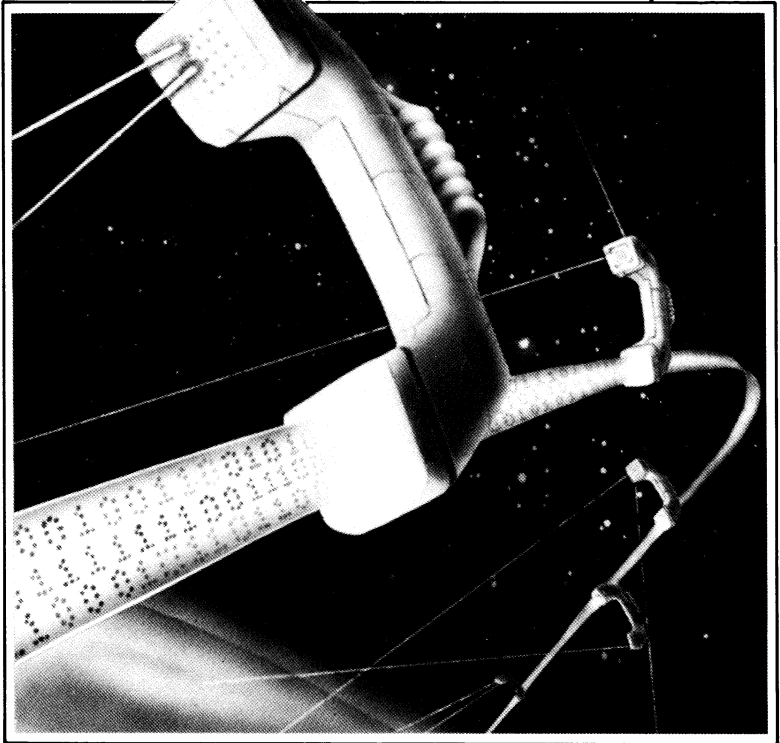# ⅃⅂ATARI®

THE LEARNING PHONE™

Access Software for
PLATO® Homelink™ Service

EDUCATIONAL SERIES

For ATARI XE™, XL™, 400™, and 800™
Personal Computers with a minimum of 16K RAM.
Requires: Modem, Subscription to PLATO Homelink
Service, Major Credit Card.

PLATO HOMELINK
SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION
■

Local Plato Access Telephone Number: _____

Your Plato Name: _____

Your Plato Group: _____

Your Plato Password: _____

THE LEARNING PHONE™
USER'S GUIDE

■

ATARI® Access Software for
Plato® Homelink™ Service

TABLE
OF
CONTENTS

■

MEET THE
LEARNING PHONE

■

The Learning Phone links your ATARI Computer to one of the biggest
electronic information and communication networks in the country —
Control Data Corporation's PLATO network. A subscription to the PLATO
Homelink service — a special service for home computer users — puts you
in touch with hundreds of interactive games and educational programs,
as well as with a powerful telecommunications system that you can use
to send and receive electronic mail. You can also design your own graph-
ics with PLATO, edit and arrange text in documents and letters, and carry
on conversations with other PLATO users right on your screen.

PLATO began over 15 years ago as an instructional computing system
available only on specially designed Control Data Corporation terminals.
Atari is the first microcomputer company to develop and market a soft-
ware cartridge that allows home computer users to access PLATO. The
Learning Phone cartridge offers the advantage of an exclusive zoom fea-
ture for viewing close-ups of PLATO's intricate display screens. And The
Learning Phone access software is compatible with all ATARI Computers,
modems, and printers.

Three brochures are enclosed with your software cartridge. *PLATO Serv-
ice Offerings* describes the PLATO Homelink service charges (an annual
subscription fee and an hourly rate for using the service) and the special
evening and weekend hours that the service is available. Information on
obtaining additional PLATO services such as vocational education
courses and industry training courses is also provided. *Telephone Num-
bers for Accessing PLATO Homelink Service* provides you with your local
Homelink access number. And *PLATO Homelink Program Titles* lists by
title each of the Homelink programs.

