

# PORT FE

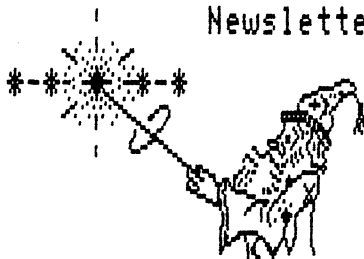
SORCERERS USERS' GROUP

(Toronto)

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SORCERER

Newsletter



The Toronto Sorcerer Users' Group was founded in the Spring of 1979, a handful of willing and eager to learn members.

This newsletter shall at all times keep in mind the goal at its conception. To spread the seeds of knowledge.

Articles printed in this newsletter shall be free for all Sorcerer Users' groups to reprint or comment on as they see fit.

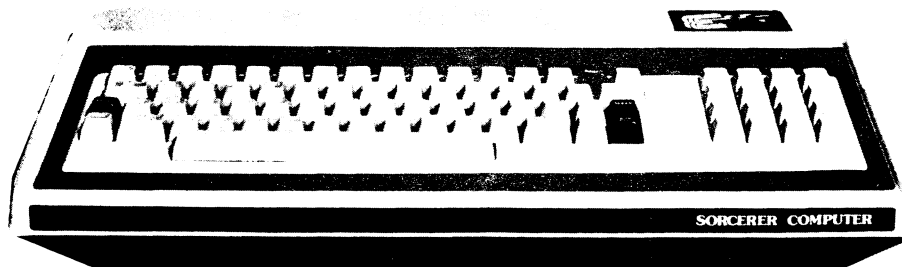
Articles submitted for this newsletter must be in no later than the beginning of the 1st of every month.

March 1981 ISSUE

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Next meeting will be held at Centennial College  
March 13 /81 (Thursday) at 7:00 PM Room 1088  
651 Warden Ave. Scarborough, Ont.



## Latest From EXIDY

Good news sometimes travels fast, slow or sometimes it never even reaches you but for those of you who are interested in the more sophisticated UTL (Utility) programs, well I can only say hold onto your hats.

Exidy has some rather good programs that have just been released. Some hint of which was in the last issue of PORT FE. I am very glad to report to you these are not mythical as you might think. I have been going over some of those new releases and trying them out. Most of which are oriented more for the programmer and business world. Still this is certainly a step in the right direction.

Here are a few of the many NEW programs being offered by Exidy. By the way they did manage to get the best software from Microsoft nearly all to themselves, and modified for the SORCERER !!!! So here goes.

EXBAS - (MBASIC 5.03) Full disk extended basic	DP 7310
Z80 Disk Development System	DP 7260
EXIDY CP/M full screen EDITOR	DP 7280
EXIDY Precision PRINT driver Routines	DP 7221
CP/M Conversions (Lifboat to Exidy CP/M)	DP 7250
EXIDY ROM PAC BASIC to EXTENDED 19K BASIC	DP 7272
NEW - AUTO BOOT PROM PAC for CP/M	DP 2005

As you can see from some of these programs EXIDY haven't been sitting still during the past months.

EXIDY have now moved into their own new building and are getting back into the swing of things. Wait till you see the NEW SORCERER III. No on second thought better just get in line with the rest and wait your turn.

There are also of course some programs that I'm not even going to mention YET.

H.A. LAUTENBACH

## PIRANHA CONTEST

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Probably some of you thought it was rather mean of me to just publish half of the Piranha program in the last issue, but as I promised you'll find it in the back of this one.

Have fun trying to get the highest score - to date (high score 311,467) !!!! by me of course. It just seems improbable that anyone will beat my score sigh

If anyone can top that score by April 30/1980 send in a witnessed high score to PORT FE c/o Tony Bagshaw, the highest score will receive one of the new D/A (DIGITAL TO ANALOG) audio cards FREE. (PLUGS DIRECTLY INTO THE PARALLEL PORT)

All entries must be postmarked no later than that date to be eligible. (members only)

H.A. Lautenbach

## ON THE NEWS FRONT

In the SORCERER'S APPRENTICE newsletter of January/81 it was recommended that a STANDARD be adopted for Joystick/Keyboard control for future games etc... This is a very welcome thought, resulting in overall compatibility in software. The following have been adopted as standards by ARRINGTON SOFTWARE SERVICE and its representatives in AUSTRALIA. NORTHAMERICAN SOFTWARE will also follow this format.

