* challenge to make some of the circuit changes yourself. If you also want to increase the *number* of disk drives in the system, you'll need another part called a "decoder" that plugs in between the disk drive data cable and its connector on the motherboard.

The other phase, choosing and installing the drives, is more complex. Use a chart while you shop (see "Methodical Mail Order" in Part 1, *PROFILES* March 1986) and a thorough checklist to track the actual installation. Choose a "kit" supplier (EPROM, decoder and so on) first, and shop for drives after you know what types and brands the kit supports and what its manufacturer recommends.

Drive installation itself takes in several sub-tasks. Regardless of where you buy parts for modifying the motherboard, study the articles recommended below to gain a basic knowledge of the operation. The first job is "jumpering" the drives so that the operating system and processor know one drive from another, and how many there are. The jumpering method depends on drive brand; you may slide fittings off a part on the drive's circuit board, or break wires similar to those in electrical fuses.

Physical mounting consists of redrilling the drive enclosure, inserting the drives and fastening them, and hooking up the data cable and wires for power and ground. An increase in the number of drives means the cable needs a corresponding number of plugs added, a job well left to a technician unless you have a small vise and a fine touch.

Both motherboard "kit" vendors—Advent Products and *Micro Cornucopia*—claim similar major features.

With a decoder, either should recognize up to four double or quad density drives (including single-sided double density, if you should decide to leave one in).

Two other companies, ERAC and the Cybernetic Surgery Clinic, offer flexibility by providing part of the upgrade work and letting the customer do the rest. Some dealers will agree to this arrangement also, or will do a complete installation of equipment you obtain.

Recommended reading for this upgrade includes two central *Micro Cornucopia* articles ("Great Eight Kaypro," by Dana Cotant, December 1983; and "The Kaypro Column," by Dana Barlow, December/January 1985) and three more that offer useful background (David Thompson's Kaypro columns in the August 1983, April 1984 and June/July 1984 issues).

Eight-inch floppy disk drives, \$350 and up

Despite the lack of mass market attention, eight-inch drives have both historical and technical advantages operating in their favor. The de facto standard for disk formats in the CP/M world has always been the IBM 3740: eight-inch, single-sided, single density. Almost all CP/M software is available in this format, including the dozens of megabytes of public domain material that SIG/M and other groups distribute.

In the double density format, eight-inch drives transfer data at 500 kilobits per second—twice as fast as their five-inch counterparts. Disk access times approach hard disk performance when working on files up to 15-20K.

The ascendancy of smaller formats has brought the ceiling down on eight-inch drive prices. With careful shopping you can buy two double-sided, double density drives (1.3 megabytes each) and a power supply for under \$500. You'll have to use the drives externally, of course, so you also want to price a cabinet.

Micro Cornucopia offers an arrangement similar to, and compatible with, its Pro-8 quad density upgrade. You can get more detailed information in articles by Dana Cotant and David Thompson ("Eight-Inch Drives on the Kaypro," June/July 1985, and "The Kaypro Column," August/September 1985).

Hard disk drives, \$1,000 and up

Adding a hard disk, or "Winchester," drive to your system simultaneously improves storage capacity and disk access speed. Even the smallest hard disk commonly sold, five megabytes, stores more than six times what a quad density floppy disk will, and the more common 10-megabyte models replace more than 50 single-sided Kaypro disks. All of that storage is on line and accessible without switching disks. Speed increases are similarly impressive.

There are also trade-offs. Directory size grows parallel to disk size, so operating system changes may prove more drastic than with a quad density upgrade. Data backup takes on new importance with a hard drive.

With all of your data eggs in one basket, malfunctions pose much greater risks than they do with even the most heavyweight floppies. As a rule of thumb, the need for a high-speed "streaming tape" device grows in proportion to the size difference between the hard disk and the floppy drive used for backup.

If you decide on tape backup, shop for a unit that the vendor has already interfaced with your kind of hard disk. This project is a poor bet for matching products from different sources.

David Thompson gave positive mention to a Delphi 15-megabyte hard disk subsystem in *Micro Cornucopia*. WestWind, Systems Peripheral Consultants, Technology Information Systems, and Mega-Byte also advertise hard disks specifically for the Kaypro.

Logic analyzer, above \$2,000

Electronics buffs interested in circuit analysis for repair or new design work may be surprised at how well a Kaypro performs with special equipment installed, and how much less it costs than a comparable "dedicated" analyzer. Omnilogic sells a 16-channel analyzer, expandable to 32 channels, which technician Tom Hill of Alaska Micro Systems rated as nearly equivalent to a dedicated model more than twice as expensive. The principle difference: the dedicated analyzer handles "faster" circuits.

This upgrade is more expensive and more technical than most others. Hill's installation took two hours.

The bottom line

Hardware modifications are investments in more than one sense. Many require time and hard work to prepare for, and there are no guarantees against installation problems. But assuming that you do the groundwork and arrange technical support in advance, the payoffs more than outweigh the risks. You don't just get a hotter computer—upgrading builds confidence and enthusiasm in the operator as well. ■

Loren Marshall works as a paramedic in Anchorage, Alaska. He completed processing speed and quad density disk drive upgrades on his Kaypro II ('83 series) while researching this article.

Contact!

Advent Products
3154-F E. La Palma Ave.
Anaheim, CA 92806
(714) 666-0130

Amber Visions
878 Jackman St., Ste. 192
El Cajon, CA 92020
(619) 579-2435

Beefan
Atmospheres
1207 E. Eighth Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11215
(718) 788-6799

Byte Magazine
70 Main St.
Peterborough, NH 03458
(603) 924-9281

Cybernetic Surgery Clinic
P.O. Box 795
Collegedale, TN 37315

Delphi Development
6273 19th NE
Seattle, WA 93115
(206) 524-5369

Dragonfly Software
729 Westview Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19119

ERAC
8280 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Ste. 117
San Diego, CA 92111
(619) 569-1864

JFN Industries
361 North Fuller Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90036
(213) 939-4105

Kayfan
Cables To-Go
P.O. Box 5903
Dayton, OH 45405
(513) 275-0886

Langley-St. Clair Instrumentation Systems, Inc.
132 W. 24th St.
New York, NY 10011
(800) 221-7070

