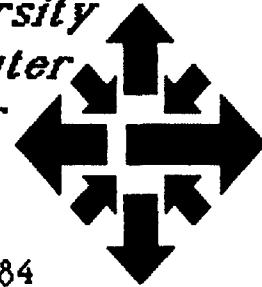


Microcomputer Newsletter

University
Computer
Center



Volume 1, Number 2
December, 1984

Copyright © 1984
University of Minnesota

New UCC Micro Software

In addition to providing before and after sale support for University Microcomputer users, the UCC Micro Group writes both custom and general-purpose software. We are proud to announce the release of new versions of our communications software for the Macintosh, IBM, Zenith, and Xerox micros.

COM version 4.0

COM is a communications program that can be used to transfer files to and from UCC mainframes. We have versions of COM for several microcomputers including the IBM-PC family, the Zenith Z-100 and Z-89, the Apple][, the Xerox 820, and the Terak 8510. Zenith Z-150 and Z-160 owners can use the IBM-PC version. The new release of COM only affects the IBM-PC (PC-DOS), Zenith Z-100 (Z-DOS and CP/M), Zenith Z-89 (CP/M) and the Xerox 820 (CP/M) versions. Currently, we do not have plans to put COM 4.0 on the Apple][or Terak 8510.

Differences between COM 4.0 and previous versions include:

- a record mode that can capture arbitrarily long files
- support for microcomputer to microcomputer text file transfer
- configuration settings that include parity, stop bits, and word length to support communications to non-UCC computers
- a totally rewritten manual
- support for the IBM-PC/AT

COM is available at the Williamson Hall Bookcenter's Electronics desk for \$50. If you have an old version of COM, you can get a free upgrade for one year from the date of purchase. Bring your original COM disk and your receipt to the Micro HelpLine during regular HelpLine hours for an upgrade.

Glass TTY version 1.0

Glass TTY is a communications program for the Macintosh which we have written and have placed in the public domain. You can get a copy of Glass TTY free if you bring a disk to the Micro HelpLine and copy our master disk. Since version 0.5 we have:

- added a primitive form of file transfer (you can copy text to and from the scrapbook)
- added vertical and horizontal scroll bars so you can view parts of your terminal session which do not fit in the window
- changed the dialing routine so you can edit the phone number

The Glass TTY disk includes an 11 page manual which is stored on the disk as MacWrite documents.

Discount Program News

This month the discount program news centers around printers and software. The Bookcenter now carries Epson printers, and has Apple's Pascal interpreter for the Macintosh in stock. Also available is SPSS for the IBM XT, as well as Microsoft BASIC version 2.0 for the Macintosh.

Printers

We have negotiated discounts on several Epson printers including the Epson FX-80, FX-100, and LQ-1500. The Epson FX-80 is a dot matrix printer with graphics capability. The FX-100 is basically an FX-80 with a wide carriage. Both the FX-80s and FX-100s available through the Bookcenter have Centronics style parallel interfaces, so you can use them with most computers that have a parallel printer port.

The new Epson LQ-1500 is also available. The LQ-1500 is a dot matrix printer that produces near letter-quality print. The LQ-1500 is available with either a parallel, RS-232 serial or IEEE-488 style interface. For those who like to see a product before they buy, we have an Epson FX-80 at the Micro HelpLine and should have an LQ-1500 by the time you read this. You can order Epson printers now at the Williamson Hall Bookcenter Electronics desk. The prices are:

FX-80	\$ 406.00
FX-100	\$ 593.00
LQ-1500 with RS-232 serial interface	\$ 1190.00
LQ-1500 with parallel interface for LQ-1500	\$ 1134.00
LQ-1500 with IEEE-488 interface	\$ 1190.00

Pascal for the Macintosh

We have had the release copy of Apple's Pascal for the Macintosh for about two weeks now, and it is a very impressive product. Macintosh Pascal is an interpreted Pascal, which allows you to step through execution of a program one statement at a time and examine the values of your variables. This can be nice for debugging programs.

