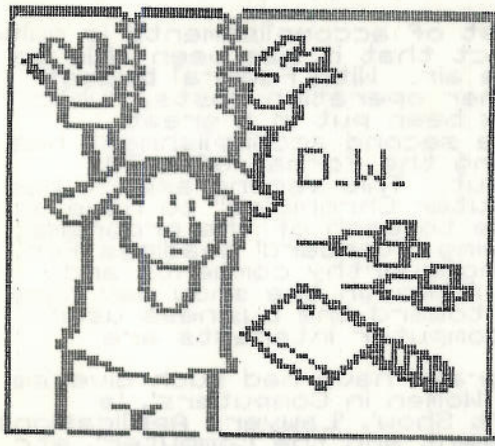

MAXIMUM SECURITY BBS NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1986, VOL 1 NO. 1

A NOTE FROM THE WARDEN

Hello and welcome to MAXIMUM SECURITY BBS'S first Newsletter. For the past 3 months, my co-sysops and I have been 'toying' with the idea of a newsletter. For this Newsletter, I was partly encouraged by the fact that when 'Wizard Systems' put out their first newsletter, they had great success, or at least I thought so. The main encouragement was another means of communications with my users and those who were not already members of the board. (Not to mention the fact that we purchased one of the best programs of all time, NEWSROOM, to do the newsletter.) MAXIMUM SECURITY BBS has been up since June of 85' and thanks to a lot of people, it continues to stay up! Thanks goes out to:

Dan Warner: Software Programmer

Scott Johnson: Co-Sysop

Dave Yerusalim: Co-Sysop

And to all of the Users for their support.

Thanks! AND keep using the board!

Your Sysop,
Dave Warden

ISEPIC-Cartrige Review

ISEPIC is an extrordinary hardware and software combination that is capable of copying virtually all memory resident software regardless of the original protection scheme or storage medium. Rather than duplication disks, ISEPIC copies the program to disk as it runs in the Commodore's memory, which creates a SNAPSHOT image of the entire RAM, I/O, and all registers. This snapshot is completely unprotected and subject to modification by the user. From this image, ISEPIC can create a compact, auto-booting file, which will often load ten times faster and eliminate many of the problems created by various protection schemes.

Because of this unprotected format, it is possible to store many programs on a single disk, as well as making the programs easily transportable to hard drives or drives other than a 1541.

ISEPIC will copy almost any software that loads completly into the RAM of the C-64. Programs that refer back to the disk after loading may be copied by ISEPIC only if;

1.) They do not re-check the protection scheme.
2.) You copy the information that the program accesses.

Isepic also has a very well writen and usable file copy program.

ISEPIC-by STARPOINT SOFTWARE (C) 1985. DESIGNED BY CHIP GRACEY

The Pro's and Con's to being a Sysop...

Today, telecommunications is one of the largest growiing "fads" in America. There are over 3,000 BBS's worldwide and the number grows everyday. But what is it like to be a Sysop, to run your own board? I am sure most people who don't run one wouldn't mind doing it for a day. Wouldn't it be great to chat with users, answer feedback, validate users who you want. Or would it? There is more than doing just that. There are the long nights in which a Sysop stays up till 2 a.m. putting a new feature in the board. And this feature may only print two lines on the board.

There is also that worry about hackers. You may know that your board is 99% hacker proof, but what about that other 1%?!! I am sure any hacker would tell you that no BBS is 100% hacker proof. Would you like to be the Sysop of a board and wake up and see all your disks erased and have no current backup? Or how about the problem users who are always complaining about one thing or another. Don't get me wrong running a BBS can be great fun, but before you start one think about what you are getting into.

Written by: Scott Johnson, Assistant Sysop of Maximum Security.

The Computer Chronicles

Finding a worthwhile electronic information program that is not software based or pulled from a mainframe computer data base is not as easy as one may suspect. A notable answer to this information gap in this -so called info age- is the television show "the Computer Chronicles." The "Computer Chronicles" is a weekly presentation of computer infoormation on a wide variety of subjects and carries the additional bonus of being very current on the new hardware and general industry news. Since the program is presented on a weekly basis and is not "canned" many weeks beforehand, it manages to keep ahead of many monthly computer based magazines.

An added feature of having a TV show concerning computers is of course that one can actually see the products (be it hardware or software) being used in varioous computers. This feature alone makes it worthwhile since no magazine can match this visual and oral format.