Mega-Byte, Inc.
Rt. 3, Box 35
Tremonton, UT 84337
(801) 257-7033

Micro Cornucopia
P.O. Box 223
Bend, OR 97709
(503) 382-5060

MicroSphere, Inc.
P.O. Box 1221
Bend, OR 97709
(503) 388-1194

Omnilogic, Inc.
350 Sunset Blvd.
Renton, WA 98055
(206) 271-2000

Semidisk Systems
P.O. Box GG
Beaverton, OR 97075
(503) 642-3100

SWP, Inc.
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Arlington, TX 76011
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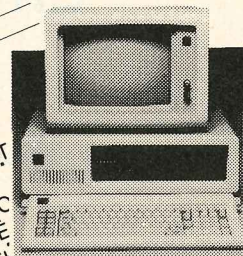
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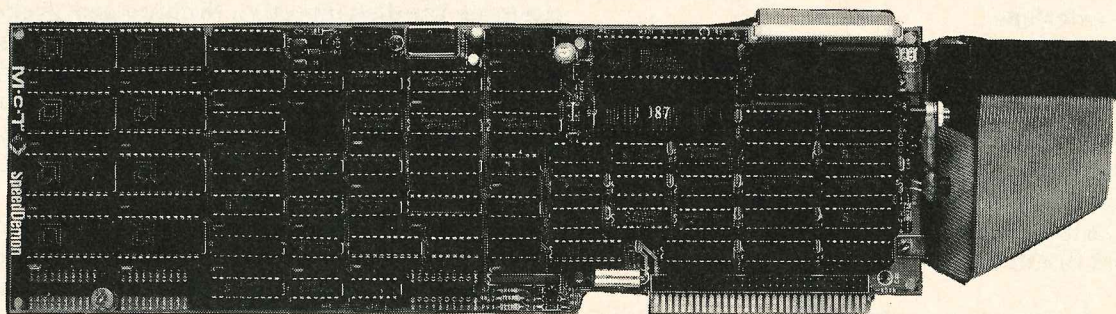
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Little Mysteries

How "diskwashers" do their stuff

by David Weinberger

Question: Two questions about "diskwashers"—worthwhile public domain programs like WASH, SWEEP, and DISK, which replace PIP and let you manipulate files with ease:

1. If you have one that lets you tag files for mass copying or deletion, why do the drives spin whenever you tag or untag a file?
2. Given all that these programs do, and given that it is possible to "unerase" files, why don't they include that feature?

Answer: The two questions are related, in a way.

Here's what happens with a typical diskwashing program. It reads the directory from a disk, puts it into memory and shows the filenames one at a time, letting you copy, delete, rename, etc. You would think that all it would have to do to tag a filename would be to go to the spot in memory where the filename is and put an asterisk (or something) next to it. Then, when it wanted to copy all tagged files, it would just browse through the buffer (section of memory) that contains the filenames and look for asterisks.

That, in fact, is pretty much what happens. So why does a diskwasher access the disk whenever you tag or untag a file? Let's use the DISK program as our example. It not only tags files, but it shows you how many kilobytes you have tagged, which helps prevent your trying to copy too much onto a disk. To find out the file size, DISK has to access the disk. To be precise, it uses a built-in CP/M BDOS call.

Huh?

Built into CP/M are about 36 different useful functions, such as deleting files, renaming them, printing characters to the screen, etc. Each function has a code number (listed in your CP/M manual under "Interface Guide").

For example, the CP/M programmer only has to tell the computer to execute function #19 to get the computer to erase a file, although this must be said in assembly language. CP/M knows how to do the nitty-gritty of getting the drive head to the right position on the disk, and so forth.

One of the built-in functions gives the size of a file. The programmer writes the name of the file into memory, tells the computer where in memory the name is, tells it he or she wants function #35, and tells it to jump to spot 5 in memory. From there CP/M takes over, checking out the disk directory. And that is why the disks whir when you tag a file.

*There is no BDOS
function call for
unerasing a file.*


Why can't they unerase?

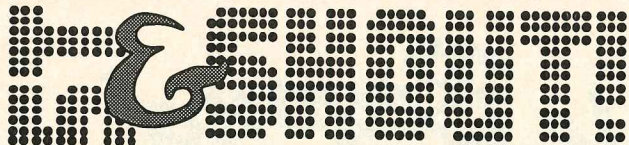
Now for the second question: why don't diskwashers generally include an unerase function? The answer is that they could, but it would require a fundamentally different sort of operation.

When CP/M erases a file, it really just goes to the disk directory and prefaces the filename with the number 229 (which will show up as an E5 if you use DU to examine the disk directly). Nothing else is changed. A program like UNERA, which unerases files, simply changes the 229 back to a zero. DISK and WASH *could* do this if their programmers wanted them to, but the point is that it would have to be done in a way entirely different than the way DISK and WASH delete, rename, copy and get the size of files.

All these operations are accomplished by using simple CP/M BDOS function calls. There is no BDOS function call for unerasing a file. To unerase a file, you have to figure out on your own how to do the very things that CP/M does so easily for you, such as moving the disk drive head to the proper spot on the disk.

It is the difference between driving a car by using the set-up functions available in the driver's seat (accelerate, brake, turn, signal) and driving it by opening up the hood and using a screwdriver to adjust the gas flow in order to control the speed, etc. The latter is harder and more "machine-specific."

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Is There Life Beyond WORDSTAR?

A look at some alternatives

by Robert Lavenda

WordStar and Perfect Writer may be the most prominent word processing programs for Kaypro owners, but others offer specialized capabilities that may be better tailored to your needs. I'll look at the CP/M versions of four: VEDIT PLUS, WRITE, Spellbinder and Palantir.

Would one of them be appropriate for you? I've always hated the reviewer's cop-out, "That depends on your needs," but I find it's true. Word processing is used for many wildly different functions, which have different requirements.

If you need fast printing that can access everything your printer can do, including micro-spacing and proportional spacing, Palantir or, especially, Spellbinder might make your life a lot easier.

If editing speed is important to you, you might want to switch to VEDIT PLUS or WRITE. If you need to edit multiple files, or if you do much programming, or need routinely to perform repetitive tasks on several files, consider VEDIT PLUS. If your main use of word processing is writing text and you can do it in chunks smaller than 38K, WRITE may be your best choice.

(You can contact the manufacturers for information on the MS-DOS versions of these programs, which are available for all except WRITE.)

VEDIT PLUS with V-PRINT

VEDIT PLUS is a wholly remarkable program: blindingly fast, extremely powerful, and highly flexible. Some of VEDIT PLUS' power comes from the 37 text registers (or buffers) available for editing as many files or parts of one file. In addition, the command mode instructions, which have developed into a programming language, can be combined into sequences of commands, known as macros, for manipulating text.

VEDIT PLUS' flexibility comes principally from its design: the program's authors think you should have complete control over the way your word processor

operates. As a result, VEDIT PLUS is the most flexible editor I have ever seen. You can customize almost everything about the program, including the Control and Escape commands entered from the keyboard. You can even configure your own sign-on message.

Programmers should be aware that VEDIT PLUS was originally designed as a programming editor, and several of its features are derived from that background. For example, VEDIT PLUS can automatically capitalize all characters to the left of a semi-colon (or any other character you choose).

