TANDY COMPUTER PRODUCTS

Dealer/Franchise

UPDATE

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** Internal Distribution Only **
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PRODUCT NEWS

The following information is provided by Technical Support, Computer Customer Service, and Computer Merchandising.

FINANCE MANAGER (25-1140) - AVAILABILITY STATUS

Finance Manager for the Tandy 1000 is now available from TEW. We previously indicated that Finance Manager had been cancelled (RSCC/PLUSCC 1985-18). However we have decided to offer both a low-end (Finance Manager) and high-end (Managing Your Money 25-1159, $199.95) personal finance package. Finance Manager is described in the Tandy 1000 Brochure (FC-0174), but it is not in the latest catalog (RSC-15). The suggested retail price is $99.95.

XENIX 2000 - CANCELLED

The ViaNet Brochure (FC-0186) indicates that there will be a Xenix 2000. After a thorough study, Computer Merchandising has decided not to develop Xenix for use with the Tandy 2000. All efforts in the development of this product have ceased.

EDUCATION

NETWORK 4 (26-2773) - SHARED LEARNING SYSTEM

The Tandy Network 4 system is a resource-sharing classroom network. A single twisted pair cable connects as many as 64 computers. Each computer must be equipped with a Network 4 communication board to operate as a station in the network. The Network 4 system enables every user station to perform like a stand-alone computer with floppy disk drives. All disk access is directed to storage areas on the network's hard disk. If a printer is attached, a station can print locally. Print output can also be spooled to a disk file. A spool file then can be printed at the host or at a station dedicated as a printer server.

Network 4 upgrade kits and a network version of TRSDOS 1.3 are currently available for Model III and Model 4 computers. Boards and network drivers are under development for the Color Computer (under OS-9) and for the Tandy 1000 (under MS-DOS 02.11.XX). These computers and Model III/4's will be able to operate at the same time as stations in one Network 4 system.

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NETWORK 4 (26-2773) - SHARED LEARNING SYSTEM (continued)

HOST & HARD DISK(S)
One station is connected to a hard disk and is dedicated as a master disk server, or host, for the other network stations. Disk servers are dedicated to this task, as opposed to user stations. To function as a disk server, a station must be able to connect to a hard disk. Disk or non-disk Model 4's can be upgraded with a master Upgrade Kit (26-1136, $299.95*plus $37.50 installation). Or, a non-disk Network 4 Student Station (26-1058, $1099)* can be modified with a special cable (part #AW-0010 from National Parts, $22.39*plus $15 installation).

The Network 4 Operating Software (26-2773, $230)* provides its own operating system that controls both the hard disk and network communications. A disk server will support the following primary hard disk drives: 5-meg (26-1130, discontinued), 15-meg (26-4155, $1595)*, or 35-meg (26-4171, $2995)*. Compatible secondary hard disk drives can also be installed. A disk server will also support a compatible parallel printer for file printing by the stations.

STATIONS
The Network 4 requires at least one disk-equipped station that can connect to a hard disk drive: a Model III or Model 4 upgraded with the Master Upgrade Kit. This computer connects directly to the hard disk to initialize it for network use (to format the hard disk and to install the Network 4 operating software). Then, after connecting the disk server to the hard disk and connecting all stations to the trunk cable, this computer will operate as a station in the network. All user software must be transferred from diskettes at a disk station to the hard disk, where it is stored for access by the stations.

Besides the master disk server and disk-equipped station described above, the Network 4 can support as many as 62 more stations. A non-disk Network 4 Student Station (26-1058, $1099)*is available. Model III/4 computers can be upgraded with the Student Station Upgrade Kit (26-1137, $299.95*plus $37.50 installation). Operation of more than 32 stations in the Network 4 system requires the addition of a line amplifier, called an Active Junction Box (26-1225, $299.95)*.

NETWORK CABLE
All network stations connect to one trunk cable. Student stations and upgraded Model III/4's can attach directly to the trunk cable at any location, at least six feet from another connection. The trunk cable is a small twisted-pair cable that is easy to install, unobtrusive, and inexpensive. Spools of trunk cable are available in the following lengths: 100-foot (26-1218, $16.95)*, 500-foot (26-1214, $69.95)*, and 1000-foot (26-1215, $119.95)*. The trunk cable carries all network communications at a speed approaching one million bits per second.

The trunk cable can extend up to 4000 feet with the addition of an active junction box per every 1000 feet of trunk cable. As an option, network stations can connect to the trunk cable by means of a tap box and tap cable. One end of a 15-foot Tap Cable (26-1217, $9.95)*attaches to the station and the other end plugs into any available Tap Box (26-1216, $9.95)*. Tap boxes snap onto the wires of the trunk cable at any location, at least six feet from a station or another tap box.

*Suggested Retail

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NETWORK 4 (26-2773) - SHARED LEARNING SYSTEM (continued)

NETWORK ACCESS & CONTROL

Each Network 4 system requires a competent system manager, a teacher or other staff member who is well-organized and is experienced with a disk operating system. This person determines how the network and its resources will be utilized. The system manager controls who can get into the network system and what these users can access. An easy-to-use, menu-driven utility program allows the system manager to provide the following information:

* A list of accounts. An account identifies a single user or a group of users who can log on to the network. Optionally, passwords can be added to limit access to the network.

