--- RICKEYTERM 2.0 USER'S GUIDE ---

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If, after using this product, you find that you are possessed with a burning urge to compensate me for my efforts, go ahead and send a few bucks my way.

If you're feeling especially generous, try sending me $10.00. I'll send you a disk with Rickeyterm on it, and a nice printed copy of this User's Guide.

If enough of you do this, I'll be able to take my wife out to dinner once in a while. We'll find a nice local eatery, clink glasses together and say, "Here's to good ol' John Lestraud in Pine Forks, Colorado", or whatever.

And if you download Rickeyterm and don't feel like paying anything, well gee, don't feel guilty; I'm sure my wife and two kids (with one more on the way) will understand.

My address is:

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Those wishing to post Rickeyterm on other BBS's or computer services may do so providing that no copyright messages are removed and that this doc file, WITH NO CHANGES, is posted with it.

If you have problems with the unrepentant use of numerous references to Delphi in this document, you may precede the file with an expanation that it was originally posted on Delphi, and that's why "Delphi" is referenced five bzillion times. But the rest of the doc file should be as it appears here.

If you do post Rickeyterm on another BBS or computer service, you might, as a courtesy, also notify me. It would give me pleasure to see to what extent my creation is spreading.

DESCRIPTION:

Rickeyterm (apologies to Mike Ward) is a basic data communications
package that runs on the Tandy Color Computer 3. A Color Computer 3,

a disk drive, and a modem are required to run Rickeyterm. A printer,
a Deluxe RS232 Pak, and a color monitor would be very useful, but are
not essential.

Rickeyterm enables the user to communicate with another computer via
modem, and to perform uploading and downloading using either straight
ASCII or XMODEM protocols.

Users with a monochrome or color monitor may use Rickeyterm's
80-column mode. Others may use Rickeyterm's 40-column mode.

Rickeyterm's one unusual feature is that it supports the sending of
"macros", or predefined sequences of text. These macros may be read
into the buffer from disk, and then referred to, and transmitted, by
name.

PROGRAMS:

To use Rickeyterm download the following programs:

        RTERM.DOC   Rickeyterm User's Guide
        RTERM.BAS   BASIC loader
        RTERM.BIN   Machine language portion

BASIC LOADER

The BASIC portion of Rickeyterm sets up various parameters, loads the
machine language portion of Rickeyterm, and then starts it up.

Take a look at the BASIC program to see which parameters it sets up.
The comments make things fairly clear. The foreground and background
color parameters are especially fun to tinker with.

There are two baudrate settings set up by the BASIC loader program,
BAUD and BBAUD. BAUD sets up the baud rate for communication using
the RS232 Pak, if it exists. BBAUD sets the "bitbanger" baudrate for
the serial port at the back of your Color Computer 3. If you have an
RS232 Pak, set BBAUD to reflect the baudrate of your printer.

The setting of a user-definable step rate for your disk drive(s) is
supported. All drives will work fine with a 30 ms. step rate. Most

newer disk drives will work at faster step rates, with 6 ms. being the fastest possible.

NOTE:

Numerous references to DELPHI are made in this document, due to the fact that Rickeyterm was originally uploaded to that service. Rickeyterm's author "hangs out" regularly on Delphi in the CoCo and OS-9 SIGs under the username RICKADAMS. If you happen to run across Rick on Delphi, be sure to say "hi!"

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RICKEYTERM COMMANDS:

To invoke one of Rickeyterm's commands, press the ALT key and keep it depressed while typing one of the following letters:

H - Help

This command displays a list of Rickeyterm commands.

C - Conference mode on/off

Use this command to enter or to exit conference mode. In conference mode, an inverse video line will appear at the top of the screen. All keyboard input while in conference mode will appear inside this inverse video line. Input will also be displayed in the normal screen, unless Delphi's "/noecho" conference command is used.

This mode is useful in Delphi conference when it may be otherwise difficult to see what you are typing due to messages from other users becoming interspersed with your input.

U - XMODEM upload from buffer

This commands starts an XMODEM protocol transmission from your buffer to your workspace on Delphi. Start the XMODEM upload sequence on Delphi first, via the workspace "xup" command, then use the ALT-U command to start Rickeyterm's transfer of information from your buffer to Delphi.

If, for some reason, you want to abort the upload sequence, press BREAK.

It is assumed that something useful has been loaded into the buffer before this command is executed.

D - XMODEM download into buffer

This command starts an XMODEM protocol receive into the buffer from Delphi. Start the XMODEM download sequence on Delphi first, via the workspace "xdown" command, then use the ALT-D command to start Rickeyterm's transfer of information from Delphi into your buffer.

After the information has been received, you may write it to disk.