VEDIT PLUS may be invoked with a filename and will load the file specified or will display a "New File" message and go to a blank edit screen. There is a status line at the bottom of the screen that indicates the name of the file, line and column numbers (if you have included them in the configuration), and certain messages and user prompts.

VEDIT PLUS can be configured to read an initialization file when it starts up; if it does, a macro (provided by CompuView, the manufacturer) that serves as a menu is loaded, allowing you access to many of the package's features—including changing such things as the word-wrap (right-hand) column, the handling of long files or search errors, and more.

VEDIT PLUS has several important safety features built in. Files may be saved either from within the editor or from the command mode. Confirmation must be given before quitting edit buffers or the program. Direct deletions of more than one line at a time are impossible. The block copy and move commands require that you designate a text register to send the block to. You can then clear the text register, overwrite it with another block, or add the next block to it.

The VEDIT PLUS editor is easy to learn and extremely fast. VEDIT PLUS uses both Control and Escape keys to enter commands. These are related to each other: CTRL-X moves the cursor down one screen, ESC-X moves it down one paragraph; CTRL-V moves

the cursor to the previous word, ESC-V deletes the previous word.

All commands are single sequences; there are no CTRL-KD commands as in WordStar, or CTRL-X CTRL-S commands as in Perfect Writer. If you want to use two-key sequences, or use the same commands you're already familiar with, you can install them during the configuration process.

Pressing the ESC key twice takes you to the command line, which appears at the bottom of the screen. Here you can enter single- or multi-letter commands or sequences of commands, and it is here that the real power (and danger) of VEDIT PLUS becomes visible. Seventy-seven different commands are possible, and these may be written in separate programs, or macros, which may be accessed from within the editor or from the command line.

These are particularly useful in situations that involve repetitive operations on text. A simple macro can sequentially load all your WordStar files, remove the additional characters WordStar inserts, save the modified file, and even prompt you to change disks.

Search-and-replace operations in VEDIT PLUS are extremely fast and powerful.

Search-and-replace operations in VEDIT PLUS are extremely fast (replacing one word with another of the same length 250 times takes 2.1 seconds) and also extremely powerful. There are 17 different kinds of pattern matching symbols available for different kinds of characters, strings of characters, control characters, and the like.

Searching and replacing can be carried out in either Edit or Command mode. In the edit mode, prompts for the search string appear at the bottom of the screen, and you can choose to search only what's in memory or the entire file.

Files that are longer than 36K (the space available in memory after the program is loaded) can be edited. Here again, you are given choices. VEDIT PLUS may be configured to give only the message that the memory is full, allowing you to decide how much of the file to write to disk. It may also be configured to automatically buffer user-determined amounts of text.

You can print exactly what appears on the screen from within the editor, but to get VEDIT PLUS to produce highly formatted output, a separate formatting program must be used. V-PRINT is designed to accompany VEDIT PLUS. You create text and insert various dot commands or embedded printer commands for formatting it. You must then save the text, exit back to the operating system and run V-PRINT.

There is no way to run V-PRINT directly from within VEDIT PLUS.

In keeping with CompuView's philosophy, you determine all the characteristics of the formatted output. There are no pre-set format environments as there are in Perfect Writer, although commonly used sets of print commands can be loaded into VEDIT PLUS' buffers and inserted with single keystrokes. V-PRINT uses 46 different commands and can be set to include different files in the output: there is little formatting that cannot be accomplished with V-PRINT.

The VEDIT PLUS manual is exemplary. It is clearly written, nicely laid out, and very thorough. The reference section at the end should be read by all manual authors. Each command has its own section, with examples and descriptions of the command in use, a description of its function, additional notes on its use, and references to other commands that operate similarly. All sections are laid out identically, making it easy to find information quickly.

VEDIT PLUS does require some attention in setting up and some care in use. Because it is so powerful, you can make drastic changes in files quickly. The manual indicates where things are a bit complicated, and when you should be careful to have back-ups before trying something. This is a very fast, elegant, and extremely flexible package. (*Ed. note: The version of VEDIT PLUS reviewed here is 2.31b; the current release is 2.32, but there have not been significant changes.*)

WRITE

Writer's Really Incredible Text Editor was written by Anton Pietsch to meet the needs of science fiction writers Jerry Pournelle and Larry Niven. It is clear that the needs of writers guided the choices made in designing the program. WRITE has two main goals: stay out of the way, and protect text.

When WRITE is invoked without a filename, it takes 14 seconds to load, to test the memory in your computer before it entrusts your text to it, and to take you to a command screen. If you provide a filename, WRITE takes you to the edit screen, which is completely blank: there is no status line, no counters for lines or columns, no dotted lines, or anything else to distract you from writing.

Attempting to exit or to clear the workspace prompts the question, "Has all text been saved?" Even if you make a mistake and exit without saving, or end up at the operating system in some other mysterious way, WRITE has a utility that will recover as much of your text as possible.

Within the edit screen, attempting to delete a block will clear the screen, and the message "Delete block (Y/N)" will appear in the middle. This catches your attention, even at 2:30 in the morning. However, deleted text cannot be recovered.

WRITE uses fewer cursor commands than any of the other packages reviewed. It is easy to get around in your

files without learning several dozen commands. WRITE has cleverly designed scrolling commands that allow you to vary the scrolling speed or to move one line or one screen at a time, all following a CTRL-C or CTRL-R command.

WRITE is so carefully customized for the Kaypro that it uses visual cues rather than words to indicate various operations. When you switch to Insert mode, for example, the cursor changes shape and becomes the > symbol. Switching in Insert mode to the Alternate Character Set changes the cursor to the } symbol. Markers set in the text are also indicated visually by non-keyboard graphics characters or, if you have an '83 series Kaypro, Greek characters.

Pressing the ESCape key when editing will take you to the Disk Block (or command mode). This controls file handling (saving, renaming, and erasing), exiting, clearing the workspace, moving to the print menu, setting tabs, controlling the width of the screen display, and taking you to a print-to-screen macro that will accurately display page breaks and layout.

WRITE was also designed to be fast, and except for searching and replacing, it is one of the fastest editors. You cannot type faster than WRITE; even with a Kaypro running at 2.5 MHz, characters are never lost.

The search-and-replace mode is invoked by CTRL-V. The screen splits in two, and the lower portion displays "Find X, X=". After entering the search string, you press RETURN twice to begin the search. Once the string is found, you must press the ESC key to return to editing. If, instead of pressing RETURN after entering the search string, you press CTRL-V again, the additional message "and replace with Y, Y=" is displayed. After entering the replacement string and pressing RETURN, you can choose to replace the original string once, to replace all occurrences, to replace backward from the cursor, or to replace non-characters (like Carriage Returns).