Two joysticks may be attached to the INPUT of the parallel port. UNIT #1 uses the LOW - ORDER 4 BITS, and UNIT #2 uses the HIGH - ORDER 4 BITS. Each unit may steer in the four basic directions, LEFT, RIGHT, UP, DOWN, as well as in the four diagonal directions. Both units operate independently, and simultaneous operation is permitted.

FIRE BUTTON control may be included, and has priority over directional control of joystick unit it is attached to.

FIRE BUTTON is activated by grounding both BIT 0 and BIT 1 for unit #1 and BIT 4 and BIT 5 for unit #2.

KEYBOARD has priority over JOYSTICK and overrides both joysticks if used. KEYBOARD INPUT RESULT is returned as RESULT CODE of joystick UNIT #1, with UNIT #2 disabled.

Keyboard directional control is via the "arrow" (normally cursor control) keys. FIRE BUTTON on the keyboard is the NUMERIC-PAD '5' key (home). Optional FIRE BUTTONS may be SKIP/TAB or SPACE BAR. FIRE button overrides directional keys on the keyboard.

In the event that both the left and right keys are pressed together, it is treated as NO INPUT. The same rule applies to depressing both UP and DOWN keys together. The UP/LEFT ('7'), UP/RIGHT ('9'), DOWN/LEFT ('1') and DOWN/RIGHT ('3') keys on the numeric-pad are optional.

For programming in Z80 machine code, the 8 bit INPUT RESULT CODE is returned in the 'A' register. No other registers are affected. If there is no input, the 'A' register must contain 00, and the Z-flag must be set.

BIT	PIN	FUNCTION	BIT	PIN	FUNCTION
0	10	UNIT #1 LEFT	4	12	UNIT #2 LEFT
1	22	UNIT #1 RIGHT	5	24	UNIT #2 RIGHT
2	11	UNIT #1 UP	6	13	UNIT #2 UP
3	23	UNIT #1 DOWN	7	25	UNIT #2 DOWN
0 & 1	10/22	UNIT #1 FIRE	4 & 5	12/24	UNIT #2 FIRE
	8	GROUND		20	+5 VOLT SUPPLY

From: SORCERER'S APPRENTICE P.O. BOX 1131, TROY, MICHIGAN 48099

Taking a closer look at the above proposed format. Please take note, PROGRAM will have to interpret - SPEED - of movement and also DISTANCE

NORTHAMERICAN SOFTWARE have released this hookup c/w an audio D/A converter on the same printed circuit board. Joysticks plug into DIP sockets on board.

Two programs with audio sound effects are available also.

H.A. Lautenbach NORTHAMERICAN SOFTWARE

## Review of Exidy Extended Cassette Basic

As Tony indicated in Port FE (Jan 13/81), Exidy has released a new version of Basic. The implementation is equivalent to MBASIC 5.03/1 for those who have a CP/M based system. The Basic is just what the Sorcerer needs to flex its muscles. It is a full version of Microsoft Basic with extensions for Exidy Hardware.

### Moans & Groans

The only really bad thing about the package is that it is around 19K long, so you need at least a 32K Sorcerer to do anything with it. The other problems with it are minor but to clear the air, here they are. The Basic is not compatible with PAC Basic in syntax. This Basic requires spaces between keywords since variable names are up to 34 characters in length, all of which are significant. EXCAS as it is called will not read a PAC Basic tape, so Exidy provides a utility called RM2EX. (I have no idea what it means.) Basically what it does is take a PAC Basic program and convert it into a format that EXCAS will understand. The program also adds spaces where necessary so that at least the syntax is the same. It then writes the file out on cassette again, so that EXCAS can use the file. The biggest irritant I have found using the Basic, is that the USR functions totally differently. No longer do you poke the start of your program, you define it using a statement called DEF USR. Also EXCAS resides from 0100H to 4EESH, so if you want to use existing routines with it, they may need reworking. The last two things are also a pain, but I have conveyed the problems to Exidy and these they should be able to fix up. To clear the screen they use the monitor routine at E9B1H which also redoes the Exidy defined character set back to normal. They have another function called INKEY\$ which gets a key from the keyboard, but because of the hardware configuration everything stops until you have lifted the key up.