You will need to go into your workspace on Delphi and use the SETTINGS command to change your line terminators to CR ONLY. Otherwise your text downloads from Delphi will appear to be doublespaced, or sometimes have a strange character at the beginning of each line.

Press BREAK if, for some reason, you would like to abort the download sequence.

R - Read buffer from disk

When this command is executed, Rickeyterm will ask for the filename of the file from which the contents of the buffer are to be read. Enter the filename, with optional extension and drive specification.

The default file extension is .TXT, and the default drive is drive #0. The filename TEST.BIN:1, for example, would specify that the file TEST, with a file extension of .BIN, was to be read from drive #1.

The filename TEST would specify the file TEST.TXT was to be read from drive #0, since .TXT is the default extension and drive #0 is the default drive.

W - Write buffer/block to disk

To write the contents of the buffer to disk, use this command. Rickeyterm will ask for the filename of the file to which the current contents of the buffer are to be written. Filename defaults, and the specification of filename extension and disk drive, are specified as for the ALT-R (read buffer from disk) command.

If a block is currently marked in the buffer (see the ALT-M command), that block will be written. Otherwise, the entire contents of the buffer will be sent.

B - Transmit buffer/block

This command transmits the contents of the buffer to the computer you are communicating with. This command can be used to perform straight ASCII transfers. This is the most straightforward way to transfer ASCII text when the phone line is not introducing any noise, and the transfer is relatively short.

If a block is currently marked in the buffer (see the ALT-M command), that block will be sent. Otherwise, the entire contents of the buffer will be sent.

The BREAK key may be used to interrupt the transmission, if desired.

O - Open/close buffer

The first time this command is used, the buffer will be "opened". This means that all data received will be appended to the buffer. The message BUFFER OPEN is displayed. Also, the cursor will change from a blinking underline to a blinking solid block to remind you that your buffer is open and capturing your session on the remote computer.

If the buffer becomes full, the cursor will change back to an underline, and the buffer will be closed.

The second time this command is entered, the buffer will be closed. Data from the remote system will no longer be "captured" in the buffer, and the contents of the buffer will be available for writing to disk, etc. At this time, the message BUFFER CLOSED is displayed.

Further use of this command will "toggle" back and forth between BUFFER OPEN and BUFFER CLOSED.

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S - Send macro

To send one of your "macros" to Delphi, as found in the buffer, use this command. Rickeyterm will ask you for the name of the macro, and then send it. Use BREAK to abort the sending of the macro, if desired. The subject of macros is covered in detail later in this user guide.

P - Print buffer/block

This command causes your printer (if you have one) to begin printing the current contents of your buffer. If a block is currently marked in the buffer (see the ALT-M command), that block will be printed. Otherwise, the entire contents of the buffer will be sent.

Pressing ALT-P again while the printer is active will abort printing, if desired.

L - List available macros

This command lists all available macros that may be found in the buffer.

F - List available files

This command will ask for a drive number. Enter the drive number of the disk drive for which you wish a list of available files, followed by a RETURN.

Z - Send line break

The ALT-Z command causes a true line break to be sent. The ALT-BREAK key sequence also invokes this command.

A line break is useful for those users accessing Delphi via TELENET. It performs the same function as control-O ("output off"), but is much faster.

Line break is sometimes used to perform some attention-getting function on other systems.

K - Kill buffer

This command clears the entire contents of the buffer. All previous contents of the buffer WILL BE LOST if this command is entered. The words "BUFFER CLEARED" are displayed.

V - Enter buffer view mode

Upon entering buffer view mode, the screen splits into an upper and a lower window.

Communications continues normally in the lower window, while the upper window displays the contents of the buffer.

The up and down arrows may be used at this point to scroll up and down in the buffer in the upper window. Alphabetic keys, etc, may at

the same time be used to communicate in the lower window.

Shift down-arrow and shift up-arrow may be used to scroll up and down in the buffer a screen at a time. This provides quick scrolling through the buffer display.

The ALT-M command can be used to mark the beginning and the end of a

"buffer block". The ALT-W and ALT-B commands ("write buffer to disk" and "send buffer") will transfer this buffer block, if it is currently "marked".

To exit buffer view mode, press ALT-V again.

M - Mark beginning/end of buffer block

This command only works while "buffer view mode" is active. Position the buffer display in the upper window so that the first line in the block to be transferred is the first line of the display.

Then press ALT-M to mark the beginning of the block.

Next, position the buffer display in the upper window so that the first line to be EXCLUDED from the block to be transferred is the first line of the display.

Then press ALT-M to mark the end of the block.

To mark a different block, repeat this sequence. To erase the marks, press ALT-M twice, or exit buffer view mode.

E - Enter buffer entry mode

Entering buffer entry mode causes the screen to split into an upper and a lower window, similar to the effect of the ALT-V (buffer view mode) command.