This guide provides a step-by-step introduction to the PLATO Homelink service. The first sections are your access instructions on how to use the system. The guide begins with sections on how to subscribe, sign on and off the network, and how to select programs from the PLATO menu. The section on Atari Function Keys describes how to perform different functions in PLATO programs with your ATARI Computer. Special features of The Learning Phone are described in the section on Special Screen Displays and Printing Features. Here, you'll find out how to change the characteristics of your screen, zoom in for a close-up of your screen, and print text from any PLATO screen display. The section on Using a Joystick explains how to use your joystick with your computer to execute function key commands, simulate a touch screen, and zoom in and scroll a close-up of the screen.

The final sections of the guide describe how to access and use three important PLATO features: Games and Educational Programs (from learning games for preschoolers to lessons on quantum numbers in physics), Electronic Mail (for reading and writing personal notes or notes on an electronic bulletin board), and the Talk feature (for on-line communication with another PLATO user). The procedures for using these features are explained in detail.

The last two sections of the guide provide some hints on using the system more effectively and whom to contact if you need more assistance.

Altogether, it is estimated that there are over 12,000 hours worth of programs offered by the PLATO service; several hundred hours are available to the Homelink subscriber. Short of describing every PLATO feature and program, this guide is intended to get you started on your own exploration of the PLATO system. Use the general guidelines contained here, and begin your adventure with PLATO.
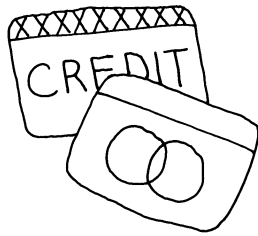
SUBSCRIBING TO
THE PLATO HOMELINK
SERVICE
■

Before you can use The Learning Phone, you need a subscription to the PLATO Homelink service. The enclosed brochure, *PLATO Service Offerings,* gives information on the Homelink service. Homelink is the most economical service and is provided especially for home computer users. This service is available nationwide during the hours specified below.

To subscribe to the Homelink service fill out the enclosed PLATO Enrollment Card and read the instructions on how to receive your introductory enrollment offer.

Time Zone	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday & Holidays (excluding Christmas and New Year's Day)
Eastern	6PM-4AM	6AM-4AM	6AM-12PM
Central	6PM-3AM	5AM-3AM	5AM-11PM
Mountain	6PM-2AM	4AM-2AM	4AM-10PM
Pacific	6PM-1AM	3AM-1AM	3AM-9PM

When you receive your PLATO Name, Group, and Password, write this information on the inside front cover of this guide. You will need it each time you sign on to the PLATO Homelink network.

Refer to the enclosed brochure, *Telephone Numbers for Accessing PLATO Homelink Service,* for your local PLATO Access Telephone Number. Write this telephone number on the inside front cover of this guide.

Any billing questions should be addressed to:

Control Data Corporation
PLATO Homelink Offer
P.O. Box 1305
McLean, Virginia 22102

Or call the PLATO Hotline:

(703) 821-6888 (in Virginia, Alaska, and Hawaii)
(800) 328-7104 (in all other States)
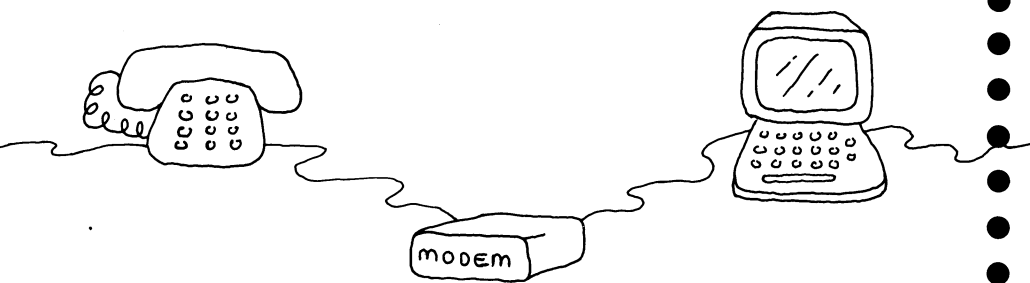
MAKING THE
CONNECTION
■

To access the PLATO Homelink network with The Learning Phone, you
need to have a modem hooked up to your computer. The Learning Phone
operates with three different types of modems:

- Direct connect modems, such as ATARI 835™, ATARI 1030™, or
  ATARI XM301™ modems.
- 300 and 1200 baud RS232 modems that require an interface mod-
  ule, such as ATARI® 830™, Bizcomp 1012 VersaModem™, Hayes
  Smartmodem, and Racal-Vadic VA3451 modems.
- Microbit MPP1000C™ modem.