### The Good Things

EXCAS has everything that a programmer could dream of. It has a built-in editor which is line-orientated and very easy to use. It has limited (unfortunately) debug facilities which consist of being able to see the line numbers that are being executed currently. It has a PRINT USING plus it has an instruction called CURSOR which will move the cursor to an X,Y coordinate that you specify. It also has SERIAL command, so that if you have a serial printer, you can send your output to your printer. You have very powerful machine language capabilities. You can do hex and octal arithmetic plus conversions to and from those bases plus the DEF USR statement mentioned above. You can have 10 user routines with DEF USR all pointing to different routines. The bad thing about USR is that it only passes one argument, but Microsoft added another excellent command called CALL. Basically you can call your routine with as many parameters as you wish, and EXCAS will give you the first two plus pointers to all the rest. Ideal for something like CALL SORT(INFOLIST,"a") etc.

EXCAS supports four data types, real, integer, double and string. There are statements in the language for declaring variable ranges of these types. Integers are especially useful because they help speed up program execution. The double precision variables return 16 digits! Strings are limited to 255 characters. Reals are the same as in PAC Basic.

Another excellent extension to the language is the WHILE ... WEND construct which allows for a more structured environment in programming. Once you start using it, you'll wonder how you ever lived without it.

Here is a list of commands available in EXCAS:-

#### A. Commands and Statements

AUTO	[<line number>][,<increment>]	BAUD	<integer expression>
CALL	<variable name>[(<argument list>)]	CLEAR	[,<expression1>][,<expression2>]]
CLOAD	[<filename>] (Loads a program)	CLOAD?	[<filename>] (Verifies a file)
CLOAD*	<array name>	CONT	
CSAVE	<string expression>	CSAVE*	<array variable name>
CURSOR	<x>,<y>	DATA	<list of constants>
DEF FN	<name>[(<parameter list>)]=<function list>		
DEFINT	<variable range> (Declares range as integers)		
DEFSNG	<variable range> (Declares range as single precision float)		
DEFDBL	<variable range> (Same as above except double precision float)		
DEFSTR	<variable range> (Declares variable range as strings. Means that)		
	(\$ does not have to follow variable)		
DEF USR	[<digit>]=<integer expression>	DELETE	[<line number>][-<line number>]
DIM	<list of subscripted variables>	EDIT	<line number>
END		ERASE	<list of array variables>
ERR	(Tells error number of last error)		
ERL	(Tells line number of where error happened)		
ERROR	<integer expression>		
FOR...NEXT		GOSUB...RETURN	
GOTO	<line number>		
IF...THEN[...ELSE]		IF...GOTO	

```

INPUT  [;][["prompt string"];][list of variables)
[LET]  (variable)=(expression)
LINE INPUT  [;][["prompt string"];][string variable)
LIST    [(line number) [(line number)]]]
LLIST   [(line number) [(line number)]]]
PRINT  (list of expression)
PRINT USING ("format string") (list of expressions)
MID$    ((string exp1),n,[m])=(string exp2)
NEW
NULL    (sint expression)
ON ERROR GOTO  (line number)
ON GOSUB (list of line numbers)
ON GOTO  (list of line numbers)
OPTION BASE (Set where arrays start, either 0 or 1)
OUT      (sint exp1),(sint exp2)
POKE     (sint exp1),(sint exp2)
PRINT    (list of expressions)
PRINT USING ("format string") (list of expressions)
RANDOMIZE [(integer expression)] (Randomize RND function)
READ     (list of variables)
REM      (remark)
RENUM    [(new number)][[(old number)][[(increment)]]]
RESTORE [(line number)]
RESUME  (line number) : NEXT : 0 :
RUN      [(line number)]
STOP
SWAP     (variable),(variable)
SERIAL
TRON     (Turn trace on)
TROFF    (Turn trace off)
WAIT     (port number),I[,J]
WHILE    (expression)
WEND
WIDTH    [LPRINT] (integer expression)

