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# Forum SixtyEight

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AUG.  
1983

# 68

The Motorola User's Monthly Forum. Vol. 1 No. 2



# Build performance into your system

## with OS-9\*\* software tools

Unix\*-based, multitasking, modular, and versatile: these key features are some of the reasons why more 6809 computer manufacturers have selected OS-9 as their standard operating system than any other. And OS-9 has been put to work by thousands of users in almost every conceivable computer application in business, science, industry, education, and government.

Your operating system should not be a barrier between you and your computer. OS-9 is very friendly and easy to use. Its modular structure makes it easy to customize, plus its comprehensive documentation shows you exactly how to interface it to just about any I/O device.

OS-9's advanced features unleash the performance potential of almost any 6809 computer — large or small. In many respects the OS-9/6809 combination is more powerful than many *minicomputers*!

There are two basic versions of OS-9. Both have the same basic features and capabilities. OS-9 Level One runs on small to medium sized systems having up to 64K memory. The Level Two version runs on medium to large size systems having memory management hardware and up to 1 megabyte of memory, and includes record and file locking for multiuser database applications.

Here are just a few reasons why you should insist on OS-9 for your microcomputer system.

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directories

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Compact real-time multitasking  
executive  
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driven I/O  
Fully ROMable for small control  
systems  
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manufacturers of most popular  
6809 computers

### OS-9 PASCAL Language Compiler

most complete and versatile  
PASCAL available for the 6809  
capable of generating P-code  
for interpretive execution while  
debugging OR  
highly optimized 6809 assembly  
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interpreter lets you run large  
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ideal for most demanding  
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features ISAM, Debug, ACCEPT/  
DISPLAY and Interprogram  
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retains full compatibility with  
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meets ANSI 1974 Level One  
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easy interactive design of  
screen oriented applications.

### BASIC09\*\* Structured Basic Interactive Compiler

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full Basic language available  
for the 6809  
combines standard Basic with  
the best features of PASCAL  
features compiler speed,  
interpreter friendliness and  
superlative debugging  
facilities  
option available: Run B...a  
ROMable run-time system for  
compiled Basic 09

### C Language Compiler

complete implementation of the  
UNIX version 7 C language  
includes INT, CHAR, SIGNED,  
UNSIGNED, FLOAT AND LONG  
data types, structures, unions,  
standard C library and a full  
preprocessor with macro  
definitions  
generates fully reentrant 6809  
assembly language source  
code output

For more information contact your  
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trademark of Micro Focus, Inc.  
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trademarks of Microware and  
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## The GMX 6809 CPU III

The GIMIX 6809 CPU III board is an advanced design, specifically intended for use with multi-user, multi-tasking operating systems.

Built on a multi-layer circuit board and utilizing high-speed, high-density logic, the GMX CPU III enhances the performance of the 2MHz 68B09 by providing such features as 1 byte/micro-second DMA block transfers from memory to memory or between memory and I/O devices, and advanced memory management with 2K segments and segment attributes. The board automatically arbitrates DMA contention between the on-board DMA and external DMA devices such as disk controllers. The 2K memory segments allow more efficient memory usage. The segment attributes allow the trapping of out-of-range memory references, write protection, and a hardware single step function for software debugging.

The board prevents the execution of certain illegal instructions from crashing the system by monitoring interrupts to the 6809 and its response to them. If the processor does not respond to an interrupt within 128 clock cycles the board resets the 6809 and asserts a special reset vector. The system can then close down the offending task and resume normal operation. This also limits the length of time that interrupts can remain masked by a user, preventing users from keeping the system from task switching and servicing other users.

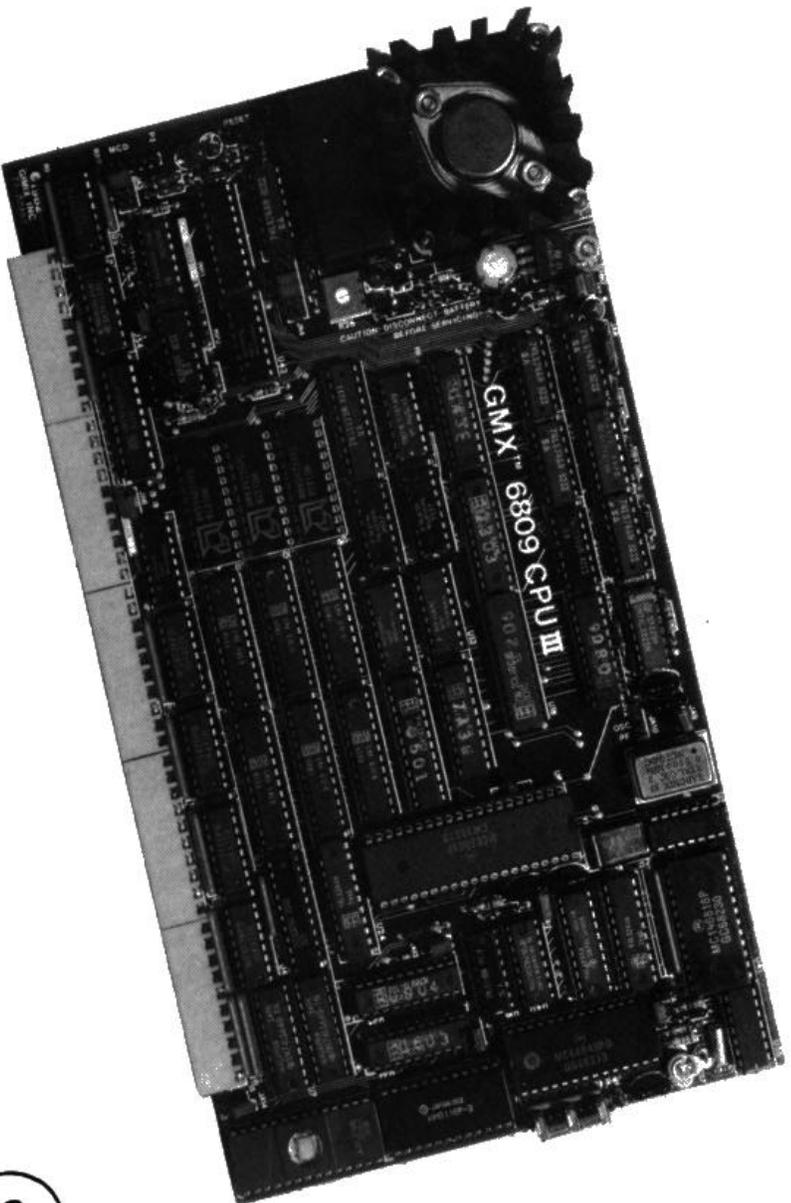
To further protect the system, the CPU board supports separate user and system "states" with automatic switching to the system state in response to interrupts and system (SWI) calls. Certain functions and memory areas can only be accessed in the system state, preventing unauthorized accesses.

The GMX CPU III also includes a full function time-of-day clock with year and automatic leap year/daylight savings time correction, and a 2K scratchpad RAM. Both with battery backup. To provide precision timing functions, a 6840 PTM with a separate 500 KHz precision (0.025%) time base oscillator is included. The oscillator is easily user replaceable to provide other time base frequencies (750 KHz maximum). The single EPROM socket will accept 2K, 4K or 8K EPROMs, with a maximum of 4K mapped into the system address space at any one time. Software switching is implemented by selecting the upper or lower half of an 8K EPROM under hardware or software control.

## OS-9 GMX III Operating System

OS-9 GMX III is an enhanced OS-9 Level II that takes full advantage of the features of the GMX CPU III. As a result, the system is faster, more memory efficient, and a more secure multi-user, multi-tasking operating system than the original OS-9 GIMIX II, while retaining complete software compatibility. Throughput is enhanced by the memory to memory DMA and the automatic task switching, while the memory attributes and illegal instruction trapping protect the system and individual users from each other. Shareable system modules in RAM are write protected to prevent tampering. Memory mapping in 2K segments and the ability to load modules in non-contiguous RAM provide more efficient memory utilization. Each task can be allocated a full 64K of RAM, with no operating system overhead in the tasks address space.

**UNIFLEX for the GMX 6809 CPU III  
and Intelligent I/O boards is in  
development.**



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# Forum SixtyEight 68

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## In This Issue:

Editorial	3
Common BASIC09 subroutines	8
Microware's C	16
NCC 83 Report	22
Reader I/O	23
Assembly Line	24
News Forum	41

## Advertiser's Index

Color Computer News	27
Computer Systems Center	10,13
Computerware	15
Forum Sixty-Eight	9
Frank Hogg Labs	5,6,7
GIMIX	3,Cover IV
Lloyd I/O	34
Microware	Cover II,17
Smoke Signal	21
Talbot Microsystems	35
Unraveling the Color ROM	Cover III

## About The Cover

This month's cover depicts the "army" of 68000 computers that seem to be appearing from every manufacturer. It looks like the rest of the world is beginning to believe what we've known was true all the time. Motorola Micros are superior! The "ants" may be invading but its still "our" picnic.

## OOPS

Its with great embarrassment that I present this issue. As you can see the quality of print is far below our usual standard. I can only hope that the Compugraphic service people are half as ashamed as I am.

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## Editorial

by Bill Sias

I really hate moving! It seems like every year I have to do it though, I guess that's the price of growth. For your records please change both our Post Office Box and Street Address FROM:

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North Muskegon, MI 49445

Also our phone number has changed from (616) 728-9100 to (616) 744-4796. This change is effective immediately.

The problem with publishing is that you are always working in the future. Right now it's July and we're working on the August Forum Sixty-Eight, which comes out the end of the cover month, and the September Color Computer News, which comes out the end of the month preceding the cover date.

The reason I bring this up is because I want you to be aware that I fully intend to produce a much larger magazine than the number of pages that are included in this issue. Start-up

time is such that we're putting this issue together before you have had a chance to receive the last one. Therefore, we haven't received many articles from you yet. I'm extremely interested in all types of articles. In addition to articles I'm looking for folks to write columns about 68000, Unix, Flex, UniFlex, OS9, C, a column about Heathkit's Hero, and a Languages column. These columns should be tutorial in nature without being "dry". To apply for any of these please send your first article with an outline of the direction you intend follow and explain what you can do that is different (better) than the average magazine column. I'm also interested in columns and/or articles about hardware construction projects. Forum Sixty-Eight pays quite well for all published articles, you won't get rich but you may make enough for that neat new software or hardware item you've been wanting.

I recently had a reason to fire-up my old 8080 CPM based computer. Talk about dinosaurs! Unless you've had an opportunity to work with CPM you really can't appreciate the ease and flexibility that the 68XX based disk operating systems have. It never fails to amaze me that the SS-50 buss and its relatives never caught on as well as the S-100 buss did. It's even more amazing when you consider that the 100

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this time it "gave up the ghost" just as we hit deadline. Rest assured we'll have "old un-reliable" up and running next issue.