WRITE keeps your entire text in internal memory (RAM); there is never any swapping to disk. This enables WRITE to achieve its remarkable speed, but there is a trade-off: the maximum file length on a CP/M Kaypro is 38K. WRITE does make it easy to send parts of files to disk to free up workspace, so the 38K limit is not as constricting as it might seem.

WRITE is fast, convenient, and powerful in printing. The Print Block is accessed from the Disk Block—pressing P takes you to a menu that displays various print formatting commands and their present settings, followed by the two-letter commands by which they may be used. These commands may be inserted as dot commands within your text, surrounded by special markers to take effect immediately, or set up as standard formats in separate files. You can also change them from the print menu and configure the default settings as you wish.

Much attention has been paid to customizing the print driver for particular printers. The print drivers are

closed—that is, you cannot enter control sequences for your printer. If, however, you happen to have one of the 48 named printers or work-alikes for which a print driver has been written, all its features may be accessed, and can even be used as a typewriter directly from the Kaypro's keyboard.

The WRITE manual does not assume extensive knowledge, but it is not condescending. It's clear, it defines its terms, and it has a solid reference section. Its only fault is a certain degree of disorganization resulting from many recent upgrades. This flaw should be eliminated following a forthcoming revision. (*Ed. note: The current version of WRITE is 1.82C, and the manual has been revised.*) Even now, however, the manual seems ideal for someone who's a little worried about computing and may not have help nearby. Calling the distributor brings thorough, knowledgeable, expert advice and aid, sometimes from the program's author himself.

WRITE does not create pure ASCII files, but it does have a neat Filter utility program that will convert ASCII or WordStar files to WRITE files, or vice-versa. WRITE also keeps track of the number of words you have written, as well as file size in kilobytes.

(*Ed. note: The version of WRITE reviewed here is 1.82; the current version is 1.82C. According to Workman and Associates, changes include bug fixes, the addition of an overstrike feature, and support for the HP LaserJet printer.*)

Spellbinder does one thing better than any other CP/M word processor: printing.

Spellbinder

There is one thing that Spellbinder does better than any other CP/M word processor I know: printing. Spellbinder can access anything a printer can do. It can print fully justified, proportionally spaced text, and the results with a proportional printwheel on a "precision printer" look typeset. Spellbinder can access any printer font, will handle reverse line feeds, and will line feed in increments of 1/48th of an inch. You can adjust the amount of space (in units of 1/120th or 1/160th of an inch) inserted between words, insert hyphens automatically, and view text exactly as it will be printed almost immediately.

Because Spellbinder is an open system, it is possible for you to modify the program's internal tables as you wish to support your printer's features. This also means that it is possible for you to use a printer Spellbinder does not recognize and to configure the print driver for correct spacing with any proportional printwheel or font.

Unfortunately, the rest of Spellbinder is not as easy to use. Like VEDIT PLUS, Spellbinder uses an edit mode and a command mode, but it is necessary to switch between them frequently; there are surprisingly few commands in edit mode besides cursor movement.

Cursor movement and deletions also require frequent mode switching. CTRL-F in Word Mode moves the cursor forward one word, CTRL-B takes it back a word, and CTRL-D deletes the next word. CTRL-O changes the mode, first to Sentence, then to Paragraph, Marker, and Character, and finally back to Word. The same three movement and deletion commands then act according to the mode specified.

There is no real push-ahead insert mode in Spellbinder. When you enter the insert mode, the screen from the cursor to the last line on the screen goes blank, and you can make your insertions. The next character in your text is displayed on the last screen line. I found this inconvenient; even to insert one character, all following text disappears and then reappears. I prefer to be able to choose the mode in which I work. Spellbinder expects you to create text in typeover mode.

A file that is longer than about 30K will be read into memory in sections. Once the first section has been written to disk, if you wish to go back to it you must save the entire file and start again. There is no "reverse buffering," and though you can decide when to move text to disk, there is no automatic buffering.

Like VEDIT PLUS, Spellbinder can run macro programs. Fourteen are supplied, including one that prints several files in order, an impressive one that prints text in two columns on precision letter-quality and dot-matrix printers, one that sorts key words, and one that alphabetizes. There are also mail merging and boilerplate macros, one that allows you to create various forms (billings, invoices, even standard format letters) and fill them in, and macros to print mailing labels, manipulate columns of text, add rows and columns of numbers and insert the results in the text, and insert commonly used phrases with two keystrokes.

There is also a set of macros that allows for footnoting. Footnotes may be of any length, in any format, and may continue onto the next page or be collected at the end of the text. This macro is not particularly fast, but it works well.

Palantir

It is easy to get started with Palantir, and it provides almost continual help and feedback. You always know where you are in Palantir. These features are major advantages if you only occasionally do word processing or are very nervous about it. But there is a price: speed. It is the slowest package reviewed and requires more keystrokes for many operations than the other packages. It also preempts the keypad so it cannot be used for numbers.

Palantir requires many keystrokes because of its structure. To reduce the number of keystrokes, the

keypad is configured as a set of function keys. The control key need never be used, and the ESCape key (which is used to get back to the main menu) is replaced by a "set" command. The set command serves to "introduce" several commands that are more elaborate than the single function key commands. For example, pressing the Find key (2 on the keypad or CTRL-G) will find the next character you enter, while pressing Set-

*It's easy to get started
with Palantir, and it
provides almost continual
help and feedback.*

Find puts you into the search-and-replace operation.

There is an arrow showing on the extreme left of the top status line. All cursor movement and search-and-replace commands follow the arrow's direction. Pressing the Direction key (- on the keypad, or CTRL-Q) changes its direction.

It is possible to out-type the Palantir screen, because of the screen's update rate. To prevent you from losing characters, Palantir is designed with an 80-character type-ahead buffer. An additional editing convenience is the "lexicon," which permits two-keystroke insertion of up to 36 words and phrases that can be up to 250 characters long.

Searching and replacing with Palantir is easy but extremely slow. In a 20K file with 250 search-and-replace operations, Palantir is two and a half minutes slower than WRITE, four minutes (five times) slower than Spellbinder, and an astounding 150 times slower than VEDIT PLUS. This is largely because Palantir insists on reformatting each paragraph after each search-and-replace operation within it.

Palantir can handle very long files. The only limit is the capacity of the disk. Palantir establishes a swap file after 16K is reached and will move text to and from that file every screen thereafter. Both forward and reverse buffering are completely automatic.


Palantir's print drivers are closed, like those of WRITE. If your printer is not supported, you can only use it as a teletype. If your printer is supported, Palantir can do almost as much as Spellbinder, including proportional spacing.