```

#### B. EXCAS functions

```

ABS(X)    ASC(X$)    ATN(X)    CBEL(X)    CHR$(I)    CINT(X)    COS(X)
CSNG(X)   EXP(X)     FIX(X)    FRE(0)    FRE(X$)    HEX$(X)    INP(I)
INSTR([I,J],X$,Y$) INT(X)    LEFT$(X$,I)    LEN(X$)    LOG(X)
POS(X)    MID$(X$,I[,J])    OCT$(X)    PEEK(I)    POS(I)    RIGHT$(X$,I)
JD([X])   SGN(X)     SIN(X)    SPACE$(X) SPC(I)    SQR(X)    STR$(X)
STRING$(I,J$)    STRING$(I,J)    TAN(X)
USR[(digit)](X)
VAL(X$)    VARPTR(<var name>)

```

#### C. BOOLEAN FUNCTIONS

AND OR XOR IMP EQV NOT

There is single stroke entry of the entire language, well sort of, all the functions are actually double stroke entry. As you can see, there are a wide variety of commands and since there are so many, the single stroke entry uses the graphic and graphic-shift to get all the commands. Functions use the same system except that they require graphic-shift-255, then the function designator. The problem with the CLEAR key has also been cleared up. When you hit CLEAR and then return, you don't get a syntax error.

The error messages are full messages and when EXCAS detects a syntax error, it jumps into edit mode, so you can correct the problem. The error trapping is excellent, so you can make literally dummy-proof programs. You can even use the ERROR command to make your own error messages.

Another very important thing about EXCAS is that line can be 255 characters in length with tabs placed inline so that you can structure your programs EXCAS, when working with integers rounds them and then takes the integer portion which has some unusual effects in programs. In the PAC Basic this does not occur and one place where it becomes a minor irritant is in array subscripts. It will evaluate the integer and round up causing problems if you are at the edge of the array. The best way to get around this is use INT when you need to convert something without rounding. CINT does the same thing except that rounding is forced.

#### My Evaluations:

I think EXCAS is an excellent piece of software. If you have the memory to use this it will make life so much more easier. The execution speed is slightly slower than with PAC Basic, but by using integers, you can get around this very easily. The conversion routine works well. The addition of a serial driver to the Basic must mean that Exidy is thinking about the user more. When you get a CRC error, EXCAS will not exit into the monitor, but rather return to the user with a BAD FILE message. The documentation is good as a reference manual, it assumes that you know how to program in Basic already. The parameter passing to machine language is a little bit cryptic, but a little playing around yields amazing results. I would recommend this package very highly to anyone who is thinking of using his Sorcerer for any serious programming work.

## CURSORS.....FOILED AGAIN!!!

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After scanning thru lots of material to find something to fit on one page, I came across this little nifty program, which was published in the Sorcerer Computer Users of Australia, monthly newsletter of July 1980 by a Ian Macmillan.

He states in the article that a certain John Quirk handed him a slip of paper with the HEX DUMP of a short, clever Z-80 routine that replaces the cursor with a space, or any other character at a Users' Group Meeting sometime in June. In operation, the output vector, normally set to 'VIDEO', is reset to the address of the routine, which does its thing, then calls 'VIDEO' and returns normally. The program is completely relocatable, which means that you start entering the code anywhere in memory without affecting the operation of the program. A convenient area for utility programs is between 0000Hex and 00FFHex, but it is best to avoid locations 0000 and 0001 as these may be clobbered if you have to press <RESET>. The listing given is shown as having its origin at 0050Hex, which is as good a place as any. In this version, the ASCII character replacing the cursor (in this case a space, 20Hex) is to be found in location 0060Hex, which is the first byte in line (d) below.

To enter and use the program:-

- a) Type BYE <CR>
- b) Type EN 50 <CR>
- c) Type FD E5 CD A2 E1 E5 D5 F5 C5 CD 1B E0 CD D6 E9 36 <CR>
- d) Type 20 C1 F1 D1 E1 FD E1 C9 / <CR>
- e) Type SE O=50 <CR>

To restore the cursor.....Type SE O=V <CR>

A disassembly shows PUSH IY, CALL 'GET IY', PUSH HL, DE, AF, BC; CALL 'VIDEO', CALL 'PTRSET'; LD(HL),N; POP all registers PUSHed; RETURN.

