TOSIE

Toronto
Ohio Scientific
Idea Exchange

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The TOSIE PRINTOUT / February 26, 1984

T.O.S.I.E. is a non-profit user's group for Ohio Scientific home computer users. The TOSIE Printout is published by TOSIE approx. ten times a year. For more information please write to us at the above address or call one of our executive members.

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CLUB NEWS

There has been an increase in the information requests received in the mailbox. Many of these are from the USA. It shows that there is still a loyal following out there, who still need information and software for the range of OSI machines.
Oleh Kowalchuk has informed me that the problems with his Hacker Board were due to cold solder joints, and the lack of buffering to his expansion boards. The board works fine with the 48 Pin bus.

CHOOSING A DISK OPERATING SYSTEM

A number of members are in the process of adding minifloppy drives to their machines. With the drop in prices of the drives, the availability of used drives, and the addition of the Elector (or other) disk controller, it isn't too difficult to add disks for a reasonable cost.
This all leads to a review of the two major disk operating systems available for the OSI machines.
Most fortunate are C1P/Superboard users. They have a choice of OSI's own 65D, as well as Steven Hendrix's Hexdos.
Hexdos has the advantage of compactness. The whole DOS is just 2K long, and this can be used on systems with limited memory. It uses the ROM Basic, so a revised Basic 3 chip is recommended. Editing is not supported with the current revision (4.0), and depends on the CEGMON rom. Romterm will not work with this system.
Since the operating system is only 2K, it occupies just one track. One additional track is neededfor the directory, leaving the user 38 tracks, or up to 76K of program storage.
Note that Hexdos will support random and sequential files just like the big systems. It is a lot of system, that you must give only a little precious ram to operate.
OSI 65D is available for the various machines, and thus is a common factor to all of them. The Basic is all booted into low RAM from the disk. This uses up a lot of your free memory. The Basic is a 9 digit precision compared to the 6 digits of ROM Basic. This does make it run somewhat slower too.
Revision 3.3 of 65D has many enhancements, including a good line editor, screen clear, 24 or 48 character screens for Rev D

C1P/Superboard, print at, formatted numbers, and other goodies. It is a full fledged operating system.
It fills the first 15 tracks of the diskette, leaving less room for the user. It is possible to create a data disk, without the resident operating system, and thus maximize storage space.
Also worth memtioning are the Assembler and the Extended Monitor included on the diskette.
Several FORTH systems are also available. One was a FIG Forth from Progressive Computing, the other called S-Forth, from Aurora Software. Both seem to follow the FIG conventions reasonably well, with the FIG forth from the first source having more enhancements than the other. If you decide to try FORTH, expect to spend a fair amount of time reading and learning to Program. It is very unlike BASIC and more difficult to learn. The documentation is not especially clear on many points, and Perseverance is needed. For this you get compact code and much greater speed.

GROUP PURCHASE

IF anyone is interested in obtaining a 65SC816 or 65SC802 Processor, contact Donn Baker, c/o OSMOSUS at 3128 Silver Lake Rd., Minneapolis, MN 55418. The 816 is a 16 bit machine that will run in 6502 emulation mode in a 6502 socket and adds opcodes, bank register and other features. Current Price is $ 95. US, but expected to drop.

OSI LIVES?

Now known as Isotron, their Phone number is in the article on page 3. If anyone knows what they are up to let us know the details.

<u>FOR SALE:</u> Superboard 2 rev. D computer with 8K ram, RS-232 port and case and power supply. CPU speed switchable for 1 MHZ or 2 MH7 operation. Asking $<u>150.00</u>. 1 SEB-1 Expansion board for the C1P (16K ram, hires color graphics, and a parallel port) all discretes included fully socketed, and comes withseveral manuals. Asking <u>50.00</u>.
For further information call Ron Singh at (519) 886-0363, or write to Ron Singh, 594 Highpoint Ave, Waterloo,ont,N2L 4N1.

