June 17, 1993

Dear OS-9 Users Group member,

I have been on the inside of the OS-9 Users Group for only two months. In that time I've found several hundred people starved for OS-9 information and a handful of people struggling against each other to get a piece of that action. This small group is on the commercial networks, Delphi in particular. Because of the all embracing, super fast networks this small group has a greater impact than their numbers would suggest.

Considering the half hearted actions of the UG (OS-9 Users Group) during the years past, I should not have been surprised to find such a state of affairs, but I was. As the number of OS-9 personal users decrease I expected the remaining leaders to pull together. I was wrong.

Due to the fracturing of the UG caused by of the following points, and the decreased need of the UG (more on that below) I have concluded the UG should be dissolved. Still, if after reading this letter there are four volunteers that can show desire and expertise to manage the UG, I will consider turning the UG over to them. If *you* feel qualified and want to take the time to do a good job please let me know.

The unusual points these volunteers must contend with are:

- Microware, the owner and seller of OS-9 in all its forms, though a large company does not encourage the personal use of OS-9. Any new UG management will get only limited support from Microware for the personal user.

- Many OS-9 leaders seem to be determined to fracture the community into small groups. By way of one example, three more "one man" magazines that contain OS-9 material have been started in the last two months. That means neither of them will have enough subscribers to make the profit worth the effort. And if you think about it, unless the few quality OS-9 authors write for all the magazines, the content of all the magazines will be below average. To top it all off, the advertiser's cost will be triple. You can be sure that cost will be passed on to the community.

Any new UG management must contend with its already small resources farther depleted by this fracturing.

- The community leaders have stated in very strong terms that since Microware has chosen to concentrate their sells energy on commercial users, it is the main function of the UG to sell OS-9 to the personal user. I feel the main function of the UG is to assist the users and programmer already involved with OS-9. Of course the financial resources are limited, and as such any new UG management must chose between using the UG member funds to sell OS-9 or give the members quality service.

- The past UG President and UG resurrector tells me he wants to write for one of the new magazines noted above. That makes me feel like he thinks his organization isn't worth his effort. As such, I can't disagree with him.

In the normal work place people are hired to get the business of company done. The UG cannot afford to hire anyone. Even the President serves with no compensation. Normal expenses are paid by the UG, but things like the travel, meals and lodging for the Chicago-fest are not. The

President is but one person. I appealed to the OS-9 "movers and shakers" on Delphi to band together. They rejected that out of hand. As a result, the small number of OS-9 vendors and users are subdivided, leaving little more than crumbs for each.

The industrial OS-9 user sees this conflict and runs in the opposite direction as quickly and far as possible.

In addition, there are many OS-9 user groups, both in this country and world wide. It would be great if these groups could cooperate. There is a positive beginning toward that end, but the progress is slow. Presently the many groups produce additional splintering, which in turn reduces the effectiveness of any one of them.

Considering all, it is my opinion any money spent by an individual on the traditional user's group is wasted money. For those that want OS-9 information and comradeship I suggest membership on one of the networks. I expect Delphi, 800/544-4005 or 617/491-3393, would be the best for non-industrail users, while Internet might be the best for the industrial user. (Internet can be accessed through Delphi and many other places.) Also, Delphi has a very large OS-9 library, maybe the best in the country. It contains modules, applications and OS patches.

To access these networks a "Terminal" (Tele-communications) program and a modem are needed. Presently the Delphi cost is 20 hours per month for $20, $240 per year; 20 hours are plenty. This includes the use of one of the national data telephone networks to access Delphi. These network services, such as Tymenet and Telenet, make the call to Delphi a local call. If $240/year is too much for your budget then band with other OS-9 users in your area. If you would like a list of UG members in your area let me know . I'll try to match you with others that live nearby.

Telephone toll free access to Delphi via cities with Tymnet and Telenet nodes can be arranged through Delphi, phone 800/336-0149.

To help ease the transition from the UG, if either Tymnet or Telenet is not a local call for you and you would still like to be on Delphi, I may be able to help; continental USA only. Please write to me at the address below. Remember this offer is good only for those that cannot access Delphi via a local phone call via the phone networks.

Jim DeStafeno
RD 1 Box 375
Wyoming DE 19934

Also, I expect there are those that would prefer to subscribe to a magazine. Of the three new publications I feel *the world of 68 micros* will meet the needs of most UG members and will still be in business this time next year. It will be published every 8 weeks at $23/year by:

Francis G. Swygert
FARNA Systems
PO Box 321
Warner Robins GA 31099-321

Frank demonstrates the entrepreneurship, common sense, and apparent tenancity necessary to overcome the odds.

So unless we can find four new officers, the UG will be dissolved and the remaining membership fees will be returned. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Jim DeStafeno, Pres.
OS-9 Users Group