## ONE-LINER PRINTS CHARACTER / ASCII CODE TABLE

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The following one line program was published in the Sorcerer Computer Users of Australia, monthly newsletter of May 1980 by Ian Macmillan

What it does is print out a handy reference chart that can be temporarily incorporated into a program as a tool:

```
1 FOR X=191 TO 32 STEP -1: PRINT X; CHR$(X); SPC(3); NEXT X
```

## CUTE GRAPHICS from SORCERER COMPUTER USERS OF AUSTRALIA - JAN 1980

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Dynamic bit control in a programmable character enables movement generated in one character cell of eight bytes to be displayed on the screen wherever that character is printed! Here is a listing that demonstrates the possibilities:-

```
10 FOR X=-512 TO -504:POKE X,0:NEXT X
20 FOR X=1 TO 64:PRINT"graphic shift 1";:NEXT X
30 REM That means the one character you get doing that.
40 FOR X=0 TO 7
50 POKE-510,2^X:POKE-511,2^(7-X)
60 NEXT X
70 GOTO 40
```

Well was it worth typing in!

## TIDBYTES

For those of you who have the audio card from Arlington or from Northamerican or your own type audio card that takes its information from the Sorcerer parallel connector, try it out on the game called CHASE. You just may be in for a very pleasant surprise.

## COMPUTERS ~~~~ VIA ~~~~ COMPUTERS

In today's society, with all of the new types and models of computers emerging from the various manufacturers it seems a pity that one of the foremost linkage methods is not being researched into more heavily. The private industry sector, if it should wish to be able to compete in the near future with a very few large companies that have taken the lead in the development of computer to computer communications via satellite, should investigate this field now.

Don't think for a minute that this is beyond the reach of the normal computer hobbyist. The Canadian Government (DOC) has had a very close interest in Canada becoming a forerunner in this field. It established some two years ago a method by which the computerist can develop and join in. Right now there are approximately two dozen or so active computer hobbyists that have become HAM operators through the DOC'S new class license which they call the DIGITAL OPERATORS LICENSE. This will take the normal hobbyist about six months to a year to get.

This will enable the serious computer hobbyist (one with technical background) to formulate the protocol of computer communications in the years to come. Sounds like this just doesn't happen to the normal individual, well this is very serious and it means that if one gets involved its a new ballgame for that individual.

Upward speeds of 24,000 baud are being practiced by those few, think of how much this will change the mode of operation in the industry.

The old fashioned modem which just isn't practical over long distance on a common line will be a thing of the past within the next TEN YEARS, yes this is in fact the truth. Right now it is just a matter of time. In Geneva a world wide communications regulatory body that meets every 25 Years held the WARAC conference there two years ago to decide which frequencies would be set aside for just this purpose. They decided to set certain spectrum ranges which would be used in the next 25 years aside for computer to computer links.

The main advantage is that from experimental systems that are in use today, it has been determined that 300 users could share ONE frequency channel simultaneously without conflict. This is the equivalent of saying that three hundred companies could use the same piece of wire to communicate with one another simultaneously and everyone not so much as miss one BIT during the exchange of data.

THINK - this is brain food. I will continue this in a future issue.

by H.A. Lautenbach

[illegible]



06EF	2020202020	DB	
06FD	5048415345PHAMSG	DB	' PHASE
0708	FF	DB	OFFH
0709	3E	DB	WIDTH-2
070A	00	DB	0
070B	64	DB	100
070C	01	DB	1
070D	14	DB	20
070E	50	DB	80
070F	28	DB	28H
0710	01	DB	1
0711	01	DB	1
0712	00	DB	0
0713	1607	DW	CONTROL
0715	16	DB	22
0716	4001026030CONTROL	DB	40H,1,2,60H,30H,10,1,50
071E	4801265C30	DB	48H,1,26H,5CH,30H,20,4,75
0726	500124582C	DB	50H,1,24H,58H,2CH,30,7,100
072E	580122542C	DB	58H,1,22H,54H,2CH,40,10,125
0736	6002205028	DB	60H,2,20H,50H,28H,50,13,150
073E	68021E4C28	DB	68H,2,1EH,4CH,28H,60,16,175
0746	70021C4824	DB	70H,2,1CH,48H,24H,70,19,200
074E	78021A4424	DB	78H,2,1AH,44H,24H,80,22,225
0756	8004184020	DB	80H,4,18H,40H,20H,90,25,250
075E	8804163C20	DB	88H,4,16H,3CH,20H,100,28,255