The procedure for connecting with PLATO Homelink is slightly different
for each type of modem. After you've identified which modem you are
using, follow the section which applies to your modem type. (If you are
unsure of your modem type, refer to the owner's manual that came with
your modem.)

Direct Connect Modems

- Connect your modem to your computer and telephone line as ex-
  plained in your modem owner's manual.
- Turn on your modem.
- Insert The Learning Phone cartridge in the cartridge slot on the com-
  puter console (the left cartridge slot on the ATARI 800™ Computer).
- Turn on your computer. You will see the following message on your
  television screen or monitor:

WELCOME TO THE LEARNING PHONE

COPYRIGHT 1984 ATARI

After the phone has a high pitch tone   PRESS RETURN!

- Lift the receiver of your telephone and dial your local PLATO access number.
- When you hear the high-pitched tone, press [RETURN] on the computer keyboard.
- Hang up the receiver.

If you have successfully connected with PLATO, you will see this symbol on your screen: //. The double slash marks represent the dial tone. You are now ready to sign on. See the chapter, Signing On and Off, for instructions.

If the dial tone symbol does not appear on your screen, repeat the steps for making the connection. Sometimes you have to dial the number a few times before you make contact.

300 and 1200 Baud RS232 Modems with Interface Module

- Connect your modem to your computer, interface module, and telephone line as explained in your modem owner's manual.
- Turn on your interface module.
- Turn on your modem.
- Insert The Learning Phone cartridge in the cartridge slot on the computer console (the left cartridge slot on the ATARI 800™ Computer).
- Turn on your computer. You will see the following message on your television screen or monitor:

```
WELCOME TO THE LEARNING PHONE

COPYRIGHT 1984 ATARI

1200 baud
```

- Insert The Learning Phone cartridge in the cartridge slot on the computer console (the left cartridge slot on the ATARI 800™ Computer).
- Turn on your computer. You will see the following message on your television screen or monitor:

```
WELCOME TO THE LEARNING PHONE

COPYRIGHT 1984 ATARI

Microbit 300 baud
```

- If you have a printer which requires an interface module, the message "1200 baud" will appear on your screen instead of "Microbit 300 baud." Press [OPTION] and [M] simultaneously on the computer keyboard to select Microbit 300 baud.
- Lift the receiver of your telephone and dial your local PLATO access number.
- When you hear the high-pitched tone, set the modem switch to "DATA."
- Hang up the receiver.

If you have successfully connected with PLATO, you will see this symbol on your screen: //. The double slash marks represent the dial tone. You are now ready to sign on. See the chapter, Signing On and Off, for instructions.

If the dial tone symbol does not appear on your screen, repeat the steps for making the connection. Sometimes you have to dial the number a few times before you make contact.

- If you have a 1200 baud RS232 modem, skip to the next step (dialing your PLATO number). If you have a 300 baud RS232 modem, press [OPTION] and [3] simultaneously on the computer keyboard. The message "300 baud" will appear on the screen. (To change back to 1200 baud, press [OPTION] and [1] simultaneously.)
- Lift the receiver of your telephone and dial your local PLATO access number. If you're using a smart modem, such as the Hayes Smartmodem, you may dial from the keyboard. Please refer to your modem owner's manual for further instructions.
- When you hear the high-pitched tone:
  on an acoustic modem (such as the ATARI 830™): place the telephone receiver in the modem coupler.
  on a nonacoustic modem (such as the Racal-Vadic): set the modem switch to "DATA ACCESS," then hang up the receiver.

If you have successfully connected with PLATO, you will see this symbol on your screen: //. The double slash marks represent the dial tone. You are now ready to sign on. See the chapter, Signing On and Off, for instructions.

If the dial tone symbol does not appear on your screen, repeat the steps for making the connection. Sometimes you have to dial the number a few times before you make contact.

Note: If double characters appear on the screen, you are getting an echo. To eliminate the problem, press [OPTION] and [0] (zero) simultaneously on the computer keyboard.

Microbit MPP 1000C Modems

- Connect your modem to your computer and telephone line as explained in your modem owner's manual.
- Set your modem switch to "VOICE."