"The Computer Chronicles" originally began as a local show produced by the PBS TV station KCSM of San Mateo, California. Its first season in 1983 had Jim Warren as its host.

The show went to a nationwide format in the 1984 season with Stewart Cheifet, formally of KCSN IV, and Gary Kildall, of Digital Research, as its co-hosts. "Computer Chronicles" is currently produced by WITF TV, of Harrisburg, PA and KCSM TV, of San Mateo, California. This year marks its third national season with over 100 stations carrying the show. The underwriters for the current year are Byte Magazine and AFIPS (American Federation of Information Processing Societies.)

The show itself is composed of several distinct sections similar to a video magazine. The opening statements set the theme of each weekly major emphasis. This theme is always computer based and can either be presented by interviewing studio guests or an 'on location' spot, such as the Tokyo Electronics Expo. The 'Software Review' section of the program is done by Paul Schindler of Orinda, California. His spots are taped at WITF studios in Harrisburg, PA and also inserted. This later section highlights current computer industry news, laws and pending legislation and any information that impacts on computer use and products.

A recent interview by this author with one of the co-hosts, Stewart Cheifet, revealed some interesting background and personal comments about "Computer Chronicles." Along with Stewart Cheifet's duties as co-host of the program, he also must keep things going at WITF TV studios in Harrisburg, PA. Mr. Cheifet's involvement with the show started at KCSM and when he moved to WITF, he continued his commitment to the program; and this is why both stations are involved in producing "Computer Chronicles."

Since the program is produced on Public TV, it does have some problems and rewards not associated with commercial TV. Stewart is particularly pleased with two aspects about the show.

High on his list of accomplishments is quite simply the fact that it has been able to remain on the air. With Federal budget cuts and higher operation costs, Public Television has been put in a great squeeze. The second accomplishment has been in keeping the format of a TV magazine layout. This second aspect has allowed "Computer Chronicles" to have a central theme to each of the programs while still having 'standard' headings for newsworthy/noteworthy comments and information. Although the show may have a slight bias toward the business user, many other computer interests are highlighted.

Recent programs have had such diverse subjects as 'Women in Computers', 'a Christmas Gift Show', 'Lawyers Applications', 'Law Enforcement and the Computer', etc...

Although the show is only one half hour in length, it is fast paced and does manage to get right at the central issues. At a time when computer magazines are disappearing, it is encouraging to find a source of information that is timely and interesting. Much hardware and probably a great amount of software that many people never see except in magazine ads (or not at all) can usually be seen on "Computer Chronicles."

The one point that Stewart Cheifet and all of his Public Television colleagues would like to stress is simply that if the program brings useful information to its audience, it must be supported; otherwise it may be cut from future budgets.

Reported by: Data Info

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The Warden's Lineup

BEST SPORTS GAMES- Hardball, Imagic Football

BEST GRAPHICS- Hardball, Winter Games

BEST ADVENTURE- Ultima 4

BEST JOYSTICK- Tac II, Slickstick

BEST THOUGHT PROVOKING GAME- Little Computer People, Hacker

BEST UTILITY PROGRAMS- Di-Sector Fast Hack'em

BEST PROGRAMMERS- Mike J. Henry, Jim Butterfield

The Warden's Linup-Cont.

BEST BUSINESS PROGRAMS- Bank Street Series(Writer, Mailer, Letterwriter, Speller, Filer)

BEST SURPRISE PROGRAM- Newsroom

Best Fastload Cart.- Mach 5 V. 2.0A

(All Programs for the C-64)

By: Dave Yerusalim
(Co-Sysop)

COMM TERM III +

Have you ever been logged onto a BBS and said "Gee, I wish I had a nice phone directory in this terminal program." or "Darn, this board uses XMODEM for file transfers and I only have Punter." or Perhaps "Boy, I wish I didn't have to rekey my name, password and city/state every time I logon to a BBS." Well, now your problems have been solved.

Introducing COMM TERM III+, the freeware terminal program that acts like the BIG EXPENSIVE software.

COMM TERM III+ has the things we all dream of in a terminal program (even documentation). To list all of the nice features in detail would require several pages, so I'll just try to summarize some of the nicer ones.

