<u>**Micro-Systems Software NewsFront for July, 1984**</u>

*** Introduction ***

Welcome to NewsFront! This is the first issue of our new
newsletter, and I hope you like what you see. While not as
ambitious a project as the DOSPLUS NEWS INFORMATION CENTER, it is
a more financially feasible and easily produced one. Hopefully,
we will be able to provide you with the same high quality news
about MSS and its products and tips on using your existing
software.

From time to time, we will feature guest articles from people
within MSS and also from the local computer community. If you
would like to submit some material to NewsFront, feel free.
Please send an IBM PC or TRS-80 formatted diskette containing an
ASCII file of the material to us here at Micro-Systems. We cannot
pay for the articles or promise the return of unsolicited
materials, but we will give you a "byline" and promise to give
you a forum for sharing your knowledge with your fellow users.

The general layout of the newsletter will be an informal,
bulletin style. As much as possible, we will keep material short
(less than one page), and we will keep the entire newsletter to
less than 10 pages (6-8 pages, most times). This is not because
we have little to say, but rather to allow us to cover a broad
range of topics in what space we have.

*** New software releases ***

This summer, MSS plans to release some exciting new packages for
the IBM Personal Computer and its compatibles. We will say more
about this later, and even have a questionnaire where you can let
us know what features and functions you would like to see (before
the package is finished and it is too late to add more to it).

There are several programs that we have currently on the market
that you may not be aware of. Among these are MTERM 1.5, MSCRIPT,
and BBS-80.

MTERM 1.5 is a special version of our smart terminal program.
(What's that? You say you have NEVER heard of our terminal
program?) MTERM has been chosen as the "bundled" software for the
Anchor Automation modems, and has been licensed by such computer
manufacturers as Epson, Panasonic, and Corona.

What's so special about MTERM 1.5? Well, first of all, the
program is written exclusively   for   the   Zenith   Z-100
microcomputers. It includes such features as:

    o Terminal emulation (Z-100, DEC compatible, escape codes).
    o XMODEM file transfer direct from the main menu.

- Increased size of phone numbers in dial menu (34 characters).
- Improved macrokeys (imbedded control codes and special characters).
- S-100 modem support.

MTERM 1.5 even supports the new U.S. Robotics S-100 internal 1200 bps modem. Not only is MTERM one of the finest terminal programs written, but it also supports the ultra-convenient U.S. Robotics internal modem.

With the Z-100 terminal escape codes, MTERM 1.5 is even better for linking to those mainframe computers. The popular XMODEM file transfer protocol allows you to send and receive files with complete error checking with the most common transfer protocol in all the world.

At $79.95, a good deal just became a great one!

Users of computers other than the Z-100, do not despair. An enhanced version of MTERM will appear soon for other machines. It will include all these functions and many more.

MSCRIPT is simple, yet powerful, word processor. With its clean , straight forward design, MSCRIPT should be the program of choice for the home or business application where you don't wish to spend more time learning to use the word processor than actually doing word processing.

All of the commands are organized in a logical manner, with the keystrokes required having a direct relationship to the command desired. For example, the command for text insertion is FUNCTION-I and the command for text deletion is FUNCTION-D. It makes remembering the commands much simpler. On the IBM PC, the special keys on the keyboard (INS, DEL, PG UP, PG DN, etc.) are implemented.

MSCRIPT includes full screen text editing with global operations and word wrap. The program includes all manner of justification schemes (right, left, center, flush right AND left), and generic printer support (no need for additional patches or drivers to run most printers).

As part of the M-WARE scheme, it is priced at only $79.95, any version. And there are versions currently available for the IBM PC and compatibles, the IBM PCjr, the Zenith Z-100, the TRS-80 Models I, II, III, 4, and 12, and the Epson QX-10. On machines that allow color, support is offered.

BBS-80 is our TRS-80 Model 1/111/4 (in the III mode) electronic bulletin board system. This program allows users with terminal programs and modems to call your computer and read or leave messages and up or download files. It is all that it takes to turn your TRS-80 into a communications forum.

Requirements are:

- A true auto-answer modem.
- A 48K TRS-80 Model I or 111/4.
- Two floppy drives (with double density). We recommend more.

The bulletin board features multi-level message bases and download, with each use being separately configured for their levels of system access. It also allows the SYSOP to control whether or not users are able to assign themselves memberships, or whether the SYSOP has to add them.

BBS-80 can be modified to operate at 1200 baud with only a few simple program line changes and a special cable from the modem to the computer. (For 1200 baud operation, we recommend the Hayes 1200 Smartmodem or compatible brands.)