This implementation of Pascal is fairly close to standard Pascal, with the usual extensions to the language common in microcomputer implementations. Extensions include strings, random file I/O, otherwise clauses in case statements, and a uses statement to include external libraries. For those of you who like floating point numbers, Macintosh Pascal uses the proposed IEEE standard, so you can use either 32 or 64-bit floating point numbers.

Macintosh Pascal is an excellent environment for both beginners and experienced Pascal programmers. You have access to all the Quickdraw routines in the Mac's ROM. If you know what you are doing, you can use any of the routines in the Mac's ROM from Macintosh Pascal. There are separate windows for the program, the graphics output, and the text output. As you type your program, it is automatically indented and Pascal keywords are highlighted. We have not had time to run any benchmarks yet, but execution speed seems to be more than adequate for most uses.

Pascal is available in two flavors at the Bookcenter. The economy-size package (\$33.00) consists of the User's Guide documentation and one copy protected disk. The other package costs \$80.00 and includes the User's Guide and Technical Reference manuals and two copy protected disks. The only difference between the packages is the manuals and the number of copies of the Pascal disk.

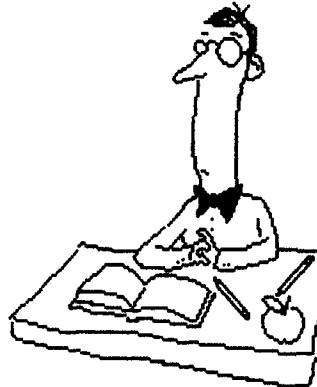
Microsoft BASIC version 2.0 for the Mac

Microsoft released BASIC version 2.0 for the Macintosh about three weeks ago. This is the version which is now being sold at the Bookcenter (price: \$78.00). Enhancements over the previous version of BASIC include labeled statements (instead of line numbers) and support for pull-down menus. Those who already own a copy of Microsoft BASIC can upgrade to version 2.0 for about \$50. Contact Microsoft directly if you need to upgrade to version 2.0.

SPSS/PC

SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) is a well-known statistics package which runs on large computers. Recently SPSS, Inc. introduced the SPSS/PC package. SPSS/PC is a subset of the mainframe version of SPSS, and runs on some of the IBM and compatible microcomputers. As we send this issue of the newsletter to the copier we have had SPSS/PC in our possession for two days. An evaluation will follow in a later issue. From a very superficial examination of the package we can tell you that you will need at least an IBM XT with 320K memory to run the package. An 8087 math coprocessor chip is strongly recommended. The SPSS/PC software comes on nine floppy disks. SPSS/PC is available through the Bookcenter for \$525.00 (list price: \$795.00). Our copy of SPSS/PC is available for inspection at the Micro HelpLine during regular HelpLine hours.

Ask DR. MICRO



For the second month in a row Dr Micro's *pick to click software hit* runs on a Macintosh. Last month it was Microsoft Chart. This month, Apple's Macintosh Pascal edged out Microsoft BASIC 2.0 because we think Pascal is a better programming language than BASIC and because you can buy the economy-size Pascal for about half of what BASIC costs. See the Discount Program News for details. Now for this month's most popular questions:

Q: I can't get MacWrite to print 10-point Geneva on the Imagewriter printer. It does seem to print 9-point Geneva. What's the problem?

A: When you tell MacWrite to print a document, you are given three options for print quality: high, standard, and draft-quality print. If you choose high or standard-quality print, what is printed on the Imagewriter is exactly what you see on the screen. The difference between standard and high quality print is that high quality print produces darker characters (and is slower) than standard quality.

If you choose draft-quality print, what you get may not bear much resemblance to what was on the screen. This happens because when you print in draft mode, the Mac uses the characters that are built into the printer, rather than the characters which you selected in MacWrite. This makes draft printing faster than standard or high-quality printing, but no matter which font you select in MacWrite, all draft-quality characters look the same on the printer. The characters built into the printer look very similar to 9-point Geneva, which makes it easy to get confused. This is why the printer seemed to print 9-point Geneva, but not 10-point Geneva. The moral of this story is: If you want to print exactly what you see on the screen, select standard or high-quality print.