Among Palantir's many formatting possibilities are double underlining, right-flush, or decimal tabbed text, and overstriking of the previous character with any character you select. It will hyphenate words that end within a user-definable number of spaces from the right margin. It will control how many lines of a paragraph are printed at the end or beginning of a page, and will enable you to put in as many heading and footing lines as you wish. Palantir does not create pure ASCII files. It works with ASCII files, but files created with

other word processing programs hang it up, and you have to reset the computer.

Conclusions

Some final advice: Switching word processors will not eliminate all the inconveniences and problems in your writing. There may well be things you miss about Perfect Writer or WordStar if you switch, even as you gain other advantages.

However, if you decide to switch, it will probably take you less time than you fear to learn your new package, but it may take you more time than you'd like. Take the time to work through the manual with the package running. These packages do things differently than Perfect Writer or WordStar, and it is very much worth your time to learn what these differences are. 

Robert Lavenda is an associate professor at St. Cloud State University, Minnesota, where he teaches cultural anthropology, studies small-town festivals, and is co-authoring a textbook.

Quick Reference Summary

Product: VEDIT PLUS 2.31b, V-PRINT 2.2, V-SPELL 1.06

Manufacturer: CompuView Products, Inc.
1955 Pauline

Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Phone: (313) 996-1299

Price: VEDIT PLUS, \$225; V-PRINT, \$120; V-SPELL, \$125

Package prices: VEDIT PLUS, V-PRINT, V-SPELL, \$395; VEDIT PLUS, V-PRINT, \$295

Product: Spellbinder 5.31

Manufacturer: Lexisoft
Box 1378

Davis, CA 95617

Phone: (916) 758-3630

Price: \$495

Product: WRITE 1.82

Manufacturer: Workman and Associates
112 Marion Avenue

Pasadena, CA 91106

Phone: (818) 796-4401

Price: \$239

Product: Palantir Word Processor 1.2 (Kaypro)

Manufacturer: Palantir Software
12777 Jones Road, Suite 100

Houston, TX 77070

Phone: (800) 368-3797 or (713) 955-8880

Price: \$250

MS-DOS GRAPHICS

(continued from page 33)

systems, where there isn't a demand for many colors.

All these printing devices offer affordable hardcopies quickly and are satisfactory in representing business

The more you want out of a computer in the way of color and graphics, the more it's going to cost.


graphics. Low-cost software is available to convert colors into patterned cross-hatching in black and white for business graphics, but much of the zest is lost in translation.

For capturing single-color images in single-frame color reproductions, film recorders offer great promise. At the low end are \$100-to-\$700 hood devices that mount directly over the front of a monitor for recording screen images directly onto 35mm film. The next step up is the Polaroid Palette, a \$2,000 device that interfaces to a PC to produce Polaroid instant 35mm slides or prints from computer data. Its images can be double the resolution of the original picture, plus it can make color images from a black and white or monochrome system. Upper-end film recorders start at \$6,000 and permit exposure of film negatives ranging from 35mm to 4 x 5-inch negatives to 9 x 10-inch negatives. These top-of-the-line film recorders deliver unsurpassed negatives that can be converted to poster-size film prints.

Conclusion

We are in the middle of a technological explosion in the area of image capturing (videocameras), image manipulating (software and graphics cards), and image delivery systems (printer and recorder devices) that will make computerized graphics an increasing part of life into the next century.

The primary factor the average personal computer owner must keep in mind is cost. The more you want out of a computer in the way of color and graphics, the more it is going to cost. High-resolution graphics boards, and the monitors to go with them, are not inexpensive toys. Businesses that depend on graphics can afford to invest in hyper-resolution boards, monitors, and output devices; the average owner cannot.

As time passes the prices are bound to come down to more affordable levels. Capabilities that were priced completely out of reach only a year ago are now fairly inexpensive. But the industry has a little way to go before all of us can afford to produce graphics that you can't tell from a photograph. 

Frederick Hannon is a freelance writer and designer in Encinitas, California.

Beginner's Luck

by Don and Sharyn Conkey

Printers are like cars. They come in all makes and models and vary in price from \$200 to tens of thousands of dollars, and for many people they are a matter of pride. For most, they are a necessity. Just as driving is usually the most convenient means of transportation, printing is typically the most efficient way to get your output where it's going. What follows is a guide to printers: what's available, how to choose, and how to keep them running.

Types of printers

There are just two basic types of printers—impact and non-impact. Impact printers strike a ribbon, transferring the character onto paper. Non-impact printers use heat, light, or ink sprays to create an image.

Impact printers. The two types of impact printers—fully formed character and dot-matrix—are differentiated by their printing methods, which determine print quality and speed.

Fully formed character printers impress characters from daisy-wheels or thimbles onto paper by striking a ribbon. This produces the highest quality print—crisp, seamless, solid text called “letter quality.” The output looks like that typed on an IBM Selectric with a carbon ribbon. Printing is slow and noisy; at 30 characters per second, it takes nearly a minute to print a typical letter. Graphics capability is primitive and not supported by full-featured business graphics programs.

In dot-matrix printers, a vertical arrangement of seven or nine pins strikes a ribbon to create characters composed of closely spaced dots. Some models use two or three staggered sets of pins; the advantage of these 18- and 24-pin models is enhanced print quality at higher speeds.

In general, dot-matrix printers are faster, cheaper, and produce output of lesser quality than fully

formed character printers. They can be just as noisy. Because of their printing method, they are more versatile and flexible: Many offer more than one printing mode and some can produce detailed graphics.

Non-impact printers. Though not as widely used as impact printers, decreasing prices and increasing performance and reliability are making non-impact printers more visible.

Thermal printers, like dot-matrix, form characters from dots on a printhead. One method of thermal printing “burns” the image onto specially treated paper by heating the dots. In the newer thermal-transfer process, the dots heat a ribbon and melt the image onto plain or specially treated paper. The thermal-transfer process produces the higher quality print of the two, though it has a glossy look. Speeds are relatively slow, but the printers are cheap and quiet.

Ink-jet printers spray dots of ink onto paper through printhead nozzles. There are two varieties: Monochrome prints in one color; color printers produce seven colors (with software support, hundreds of different shades) and are used mainly for graphics. (Color printers can also produce text, but at considerably slower speeds.) Special paper

is desirable, because ink absorption affects quality.

Laser, liquid crystal display (LCD), and light-emitting diode (LED) printers are top-of-the-line in nearly every respect. All three types use photocopier technology. The output of these printers rivals that of the fully formed character; however, as with a photocopy, no impression is made in the paper. They are quiet and fast (four to six times quicker than high-speed fully formed character printers). Graphics and multiple character fonts and sizes can be mixed on the same page to produce “typeset” documents. Their limitations are high cost, lack of color, and limited, cumbersome handling of odd-sized paper.

Table 1 summarizes the advantages and disadvantages of each printer type.