The greatest feature I've found in the program, is its ability to be customized to the induvidual. Not only can the colors (background, character and boarder) be set, but you can also establish upto 20 macro keys. The macros, initiated by simultaneously pressing the CTRL key or the Commodore key and numeric (1 - 0), can be set to any desired valuse. Whenever the keys are initiated, the program sends the value of the macro to the host computer. I constantly use theis feature on 'HAL' boards to enter my information for log-on procedures.

Probably the second nicest feature is the many different modems supported. COMM TERM III+ supports everything from Hays to Mighty Mo, from Commodre to Westridge, from Volks to TotalTelecom. (for TotalTelecom, use the Westridge option).

In cases where the modem supports multiple baud rates, the program allows the user to toggle between the various rates. Some modems, such as my Westridge, work well at 450 baud with this terminal program.

The COMM TERM III+ phone directory provides room for 30 phone numbers, which works beautifully with the programs' AUTO-DIAL facility. When dialing, the user may select multiple phone book entries to be dialed. If the system does not detect a carrier on the first number it will proceed to th second selection, then the third etc. If all lines are busy, the program starts again at the first selection. The process continues until a carrier is detected or until the user presses a key to stop the auto-dial process at any time. This one provides an audible signal when a carrier is detected.

One other place where I've found COMM TERM III+ to really shine is in file transfers. The program supports both Punter and Xmodem protocols. Changing between the two is simply a matter of selecting on the the main menu options. The quality of the transfer functions is super, in fact, I rank it right up ther with the more expensive terminal programs I've used both on the C-64 and on IBM computers.

Some of the other handy features of COMM TERM III+ are:

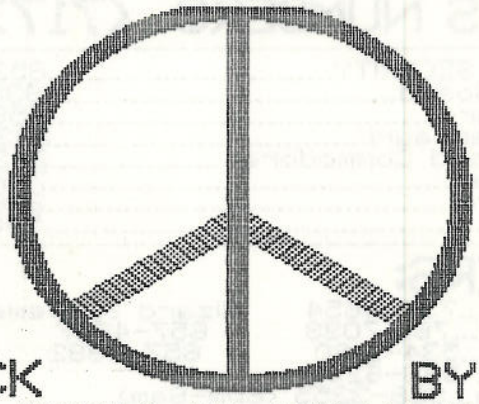
- A clock which tells the user how long he or she has been logged on to the current BBS (this resets itself at each new connection that is made).
- Function keys which allow the user to toggle CAPS ON/OFF, a KEY CLICK ON/OFF, and LOCAL ECHO ON/OFF.
- Other functions keys control the buffer and provide for a screen dump to the printer (great for printing a copy of BBS menus).
- The buffer size is a whopping 19,967 bytes. Opening and closing the buffer is handled by a function key and the system automatically closes it when full. The buffer can be saved to disk, sent to the host computer (really nice for loading the same message on to several different BBS's), or routed to the printer. Additionally you can load the buffer with a sequentioal disk file reader after it has been saved to disk.

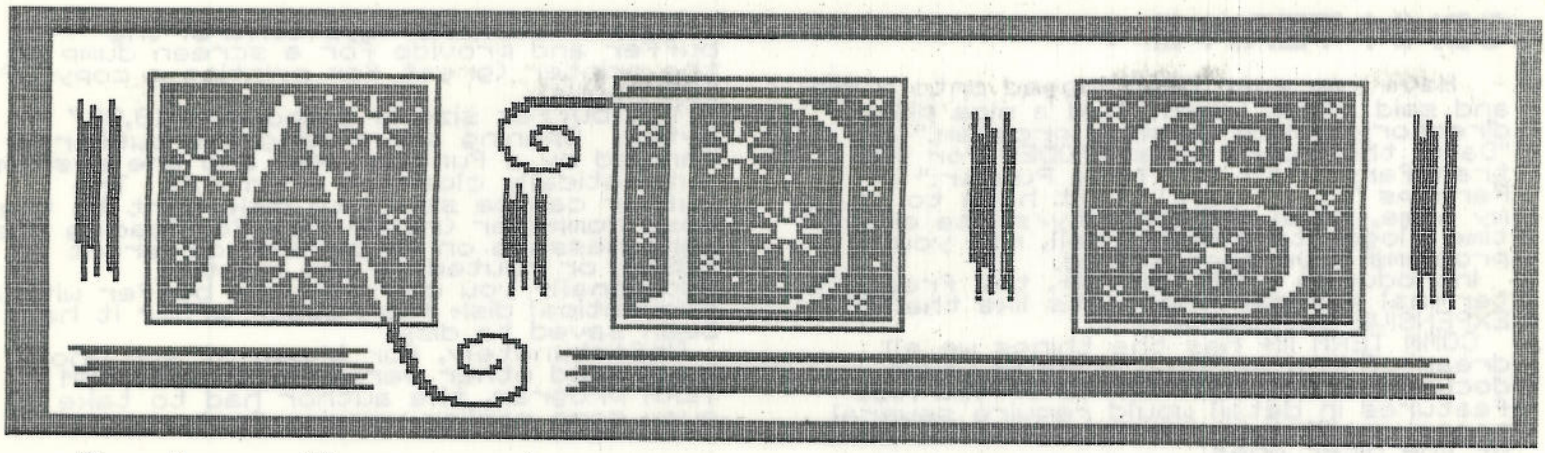
Unfortunately, for those of you who have used other versions of the COMM TERM program, the author had to take away some earlier version features.