0058	=	MARKED	EQU	58H			
0004	=	FRATE	EQU	4			
0001	=	MRATE	EQU	1			
0080	=	RDA	EQU	80H			
E009	=	INDAT	EQU	0E009H			
E015	=	INSTAT	EQU	0E015H			
0049	=	FTRK	EQU	49H			
E003	=	MONIT	EQU	0E003H			
0041	=	NOTRK	EQU	41H	081E	FF01	CHARS DB OFFH,01H
0017	=	VMAXS	EQU	17H	0820	1B1B	DB 1BH,1BH
0007	=	VFAST	EQU	7	0822	530D	DB 'S',0DH
0085	=	VICTIM	EQU	85H	0824	5538	DB 'U',8'
0040	=	LENL	EQU	64	0826	4A32	DB 'J',2'
0000	=	WIDTH	EQU	64	0828	4834	DB 'H',4'
0000	=	SCORSP	EQU	20H	082A	4B36	DB 'K',6'
00C0	=	SUBL	EQU	0C0H	082C	5937	DB 'Y',7'
0000	=	BIAS	EQU	0	082E	4939	DB 'I',9'
0020	=	BLANK	EQU	' '+BIAS	0830	4E31	DB 'N',1'
0030	=	ZERO	EQU	'0'+BIAS	0832	2C33	DB ' ',3'
0000	=	BINO	EQU	0	0834	2035	DB ' ',5'
0001	=	ONE	EQU	1	0836	502E	DB 'P',0'
0007	=	VSYM	EQU	7+BIAS	0838	4130	DB 'A',0'
004F	=	DEAD	EQU	4FH	083A	FF	ENDCH DB OFFH
002A	=	BOOM	EQU	'*'+BIAS			
0012	=	FISH	EQU	12H			
00B1	=	BORDER	EQU	0B1H			
F080	=	DTV	EQU	0F080H			
001E	=	NLINES	EQU	30			
F800	=	ETV	EQU	DTV+LENL*NLINES			
F800	=	STV	EQU	ETV-LENL+WIDTH			
001F	=	MAXFISH	EQU	(NLINES+WIDTH)/3			
0800			ORG	800H			

0800	03E0	JUMPS	DW	MONIT			
0802	9803		DW	ESC			
0804	0001		DW	RESTART	001C =	CHARL EQU	ENDCH-CHARS
0806	5803		DW	UP	083B 20454E5445	DB	' ENTER NEW VALUES FOR:
0808	6203		DW	DOWN	0855 552D38	DB	'U-',8'
080A	6703		DW	LEFT	0858 442D32	DB	'D-',2'
080C	5D03		DW	RIGHT	085B 4C2D34	DB	'L-',4'
080E	6C03		DW	UL	085E 522D36	DB	'R-',6'
0810	7103		DW	UR	0861 554C2D37	DB	'UL-',7'
0812	7B03		DW	LL	0865 55522D39	DB	'UR-',9'
0814	7603		DW	LR	0869 4C4C2D31	DB	'LL-',1'
0816	8B03		DW	HALT	086D 4C522D33	DB	'LR-',3'
0818	8501		DW	STOP	0871 482D2E	DB	'H-',
081A	8F03		DW	AUTO	0874 502D30	DB	'P-',0'
081C	3B03		DW	RETURN	0877 412D2B	DB	'A-',+
					087A FF	DB	OFFH
					087B 17	DB	VMAXS
					087C 85	DB	VICTIM
					087D 17	DB	VMAXS
					087E 00	DB	0
					087F 20F4	DW	DTV+LENL*(NLINES-1)/2
					0881	DS	MAXFISH*6
					093B	END	