Q: Why isn't the IBM PCjr one of the configurations available from IBM through the Microcomputer Discount Program?

A: Our agreement with IBM only allows the University to purchase four configurations. We decided not to include the PCjr as a configuration because the demand for the IBM PC, XT, and AT is much higher than the demand for the PCjr. If you are considering a PCjr we advise you to be very sure that the PCjr will be capable of doing what you ask of it. There are some features of the PCjr that you will want to think about:

The new keyboard is an improvement over the old keyboard, but it is still not as good as the IBM-PC keyboard. Some people find the tactile feel of the keyboard too mushy.

If you are planning to do serious work with a computer, it is nice to have two disk drives because it makes it much easier to make backup copies of floppy disks. You need backup disks in case the disk with some important information (like a paper that is due tomorrow) goes bad. But the PCjr comes with at most one disk drive and IBM does not make a second disk drive for the PCjr. So, if you want two disk drives, you will have to buy a non-IBM drive. Having a machine with non-IBM equipment can make getting service difficult.

The PCjr comes with 128K of memory. This is not enough memory to run many of the packages that were written for the IBM PC. For example, the disk version of Lotus 1-2-3, Symphony, and Framework will not run in 128K of memory. The trend in software is toward packages that use more memory. This means that you will need to buy the PCjr 128K Memory Expansion Attachment and the PCjr Power Expansion Attachment (to power the memory expansion) if you want to run these packages and many packages that will be available in the future.

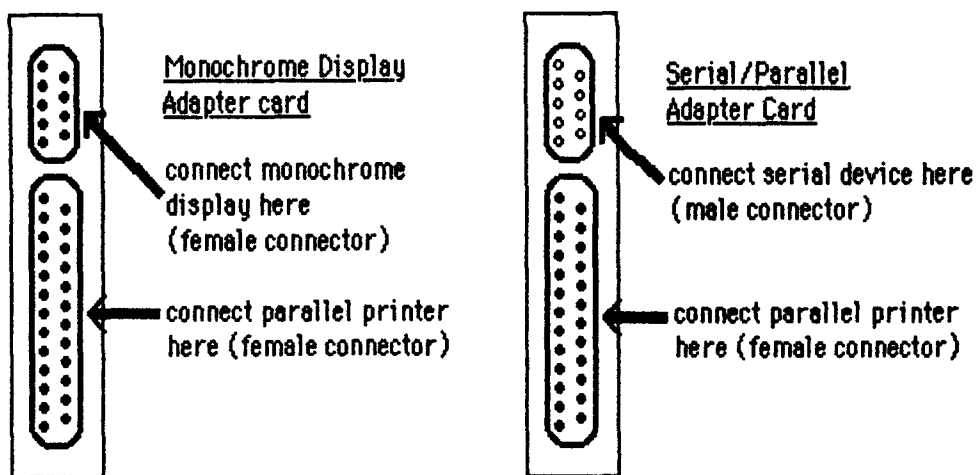
By the time you have purchased all the attachments, enhancements, and expansion options for the PCjr, the total price for the system will have crept close to that of the PC. It is our judgment that most people are better off with an IBM PC than a PCjr. Most people seem to agree since the demand for the IBM PC is much higher than it is for the PCjr.

Q: When can I come to the Micro HelpLine and make copies of your Multiplan, Chart, Pascal, BASIC, and other interesting software?

A: In general, you can't! We have copies of many of the popular packages in the Micro HelpLine, but these are for you to try in the lab (to determine if you want to buy the package). These packages are not in the lab for you to copy. There are a few clearly marked exceptions: the Glass TTY program for the Mac is a program that was written at UCC and we chose to make it a public-domain package. We also were given a public-domain demonstration disk for Hayden's MusicWorks program for the Macintosh. We have marked both these disks public-domain. You are free to copy public-domain disks. Copying software that is not in the public-domain is theft.