But perhaps the best feature of BBS-80 is its self-maintaining operation level. The SYSOP never need "pack" messages or perform any other special functions. When a message is deleted, the space is reclaimed at once. Many BBS-80 SYSOPs operate their systems completely from remote locations (myself included).

If you would like to see the BBS-80 headquarters system, you may call (305) 686-3695 between 6pm and 9am EST. It is 300/1200 bps.

Editor's note: This article is aimed at the users of MTERM, our smart terminal program. While not having this program currently may make the information seem of little importance, I suggest that you archive it anyway. The information covered herein is in response to one of our most often asked questions. <MRL>

"Making the most of your macros"
by Mark Lautenschlager

Have you ever wished that you could press a key, any key, and send more than one--character? For example, if you are connected with another micro or terminal for a "chat", and that terminal requires linefeeds after carriage returns, wouldn't it be nice to be able to have MTERM send both when you press ENTER?

The capability of sending multiple characters with a single keystroke is not new at all. It is usually referred to as sending a "macrokey" (or "macro", for short). And those of you using MTERM are aware that the program already contains this ability. However, it requires that you restrict your macros to only certain special keystrokes. This article will discuss a method for overcoming that restriction.

First of all, you must understand how the macro structure of MTERM works. It is not at all required that the specific key be pressed, merely that the specific value be generated. With a standard, un-translated, keyboard setup, this means using the

3 -

function keys as defined in the MTERM manual. However, with a little judicious usage of the KI translation table, any keystroke can send a macrokey.

The following table lists, by computer, which codes engage the macrokey transmission.

Computer type	Code range (0-9)
IBM PC	BBH - C4H
TRS-80 Model III E0H	- E9H
TRS-80 Model 4	B0H - B9H
Zenith Z-100	96H - 9FH

Please note that on the IBM PC, the function keys are numbered from 1 to 10, to better correspond with the function key labels.

Now, let's assume that our example above (making ENTER send a carriage return AND a line feed) is to be accomplished. First of all, you will need to select the macrokey you wish to use for this and calculate which value will be required. For example, assume that you wish to use macrokey #2 on an IBM PC. Looking at the table, we see that the PC starts at BBH, and bearing in mind the fact that the keys are numbered 1 to 10, we see that the value for macrokey #2 will be BCH.

Step number two is to "program" this macrokey to hold whatever characters we wish to send. Sending a carriage return is easy; we just place a semi colon in the text. For a line feed, though, we will have to translate another character. For the sake of argument, let's say we choose a tilde (-). So, the text of the macrokey is   (or carriage return and soon-to-be line feed). On the KI translation table, tilde (7EH) will have to become line feed (0AH).

The final step is to make the actual link between the two. On the KI translation table, translate 0DH into BCH. When the ENTER key is pressed, macrokey #2 is transmitted, thus sending a carriage return followed by a line feed.

What other applications are there? Terminal emulation, for one. Some versions of MTERM support DEC VT-52 compatible video control codes. When emulating a VT-52, it-is-:necessary to send several codes when the arrow keys are pressed. For example, up-arrow should send an ESCAPE, followed by a [, followed by an A. With this technique, anything is now possible.

Limitations? Well, this will only work for keyboard output. You cannot link data being sent from the buffer into the macrokeys. Therefore, to have carriage return and line feed groupings in text files to be transmitted, they will have to be in the actual text file on the diskette.

But, imbedding line feeds after carriage returns in a text file is easy, especially for MSCRIPT users. How? Well, let's leave me SOMETHING for the next NewsFront, shall we?

Questionnaire: Design your own program

Micro-Systems Software is in the process of developing some new software for the IBM PC. This questionnaire is your chance to have input on the final feature list. If you take the time to respond, the answers you provide will be personally considered by the MSS software research and development team.

What functions would you utilize the majority of the time in multi-function integrated software?

What would you consider the minimum level of "hands off" operation for a program before it can call itself "automatic"?

Will it be a major advantage to you to have such a program operate in 128K of RAM, even if it means certain speed and capacity limitations may occur?

What would you consider a fair price to pay for a multi-function integrated package that fulfills 90% of all your computing requirements? (Answer for both 8-bit and 16-bit versions, bearing in mind that the 16-bit version will be slightly more elaborate).

If you would like to take this time to order either MSCRIPT or MTERM, you may simply check the box below. A salesperson will get in touch with you right away.

      [ ] **MTERM**   [ ] **MSCRIPT**

Customer Name
Address
City / State   Zip
Telephone (   )
Program Name   Machine Type
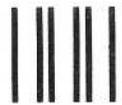MC/Visa #

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