Five years ago, there were about 25 printer models available for personal computers. Today there are over 300, offered by more than 40 companies. How do you choose? It's a personal decision, dependent upon your needs and your budget. Here are some guidelines to help pinpoint your requirements.

Check the quality

If it's important that your output make the best impression possible

TABLE 1: Advantages and disadvantages of different types of printers

Printer type	Maximum speed*	Advantages	Disadvantages
Fully formed character	12-80 cps	Highest quality; multiple copies	Speed; noise; primitive graphics
Dot-matrix draft mode:	80-400 cps	Speed; price; flexible graphics; print modes & fonts	Quality; noise
Near-letter-quality mode:	20-100 cps	Can trade off quality and speed	
Thermal	40-80 cps	Price; quiet; low power requirements; graphics flexibility	Quality; no carbons; special paper desirable
Ink-jet	40-150 cps	Quiet; graphics; color ranges and quality	Quality; no carbons; special paper desirable
Laser/LCD/LED	8-12 pages/minute	Speed; uses plain paper; near-typographical quality; combine multiple fonts and graphics	Price; no carbons; handling of odd-sized paper

* Reflects typical ranges; not all-inclusive.

(pun intended), buy "letter quality." Even the best dot-matrix output is still just dots. The "painted" images produced by laser, LCD, and LED printers, though fully formed, are not impressed into the paper as are those of the impact printers. To evaluate quality, study sample output; have the samples run on your letterhead or forms. Compare them against your standard. Look for crisp, dense, sharp-edged characters that contrast sharply with the paper. Better dot-matrix, thermal, and ink-jet printers will have well-formed descenders (tails of lowercase letters) that extend below the line.

Check the speed

Speed is a major factor in determining price. Except for laser, LCD, and LED printers, which print pages per minute, speed is usually specified in characters per second (cps).

Actual printing speed (called "throughput") is less than the speed quoted by the manufacturer, because the document's contents, software used, print modes, options, and features affect speed. Throughput for fully formed character, laser, LCD, and LED printers is typically 80 percent, plus or minus 10 percent of the speed quoted. For the other printers, actual speed is typically two-thirds of the quoted speed, with a variance of 10 percent.

Check the fit

The electrical connection between your computer and printer can be parallel or serial. Parallel connection allows you to place the printer up to 10 feet away; serial, 50 feet. The interface on your computer must match that on the printer. Be sure to get the right cable to complete the connection.

Ask your dealer or software publisher if your programs are compatible with the printer and its interface. Your software may allow you to have subscripts and superscripts, for example, but your

printer may not be capable of printing them. The same is true for graphics and color.

Options and features

What's nice and what's necessary? A wide carriage (15 to 17 inches) is required for serious spreadsheet use, and worth every bit of the \$200 it can cost. (Standard carriage widths are 8 1/2 to 10 inches.)

The right choice of paper handling features will save you time and aggravation. You'll need friction feed, which works like a typewriter to feed single and odd-size pieces of paper. If you want the single sheets to feed automatically, you will need a cut-sheet feeder. Prices start at \$200.

To print fan-fold paper ("computer" paper with sprocket holes along the sides), you'll need a tractor. A pin-feed tractor, which is

important as purchase price. The cost to print a page can vary from a penny to more than 45 cents—the high-tech equivalent of "Give them the razor, we'll make our money on the blades."

The major consumable cost for impact, thermal, and ink-jet printers is that of the ribbon or cartridge. You'll need to know its cost and its life, which is given in number of impressions. Print elements last for millions of impressions; costs range from seven-hundredths to a half cent for a typical 300-word page. Figure 1 shows the formula to estimate cost per page.

Laser, LCD, and LED printers either use a single cartridge, which contains a photosensitive belt or drum, toner, and developer, or allow for replacement of the individual elements. Price per 300-word page

FIGURE 1: Formula to estimate cost to print a page

$$\text{COST/PAGE} = \frac{(\text{number of words per page} \times 5) (\text{cost of ribbon or cartridge})}{\text{life of ribbon or cartridge} + 0.0033 \text{ for print element (estimate)} + \text{cost of paper (plain: one half to two cents; specially treated: one half to ten cents)}}$$

built into the printer, is fixed-width and so feeds paper of one size. An adjustable tractor, which snaps onto the printer, takes paper of any size up to the carriage width. Adjustable tractors cost \$100 to \$400.

Frequently used switches and indicators should be available and easily accessible. Look for the following: online/offline, which indicates whether the printer is ready to print; line feed, which advances the printer one line; and form feed, which moves the paper to the top of the next form.

Your specific needs will determine the importance of other switches, such as one to change pitch (the number of printed characters per inch) or one to change dot-matrix print modes.

Cost

Operating costs can be just as

averages three cents plus plain paper cost.

Tough talk

One measure of reliability is mean time between failures, MTBF. Theoretically, how long should the printer operate between hardware failures? An average business-quality printer is rated between 2,000 and 4,500 hours with a 25 percent duty cycle. Duty cycle tells you how much you can use the printer without overworking it. A 25 percent duty cycle means that the printer is built to withstand two hours of operation in an eight-hour workday.

You should remove the printer's cover and "look under the hood." Sturdier printers will have fewer moving parts, and they'll be made of metal instead of plastic.

The warranty should cover parts and labor and extend for at least 90

days. If you need a service contract, negotiate it while the printer is still covered to avoid a certification fee (about \$40).

Taking care

Like your car, your printer requires preventive maintenance to keep it running smoothly, and you can do it yourself.

Five factors can hamper the health of your printer: vibration; static electricity and power problems; heat; contaminants; and improper operation and care. Here are some tips to combat them:

Install it properly. Put the printer on a sturdy stand to prevent subjecting its parts to unnecessary stresses. Make sure the cables are set free and clear so they won't be chafed, crimped, or smashed. Use a surge suppressor to trap power spikes and surges.


Keep it cool and clean. Never power-up the printer without removing its cover. The heat built up will shorten its life and may burn out components. Dust build-up creates thermal stresses on electrical components and frictional stresses on moving parts. To combat dirt, grease, smoke, and paper particles, wipe and vacuum the printer periodically. Dust with a soft, lint-free cloth. Use a manufacturer-approved cleaning solution on the platen (paper roller) only when necessary; solvents tend to dry out the rubber. Daisywheel and thimble print elements may require periodic cleaning.

Don't print on the platen; this can damage both the platen and the printhead. Do not lubricate any of the printer parts.

Check it out. If your printer stops or just won't work, first check to see that all cables are properly seated, fuses operable, and the switches and levers are properly set. Most printers have sensors to detect the absence of ribbon or paper and will suspend operation until you reload. If your printer prints, stops, and then resumes

printing, it's possible there is no problem: When the printhead gets too hot, most printers slow down, then stop until the printhead cools.