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pin connectors were originally selected because they were available as surplus items and therefore cheaper than the 88 pin connectors that the designers wanted, which were available only as new parts. Not only are the disk operating systems better, but the hardware is more reliable (at least in my experience) and generally all the software is superior. Primarily the majority of 68XX software is in the area of languages and utilities, not so much for business usage, with some obvious exceptions. It's about time that someone realized the huge potential for business software in the 68XX marketplace. I'm certain that a major factor in the small number of business only SS-50 computers is the fact that people are becoming aware that the correct way to buy a business computer is to first find the software that will do the job you need done and then buy the computer it was written for. The days of convincing people that the hardware is superior and then expecting them to do anything useful on their own are over. As the 68000 become more popular it will become even more important for there to be quality business software available. I've recently heard excuses that it's too difficult to learn a new processor and the cost of a 68000 computer is prohibitive right now, which is true, but with languages like C, one version of which is reviewed in this issue, neither excuse holds water.

I guess the bottom line is that if we want this part of the industry to keep pace with the rest we have to provide what potential customers need, software.

I recently discovered that Radio Shack has finally put OS-9 and Basic09 in their store manager's parts books. OS9 is part number 26-3030 and is priced at \$69.95 it includes the DOS, editor, assembler and the debugger. Part number 26-3036 is Basic09 and is

priced at \$99.95. With Radio Shack making OS9 their "official" 6809 operating system that system is now most certainly the "standard" 6809 operating system if for no other reason that number of users.

Speaking of standards, if standards are set by the largest number of users then the Color Computer ROM Pack port is the "standard" 6809 buss!

Radio Shack's acceptance of OS-9 certainly changes the complexion of the Motorola micro market. I feel certain that this will cause much more, and better, 6809 software to be available at lower prices. It is also important for us to not look down upon the new generation of 68XX users as they graduate up to a superior operating system. Who knows, they may even move up to larger computers as they discover the hidden power of the 6809. This acceptance of OS-9 by Radio Shack will have some very interesting impacts on the 6809 world. I don't have any real figures, but I would guess that the current SS-50 market is probably about 30,000 strong. Most of these 30,000 people are using either Flex, Uniflex or OS-9. With OS-9 now on the Color Computer the number of OS-9 user's could easily go to 100,000 in a very short period of time. This means larger profits for software people almost immediately IF they can produce OS-9 software that these newer people will buy. From my experience as publisher of Color Computer News I can tell you that these people are not nearly as uninformed as I've had occasion to hear people say.

I hope you'll forgive the print quality this month. We have an older Compugraphic typesetter attached to one of our computers. It's been flaky ever since its first service call from Compugraphic and this time it "gave up the ghost" just as we hit deadline. Rest assured we'll have "old un-reliable" up and running next issue.

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# LOOK!

# WHAT WE HAVE FOR YOU

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# POWERFUL TOOLS FOR ANY PROGRAMMER!

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Available for OS-9 - **\$50.00**

**LDMAC** - consists of a group of subroutine modules callable from BASIC09\* to perform routines commonly used in commercial programming or to access OS-9 system services. In some cases, these subroutines duplicate system functions, but do so with greatly reduced system overhead. In other cases, the functions could be done by a BASIC09 routine, but only at the expense of longer code and CPU run time. Some of these routines implement functions that no currently available BASIC09 code or OS-9 utility performs.

Available for OS-9 - **\$95.00**

**LOOKUP/SLOOKUP** - LOOKUP is a directory lookup program providing the ability to retrieve information on a single file or on a group of files matching a wild card description. It may be used to search a single directory or that directory plus all of its subdirectories. The option of displaying the actual number of disk blocks used versus the number of disk blocks in use is helpful in finding wasted disk space. All numbers are displayed in decimal format rather than hexadecimal to simplify use without being familiar with hex.

SLOOKUP, LOOKUP's companion program, provides the directory information sorted in alphabetical order by file name.

Available for OS-9 - **\$75.00**

**SORTC** - This sort package processes large volumes of data. It is easy to use because of its user-oriented special features. These include:

- A performance predictor function which responds to user controlled parameters.
- A simple-to-use code generator.
- Allows specification of memory allocated to data.
- Creation of user modifiable source code.
- Ascending/descending sequences permitted on multiple keys.
- Support for six standard data types.

The self-contained compounding function sums specified numeric fields and consolidates data records during the sorting process. This simplifies report generation and master file updates as well as reducing disk access and usage.

Available for OS-9 - **\$150.00**

**A/BASIC Compiler** - This BASIC compiler generates pure, fast efficient 6809 machine code for easy to write BASIC source programs. Uses ultra-fast integer math, extended string functions, boolean operators and run-time operations. Output is ROMmable and RUNS WITHOUT ANY RUNTIME PACKAGE. Supports IF-THEN-ELSE structure, random access and several improvements over the 6800 version sold by Microware. Optimized for the 6809, ABASIC is 8 to 10 times faster than the original 6800 version and produces code approximately 30% smaller. (Does not compile RS BASIC or any other BASIC. It is integer only, does not support floating point.

Written for 6809 FLEX or OS-9 **\$150.00**

**CRASMB - MACRO CROSS ASSEMBLER** from LLOYD I/O for FLEX and OS9

CRASMB is a macro-conditional cross assembler. It uses machine language overlays or modules called "CPU Personality Modules" to do the work of mnemonic look up. It has directives and other extended commands that are not found in other assemblers. It generates OS9 or FLEX binary files.

#### FEATURES:

- \* Cross assembles 8 CPU types:

Motorola 6800-2-8, 6801-3, 6805, 6809  
 Mostek 6502  
 RCA 1802  
 INTEL 8080-5  
 ZILOG Z-80

- \* 2 passes to generate object code
- \* library file calls nestable to 12 deep
- \* conditional assembly nestable to any depth
- \* macros nestable to any depth, with parameters
- \* variable length symbols up to 32 characters
- \* 2048 maximum symbols
- \* automatically generated labels and symbols
- \* errors tell file name and line number
- \* object code format for OS9, FLEX, or neither

For those users who write programs for FLEX and/or OS9, this assembler will allow you to support your source code files on one system. CRASMB can generate OS9 or FLEX formatted binary object code files under either disk system.

This program is the most powerful assembler on the market today allowing the programmer to use a single computer system as a development system for so many processors. The user may purchase the source code for the CPU Personality Modules (CPM's) so that it may be modified to create a new assembler for a processor not yet supported.

Written for 6809 FLEX and OS-9

FLEX and OS-9 **\$200.00**

CPM's (CPU Modules) **\$ 35.00**  
 w/ source **70.00**

SPECIAL: Purchase CRASMB with all CPU modules w/source for FLEX or OS-9 **\$499.00**

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# NEW! FOR OS-9 and FLEX

# DYNA-C

FROM THE AUTHOR OF DYNASTAR II AND DYNASOFT PASCAL !!

Dynasoft sets a new price/performance standard with Dyna-C: a new Small-C derivative unlike all the others. Dyna-C produces compact, ROMable, position-independent, re-entrant, OPTIMIZED code that runs circles around anything in its price class. "C" for yourself:

	Compile/load time(sec)	Compiled bytes	Total bytes	Execute time(sec)	Price \$
Introl	219	222	1005	22	375.00
Dyna-C	58	238	970	30	99.95
Wordsworth 2.0	88	307	924	48	99.99
Duggers	89	385	1361	58	120.00
Intersoft	207	490	5573	97	100.00
Telecon	?	?	13484	43	200.00

(All timings under FLEX9 at 1 MHz using sieve benchmark from Sept 1981 Byte. Our own results or as reported in various reviews in '68 Micro Journal)

Dyna-C supports a large subset of standard C, including all statement types, most operators (including ?: and ,), and all data types except float, long, unsigned, struct, multidimensional arrays and bitfields. It goes from your source to executable binary in two quick steps: the one-pass compiler with built-in pre-processor AND OPTIMIZER produces assembly code which is assembled straight to binary using any standard 6809 assembler (including TSC's ASMB, Microware's ASM, Lloyd I/O's OSM and FHL's ASM). While this means maintaining libraries in assembler source form it actually saves disk space and time by eliminating the loader step. It also supports separate compilation so you can split large programs or build your own libraries from C. Source code for the entire runtime system is supplied, so you can customize to your own needs. Requires 36K of user RAM.

OS9: **\$109.95**  
 FLEX9 (including Coco): **\$99.95**  
 RS DOS version coming soon!!

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## Common BASIC09 Subroutines

by John Michaelson

When I first started using OS9 I felt it had three serious short-comings. There were:

1. There is no "mail-box" software for the Level II multi-user system.
2. There isn't a Basic09 command that limits the length of keyboard input.
3. Cursor addressing isn't nearly as easy as it was with my old memory mapped video system.

Since I was fairly certain that none of these problems were going to be solved in the near future by Microware, I decided to attempt to solve them myself. The results of these attempts are the listings at the end of this article. I had several additional problems, the first and biggest was, that since I was going to have to write all of my own software I needed these functions first. Second was that, at the time I didn't understand OS9 well enough to patch the language or operating system (I still don't think I know it well enough). Third, I was still learning the language. Far too often you are expected to understand a new operating system simply because you're a programmer. My relief came from the fact that Basic09 can call other Basic09 procedures easily (although at first I didn't think it was so easy).

The first procedure I wrote was Inkey (listing #1). The object of this

procedure was to accept a string of a specified length at a pre-determined location on the terminal (if that sounds a bit like Cobol remember that old habits die slow). The calling procedure simply executes a statement that calls the procedure passing the necessary parameters (x and y, maximum length of the string, true or false on clearing the screen and the variable to return the string in). All of the variables are to be determined by the calling program. The theory is that you have already "drawn" a mask on the screen that holds the prompts necessary for the information that the program requires, the operator then "fills in the blanks". For example, a mailing list program could look like:

### Mail List

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_

The operator the "moves" around the screen with whatever keys you feel are appropriate (I use ^U for up, ^d for down, ^R for right, and ^L for left). At first Inkey and Cursor were included in all of the procedures I used. As I

If you are a user of Motorola  
Microprocessors or Unix type  
operating systems and look like this:

THEN



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but as the man said,"  
If it ain't broke,  
don't fix it".

learned more about Basic09 it became obvious that, not only was this practice dumb, but when I changed terminal types it became a pain to edit and recompile all of the programs. I then made them separate procedures. This not only allows easier changes but conserves memory since I can now just keep one copy in memory and let all the users share them.

### Variables

The variables used by these programs are fairly self-explanatory. I personally like to use variable names that make it clear exactly what the variable holds and why it was selected. Besides, what good is a structured language if you use unstructured variables? The first two, x\_location and y\_location, are simply the x and y coordinates of where you wish the "input" to take place on the screen. Max\_length is the maximum length you will allow the returned variable to be. Clear\_screen is a boolean (true/false) variable that instructs the procedure of when to clear the entire screen.

I think you'll find these procedures quite useful in your programming, especially if you write for operators that are unfamiliar with computers. I've found it to be quite important to maintain control of the operators rather than have the operators control the programs.

I'm certain that if I were to rewrite these procedures I'd do them quite differently. But they've proven to be so useful that I've never bothered.