Q: I just got my IBM AT. The cable I used to connect my modem to my old PC doesn't seem to work on the AT. What's the problem?

A: The problem is that you are probably not connecting the modem to the serial port on the AT. On the IBM-PC the serial port is a 25-pin connector, but on the IBM AT the serial port is a 9-pin connector. On the AT, the serial port is on the same card as a parallel port and to make things even more confusing, the parallel port is a 25-pin connector which looks very similar to the old PC style 25-pin serial connector. Worse yet, the serial/parallel card on the AT looks very similar to the monochrome adapter card because both cards have one 9-pin and one 25-pin connector. The diagram on the next page should help you sort things out:



Since the serial port is a 9-pin connector and your cable has a 25-pin connector on it, you will need to buy some sort of adapter or cable to get from 9-pin to 25-pin. You can order the IBM-AT serial cable from the Bookcenter (part 6450217 for \$48.00). This cable has a 9-pin female end to connect to the AT and a 25-pin male connector to connect to your modem or modem cable.

Q: I have heard that the IBM AT is not completely compatible with the IBM PC. Which packages have you tested on the IBM PC/AT?

A: Here is a list of packages that either members of the Micro Group or people who have visited the Micro HelpLine have tested on the IBM AT:

packages which worked: Multiplan, WordProof, Symphony, dBase II, Personal Cobol, Star Index, Volkswriter Deluxe 2.0, RBase 4000 1.11, Turbo Pascal, Final Word 1.6, WordProof, MultiMate 3.2, WordPerfect, WordStar, MicroSoft Pascal, MicroSoft FORTRAN, MicroSoft COBOL, MicroSoft BASIC compiler.

packages which did not work: MultiList, MicroSoft Word, PowerBase, dBase III, WordMark 4.1.

Please note: Although the lists are correct at the time of this writing, new releases of software may change the status of a program. If you want to be absolutely sure about whether a package works, come to the Micro HelpLine and test it.

Q: How can I upgrade my Macintosh with 128K memory to 512K?

A: The first step is to order the 128K to 512K expansion (part M2515 for \$844) from the Bookcenter. Once you get the upgrade, which is a replacement of the Mac's CPU (Central Processing Unit) board, call UCC Engineering Services (376-1313) to make arrangements to have the upgrade installed in your Mac. Engineering Services will remove the 128K board in the Mac and replace it with the 512K board. Installing the upgrade won't cost you anything, because Engineering Services gets a credit from Apple for each 128K board they return.

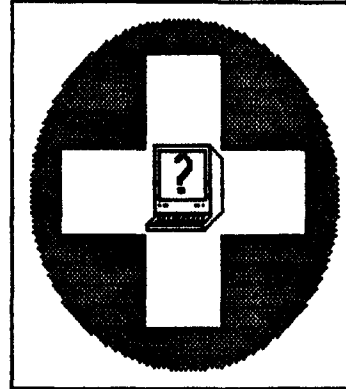
Q: Is the MacWrite upgrade announced in the November issue of MacWorld available yet?

A: At the time of this writing, we have not heard any official word from Apple about a new version of MacWrite or MacPaint. As soon as we do, we will let you know. MacWorld magazine is becoming notorious for pre-announcing software several months before the software is actually released. Oh, well... I guess you can't believe everything you read. We hope to have some official word about the new version of MacWrite by the end of December.

• Phone-in first aid for microcomputer users since 1980 •

Dr.
MICRO

376-4276 (dial DR MICRO)
125 Shepherd Labs
9:30-12:00, 1:30-4:00
Monday-Friday



If you are not now on our mailing list, complete the coupon below, and return it to us:

name: _____
address: _____

city, state, zip: _____
check one: <input type="checkbox"/> US Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Campus Mail

Microcomputer Newsletter
UCC Microcomputer Systems Group
227 Experimental Engineering
208 Union St. SE.
Minneapolis, MN 55455

University Archives
10 Walter Library