Choose your printer wisely, give it attentive care and preventive maintenance, and you'll see that there's one way your printer is not

like your car: You'll never want to trade it in. 

Don and Sharyn Conkey specialize in writing about computers in business using their Juki 6100 (daisywheel) and Okidata 193 (dot-matrix) printers.

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Technical Forum

by Tom Enright

Judging from the mail we've been receiving, Kaypro 1 owners are confused about the features of their computers, and reading the documentation for that machine does reveal some errors of omission. The "missing" sections of the manual concern graphics and the video command protocol. With the exception of not having a real-time clock or internal modem, the Kaypro 1 is exactly the same as other CP/M Kaypros.

Graphics

We discussed Kaypro CP/M graphics in the March 1986 "Technical Forum." However, a short review may be in order. The Kaypro 1, along with the rest of the Kaypro CP/M product line ('84 series), can do both character- and pixel-level graphics.

In character graphics, clusters of pixels are printed on the screen instead of the alphanumeric characters we're used to seeing. Each of these pixel clusters (called character cells) occupies the same space on your screen that a normal character would occupy. The upper half of the ASCII range (from 128 through 255) has been set aside in Kaypro's character ROM to hold these characters.

Since you can't print graphics characters by typing them from the keyboard, you have to control them from a high-level language such as BASIC. By using the CHR\$ function in BASIC you can print the full range of ASCII characters, including graphics characters.

Pixel graphics on Kaypros are drawn with a resolution of 160 horizontal by 100 vertical screen positions. Individual pixels or lines may be drawn or erased anywhere on the screen by using escape sequences. These escape sequences are unique to Kaypro's Video Command Protocol and are not part of any graphics standard.

Kaypro's pixel graphics escape sequences are:

ESC * V1 H1 - Draw a pixel

ESC <space> V1 H1 - Erase a pixel
ESC L V1 H1 V2 H2 - Draw a line
ESC D V1 H1 V2 H2 - Erase a line

V1 and H1 are the coordinates of the pixel at the beginning of a line. (Note that an offset of 32 decimal must be added to all vertical and horizontal locations.) V2 and H2 are the coordinates of the ending point of a line.

For a more detailed discussion of Kaypro graphics, please refer to the March 1986 "Technical Forum." In addition, the *Kaypro 10 User's Guide* covers the graphics capabilities of these machines.

Kaypro 1 owners can use any graphics software that runs on other CP/M Kaypros. Rembrandt, SCS-Draw, DDraw, and other graphics programs work just fine on the Kaypro 1.

Video command protocol

The Kaypro 1 manual lists some, but not all, of the video escape sequences that the K1 recognizes.

Escape sequences that were left out of the manual are:

ESC B 0 - Start reverse video
ESC C 0 - Stop reverse video
ESC B 1 - Start half intensity
ESC C 1 - Stop half intensity
ESC B 2 - Start blinking video
ESC C 2 - Stop blinking video
ESC B 3 - Start underline
ESC C 3 - Stop underline
ESC B 4 - Cursor on
ESC C 4 - Cursor off
ESC B 5 - Video mode on (for character graphics)
ESC C 5 - Video mode off
ESC B 6 - Remember current cursor position
ESC C 6 - Return to last remembered cursor position
ESC B 7 - Status line preservation

on
ESC C 7 - Status line preservation off

When sending any of these escape sequences, remember that they are all ASCII characters. For example, the Start Reverse Video sequence, ESC B 0, would be sent in MBASIC as `PRINT CHR$(27) CHR$(66) CHR$(48)`. The important thing to notice here is that CHR\$(48) is the code for the ASCII character zero, not the letter "O" or a binary zero. The same rule applies to all Kaypro escape sequences *except* cursor positioning and pixel graphics commands.

In cursor positioning commands, all line and column numbers are given in straight decimal. Each line or column number also has an offset of 32 decimal added to it. Since pixel graphics commands also specify screen positions, they have the same offset added.

There is a good reason for adding

*Kaypro 1 owners can
use any graphics
software that runs
on other CP/M Kaypros.*

offset values to row and column numbers in cursor positioning commands. The first 32 ASCII codes (0 through 31) are primary control codes, such as carriage return, line feed, horizontal tab, and so on. If those codes started showing up in escape sequences, the circuitry could get confused about what you wanted to do. To avoid that problem, most manufacturers define the row and column numbers of screen positioning commands to include an offset to raise the minimum value above this portion of the ASCII range.

The CONFIG utility

The documentation for the CONFIG utility is surprisingly terse. Read-


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ers are referred to the online instructions that are available while running the program.

When this manual was being written, the bundled software was being changed frequently, so if any specific instructions had been given in the manual, they might have been wrong by the time it was printed. The bottom line is that you should read the online instructions *carefully*.

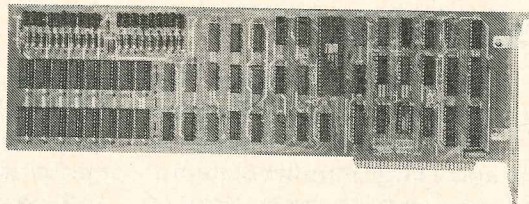
The only place CONFIG is referred to in the *Kaypro 1 User's Guide* is the page on "Reconfiguring the Keypad." The manual seems to imply that this is the only purpose of this utility. That is far from being true. CONFIG can alter the default baud rates for your serial ports and change IOBYTE assignments, as well as alter the assigned character sequences for the arrow keys and keypad.

The newest version of the CONFIG utility, for CP/M 2.2u, is significantly expanded from prior versions. The primary advantage is that you can now assign up to 80 keystrokes to any of the numeric keypad keys. The limit under older versions was four keystrokes. Unfortunately, this version of CONFIG only works with the universal ROM under CP/M 2.2u (the "u" in 2.2u stands for "universal").

The problem of terse documentation isn't limited to the Kaypro 1. It's common to the user's guides for all Kaypro machines (and other manufacturers' computers as well). And don't look for any new CP/M documentation coming from Kaypro. The documentation department is overloaded trying to document changes in the new MS-DOS machines. For additional help in learning CP/M, or software in general, please consult the "Beginner's Luck" columns in our December 1985 and February 1986 issues, and also take a look at the feature article "Learning Computer Languages" in the February 1986 issue of *PROFILES*. 

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Product Spotlight

by Tom Enright

EASY word processor

New computer users frequently criticize WordStar for being too difficult to learn, and a large number of micro-computer owners have limited word processing needs—they're not interested in learning a program as powerful and complex as WordStar. These "casual users" are the intended market for MicroPro's EASY (\$150), the company's newest entry in the MS-DOS word processing market.