* A list of volume information. Volumes are storage areas which are partitioned on the network's hard disk or disks. Each volume equals a floppy diskette of the same type (size, format, and directory). The volume table defines the name, type, and location of volumes.

* Access permission for each account. This information defines each account's ability to access the volumes that are stored on the network's hard disk(s). An account can have full access, read-only access, or no access to volumes.

* Station boot assignments. This configuration list defines the type or function of each station in the network system according to its network address. Each station has a unique number. This number is set on the network board when the computer is connected to the network cable. Then, when that station boots or starts up in the Network 4 system, it receives the appropriate operating system or information.

OPERATION

To boot or start up a Model III/4 station in the Network 4 system, the user simply holds down the computer's 4 key and presses its reset button. The Model III TRSDOS boot screen will appear with prompts for an account name and password. The user enters this information, and then receives the network version of the TRSDOS 1.3 operating system.

All commands and functions of TRSDOS 1.3 and Disk BASIC are implemented. Therefore, programs that run on a stand-alone Model III or Model 4 (in Model III mode) and that use standard, documented TRSDOS calls should work at a Model III/4 station. TRSDOS itself hasn't changed: it is still a single-user operating system, so it won't automatically lock volumes and files from multiple write attempts.

The user operates a Model III/4 station just like stand-alone Model III with four floppy disk drives. In fact, a copy of the Model III Disk System Owner's Manual is included with the Network 4 operating software package. A few simple commands are used to interact with the Network 4 operating system. For example, the command VOLDIR lists the names of the volumes that can be accessed by the current account. The SLOTS command displays the name of the current account and the names of the volumes that are ready for use in the four slots for that station. The slots are the network equivalent of disk drives. The MOUNT command is used to tell the network operating system to mount, or make available, a different volume in one of the slots.

As indicated by the name, "Grapevine", this section allows Customer Service Representatives to share information with each other. It is here you can communicate your latest findings and "bits of wisdom" to all CSR's. If you wish to contribute to the CSR Grapevine use the Submission Form attached to the last Update of each month. Please be sure to include your Name and Store Number.

NOTE: We attempt to separate fact from fiction but not being omniscient we may occasionally goof. If so, let us know about it. We'll gladly correct ourselves.

WARNING: The information contained in the CSR Grapevine is made available on an "as is" basis for the use of store personnel only. Much of the information will not be supported by Computer Customer Service and in no way shall Tandy Corporation be responsible for any problems caused by the use of this information.

All articles which do not include a by-line came from Computer Customer Service.

PFS:FILE (26-1518) - CONVERTING FILES TO SUPERSCRIPSIT (26-1595)

This was taken from the 08/01/85 "Lawyer's PC" newsletter and was tested successfully in Customer Service.

1. Use the Print function to print a file in Drive 1 - for our example we'll call it XXX/TMP:1. (Substitute XXX with your filename.)
2. Use the COPY command in TRSDOS to copy XXX/TMP:1 to XXX/ASC:1 with a logical record length of 256:
   COPY XXX/TMP:1 TO XXX/ASC:1 (LRL=256) <ENTER>
3. Use the ASCII Convert function in SuperSCRIPSIT to convert XXX/ASC to whatever filename you desire.

NOTE: Depending on how your form was set up in PFS:File you may have to edit out a lot of blank spaces, etc.

(T FARMER, 01-7879)

THE PRECEDENT (26-4620) - ACCESSORIES AND FORMS

Legal timeslips and an accompanying pegboard portfolio are available through Computer Center stores. Although these accessories were designed for use with The Precedent, they can be used with other timekeeping software or with a manual system.

Timeslips (72-0501) come in packages of 500 slips (20 journal pages, 25 slips to a page). The portfolio is Catalog #72-0500. Both are available from TEW.

If anyone is wondering what forms to use for Invoices and/or Statements for Precedent - there are no forms. These are to be printed on letterhead or a blank paper, as stated on page 1 under "Required Equipment".

(T. FARMER & L. POYTHRESS, 01-7879)

XENIX - AND THE FSCK FUNCTION

I have seen the fsck function "lock up" on a number of occasions. Usually this happens when it has reported a missing inode and it stops at the "owner=" message To unlock the system use the following procedure:

1. Reset the system, and answer "N" when it offers to clean the file system
2. Enter the root password for system maintenance mode.
3. Type:

```
fsck -s -rr /dev/root
```

(M. BRUNLIK, NATIONAL ACCOUNTS)

PASCAL-2 (26-6452) - WRITING OUTPUT TO THE PRINTER

The information on page 3-14 of the user's manual is erroneous. When referring to the output procedure to write output to the printer you must use:

```
REWRITE(output,'/dev/lp')
```

instead of·

```
RESET(output,'/dev/lp')
```

(D BULLINER, 01-7879)