TERM-PLUS Terminal software... From OSMOSUS NEWS

As I have mentioned before, I am invloved with the development of a new rsion of the SIG program here on CompuServe. I am proud to announce that OSI SIG has been chosen to test pilot the new version. The changeover has been made. If you notice any problems, please leave me a message.
The changes are in the way the program runs on CompuServe's computers and if all goes well, the only thing you should notice is an improved response time. Thanks for your help.
New version of my DEBUG Assembler is now in SIG Access section 1. This version includes a WP-2 style editor (Hold the nasty remarks about WP-2. This all had to fit in 8K). Enter "B" at the "Function:" prompt for details. This is just another enticement for you all to use TERMA.ASM from SIG Access or Term-Plus (from me. Enter "X6" for details on Term-Plus.).

Don't forget that there are several "help files" available full of hints on how to get the most out of OSISIG. Just enter "X1", "X2", "X3",or "X4" at the top menu or "Function:"prompt.

First of all, Term-Plus requires OS-65D V3.3. No patches for OS-65D v3.2 or lower are provided or supported.

Term-Plus will run on any disk-based C2-C4-C8 video OSI or a serial system with a Hazeltine 1420 compatable terminal reguardless of memory size or system clock speed. The modem serial port in Term-Plus is fully programmable as to memory address, baud rate, word length, parity, and stop bits. So even if you use a non-OSI board as your modem port, Term-Plus can run on it.

I have a video system, so naturally a lot of the "goodies" are designed for video. Term-Plus has it's own keyboard polling routine which includes 10 user-programmable character keys. This means that even those characters you couldn't get with 3.3's keyboard poll without the (SHIFT-LOCK) key locked are now easily available. Both serial and video systems get 10 user-programmable function keys. The character generator ROM on OSI systems has two characters representing ASCII $7C and $7D reversed. Term-Plus automatically corrects for this in the terminal mode so you see what the host system expects you to see. CompuServe has already begun to develop software based on VIDTEX cursor control such as The Dungeons of Kesmai. You'll
get a speed-boost with Term-Plus with such services so you'll save money.

Since one of the worst things that can happen to you when you are capturing data on a paying service like CompuServe is a disk error, Term-Plus traps and diagnoses disk errors and in most cases will recover without loss of a single byte so instead of having to start from scratch after wasting a half hour of connect time, you can continue with only a few seconds lost. I know of no other terminal software for OSI with this ability. Term-Plus supports CompuServe's error-free data transfers, too. This makes it very simple to download programs and other files from OSI SIG. It also lets us exchange machine code programs as object code, rather than the bulkier (and costlier) assembler text files. This ability lets you obtain updates, fixes, and utilities as soon as I write them.

Except for the error-free protocol system, Term-Plus can capture data as long as you have formatted disks available. No file is too big for you to download reguardless of how much RAM
you have. (The difference being that the error free method requires you to create a file on your disk that is big enough to hold all of the data. With Term-Plus' "SAVE" feature, if you overflow a file, you can continue to capture in another file). You can also transmit an entire disk's worth of data as long as it resides in a named file on a standard OS-65D diskette.

Perhaps the best feature of Term-Plus is me. I wrote it all. If either of us discovers a bug, you can always get in touch with me in OSI SIG overnight. To

keep things uniform, the same code runs on every system from C4's to C3's, mini's or 8" disks.

I figure 15 bucks is about the price that will let me make a buck and yet, you'll still jump at. If you have 8 inch disks, send $15.00 to:

Rick Trethewey
8 Duran Court
Pacifica, CA 94044

If you have mini-floppies, send your $15.00 to:

David Robinson
2255 Roundtop Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80918

Again, remember that Term-Plus requires OS-65D V3.3. We don't send the disk with the operating system on it since it's copyrighted. You can order OS-65D V3.3 directly from Isotron (formerly OSI) by calling 1-800-321-5805 for $79.00 and it's a steal at that price. So is Term-Plus, for that matter. Please include what system you own (and detail anything non-standard - i.e. cassette system upgrades) in your order.
Thanks for your interest!