However, entering buffer entry mode CLEARS the buffer, and all subsequent keyboard input is appended to the buffer display in the upper window.

Use the left-arrow key to backspace. You can use this key to backspace to the left of the left margin, thus accessing the previous line(s), if desired.

When you have entered the message that you want to send, use either the ALT-B command to send the contents of the buffer, or hit the BREAK key.

If the BREAK key is pressed while in buffer entry mode, the contents of the buffer will be sent, and then the buffer will be cleared. You may then enter another message.

To exit buffer entry mode, press ALT-E again.

Q - Quit Rickeyterm

This command causes Rickeyterm to exit to Disk Extended Color BASIC. It does not hang up your modem (disconnect). Any contents of the

buffer, unless previously written to disk, will be lost.

"MACROS"

Macros are "marked" in the buffer by a line that begins with an ampersand ("&").

Examine the following sample macro file, for example:


```
&TELENET
AT DT 555 1234
&LAUGHTER
Ha * Ha * Ha * Ha * Ha!!!!!
&EMERGENCY
Sorry, due to an emergency,
I have left my terminal for
a while.  I will very likely
be back within five minutes.
```


The first macro, named TELENET, would be used to dial your local telenet number on a Hayes-compatible modem.

Sending the macro LAUGHTER would be one way to signify that you were amused by something while on Delphi conference.

The EMERGENCY macro would also be useful on Delphi conference, for those occasions where you have to leave the room suddenly.

You get the idea. If you use the ALT-S command to send a macro, Rickeyterm asks you for the name of the macro, and then searches the buffer for a line that consists of an ampersand, the macro name, and a RETURN. If Rickeyterm finds such a line, it sends all of the text that follows, until it finds either the end of the buffer or another line beginning with an ampersand.

Macro names must be entirely in uppercase.

QUICK-MACROS

There are ten special macro names that may be used to send macros with a minimum of keystrokes. The macros named &0 through &9 are automatically sent whenever the commands ALT-0 through ALT-9 are entered. If a frequently used macro was defined in the macro file as &3, for example, it could be sent with an ALT-3 command.

USE OF JOYSTICK BUTTON

The keyboard driver is set in such a way that the "at" key, and the right joystick button, cause a RETURN to be sent. (To get an "at" sign, hit SHIFT-"AT".) When scrolling through Delphi forum messages,

some people like to lean back in their chair with their joystick in
their lap, so they may simply tap the joystick button whenever they
want to bring up the next forum message. This is the ultimate in

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"mellow" behavior -- but, then again, the author of Rickeyterm DOES
live in California...

KEYBOARD DRIVER

The keyboard driver supports upper- and lower-case characters, and
control characters. Typeahead and auto-repeat are also supported.

The BREAK key generates an ESCape. Shifted, it transmits a DEL
character. ALT-BREAK may be used to generate a "true line break" for
1/4 second.

Left and right brackets can be generated with shift 8 and shift 9.

An upbrace character is available via control 1. This character is
used as a "pipe" designator on UNIX systems. Other characters of
interest to users of UNIX systems are caret (control-7), tilde
(control-3) and backquote (control-2). Backquote displays as a
"degrees" symbol, due to the fact that there is no backquote
character built into the GIME chip character set.

Left and right curly brace are typed with control "<" and control
">."

Backslash is generated with a control /.

Underscore is available via control-dash.

"MACROS" AND SIG ETIQUETTE

After you master the concept of macros, you can become a real party
animal on Delphi conference. Elaborate sequences for laughter,
disapproval, delight, surprise, and so forth, can be developed and
then "zapped" out quickly. Some people like to use this feature to
draw simple ASCII "pictures".

Don't go so hog-wild that you inadvertently act rude, however. Long
ASCII sequences take time to scroll by everyone's terminal, and some
people (especially those at 300 baud) resent paying for the connect
time that it takes your creations to scroll past. So try to keep the
sequences short, and use them sparingly.

(A special note: many people who log onto Delphi from Japan are
charged network fees based on the number of RETURNs they receive, so

they in particular have reason to flee when a mad "macroer" gets out of hand on Delphi conference!)

If you keep a file full of interesting macros for use on Delphi conference, try to maintain the file and constantly change it. Otherwise people will get bored because they've already seen each of your macros fifteen times. Strive for constant variety.

Finally, bear in mind that not everybody has an 80-column display, and that the ASCII picture that looks so neat on your 80-column display will very likely look like total gibberish to someone using a 32-column display.

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Some characters look different on differing displays, as well. The use of a lower case "l" to provide a vertical bar will look pretty strange on a upper-case only terminal, for example.

Other characters with this problem are upbrace, caret, and underscore.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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