Version III no longer allows the user to select menu options by pressing the first letter of the option name. ALso, multiple file transfers (which I never tried) has been eliminated.

Personally I've found COMM TERM III+ to be the best terminal program around and I strongly recommend it for all Commodore 64 (I don't know if it will run on the 128) users to give it a try. The author, SCOTT GARNIK, should be applauded for his effort. Additionally, I encourage anyone who user the program to pay the $8.00 Freeware donation. It's programs like this that relly make BBS'ing a great sport.

Review by Chuck Roy





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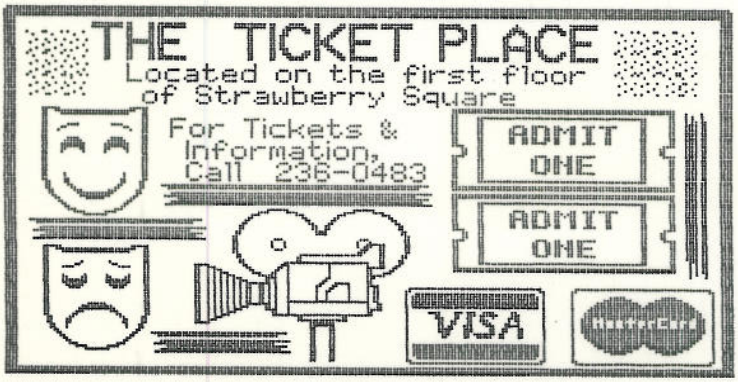

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Commboard	558-8211
Alpha Centauri	233-6956
Cumberland Commodore	243-9620
Privateer	737-2309
Junkyard	236-0688
Viking	558-9080

OTHERS:

Action I...737-4654
Action II...761-7098
Library...534-1460
Palace... 566-6256
Phantom...938-3255 (8pm-6am)
Spy BBS...652-8710
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A Puzzle By Steve.....

Here is the Puzzle:

Welcome to the first issue of the Newsletter. And with it comes my special puzzle which you will only see here. I hope you will enjoy them as I enjoy writing them.

Spring is just around the corner. Then on to summer. (My favorite time of the year.) But first me must endore the rest of this cold weather. (COME QUICK SUMMER!)

For this first puzzle I will make it an easy one, since I am not feeling wonderfully creative tonight. It contains a message you may find true or not . Anyway I'll leave it up to you, how to find the answer:

```
T N B H G E E A I M L
N Y A G O D A U Y L A
I E R F A E Y D Y O E
O U R U H I A A S I V
L N E I T T K ! O E X
T B X E E X L I X
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Good-luck! I'll see you next month!

Yours computing,
Steve Phillippy

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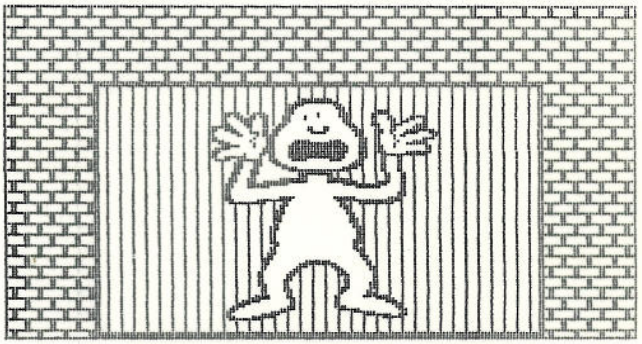
Until Next Time...



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