EASY comes with a spiral-bound manual, four disks, and a stick-on template of commands for the keyboard. The illustrated manual is written for novices and uses color to highlight important facts. Of the four disks, the Installation, Program, and Dictionary disks are needed to install EASY. A Tutorial disk is intended to introduce you to using the program, but it's more of a sales demo than a tutorial of value to new owners.

Installation

The installation process for EASY is fully automated. Even the newest computer owner can do it right the first time. All you have to do is put the EASY Installation disk in drive A, log on to that drive, type **EASY**, and press RETURN.

If you have a hard disk and a color card, the installation program will ask if you have a color or monochrome monitor and whether you want the program set up on the hard disk or on diskette. If the installation program doesn't detect a hard disk or color card, these questions are skipped. From that point on the process is fully automated. You're told when to change disks and what disk to insert in which drive.

Throughout the installation procedure, the upper right corner of the screen contains a reminder that you can get help by pressing F1 or abort the process with ESCape. The help files, like everything else in EASY, are written for novices.

If by some chance you have a

non-standard system, EASY has a CUSTOM installation option. The only time you would need this option is if you have high-density (1.2 megabyte) floppy drives, a bubble memory card, or your hard disk isn't assigned as drive C. Otherwise the standard installation takes care of all copying, creation of sub-directories, and changing (or creating) your CONFIG.SYS file with the required entries.

Printer installation is done separately from program set-up. With the Installation disk in drive A, log onto that drive and then type



PRINTERS. EASY supports 126 different printers, including laser printers from Xerox, Corona, and Hewlett-Packard.

Using EASY

EASY is a fully menu-driven word processor. Everything you do is selected from one menu or another. For example, to edit a file you select the "Type / edit" option from the Main Menu. The program then takes you to a second menu to select a file for editing. You select a file by typing in the name of the file or moving a highlighted bar down a list of filenames until you find the file you want.

You can also select a help option from the Main Menu. This selection activates a Help Index to a series of help files. You move a highlighted bar to the topic you want help with and press RETURN. If the topic you want help with isn't on the current page, just press the PgDn key to see the next page of the Help Index.

Once you are editing a file, you have to press F2 to bring up a menu of commands in order to do any-

thing except enter text or move the cursor. Except for cursor positioning, done with arrow keys, there are no directly accessible commands in EASY. All formatting, block marking and moving, or print control commands are selected from the "Editing Menu." Pressing F1 at any time brings up a help screen.

The most striking thing about editing a file with EASY is its "auto re-form" feature. Paragraphs are reformatted while you are typing—no need to reformat with ^B (as in WordStar) when you finish. Having your text bounce around while you

are typing may be disconcerting, so "auto re-form" can be turned off.

Files created with EASY are fully compatible with both WordStar and WordStar 2000. With an RGB monitor, EASY uses different colors to indicate boldface and underlined text. On a monochrome system normal text is shown in half intensity, boldface text is at full intensity, and underlined words are shown underlined.

Conclusions


EASY is intended for home or casual office use, not professional text preparation. In writing a program for the casual user, MicroPro opted to use a totally menu-driven approach. That way learning time is reduced significantly. The other side of the coin is that it takes more keystrokes—and time—to work through the menus than to do the same operation in WordStar. Also, since EASY's terminology is totally different from WordStar's, moving up to WordStar from EASY would require complete retraining. 

PHOTO BY R.S. POWERS

New Products

Drop back and . . .

Punt operates as a "correspondence manager" for those using WordStar and MailMerge. It is designed to create, format, edit and sort mailing lists without having to recall MailMerge "dot" commands. After creating a mailing list (text only), Punt automatically formats the letter and inserts headings and salutations.

It can address envelopes, make mailing labels, fill out Federal Express forms and index cards, and more. Punt works from within WordStar, which means you can manipulate your mailing list database without ever exiting WordStar.

Punt is available for a \$48 tax-deductible donation to The Pacific Foundation, a non-profit organization. All Kaypro CP/M and MS-DOS computers. The Pacific Foundation, 2135 Renrock, Cleveland OH 44118; (216) 932-7733.

Stylish set-up

The Stylist II is a menu-driven printer set-up program for Okidata 92 and 93 dot-matrix printers. The Stylist II's menus replace the procedure of sending complex print control codes to the Okidata. It runs with MBASIC.

The ten different print styles available from the main menu include correspondence quality, condensed (132-column print) and expanded-width print.

\$16.95. All Kaypro CP/M computers. Stockmaster Software, 3 Anders Lane, Pomona, NY 10970.

A look at life

The Resource Needs Illustrator Super+ is designed for life insurance and investment agents. The program produces a "needs analysis" chart for the agent's individual clients.

The agent enters data on a client and the program automatically adjusts the needs analysis based on the current combined household income. Inputs include value of

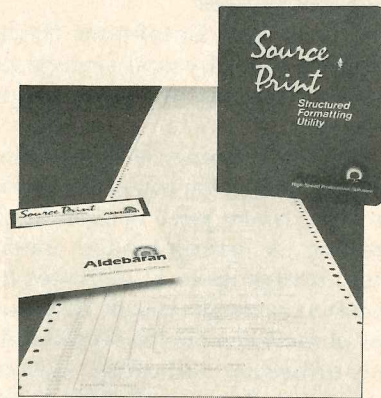
home, other real estate, personal property, retirement benefits, securities, life insurance, business interests, other assets, gifts/inheritorances, etc.

\$229.95. All Kaypro CP/M and MS-DOS computers. >ACS Software Publishing Co., 3255 Wing St., #330, San Diego, CA 92110; (619) 223-5331.

Horse's mouth

Programmers using C, Pascal, BASIC or dBASE can review the complete structure of their code with Source Print. To show the structure, Source Print automatically draws lines on the printout, which is ordinarily done by hand. The nesting of program structures is clearly shown. A "pretty print" feature provides automatic indentation based on block nesting levels. In addition, the user can choose to print reserved words in boldface.

Another feature of Source Print is source library maintenance. Up to 40 selected subtitled functions or procedures—or ranges of these—can be taken from one to 16 files to



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antee. Kaypro PC. Aldebaran Laboratories, Inc., 3738 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Bldg. 312, Lafayette, CA 94549; (415) 283-7084.

Disk manager

The Datatank Datafinder System consists of a physical storage system and a software disk cataloging program.

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\$29.95 (3-pak). \$79.95 for index software. Datatank, Inc., One Appletree Square, Minneapolis, MN 55420; (207) 967-3544.

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Infoscope's report generator allows you to print data in different formats without having to program each format before printing.

\$79. All Kaypro MS-DOS computers. Microstuf, Inc., 1000 Holcomb Woods Parkway, Roswell, GA 30076; (404) 233-0100.

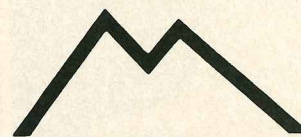
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