



Microwriter lets you enter the entire ASCII character set with six keys.

One-Hand keyboard

Microwriter WP system 'draws' characters

By Deborah Wise, IW Staff

A hand-held word processor that uses six keys for data entry has been launched in Great Britain as a tool for people who are not trained typists.

The Microwriter from Microwriter Ltd. of London uses a concept called microwriting, developed by an American, Cy Endfield. The five keys on the small, lightweight device are set in a handprint shape so they can be depressed easily by the fingers of the right hand. The sixth command key is placed below the thumb.

"The key to the Microwriter is that it uses a new form of indexing characters. By depressing keys in combinations, you can achieve the full ASCII character set," said Michael Davies, Microwriter's managing director. Microwriter is currently looking for a distributor in the U.S. for what, the company claims, is the key to the office of the future—a revision of the standard QWERTY keyboard.

The product is aimed at people Davies calls "writer-thinkers"—those

who produce mainly handwritten documents that have to be typed and edited. The Microwriter has an RS-232 interface that allows people to input data that could either be printed directly or edited on a word-processing system, personal computer or electronic typewriter. The Microwriter has a 16-character LCD display and can store about four pages (8K) of text.

To use it, you must first learn its character-indexing system. This is based on the shape of each character rather than the position of characters on a keyboard. In microwriting your fingers act as the pencil to draw out the form, or part of the form, of the letter to be entered.

For example to make a letter *T* you depress the first and third finger of the right hand. That supposedly represents the cross of the letter and makes you think of a *T*.

"It's easy to learn, but it's difficult to build up speed," said Rob Beattie, a staff writer on the English publication *Which Word Processing and Office*

[See Microwriter, page 5](#)

Piracy crackdown proposed

By John Markoff, IW Staff

WASHINGTON, DC—The stakes in the software-piracy game may soon go up a notch. Legislation has been introduced in Congress that would increase the penalty for software piracy to five years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine.

Representative Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) recently introduced H.R. 6420, the Computer Software Piracy and Counterfeiting Amendments of 1982. The bill is designed as an

amendment to the Piracy and Counterfeiting Act of 1982 that was recently signed into law by President Reagan. That law was aimed at illegal copying and sale of musical tape recordings and movie film.

The bill's sponsors are worried about the rapid growth of the personal-computer industry. "We had discussions with people in the industry who brought to our attention the threat of software piracy," said Rich Goldstein, a staff assistant to Frank.

According to Goldstein, the bill is intended to remedy "insufficient" penalties for piracy and to attract the interest of prosecuting attorneys who rarely pursue cases without the possibility of stiff penalties.

Goldstein said that he had heard of allegations that "organized crime" was now involved in computer-software piracy; he added that the bill was targeted principally at commercial pirates who might be selling many copies of a particular program. He also noted, however, that someone who simply made an individual copy of a

[See Piracy bill, page 5](#)

Apple raids pirates in East

Move to drive counterfeiters out of business

By Paul Freiberger, IW Staff

One summer day in Taipei, a group of private investigators and attorneys entered the offices of Sunrise Computer.

This was not a friendly call.

No. These legal eagles represented Apple Computer, and this was a surprise raid. With Apple Computer's blessing, the group seized several Apollo Computers.

Although the above scenario sounds like a grade-B spy thriller, it describes an actual event that took place this past June as a part of Apple Computer's efforts to put a halt to the development and sale of counterfeit Apple II computers.

Apple conducted similar raids in Hong Kong last month, is planning similar action against another Taiwanese firm and has taken legal action in New Zealand as well.

According to Apple, the Apollo II is

"an Apple copy." Company spokesman Stan DeVaughn explains that what sounds like "a Peter Sellers scenario" actually represents compliance with Taiwanese laws that require plaintiffs to gather evidence if they desire to bring charges.

[See Apple raids, page 5](#)

Commodore forms speech unit

By David Needle, IW Staff

Commodore International has announced the formation of a speech-technology division that will be headed by Dr. Richard H. Wiggins, one of the key developers of Texas Instruments successful Speak and Spell learning aids.

Before joining Commodore a few months ago, Wiggins was manager of technology and systems engineering at Texas Instruments Speech Technol-

ogy Center. He told *InfoWorld* that Commodore offered a "better opportunity" and that he left TI on "good terms."

In his announcement, Irving Gould, Commodore chairman of the board, said the new division will develop "a family of speech input/output peripheral products to interface with Commodore's line of personal and home microcomputers."

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IN FOCUS

Do you like what you see when you turn on your computer? If not, rest easy, because displays are changing fast. This week our special In Focus section deals with innovative display technology. [Please turn to page 22](#) to find out what's new in this field.



Dow Jones offers encyclopedia & movie reviews

By John Markoff, IW Staff

Dow Jones & Company has announced that it will add a 20-volume encyclopedia and a movie-review data base to the data bases that are available to Dow Jones News/Retrieval subscribers.

The encyclopedia is published by Grolier Electronic Publishing and contains nine million words and 28,000 articles.

JoAnne Kennedy, a spokesperson for Dow Jones, said that the *Grolier Encyclopedia* is on a level comparable to the *World Book* and is not as detailed as such basic references as the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. According to

Kennedy, the addition of the new encyclopedia will broaden the base of Dow information sources and will appeal to families, particularly junior-high and high-school students working on research papers.

The encyclopedia will be updated twice each year and will offer a rudimentary cross-referencing system to direct users to additional articles.

The movie-review data base is being produced by Cineman Syndicate of Middletown, New York. It will offer brief plot descriptions of some 50 films and rate them on a great-to-poor scale.

Dow now offers a dozen data bases in addition to stock and securities

quotes. It reports that it has 45,000 subscribers. ■

Commodore

continued from page 1

According to Wiggins the division will concentrate initially on voice output devices with speech recognition "coming in gradually."

"It's a good move for Commodore. Speech is becoming an increasingly important part of the home-computer market," noted Clive Smith, who researches the home-computer market for the Yankee Group, based in Cam-

bridge, Massachusetts. "Manufacturers are trying to develop greater sensory involvement to make their systems more friendly to the user," and voice syntheses is one way to do it, added Smith.

Asked about competition from other personal-computer manufacturers in the area of speech, Wiggins commented that "I don't know that our product plans coincide with anyone else. The surface [of speech technology] has hardly been scratched."

The new speech division will be located in Dallas, Texas, at Commodore's optoelectronics headquarters, where research and manufacture of liquid-crystal displays (LCDs) for Commodore's line of digital watches take place. ■

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