The memo procedure is another that I'd rewrite if I didn't use it so often. But, it works, and as the man said,"If it ain't broke don't fix it". The program isn't elaborate and I was almost convinced to not submit it. Upon use you'll discover lots of changes that need to be made so please feel free to do so. Some suggestions I'd

---

With these and other procedures, I've since written, I really feel that I've overcome OS9's shortcomings.

---

make to anyone modifying it is to have the calling procedure file identify who the user is. Secondly, I'd have it read the date from DATE\$. If you do make it better please share it with the rest of us that need an OS9 mailbox system.

Although none of these programs are elaborate, there have served my needs adequately. With these three and several other procedures I've since written I really feel that I've overcome OS9's shortcomings. Now I'd just like to know how to send an immediate message to an active terminal!

---

```
PROCEDURE Inkey
0000 (* Inkey Procedure)
0013 PARAM x_location,y_location:BYTE
001E PARAM Max_Length:BYTE
0025 PARAM clear_screen:BOOLEAN
002C PARAM Entered_Data:STRING[35]
0038 DIM cursor:STRING[5]
0044 RUN Mail_Cursor(x_location,y_location,clear_screen,cursor)
0050 IF Max_Length=0 THEN
0069 END
006B ENDIF
006D DIM char:STRING[1]
0079 Entered_Data=""
008C char=""
0087 10 GET #0,char
0093 IF char=CHR$(8) THEN
00A0 char=""
00A7 Entered_Data=LEFT$(Entered_Data,LEN(Entered_Data)-1)
00B7 GOTO 10
00B8 ENDIF
00B8 IF LEN(Entered_Data)=Max_Length THEN
00CB PRINT CHR$(7)
00D0 ENDIF
00D2 IF char=CHR$(13) THEN
00DF WHILE LEN(Entered_Data)<Max_Length DO
00E3 Entered_Data=Entered_Data+ "
00F9 ENDWHILE
00FD GOTO 11
0101 ENDIF
0103 Entered_Data=Entered_Data+char
010F char=""
0116 GOTO 10
011A 11 PRINT cursor;
0123 PRINT Entered_Data;

PROCEDURE cursor
0000 (* Mail List Cursor Control )
001D PARAM x_location,y_location:BYTE
002B PARAM Clear_Screen:BOOLEAN
002F PARAM cursor:STRING[5]
003B DIM Move_Cursor:STRING[5]
0047 DIM C1:STRING[2]
```

---

```

0053     DIM Line:BYTE
005A     DIM Column:BYTE
0061     LET Line=0.
0069     LET Row=0
0072     LET Move_Cursor:=CHR$($7E)+CHR$($11)
00A7     (* )
00AB     (* Change the following for other terminals)
00D7     LET Line=x_location
00E0     LET Row=y_location
00EA     LET CIs:=CHR$($7E)+CHR$($1C)
00F9     LET Move_Cursor:=Move_Cursor+CHR$(Row)+CHR$(Line)
010D     IF Clear_Screen THEN
0116         PRINT CIs;
011C     ENDIF
011E     IF x_location<>0 AND y_location<>0 THEN
0131         PRINT Move_Cursor;
0137     ENDIF
0139     LET cursor=Move_Cursor

```

---

PROCEDURE Memo

```

0000     (* Internal Electronic Mail System *)
0025     PARAM user:STRING[6]
0031     DIM Recipient:STRING[6]
0030     DIM Author:STRING[6]
0049     DIM Sent:STRING[5]
0055     DIM recieve:STRING[5]
0061     DIM Message:STRING[322]
006D     DIM Letter:STRING[344]
0079     Recipient=""
0086     Author=""
0093     Sent=""
00AD     recieve=""
00AD     Message=""
00E8     (* *)
00ED     DIM Pony_Express:BYTE
00F4     DIM This_Letter:REAL
00FB     DIM Action:STRING[1]
0107     (* *)
010C     CHD "/h0/Office_Mail"
011F     OPEN #Pony_Express,"Memos":UPDATE
012F     SEEK #Pony_Express,0
0138     This_Letter=-1
0141     (* Main Loop *)
0150     WHILE NOT(EOF(#Pony_Express)) DO
0158         This_Letter=This_Letter+1
0167         GET #Pony_Express,Letter
0171         Recipient=LEFT$(Letter,6)

017C         (* Your Mail? *)
018C         IF Recipient=user OR Recipient="ALL " THEN
01A6             Author=MID$(Letter,7,6)
01B3             Sent=MID$(Letter,13,5)
01C0             recieve=MID$(Letter,18,5)
01CD             Message=MID$(Letter,23,LEN(Letter)-23)
01DF             IF recieve<=MID$(DATE$,4,5) THEN

```

---

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```

01EF      PRINT " "
01F4      PRINT "Message #: "; This_Letter
0207      PRINT "To: "; Recipient
0213      PRINT "From: "; Author
0221      PRINT "Sent: "; Sent
022E      PRINT "Effective: "; recieve
0241      PRINT "Message: "; Message
0252      PRINT " "
0257      PRINT "Any Reply? ";
0267      INPUT Action
026C      IF Action="Y" OR Action="y" THEN
0281          INPUT "To: ",Recipient
028D          WHILE LEN(Recipient)<6 DO
029A              Recipient=Recipient+" "
02A6          ENDWHILE
02AA          INPUT "From: ",Author
02B8          WHILE LEN(Author)<6 DO
02C5              Author=Author+" "
02D1          ENDWHILE
02D5          INPUT "Sent: ",Sent
02E3          INPUT "Effective: ",recieve
02F6          INPUT "Message: ",Message
0307          SEEK #Pony_Express,This_Letter
0311          Letter=Recipient+Author+Sent+recieve+Message
0329          PUT #Pony_Express,Letter
0333      ENDIF
0335      IF Action="N" OR Action="n" THEN
034A          INPUT "Delete this message? ",q$
0367          IF q$="Y" OR q$="y" THEN
037C              Recipient="DELETE"
0389              Letter=Recipient+Author+Sent+recieve+Message
03A1              SEEK #Pony_Express,This_Letter*SIZE(Letter)
03B2              PUT #Pony_Express,Letter
03BC          ENDIF
03BE      ENDIF
03C0      ENDIF
03C2      ENDIF
03C4      ENDWHILE
03C8      INPUT "Care to leave a memo? ",Action
03E6      IF Action="Y" OR Action="y" THEN
03FB          INPUT "To: ",Recipient
0407          WHILE LEN(Recipient)<6 DO
0414              Recipient=Recipient+" "
0420          ENDWHILE
0424          INPUT "From: ",Author
0432          WHILE LEN(Author)<6 DO
043F              Author=Author+" "
044B          ENDWHILE
044F          INPUT "Sent: ",Sent
045D          INPUT "Effective: ",recieve
047D          INPUT "Message: ",Message
0481          Letter=Recipient+Author+Sent+recieve+Message
0499          PUT #Pony_Express,Letter
04A3          CLOSE #Pony_Express
04A9      ENDIF

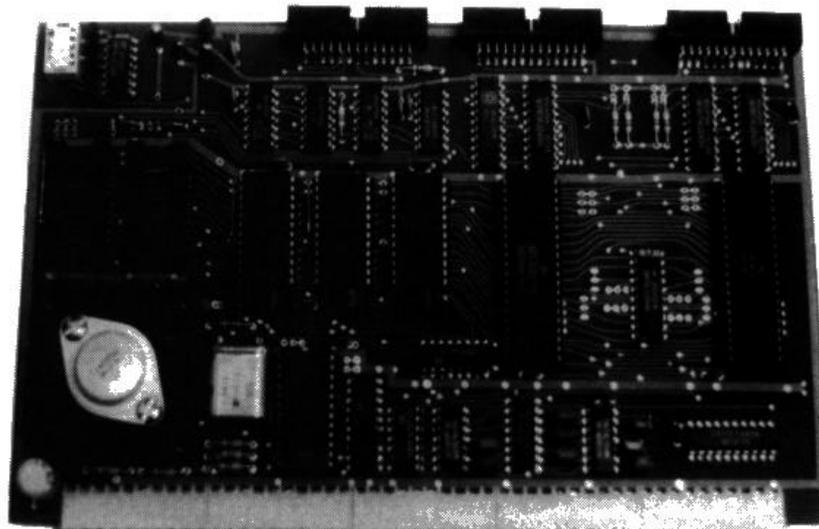
```

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## Microware's C

by Aaron Lee

After a long wait Microware is now delivering their C compiler. I really don't know what the holdup was, and now that I have it I really don't care, the wait was worth it.

Before examining anything specific I'd like to relate some observations that I've found to be quite interesting. For example examine the following programs.

```
DIM x:INTEGER
x=0
WHILE x<30000 DO
  x=x+1
ENDWHILE

#include <stdio.h>
main()
{
  int x;
  x=0;
  while (x<30000) {
    x++;
  }
}
```

The first is a Basic09 program and the second a C program, both of which merely count to 30,000. The first executes in 14.29 seconds and the second in .87 seconds. A rather significant difference by anyone's definition. However, if you change the two programs to these:

```
DIM x:INTEGER
x=0
WHILE x<30000 DO
  x=x+1
  PRINT x; " ";
ENDWHILE

#include <stdio.h>
main()
{
  int x;
  x=0;
  while (x<30000) {
    x++;
    printf("%d ",x);
  }
}
```

the situation changes quite drastically. The second now runs in 3:29.15 minutes and the first in 2:59.18 minutes. Quite an interesting change of events. I'm quite certain that its possible to change the results by some bit of code that I simply don't know. Perhaps C's I/O is really slower than Basic09's.<q>

As with any language, there are several ways to do any task. I tryed the following variations for testing purposes:

```
#include <stdio.h>
main()
```

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---

After a couple of sessions I discovered that C is more like a "shorthand" BASIC09 than a new language.

---

```
{
  int x;
  for (x=0; x<30000; x++)
  ;
}
```

```
#include <stdio.h>
main()
{
  int x;
  x=0;
  while (x<30000) {
    x++;
  }
}
```

```
#include <stdio.h>
main()
{
  int x;
  x=0;
  do {
    x++;
  } while (x<30000);
}
```

a second interesting point I noticed was that the three programs executed at so nearly the same speed that I couldn't detect any speed difference. However, the last version generated less object code as evidenced by this abbreviated directory:

```
bytecount name
---
1C7 count_while
1C1 count_do
1C3 count_for
```

Obviously the differences are extremely small but so are the programs.

One of the most important parts of any language is the documentation. Microware has really out done themselves on their C manual. It contains not only the usual "This is how to copy the disk" but examples on how to call C procedures from Basic09 programs. Since there are some differences on how each

of the two languages handle some variables this is really important information (see the listings at the end of this article). The explanations are quite complete and the examples are actually useful. One of my pet peeves are example programs that are only useful to prove a point, "Type them in and throw them away", the programs in the manual are easily modified to be usable in real life situations. I've never seen a Microware manual of this quality before, I certainly hope this is an indication of future Microware manuals.

As good as the manual is I don't think that it alone is enough to teach yourself C. I'd recommend that you pick up "C Programming Guide" by Jack Purdum published by Que Corporation, 7960 Castleway Drive, Indianapolis IN 46250. Microware includes Kernigham and Ritchie's "The C Programming Language" which for many people may be sufficient to learn C.

My first impression when I began learning C was that it was difficult and quite foreign but after a couple of sessions I discovered that C is more like a "short hand" Basic09 than a new language. You may discover that by keeping this attitude the learning process may go faster.

Some unusual (I'm not sure that's really the word I want) features of Microware's C are:

1. A Real-time profiler. By adding -p to the compiler command line you will add code to your program to count the number of times each procedure is called. This feature will allow you determine which procedures are being called most often, thereby allowing you the opportunity to spend your time optimizing the procedures that are using the most CPU time.
2. The complete package includes a relocatable linking assembler. I was assured that the linking loader and relocatable assembler will be available

---

On the plus side, Microware's C contains a new storage class called the direct class.

---

separately soon. The advantage of this arrangement is that all of the modules produced will be position independent and reentrant (both are requirements for OS9 memory modules).

There are, however, some differences between Microware's C and the C specification in Kernighan and Ritchie's "model" C. These are:

1. Bit fields are not supported.
  2. Constant expressions for initializers may include arithmetic operators if the operands are of type char or int.
  3. Assignment operators must be of the "newer" type (i.e. +=, \*=) not the older forms as: =+, =\*.
  4. #if <constant expression> is not supported. However, #ifdef, #ifndef, #else and #endif are.
  5. Macro definitions and strings are limited to one source line in length.
  6. New-line (\n) refers to a line feed in The C Programming Language, in Microware's C \n is a carriage return.
- As you can see these exclusions are all items that can be easily "programmed around" or really don't make much difference.

On the plus side, however, Microware's C contains a new storage class that should more than make up for the loss of anything above. This new class is called the "direct" class. This storage class takes advantage of the 6809's use of the direct page of memory. Essentially this new class allows you to specify up to 255 bytes of variables that will be stored on the direct page of memory. This allows much faster variable access time which means faster running programs.

```
PROCEDURE sorter
DIM i;n;d(100):INTEGER
n=1000
i=RND(-(PI))
FOR i=1 TO n
  d(i):=INT(RND(1000))
NEXT i
```



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---

continued on page 35

```

PRINT "Before:"
RUN prin(1,n,d)
RUN qsort(d,n)
PRINT "After:"
RUN prin(1,n,d)
END

PROCEDURE prin
PARAM n,m,d(100):INTEGER
DIM i:INTEGER
FOR i=n TO m
    PRINT d(i); " ";
NEXT i
PRINT
END

#define swap(a,b) { int t; t=a; b=t; }

/* qsort to be called by BASIC09:
    dim d(100):INTEGER any size INTEGER array
    run cqsort(d,100) calling qsort.
*/

qsort(argcnt,iarray,iasize,icount,icsiz)
int argcnt,      /* BASIC09 argument count */
    iarray[],    /* Pointer to BASIC09 integer array */
    iasize,      /* and it's size */
    *icount,     /* Pointer to BASIC09 (sort count) */
    icsiz;       /* Size of integer */
{
    sort(iarray,0,*icount); /* initial qsort partition */
}
/* standard quicksort algorithm from Horowitz-Sahni */
static sort(a,m,n)
register int *a,m,n;
{
    register i,j,x;

    if(m < n) {
        i = m;
        j = n + 1;
        x = a[m];
        for(;;) {
            do i += 1; while(a[i] < x); /* left partition */
            do j -= 1; while(a[j] > x); /* right partition */
            if(i < j)
                swap(a[i],a[j]) /* swap */
            else break;
        }
        swap(a[m],a[j]);
        sort(a,m,j-1); /* sort left */
        sort(a,j+1,n); /* sort right */
    }
}

```

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## NCC 83 Report

by Bill Sias

The National Computer Convention was held in Anaheim at the Disneyland Hotel and the Anaheim Convention Center. The exhibits were contained in three buildings. It was quite unfortunate that the majority of the SS-50 activity was in a tent-like structure that closely resembled an oven, at least as far as temperature is concerned. But even with 118 degree heat neither Smoke Signal Broadcasting nor GIMIX had any problems with heat failure. The same wasn't true for other manufacturers.

I'm certain that the heat caused a great lack of sales for the SS-50, as well as others, people. However, there wasn't a lack of excitement over VAR/68 system from Smoke Signal and the GMX III from GIMIX.

The VAR/68 is an SS-50 "desk-top" computer from Smoke Signal. Its main features are a cabinet that is much smaller than the usual SS-50 cabinet, and it incorporates just the SS-50 section of the motherboard (I believe it has 8 slots) rather than a section of 50 pins and an I/O buss with 30 pins.

The GMX III is a radically new implementation of the 6809 that requires (at this time) OS9 level III. Some of the features of the GMX III are intelligent I/O processors and a new CPU board. The GMX III was reviewed last issue from a business standpoint.

I would be less than honest if I said I enjoyed conventions. I do like meeting the people I've known only by their telephone voice and the time I can spend "talking computers" with people that are well informed. But I do dislike the attitudes of people who attack anyone with a press pass. The vast majority of the exhibits at conventions don't do a thing for me. There either "old tech" or they simply don't relate to either my business or personal interests.

The best times I had at NCC were when I was trying to find out what was on the drawing board at various companies. Its amazing, to me, the number of 68000 computers that will be available by January. There's everything from SS-50 to S-100 to single board 68000s coming out.

I find it quite interesting that, while "everyone" is claiming that CPM is the wave of the future, all of the new computers use either UNIX or a UNIX look alike for their operating system. I guess programmers have finally had enough and are demanding better tools to work with.

Although I've spent far too much space complaining about conventions, I'll still see you in Des Moines. That's my sort of convention, all 6809 68000 and a chance to "talk computers" with the big kids.

---

## Reader I/O

Dear Forum,

I certainly hope you'll allow some controversy in Forum Sixty-Eight. A magazine isn't much good unless it allows you to get mad once in a while. Good old fashioned temper tantrums are what magazines should be for.

Sincerely,

Lee Nagerski

\* If anger is what you want I'm certain I've got just what you need:  
I spelled your name wrong on purpose!

Best wishes for the new magazine. I certainly like the business and engineering thrust you have chosen for it.

Robert Harris

\* I do too, but its only you as readers that can make it go that way. Forum Sixty-Eight is just what the name implies, a forum for users of microprocessors that carry 68 as the first two digits. You will be the people to guide it. My opinions or directions are no more valid than yours.

Dear Forum,

I'm currently a subscriber to your other magazine, Color Computer News.

Through those pages I've really outgrown BASIC and perhaps my Color Computer. I don't have the finances to buy an SS-50 system so I guess I'll keep it. I've heard that the Color Computer running either FLEX or OS9 is as powerful as a GIMIX or Smoke Signal anyway. What limitation do I actually face with my 64k Color Computer.

John Parsons

\* The limitations are really processor speed and expandability. Your Color Computer is effectively stuck at less than 1 MHz and 64K of memory, while all the SS-50 computers that I'm aware of are rather easily expandable to 1 or more Megabytes of memory and the processor speed is 2 MHz. However, the newest GMX III systems are being delivered with the CPU running at 2.25 MHz. My office GIMIX has the 2.25 MHz CPU board and has been running great. There are some other things that make the difference such as reliability. Both GIMIX and Smoke Signal use gold plated connectors whereas the Color Computer's connectors are tin plated. Please don't misunderstand, I think the Color Computer for the price, but I've never pretended to run my business on one. I'm certain it would be possible to but the inconvenience would be simply too much.

---

## Assembly Line

by Frank Hoffman  
19535 NE Glisan Street  
Portland, OR 97230

We just moved to our new office in downtown Portland. Mount Hood is visible through the window which opens to the east. I'm sitting here just thinking of how to start out again. It's been almost two months since the first. NCC has come and gone, the OS9 seminar is coming up, and I've just had a birthday.

I'm going to review NCC for a little while. It was the first one I've attended. I think NCC is the largest of its kind within this star system. There is so much to see at a show like this it's almost impossible to see the whole thing without a plan of "attack". The only thing I objected to was the rather warm ("hot") temperatures. Oh, well, it goes with the territory.

Almost every manufacturer and software house either attends or exhibits at these shows. I found it very interesting to see what the rest of the computer world is doing or is about to do.

I managed to meet many of the fine people from the SS-50 world. This was very beneficial to me because meeting a person face to face makes it easier to trust them. Most of us from the SS-50 bunch gathered every night at the GIMIX hospitality suite for munchies and chat. This proved to be the best way to

get detailed information on some of the new software and hardware currently on the market. One thing you don't want to do is have Richard Don from GIMIX introduce you to someone you've never met or seen before. He has a lot of fun confusing you.

These are some of my impressions from NCC '83. It really was a lot of fun, though you would be surprised what the other guy looks like. Well, lets get back to the subject.

This time I'll cover more assembler directives and macros. We'll also get started on the library routines mentioned last time.

### MORE A.L. DIRECTIVES

Last time I covered the ORG, END, RMB, EQU, and FCC directives. To start off we'll describe the assembler's page formatting and control directives. The following is a list of these directives.

1. OPT option list
2. SPC count expression
3. PAG
4. TTL string
5. NAM string
6. STTL string
7. LEN count expression

---

"This is a title" is covered up by the use of the NAM directive since both TTL and NAM are two names for the same directive.

---

### B. INI expression list

The OPTion directive is used to switch one or more flags either on or off. The two simplest flags are the LIS (for listing on) and PAG (for page formatting on). The reverse forms are NOL and NOP.

Examples:

```
OPT PAG
OPT NOL
OPT NOP
OPT LIS
```

When the PAG option is turned on the assembler handles the listing of the program by pages. It prints a title consisting of one or more lines, the date, and the page number. Then roughly 50 to 55 lines of the formatted source lines with the object code are printed. Finally, the page is ejected by CR,LF pairs or a form feed to the next page.

If the listing is turned off by the NOL switch, then lines are listed only when errors are detected. Some assemblers use different forms of these option switches and some are very useful when debugging a program.

The SPC (for space) directive generates a gap of pure carriage return, line feed pairs. This function is used to make a program a little easier to read because it makes a wide border area between two programs, subroutines, or similar code. However, it eats up a lot of paper. A better border is a line of dashes or asterisks.

Example:

```
* ++++++
*
* a program here
*
```

\* ++++++

The PAG directive (not to be confused with the option OPT PAG) is a means to cause a form feed to occur. This is a nice way to start a program listing. This directive would be used after the titles and option flags are set.

Example:

```
TTL First title
STTL Sub title
OPT PAG
PAG
```

The PAG directive does not work when the page formatting option is turned off by the OPT NOP directive.

The TTL and NAM directives set the current page title. Most assemblers allow up to 40 characters. Enough room on the line must exist for the page number and assembler name. The LLOYD I/O and TSC assemblers use the NAM and TTL directives for the same title area. The STTL (sub-title) directive sets second or sub-title string. I use the NAM directive for the main program name and the STTL directive for the current file name or subroutine name.

Examples:

```
TTL This is a title
NAM DO VERSION 1.1
STTL BY JOHN DOE
```

The results look like this:

```
DO VERSION 1.1 LLOYD I/O ASSEMBLER PAGE 1
BY JOHN DOE March 15
```

In the above example the TTL string "This is a title" is covered up by the use of the NAM directive since both TTL and NAM are two names for the same directive.

---

Most of the newer assemblers keep track of the next available addresses for both the object code and the storage for variables.

---

The LEN directive or a similar directive is used to set the current line length which can be printed on your printer. Some assemblers even allow setting the page length, the form feed character or string, and how close to come to the bottom of the page. This allows you to set up a listing for different printers and sizes of paper.

Examples:

```
LEN 80
LEN 132
LEN 40
```

The INI or similar directive allows you to send out characters which have a value equal to an expression. I use this function to set my printer in the condensed print format so I can use 132 characters per line on the 8.5 inches wide paper. There is one catch though with a program that uses an INI directive. When it is assembled with the output sent to another device such as the terminal, the INI characters may do some unexpected function such as clearing the screen.

Examples:

```
INI 27,31
INI 27,30
```

When you set your printer to use the condensed print don't forget to change the line length. Your listing will look a little strange with half the page used.

The next group of directives generate bytes of object code. We covered some of them last month. These directives either control the address to where object code is stored or actually generate code.

1. ORG

2. RAM  
3. RMB  
4. END  
5. FCB  
6. FDB  
7. FLW  
8. FCC  
9. FCS

The most important directive in an assembly program is the ORG directive. This is because it tells the assembler where your program is supposed to be stored. I'm including it here again because it belongs in this group of directives.

Examples:

```
ORG $0000
ORG $C100
ORG PGEBEG
```

Most assemblers will default to an origin (ORG) of zero (\$0000).

The RAM directive is almost the same as the ORG directive. It tells the assembler where your read/write memory starts for variables and your subroutine address stack. Most assemblers don't have this directive. But for the 6809 CPU its a very nice function to have. It is intended to work with the RMB directive and the storage address counter.

Most of the newer assemblers keep track of the next available addresses for both the object code and the storage for variables. To access the current value of the object code address (called the PC or program counter) use the the "\*" (asterisk) character in any expression. To access the storage counter in an expression use the "." (period). It is important for the new assembly language programmer to realize that most 6809

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Even the high level languages such as "C" and "Pascal" require you to define all variables before the program or the procedure is defined.

---

programs should be written using the PIC technique. This process uses the "\*" and "." counters. I design my programs to define all storage for variables first. This way I know how much memory is being consumed for storage. It forces the program to be PIC because the origin of the storage counter is set to zero (\$0000). All storage is accessed by the program as an offset from the U (user stack) register. The U register is made to point to an area of memory which can be used for reading and writing.

There are two reasons for doing this. First the program may eventually be burned into an EPROM. You can't write into an EPROM. The second reason is that OS9 systems are designed to work this way. A program may be loaded at an address one time and at a different address the next time. The same goes for the memory assigned to it for variable storage. Even the high level languages such as "C" and "PASCAL" require you to define all variables before the program or procedure is defined.

The directive RMB is used to allocate or reserve memory bytes for storage. It increments the storage counter "." by the value of the expression associated with the directive. Most programs will define labels using the RMB directive as its variables.

Example:

```
REGA RMB 1
REGB RMB 1
REGCC RMB 1
REGDP RMB 1
REGX RMB 2
REGY RMB 2
REGJ RMB 2
REGS RMB 2
REGPC RMB 2
MEME RMB 2
```

```
XXX RMB 2
ACCL RMB 8
ACCE RMB 1
ADDDI RMB 1
```

Each use of the RMB directive increases the value of the storage counter by the value of the expression. This allows the storage counter to be ready for the next use of RMB.

The END directive is mentioned here again as it also belongs in this group. Used by itself it has no real meaning except for documentation of the program. However, if it has its optional expression, then the END directive tells the assembler where the program is to start. Under FLEX this is the way to generate the "transfer address". Once a program is loaded into memory for execution, FLEX jumps to the transfer address.

Examples:

```
END START
END WARMS
END BEGIN
END $C100
```

The remaining directives of this group generate object code. They are used to generate constants in the form of character strings, messages, address tables, and look-up tables.

The first is the directive, form constant byte (FCB). It generates a single byte of code which has the value of the expression.

Examples:

```
FCB 0
FCB 4
FCB $30
```

Most assemblers allow multiple expressions for a single FCB to

---

These two directives are more complex ... or maybe more flexible than the previous directives.

---

generate multiple bytes of code.

Examples:

```
FCB 0,0
FCB $03,$14,$15,$92,$65,$40
FCB 'T,3
```

The FCB directive is probably the easiest way to generate object code. It is very useful for making special look-up tables. The lower 8 bits of the expressions are used as the value. The upper half is just chopped off.

The form double byte (FDB) directive is used to generate two bytes of object code for every expression associated with it. It uses the whole 16 bit value of each expression.

Examples:

```
FDB 0
FDB START
FDB NAMES-BEGIN
FDB 1400,$1B,$000A,$000A
FDB 60*60*24
```

Some assemblers which use 32 bit integer math instead of 16 bit integer math utilize the directive FLW or something similar to generate four bytes of code from a single expression. It means to form constant long word. (A word is 16 bits and a long word is 32 bits.) The 68,000 CPU assemblers have this directive.

Examples:

```
FLW START
FLW CMDTABLES
FLW BRANCHTABS-START
```

The string generation directives are FCC and FCS. They function almost identically except that FCS sets bit seven (MSB) of the last byte generated. This can be used to signal the end of

the string. These two directives are more complex ... or maybe more flexible than the previous directives. They accept multiple expressions and strings. I think some examples will help show what I mean.

Examples:

```
FCC /this is a string with a byte
following/,4
FCS /this is two strings/, $D,$A,/with a
CR LF pair/
FCC 0,0,$D,$A,$D,$A
FCS /OSM/
```

These examples show most of the complexity involved. Now that we've covered this group I'll show you some examples of look-up tables.

Examples:

a command look up table

```
CMD  FCS  /GOTO/
      FDB  QGOTO-START
      FCS  /GOSUB/
      FDB  QGOSUB-START
      FCS  /ON ERROR GOTO/
      FDB  GONGO-START
      FCB  0          END OF TABLE
```

```
OPERS FCB  '*,4
      FDB  MMUL-START
      FCB  '/,4
      FDB  MDIV-START
      FCB  '+,3
      FDB  MADD-START
      FCB  '-,3
      FDB  MSUB-START
      FCB  0          END OF TABLE
```

The "-START" is used to help make the program PIC. (It makes the value an offset address from the real assembly time address.) At run time the real effective address is calculated from the offset. This type of table addressing works similar to the

---

Macros are a little hard to understand but if you are carefull to read and then try out what you find here, you'll be doing yourself a real favor.

---

relative addressing modes. I'll cover this more later.

<i>MACROS</i>

This next section is on the care and feeding of macros. Macros are a little hard to understand but if you are careful to read and then try out what you find here, you'll be doing yourself a real favor.

Macros are a way of storing a sequence of lines for later use. The reason for doing this is that the sequence of lines may have to be used several times. It is kind of easy to make syntax errors when typing in the same series of lines several times in addition to being very time consuming. What you do is make the assembler do the hard part. If you store the sequence of lines away and give it a name then by the use of that name at a later time the assembler starts to recall each line one at a time until the last line of the macro is reached. If an error was made in the definition then the error appears each time the macro name is used.

There are always two parts in using macros. First you define it. Then you can call it. You can not call it then define it. That makes no sense to the assembler. Once you have the macro text defined you can do many things with it. There are several directives that do rather fancy things. But first lets try defining a macro.

label field	mnemonic field	operand field	comment field
PRINT	MACRO		
	ENDM		

This macro contains a single null line. Its name is "PRINT". The

directive "MACRO" starts the macro definition. The name is given just as if it were a label, except that it is always limited to six characters. This is because words in the operator field are limited to a maximum of six characters. The assembler always checks labels to see if the word "MACRO" follows. If it does the label is not defined as a label but as a macro name. Once the definition is started all lines up to the directive "ENDM" (end macro) are stored in memory as text lines. These lines are not processed for assembly until the macro is called.

If you were to reset your computer and use the monitor to examine memory you would find your macro definitions stored in memory following their names. Lets try another macro.

label field	mnemonic field	operand field	comment field
PRINT	MACRO		
THE STRING	LEAX	:1,PCR	POINT TO
THE STRING	LBSR	PSTRNG	PRINT
THE STRING	BRA	:2	BRANCH
AROUND THE STRING	:	FCC	"&1",4
THE STRING	:	EQU	*
LABEL			
	ENDM		END OF
MACRO			

This macro introduces two new concepts. The first is "parameter substitution" and the second is automatic labels (or a form of local labels). Parameter substitution is a means of telling the assembler that when the macro is called you want to modify it a little bit. This example is of a macro which prints a string. Here are some calls to it with different strings to be printed.

---

## PRINT 'HAVE NO FEAR, CHARLIE IS HERE'

---

Examples:

```
PRINT "(0)...QUIT"
PRINT "(1)...FORMAT DISKS"
PRINT "(2)...VERIFY DISKS"
PRINT "(3)...COPY DISKS"
```

When a macro is called as in our four examples they are known to "expand". Another term is "expansion time". It is called this because each line of the macro is read from memory and placed into the assembly line buffer for processing. All parameter substitutions are performed on that line before it is assembled. If a substitution is done it makes the line longer. In our example there is only one line that has a parameter substituted.

Any time the character "&" (ampersand) is detected with a digit of 1 to 9 following, it is deleted. Then a check is made to find the parameter by its number of 1 to 9. If it was not given when the macro was called then nothing else is done. But as in our example parameter number one (&1) is defined and the "&1" is replaced by the string of characters between the double quotes. So the single line containing the parameter substitution characters is "expanded" to:

Examples:

```
FCC "(0)...QUIT"
FCC "(1)...FORMAT DISKS"
FCC "(2)...VERIFY DISKS"
FCC "(3)...COPY DISKS"
```

The macro can substitute the parameter any number of times. Parameters are separated from each other by a comma. If spaces or commas must be included as a part of a parameter then the parameter is "delimited" by either single or double quotes.

Examples:

```
PRINT 'THIS IS A TEST'
PRINT "AN EMBEDDED COMMA, IS IN THIS
PARAMETER"
PRINT NO-COMMAS-OR-EMBEDDED-SPACES
PRINT 'HAVE NO FEAR, CHARLIE IS HERE'
```

Now look at what the assembler sees when the macro is expanded with our first example.

label	mnemonic	operand	comment
field	field	field	field
	PRINT	"(0)...QUIT"	
	LEAX	L00001,PCR	POINT TO
THE STRING	LBSR	PSTRNG	PRINT THE
STRING	BRA	L00002	BRANCH
AROUND THE STRING	L00001	FCC	"(0)...QUIT",4
DEFINE THE STRING	L00002	EQU	*
LABEL			BRANCH
	ENDM		END OF
MACRO			

This macro example is set up to generate position independent code (PIC). It also uses automatic labels which are a form of local labels. (This form is available on all LLOYD I/O assemblers. Most relocating assemblers also have it.) The assembler substitutes the letter "L" followed by the ASCII numeric digits representing the value of the automatic label counter. Every time the character ":" (colon) is detected as the first character of a line the counter is incremented by one and the substitution is performed. This is extremely useful in cases like our example.

Expressions may use automatic labels by using the colon as an operand. If the colon is followed by a positive or

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You can help yourself a lot by knowing your system software.

---

negative decimal number, its value is added to the current automatic label counter before the substitution is performed. The number is called an offset. If it is not present then a zero offset is used. By close examination of our example we see that it used both a one (1) and a two (2) as an offset in this manner.

By the way this isn't the only way to make a macro like this work the way it does. If the subroutine "PSTRING" returns with the index register "X" pointing to the byte following the \$04 then the following macro definition will work. Notice that it does not use any automatic labels.

label field	mnemonic field	operand field	comment field
PRINT MACRO	LEAX	*+8,PCR	POINT TO
THE STRING	LBSR	PSTRING	PRINT THE
STRING	JMP	0,X	BRANCH
AROUND THE STRING	FCC	"&1",4	DEFINE THE
STRING	ENDM		END OF
MACRO			

Most assemblers which support macros can use this last example with the right "PSTRING" subroutine. You can help yourself a lot by knowing your system software. I use a set of macros for program debugging which print ASCII messages and byte and word values in hex and decimal. They look like this:

label field	mnemonic field	operand field	comment field
PRINTN MACRO	LEAX	*+8,PCR	POINT TO THE
STRING	LBSR	PSTRING	PRINT THE STRING

JMP	0,X	BRANCH AROUND THE
STRING	FCC	"&1",4
	LEAX	&2
	LBSR	OUTDEC
	ENDM	END OF MACRO

The "OUTDEC" subroutine can be any routine which prints the two bytes pointed to by the "X" register as a sixteen bit decimal number. Of course these two new lines could print any thing useful. Parameter number two must be an indexed addressing mode because the instruction "LEAX" only allows indexed addressing modes. Here are some calling examples:

Examples:

```
PRINTN 'LOOP COUNTER = ', "CNTER,U"
PRINTN 'CONDITION COUNT = ', "LEVEL,U"
PRINTN 'FALSE LEVEL = ', "SWIT,U"
PRINTN 'LABEL VALUE = ', "0,X"
```

Notice that parameter two has an imbedded comma. The quotes are required in order to allow the commas to be a part of the parameter. The indexed addressing mode must use the comma.

Here is an idea that may work for some of you who are interested in this type of work. Design a pseudo central processing unit and instruction set using macros. Add some sophisticated instructions like multiply and divide with 16 or 32 bit integers. Design it to use a good set of indexed addressing modes. Then begin to design all of your programs using this new assembly language. Later on when you want to change computers with a different CPU and bring across your programs you simply redefine the macros to reflect the new CPU instruction set. Then you reassemble your programs. This is one way to make a "compiler"!

For now I'm going to start the

---

---

It's much easier to change a single subroutine than changing many lines or even many files.

---

library routines that I promised last month. We'll start with the disk file accessing routines. This is the outline:

1. open file for read
2. open file for write
3. read a line/byte from an open file
4. write a line/byte to an open file
5. close a file

All other operations can be done with these routines except renaming a file. The examples used here assume that the programs using these routines are written in position independent code (PIC). Therefore all variables are defined first and are accessed as an offset from the user stack pointer ("U"). The following examples are for FLEX(tm).

#### INSERT FLEX LISTING

The next subroutines are for OS9. They are the same disk input/output routines. Again the examples used here assume that the programs using these routines are written in position independent code (PIC).

#### INSERT OS9 LISTING

The OS9 subroutines are much shorter. Most of the time you don't even need the short subroutines, except for one point. It's much easier to change a single subroutine than changing many lines or even many files. The examples show good programming practices in that they are well documented with comments and input/output expectations. Some programs may not want to use the "ERROR" subroutine as a means of recovering from errors. You would have to write your own "error trap" to handle those special cases.

Here's how to use the subroutines. First open a file for read. Assuming that the file name is in the FLEX line buffer and that the line buffer pointer is pointing to the first character of the name.

Example:

```
LEAX   FCB1
LBSR   GETNAM NAME THE FILE
LBSR   ROPEN OPEN THE FILE FOR READ
```

If the file is to be opened for writing it must not exist.

Example:

```
LEAX   FCB1
LBSR   GETNAM NAME THE FILE
LBSR   WOPEN OPEN THE FILE FOR
        WRITING
```

That's for FLEX, now for OS9.

Example:

```
LBSR   ROPEN OPEN THE FILE FOR READ
STA    RPATH
```

Again if the file is to be opened for writing it must not exist.

Example:

```
LBSR   WOPEN OPEN THE FILE FOR WRITING
STA    WPATH
```

Now lets say that we want to read lines of text from disk until the end of the file is reached.

Example:

```
LINE   RMB      256   TEXT LINE BUFFER
FCB1   RMB      320   FILE CONTROL
                        BLOCK
*
      LEAX   FCB1
      LBSR   GETNAM GET NAME OF FILE
```

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ASM (FLEX assembler)	\$50	n/a
ISM [interactive ass.]	free with FHL Flex	

**LLOYD I/O**  
19535 NE GLISAN STREET  
PORTLAND, OR 97230

Flex is a trademark of Technical Systems Consultants.  
OS9 is a trademark of Microware Systems Corporation.

Next month I'll really spend some time with the rest of the basic programmer library package.

```

LOOP  LBSR  ROPEN  OPEN THE FILE
      EQU   *      LOOP POINT
      LEAX  FCB1
      LEAY  LINE
      LBSR  RLINE  READ A LINE
      BNE  LOOPER  ERROR SO EXIT
                          LOOP
*
      BRA  LOOP
*
LOOPER EQU   *
      CMPB B      IS IT AN END OF
                          FILE
      LBNE ERROR  NO
      LBSR  CLOSE YES

```

Well this is a start on our library of subroutines for disk file input and output. Once you have a decent set of subroutines in your library it will always be easier to write new programs.

#### NEXT TIME

Next month I'll really spend some time with the rest of the basic programmers library package. I'll start showing how to use macros and conditional assembly directives to do many of the tasks involved in calling these subroutines. This will be a step closer to a "higher" level assembly language. Until then.

continued from page 19

approach that "This computer-friendly liveware is protected by Byte Bat".

The Byte Bat is the creation of Jae Evans. As head of the company that wrote the flight software of the Harrier jet, and other major custom software assignments, Jae has experienced a recurring desire to hit the machines with which he works.

All too often, computers aren't up when you need them, or some sort of

system error cost you a lot of time and effort. Hitting a computer or terminal with anything substantial can be a satisfying but expensive act, so I came up with the Byte Bat", Evans says.

The Byte Bat is being distributed through computer dealers nationwide, at a suggested retail price of \$9.95. Frustrated computer users who are frustrated even more when they find that their local dealer isn't carrying the Byte Bat can order their very own for \$12.50 postpaid by calling (800) 227-3900 ((800) 632-2122 in California).

Byte Bat is a trademark of MicroTie Systems Corporation.

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```

* -----
* SYSTEM ERROR EXIT
*
* INPUT: (X)=ADDRESS OF FILE CONTROL BLOCK
* OUTPUT: NONE
* ERROR OUTPUT: NONE
*
ERROR EQU * REPORT SYSTEM ERRORS
      JSR RPTERR PRINT ERROR MESSAGE
      JSR FMSCLS CLOSE ALL FILES
      JMP WARMS GOTO FLEX
*
* -----
* GET FILE NAME
*
* INPUT: (X)=ADDRESS OF FILE CONTROL BLOCK
* FLEX BUFFER POINTER AT FIRST
* CHARACTER OF FILE SPECIFICATION
* (BUFREG EQU $CC14)
* OUTPUT: (X)=ADDRESS OF FILE CONTROL BLOCK
* FILE NAME AND EXTENSION IN FCB
* ERROR OUTPUT: EXITS VIA 'ERROR'
*
GETNAM EQU *
      JSR GETFIL GO GET FLEX FILE SPEC.
      BCS ERROR IF ERRORS, REPORT
      LDA 1 DEFAULT EXTENSION TO "TXT"
      JSR SETEXT
      SEZ RETURN EQUAL STATUS
      RTS
*
* -----
* OPEN FILE FOR READ
*
* INPUT: (X)=ADDRESS OF FCB
* FILE ALREADY NAMED
* OUTPUT: (X)=ADDRESS OF FCB
* FILE OPEN FOR READING
* ERROR OUTPUT: EXITS VIA 'ERROR'
*
ROPEN EQU * READ OPEN
      LDA 1 SET STATUS
      STA 0,X FOR READ OPEN
      JSR FMS DO OPEN
      LBNE ERROR EXIT ON ERROR
      RTS RETURN
*
* -----
* OPEN FILE FOR WRITE
*
* INPUT: (X)=ADDRESS OF FCB
* FILE ALREADY NAMED
* OUTPUT: (X)=ADDRESS OF FCB
* FILE OPEN FOR WRITING
* ERROR OUTPUT: EXITS VIA 'ERROR'

```

```

*
WOPEN EQU *          WRITE OPEN
      LDA 2          SET STATUS
      STA 0,X        FOR WRITE OPEN
      JSR FMS        DO OPEN
      LBNE ERROR     EXIT ON ERROR
      RTS            RETURN

*
* -----
* READ A TEXT LINE
*
*   INPUT:           (X)=ADDRESS OF FCB
*                   (Y)=ADDRESS OF LINE BUFFER
*   OUTPUT:          (X)=ADDRESS OF FCB
*                   (Y)=ADDRESS OF LAST CHARACTER
*                   WHICH WOULD BE A (CR) $0D
*   ERROR OUTPUT:   (Z) BIT CLEAR
*                   (B) ERROR NUMBER
*
RLINE EQU *
      BSR RCHAR       READ A CHARACTER
      BNE RLINEE      EXIT IF EOF
      CMPA $0D        IS IT (CR)
      BEQ RLINEX
      CMPA $20        LIMIT STORING TO SPACE THROUGH
      BLO RLINE       A DEL CHARACTER ($20 TO $7F)
      CMPA $7F
      BHI RLINE       LIMIT
      STA 0,Y+        STORE THE CHARACTER
      BRA RLINE       AND INCREMENT THE POINTER
RLINEX EQU *
      STA 0,Y         SAVE THE EOL CHARACTER
      SEZ            RETURN STATUS OK
RLINEE EQU *
      RTS            EXIT

*
* -----
* READ A CHARACTER
*
*   INPUT:           (X)=ADDRESS OF FCB
*   OUTPUT:          (X)=ADDRESS OF FCB
*                   (A)=CHARACTER READ
*   ERROR OUTPUT:   (Z) BIT CLEAR
*                   (B)=ERROR NUMBER
*
RCHAR EQU *
      JSR FMS        READ A CHARACTER
      BNE RCHARE     IF NO ERROR THEN RETURN
      RTS            RETURN NO ERROR STATUS
RCHARE LDB 1,X       GET ERROR NUMBER
      CLZ            CLEAR Z BIT
      RTS            RETURN WITH ERROR STATUS

*
* -----
* WRITE A TEXT LINE