DEBUG is a fast disk-based assembler that allows linked source files. That means that you are no longer limited by your system's memory size as to how big a machine code program you can write. The file ASM.DOC in SIG Access section 1 describes most of DEBUG. This latest version now includes a file editor that is based on the OSI Assembler's Editor (and WP-2). In addition to the normal OSI Assembler commands, the following extra commands are implimented;

EDITxx - Allows editing of line number "xx" with full cursor control as with BASIC under 65D V3.3. No TABs yet. Sorry. I forgot about 'em. Maybe next time.

IND line spec,"STRING"
Searches the file within the line specifications given (or the whole file if none) for the string in the command line surrounded by quotes. When a match is found in a line, that line is displayed.

SIZE Shows the number of tracks required by the file currently in memory.

INIZ Clears the workspace. You are asked "(Y/N)" before this command is actually executed.

RSEQ starting line #, increment
Resequences the line numbers in the file, beginning with the first line of the file. Starting line # will be the number of the first line. Each following line will be increased by the specified increment.

Overall, the main consideration was speed. I think you'll find both the assembler and editor portion several times faster than anything else you've used. You will need either TERMA.ASM or Term-Plus as your modem program to be able to DOWnload DEBUG from SIG Access. If you have any questions, leave me a message - just address it to "SYSOP".

TO GET TO OSI SIG ONCE YOU LOG ON TYPE GO-PCS-125 [CR] AT THE PROMPT

FOR SALE

1. Radio Shack Model I Monitor.

   Stop straining your eyes on that black & white T. V. Get an excellent picture with this monitor up to a 64 character wide screen. Only $40.00 and I will pay postage. Includes all instructions for C1P.

2. Back Issues of Peek(65)

   Volume #1 (1980) Issues #6,#9,#11,#12
   Volume #2 (1981) Issues #1-#12
   Volume #3 (1982) Issues #1-#12

   It costs $2.50 for each issue to get sent to Canada. It cost me $70.00 but I will let them go for $40.00 and I will pay the postage.

3. 8k Memory Board

   An Aardvark board that works!! Extend your memory up to 16k. Just add IC's and memory chips (2114). Comes with all documentation. Only $30.00

4. C1S EPROM from Aardvark.

   A good EPROM to replace your standard monitor. Will give you a good full editor package, fast screen clear, selectable screen windows and much more. With all documentation, only $20.00

5. 16k Memory Board (Progressive Computing).

   A very good board to add more memory to your C1P or Superboard. Can be set for 8-24k range or 24-40k range. Just add memory chips (2114). Only $50.00. Comes with all IC's in sockets on the board. With documentation.

For Information:

Call (519) 336-3307 after 6.30 p.m. or
(519) 344-3719 During business hours.

Ask for Jim Verdon

Or write: #51-215 Trudeau Drive,
Sarnia, Ontario
N7S 4T5

FOR SALE

OSI Superboard II - Revised Model 'D'

Comes With:

- 8k memory on board and has a 16k ram board included to give you 24k total memory. Can be increased to 40k with another 16k board.

- All documentation to get you started.

- All Issues of the Aardvark Journal. Many good games and programming tips. (Put out just for OSI machines).

- Sams Manual (with full schematics of the computer.)

- Over 35 games and utilities. Such as Time Trek, Othello, Space Invaders and many utility programs to help you learn more.

- A Display of either 32x32 or 32x64 that is switch selectable, with a built in editor, one key screen clear (as well as within a program), amd much more built in.

- R. F. Modulator included for hook-up to your T. V. or a monitor is available to give you much sharper letters, for only $25.00 more.

- Partly finished Sound Board (using the AY-8910 sound chip). Comes with full documentation. Just add IC's and plug in and use.

- Partly finished Character Board. Be able to design your own characters and switch in and out within a program. Just add IC's and follow the full instructions to use.

NOTE

Cassette interface not working at present time. Waiting for one IC (CA3130E). Just cannot get one in Canada. Will lower price so you can save and will give full instructions for installation.

SELLING PRICE only $200.00

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