```

```

*
* INPUT: (X)=ADDRESS OF FCB
* (Y)=ADDRESS OF LINE BUFFER
* OUTPUT: (X)=ADDRESS OF FCB
* (Y)=ADDRESS OF LAST CHARACTER
* WHICH WOULD BE A (CR) $0D
* ERROR OUTPUT: (Z) BIT CLEAR
* (B) ERROR NUMBER
*
WLINE EQU *
LDA 0,Y+ GET A CHARACTER
CMPA $0D IS IT (CR)
BEQ WLINE0 WRITE EOL ANYWAY
CMPA $20 LIMIT STORING TO SPACE THROUGH
BLO WLINE A DEL CHARACTER ($20 TO $7F)
CMPA $7F
BHI WLINE LIMIT
WLINE0 PSHS A SAVE THE CHARACTER
BSR WCHAR WRITE A CHARACTER
PULS A RECALL CHARACTER AGAIN
BNE WLINEE EXIT IF ERROR
CMPA $0D IS IT (CR)
BEQ WLINEX EXIT IF (CR)
BRA WLINE AND INCREMENT THE POINTER
WLINEX EQU *
SEZ RETURN STATUS OK
WLINEE RTS EXIT
*
* -----
* WRITE A CHARACTER
*
* INPUT: (X)=ADDRESS OF FCB
* OUTPUT: (X)=ADDRESS OF FCB
* (A)=CHARACTER READ
* ERROR OUTPUT: (Z) BIT CLEAR
* (B)=ERROR NUMBER
*
WCHAR EQU *
JSR FMS WRITE A CHARACTER
BNE WCHARE IF NO ERROR THEN RETURN
RTS RETURN NO ERROR STATUS
WCHARE LDB 1,X GET ERROR NUMBER
CLZ CLEAR Z BIT
RTS RETURN WITH ERROR STATUS
*
* -----
* CLOSE A FILE
*
* INPUT: (X)=ADDRESS OF FCB
* OUTPUT: (X)=ADDRESS OF FCB
* ERROR OUTPUT: EXITS VIA 'ERROR'
*
CLOSE EQU *
LDA 4 GET CLOSE STATUS
STA 0,X SET IT
JSR FMS DO CLOSE

```

---

```

        LBNE      ERROR
        RTS
        EXIT WITH NO ERROR STATUS
*
*
*

```

---

```

* -----
* SYSTEM ERROR EXIT
*
* INPUT:          (B)=ERROR NUMBER
*                (C) BIT SET
* OUTPUT:         NONE
* ERROR OUTPUT:  NONE
*
ERROR EQU      *      REPORT SYSTEM ERRORS
        OS9      FSEXIT EXIT PROGRAM
*
* -----
* OPEN FILE FOR READ
*
* INPUT:          (X)=ADDRESS OF FILE NAME
* OUTPUT:         (X)=POINTS PAST FILE NAME
*                (A)=PATH NUMBER
* ERROR OUTPUT:  EXITS VIA 'ERROR'
*
ROPEN EQU      *      READ OPEN
        LDA      1      SET STATUS FOR READ MODE
        OS9      I$OPEN DO OPEN
        LBCS     ERROR  EXIT ON ERROR
        RTS
        RETURN
*
* -----
* OPEN FILE FOR WRITE
* CREATE A FILE
*
* INPUT:          (X)=ADDRESS OF FILE NAME
* OUTPUT:         (X)=POINTS PAST FILE NAME
*                (A)=PATH NUMBER
* ERROR OUTPUT:  EXITS VIA 'ERROR'
*
WOPEN EQU      *      WRITE OPEN
        LDA      2      SET ACCESS MODE TO WRITE
        LDB      3      SET FILE ATTRIBUTES FOR R/W
        OS9      I$CREA DO CREATE AND OPEN
        LBCS     ERROR  EXIT ON ERROR
        RTS
        RETURN
*
* -----
* READ A TEXT LINE
*
* INPUT:          (X)=ADDRESS OF TEXT LINE
*                (A)=PATH NUMBER
* OUTPUT:         (Y)=NUMBER BYTES READ

```

---

```

*      ERROR OUTPUT:          (C) BIT SET
*
*      (B) ERROR NUMBER
*
RLINE  EQU      *
        LDY      255          LIMIT TO 255 CHARACTERS
        OS9      I$RDLN      READ A LINE
        RTS      EXIT
*
* -----
* WRITE A TEXT LINE
*
*      INPUT:                (X)=ADDRESS OF TEXT LINE
*                          (A)=PATH NUMBER
*      OUTPUT:              (Y)=ACTUAL NUMBER BYTES WRITTEN
*      ERROR OUTPUT:       (C) BIT SET
*                          (B) ERROR NUMBER
*
*
WLINE  EQU      *
        LDY      255          LIMIT TO 255 CHARACTERS
        OS9      I$RDLN      READ A LINE
        RTS      EXIT
*
* -----
* CLOSE A FILE
*
*      INPUT:                (A)=PATH NUMBER
*      OUTPUT:              NONE
*      ERROR OUTPUT:       EXITS VIA 'ERROR'
*
*
CLOSE  EQU      *
        OS9      ISCLOS      DO CLOSE
        LBCS     ERROR      EXIT ON ERROR
        RTS      EXIT WITH NO ERROR STATUS
*

```

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Forum Sixty-Eight     Color Computer News

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## News Forum

### Smoke Signal's New VAR/68 Series Miros Designed for System Integrators.

A new computer series, designed specifically for Value Added Resellers (VARs), is being announced by Smoke Signal as their entry into the desktop computer market.

The new computers, called the VAR/68 series, come standard with 128Kb of RAM, 8 serial ports, 1 parallel port and an ergonomic video display and keyboard. The VAR/68 is now available in configurations with: dual 750 Kb floppies; floppy and 5Mb or 20Mb Winchester; and floppy with two 20Mb Winchesters. Tape streamer backup is also available.

VAR/68 computers are easily upgraded. All systems can handle 1Mb of RAM, 16 (or more) serial ports, 4 parallel ports, special function boards -- such as communications and graphics, and hard disk storage up to 150 Mb (and higher).

Available with the VAR/68 is OS9-Level II, a UNIX-like multi-user, multi-tasking operating system. Features like password protection, record level lock-out, and dynamic memory allocation afford the VAR maximum flexibility and performance in multi-user applications.

Resellers can choose among a structured BASIC with Pascal type data structures, as well as COBOL, Pascal and C compilers.

To allow a VAR to concentrate on his specialty vertical application, Smoke Signal also offers standard accounting software packages, word processing, the TMP (Total Management Planning) family of integrated spread sheet and data base management software as well as a library of application software such as medical office and CPA packages. The VAR/68 is available with a 2-4 week delivery time at end-user prices starting at \$4,325 with dual floppies, up to \$10,585 with a floppy and dual 20Mb Winchesters.

Documentation has also been taken to a higher level with both Audio and Video Cassette learning tapes. With this "New Tech" form of operator training the transition of putting the new system "on-line" becomes much faster and easier.

For further information, contact Don Simonsen at Smoke Signal, (213) 889-9340, or write Smoke Signal at 31336 Via Colinas, Westlake Village, CA 91362.

---

GIMIX, Inc.  
1337 W. 37th Place  
Chicago, IL 60609

Announcing a NEW Super High Performance  
Winchester Disk

3 to 4 Times Faster Access Than Current  
Hard Discs plus 2-1/2 Times More  
Storage Capacity

GIMIX proudly announces their new 47  
Megabyte 5.25" Winchester drives.  
Designed to complement both their GMX  
III system as well as their previous  
computers, the new 47 Megabyte drive  
will sell for only \$2200 more than  
GIMIX's previously available 19  
Megabyte Hard Drive.

---

GIMIX recently announced that their  
intelligent I/O processors (IOPs),  
currently available only for their GMX  
III computer, will soon be available  
for Level II systems. The IOP's  
software includes routines for  
controlling an "intelligent" modem for  
both auto answer and auto dial.  
Possibilities for such a system are  
endless and include things such as  
automated remote order entry. Prices to  
be announced.

GIMIX Inc  
1337 West 37th Place  
Chicago, IL 60609

---

Radio Shack Introduces  
10 New Multi-User Programs

For Office Applications  
On TRS-XENIX

Ten new computer programs specially  
designed for multi-user TRS-XENIX

systems are now available at Radio  
Shack computer centers and  
participating Radio Shack stores and  
dealers. Radio Shack is a division of  
Tandy Corporation.

GENERAL LEDGER (26-6201), offered for  
\$599, is a "total" system that will  
interact with the Radio Shack Accounts  
Payable, Accounts Receivable and  
Payroll program.

GENERAL LEDGER is suitable for all  
types of businesses, including service  
firms, merchandising or manufacturing  
firms. The user may define and print a  
variety of financial statements,  
including a balance sheet (with or  
without last year's comparative  
figures), an income statement (for one  
or all profit centers or departments,  
and with or without budget or  
comparative figures), cash flow,  
statement of changes in financial  
position and analysis of working  
capital.

PAYROLL (26-6203) is a complete system  
that calculates and prints checks and  
distributes to General Ledger accounts.  
It is offered for \$699.

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE (26-6204) is an  
open item and/or balance forward system  
that will interface with the General  
Ledger, Order Entry/Inventory Control  
and Sales Analysis programs. Accounts  
Receivable automatically calculates  
sales tax, late charges, due date of  
invoice, discount date and amount. It  
is offered for \$599.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (26-6205), offered for  
\$599, is an accrual system that will  
interface with General Ledger. It  
automatically calculates discount date  
and amount, prints aged open item  
reports and allows full or partial  
payment of invoices.

---

Both single-pass invoicing and two-pass open order entry with separate billing is easily accomplished with Order Entry/Inventory Control (26-6207), available for \$599. It calculates sales tax and commissions and prints invoices, purchase advice reports, back order reports, picking tickets and more.

ORDER ENTRY/INVENTORY CONTROL requires and interacts with the Radio Shack Accounts Receivable program. It requires three disk drives or hard disk.

SALES ANALYSIS (26-6208), available for \$399, allows examination of sales information with data obtained from customers' accounts receivable files or the item files of Order Entry/Inventory Control. It requires three disk drives or hard disk.

MULTIPLAN (26-6480), offered for \$349, is a second generation spreadsheet analysis program that can display multiple data windows on the screen simultaneously.

High level implementation of ANSI-74 COBOL standard can be accomplished with COBOL Development System (26-6455), available for \$699.

BASIC INTERPRETER (26-6457), offered for \$299, allows developing applications in the BASIC language.

Development of multi-user software is possible with TRS-XENIX Development System (26-6401), available for \$750. The software package includes a "C" language compiler, communications, text processing and electronic mail.

---

Tandy Corporation Introduces  
Videotex and Office Information System

(VIS)

A New Microcomputer Information Storage, Retrieval and Distribution System

Videotex and Office Information System (VIS) is a new information storage, retrieval and distribution system from Tandy Corporation. A hardware and software package, VIS is designed to allow quick and easy access to large data bases stored in the desktop TRS-80 Model 16B Computer.

VIS is a two-way interactive system that transmits information electronically. Any terminal or computer with terminal capability may be used to receive and display text and, if compatible, graphics and computer programs.

VIS offers state of the art technology at prices that are a fraction of the cost of comparable systems. Some features, such as multiple keyword/synonym access, are not available on any other system.

Data is established and organized by the information providers who define their user population, sell or provide information and information updates, and establish any security access rules. A system operator maintains the computer hardware and VIS software for either one or more information providers.

As a private internal videotex system, VIS can meet the requirements of an information storage and delivery system within a company's internal operations, including daily schedules, policy files or as a bulletin board.

Using a computer in an office or a portable terminal from thousands of miles away, for example, VIS could

---

allow checking of factory orders against usable inventory, corporate sales figures and production capacity, client or patient reports.

As a mass market system, VIS can be used as a "public" data base in which paid subscribers are allowed access to data such as news, weather and stock reports. Airline schedules, real estate multiple listing directories and credit bureau information are just a few of the many services possible with VIS.

A user may request a unit of information, called a "document", by entering the title, or by using one or more "keywords", words used as a cross-reference. VIS is so user-friendly it will accept misspelled words or retrieve alternatives based on phonetic similarities.

Since a user requesting information on two topics could possibly receive more information than needed, VIS features logical operators (and, or, exclusive or) to permit the user to target in on the exact documents required.

Information can also be accessed from "menus", a "user-friendly" operation for those who have little or no experience with data base systems.

All that is required to set up a basic VIS system is a two-disk TRS-80 Model 16B with 384K RAM, a 12-megabyte hard disk system, two modems and VIS software. This system can handle up to 200 incoming calls a day, assuming each call averages between five and 10 minutes each over a 24-hour period.

From this basic configuration, a system can expand as necessary. Ultimately, the system operator can provide service to as many as 256 information providers per system. Additional hard disks can be added until the system could store

all the information contained in a complete set of encyclopedias. ASCII text is compressed before being stored on disk so that Radio Shack's 12-megabyte hard disk systems can effectively store 15 megabytes of text.

The VIS software was developed in highly modular form in the "C" programming language, and features an advanced back-up and recovery system. It is designed to be a continuously evolving product, with software enhancements made available to all system operators.

VIS operates with the TRS-80 Communications Multiplexor, for internal or external videotex systems. An eight-port version accepts eight incoming phone lines, while a 16-port version can service up to 16 users simultaneously.

VIS is compatible with virtually all TRS-80 desktop computers equipped with a 300-baud modem. Users may also utilize the TRS-80 Model 100 portable computer with built-in modem or a communications terminal.

The full VIS application software package is offered for a one-time \$3,500 license fee. An additional \$1,000 is charged for a multiplexor software support module, a device that acts as an "electronic funnel", assembling several information requests coming into the VIS host computer at one time.

For more information contact:

Radio Shack Videotex Department  
1700 One Tandy Center  
Fort Worth, TX 76102  
(817) 390-2642

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Radio Shack TRS-80  
Model 16B Computer

Features 256K Memory and TRS-XENIX  
Multi-User Operating System

The new top of the line TRS-80 Model 16B Computer from Tandy Corporation / Radio Shack offers superior performance in a compact desktop system. Now including additional memory and easy user expansion, the Model 16B also comes with the TRS-XENIX multi-user operating system.

Single and dual floppy disk drive versions of the Model 16B desktop computer are offered. Each built-in slim-line 8-inch floppy disk drive given 1.25 megabytes of storage.

The single drive version of the Model 16B (26-6004) is \$4,999, and the two disk version (26-6005) is \$5,798. Both versions have 256K bytes of internal memory, expandable to 768K in 128K steps. They are available through the more than 400 Radio Shack Computer Centers and participating Radio Shack stores and dealers nationwide.

The Model 16B's dual-processor design features Z-80A and state of the art MC68000 16 / 32-bit microprocessors to permit the high operating speeds and large memory capacity required by many business users.

For greater expandability, the Model 16B features a built in, user accessible card cage. Four plug in expansion slots easily allow addition of a hard disc, additional memory or high resolution graphics.

Other features of the Model 16B are a high resolution 12 inch green video display, a detachable keyboard with a numeric datapad, two RS-232C serial interfaces and a parallel printer

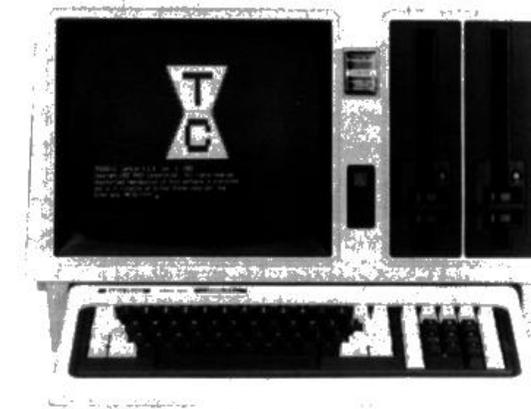
interface.

A Model 16B, two low-cost Radio Shack DT-1 data terminals (26-6050, \$699 each) and a hard disk drive are the only equipment needed for multi-user operation of the Model 16B.

The TRS-XENIX multi-user operating system increases office productivity at a substantial reduction of hardware costs. It allows up to three people to use the Model 16B simultaneously with no loss of performance. Some simultaneous operations may require a minimum of 384K memory.

Using the TRS-XENIX operating system, all data in the Model 16B can be stored on the hard disk. Files can be shared by all users in the system, or restricted to certain users only. Peripherals attached to the Model 16B, such as printers, plotters and modems, can be shared by all system users for maximum savings.

TRS\_XENIX is supported by a variety of multi-user software. Model 16B can also run all TRS-80 Model II and Model 12 programs (single-user only).



---

Conway Publications, Inc.  
Peachtree Air Terminal  
1954 Airport Road  
Atlanta, GA 30341

New On SITENET  
A Free On-Line Global Data Base

The new global study, now accessible free of charge through Conway's on-line SITENET data base, identifies some 150 major projects which typically involve investments of \$500 million or more, or which have global significance in terms of economic development.

Of the 150 "super projects" compiled and added to his SITENET data base, Conway has visited more than 70 of the sites.

The well-known development engineer and electronic publisher names these 10 projects as the most significant:

- 1) The Siberia Ob-Pechora Water Project Proposal;
- 2) The North America Grand Canal Plan;
- 3) The Atlantic iceberg towing venture;
- 4) The Netherlands Delta Plan;
- 5) The SASOL Synthetic fuels complex in South Africa;
- 6) JUBAIL, the port and industrial complex in Saudia Arabia;
- 7) The Seikan Tunnel in Japan;
- 8) The Beijing tunnels;
- 9) JARI, the former Ludwig Amazon Project;
- 10) Tokamak, the Princeton fusion facility.

Conway explained the significance of the new SUPERPRO data file and his "top ten" list in an article written for Industrial Development magazine's elite readership of corporate real state executives and economic development officials.

"Clearly, there are times when men

gather themselves to build great and extraordinary things. Today, the world may be on the threshold of another era of great developments," explained Conway, who has been gathering data on development projects for 30 years.

Several factors seem to be combining to favor the development of "super projects", Conway noted. Among them are urgent need, advanced technology and recently acquired environmental wisdom.

The first three projects on Conway's "top ten" list deal with redistribution of the fresh water supply from Arctic or Antarctic regions to arid lands.

"Unless there is a dramatic development in reducing the cost of desalting seawater, some such redeployment of resources will be essential in feeding the world's population in the next century," Conway said.

The Netherlands Delta Plan, item four of Conway's "top ten", is both a striking model for land reclamation and protection and significant lesson in energy recovery.

SASOL in South Africa may well be a prototype for coal utilization in many oil-hungry nations. Saudi Arabia's JUBAIL will provide data on the feasibility of creating new industrial centers.

Japan's Seikan tunnel will be studied in relation to many gaps in the world's transport system, such as the England-France Channel and the Gibraltar Crossing.

The Beijing tunnels, originally developed as a means of affording the world's urban populations some protection from attack, may provide new ideas for conservation.

---

JARI, the former Ludwig Amazon Project, already has produced such new concepts as the floating industrial plant. Princeton's Tokamak fusion facility holds the hope of a new and abundant source of energy.

**"SUPERPRO" AVAILABLE ON-LINE, FREE TO USERS WORLDWIDE**

Computer users in over 152 U.S. cities may scan the SUPERPRO file, or any of SITENET's other files, free of charge.

By placing a telephone call to any node on the global network, users may scroll through extensive files of industrial location data, economic development incentives and contacts, and site selection criteria.

SITENET's file of "super projects" is the first in a series of ongoing additions to the growing data base, which began operating around the clock on June 1 of this year. Conway Data, Inc., the publishing and consulting company which operates SITENET, currently is transferring data contained in its books, periodicals and microfiche onto electronic retrieval system.

Like the new file of "super projects", the rest of SITENET's data files pertain to economic development worldwide. Included are a broad range of topics related to quality of life factors, disaster risks, demographic data and government incentive programs for industrial growth and economic expansion.

The unique free data base offers a mix of files which are of interest both to the general public and to Conway Data's primary audience of corporate real estate executives, facility planners and area development professionals.

Consisting of data developed in more than a quarter-century of research, consulting and publishing, SITENET offers instantaneous electronic access to Conway's global data base.

To view a directory of local SITENET telephone numbers or a complete menu of network data files, the user simply sets his telephone modem at 300 baud, full duplex, eight bit, no parity. By placing a long distance call to (404) 252-0999, the user hears a high-pitched tone and is then ready to connect his modem and log onto SITENET.

After connecting the modem, the screen will display an upper-case "L" and a question mark. The user enters a carriage return, a period and a second carriage return, with no spaces. A network welcome message will appear, at which time the user enters the letters SIT, followed by a carriage return.

By following on-screen instructions to request the SITENET Index file (IND), the user may find the local network telephone number and place all future calls free of long distance charge. Users who experience problems in logging onto SITENET may call the network's technical support staff at (404) 458-6026.

**For Further Information Contact:**

Ken Kimsey, Coordinator of Marketing Services, Conway Data, Inc., 1954 Airport Road NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30341-4996, USA. Telephone: (404) 458-6026. Telex: 80-4468ATL.

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To have your announcement appear in this column send copy to:  
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