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SIGNING ON AND OFF

∎

Signing On

When you have made the connection to PLATO, you will see this symbol
on your screen: / / The double slash marks represent the dial tone and
indicate that you can now sign on.

- Press [RETURN] on the computer keyboard. You will see the following
  greeting on the screen:

```
WELCOME TO THE LEARNING PHONE

COPYRIGHT 1984 ATARI

NET (6-digit number)

PLEASE SIGN ON—
```

- Type: **pca**
  This is your system name for PLATO Central System A.
  Use [DELETE/BACKSPACE] to type over any errors.
- Press [RETURN]. You will be prompted for your PLATO subscription
  information.

```
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│                                                       │
│  P L A T O                              ⊂⊃            │
│  Computer    Based    Instruction       CONTROL       │
│                                         DATA          │
│                                                       │
│              Welcome to the "pca" system,             │
│              a Control Data customer service.         │
│                                                       │
│  Tuesday, November 20, 1984              7:33 pm CST  │
│  ────────────────────────────────────────────────    │
│  Type your PLATO name, then press NEXT.               │
│  >                                                    │
│                                                       │
│                                                       │
│  PLATO ® is a trademark of Control Data Corporation.  │
│                                                       │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```

- Type your PLATO name to answer the first prompt and press [RETURN].
- Type your PLATO group to answer the second prompt. Hold down [SHIFT] and [START], then press [S].
- Type your PLATO password to answer the third prompt and press [RETURN]. Your password will not appear on the screen as you type it. Instead, you will see a series of x's. This is a security measure to prevent someone else from using your PLATO subscription. *Note:* If you have not changed your password in the past 60 days, a reminder message will appear on the screen. Changing your password every 60 days is an added safety feature to prevent someone else from using your PLATO subscription. If you don't want to change your password, press [RETURN].
- Press [RETURN] to view the PLATO Main Menu.

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Once you are signed on to the PLATO network, the Main Menu will appear on the screen. The next section of this guide describes each Main Menu item and how to make selections.

Signing Off

You should sign off whenever you are not using the PLATO service to avoid unnecessary charges. If your telephone connection is interrupted, the PLATO service will automatically sign you off and charges are stopped.

To sign off:
- Hold down [SHIFT] and [START] and press [S]. You will return to the Main Menu.
- Hold down [SHIFT] and [START] and press [S] again to sign off. When you see the double slash marks indicating the dial tone, you are disconnected from the PLATO network.

SELECTING A
PLATO MENU ITEM
■

PLATO's Main Menu appears on the left side of the screen immediately after you've signed on.

1. →	Type a letter: PLATO Homelink
	a User Information
	b Electronic Mail
	c Text Processing
	d Graphics Design
	e PLATO Programs
2. →	f File Management
	g Reference Aids
	h Other Features
	i Talk j Help k User Menu l Leave
3. →	Current Time: 7:33 Connect Time: 0:00
	(TERMINAL TICKLER)
4. →	A pipe gives a nice man time to think... ...and a feel something to stick in his mouth.
5. →	HOMELINK available all day Thursday and Friday!

1. Menu Instructions

The 12 Main Menu items are identified by letters from a to l. To select a menu item, just type its letter. After you select an item, a submenu will appear on the right side of the screen. Each submenu item is also identified by a letter and selected in the same way. Selecting a submenu item often takes you to a third menu which numerically lists all the available programs or files by title. Selections are made by typing the number of the program you want. You can always cancel a selection by choosing another menu selection from the Main Menu.

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You'll find that PLATO is extremely easy to use, since all the instructions you need are built into each program. Instructions for using PLATO can be accessed from the Main Menu by pressing ⒥ for help. When you need help within a PLATO program or menu, just press [START] and Ⓗ (for help) simultaneously. Specific instructions will usually be displayed explaining how to proceed.

2. Main Menu Items

You will probably want to explore each PLATO menu item on your own. Here is a brief description of each Main Menu item to introduce you to some of the features of PLATO.

User Information introduces you to PLATO and provides the latest information on network features, operating rules, rates and billing, hours of operation, and how to get help.

Electronic Mail lets you communicate electronically with other PLATO users by sending and receiving Personal Notes and posting General Notes on an electronic bulletin board. See the chapter, Electronic Mail, for instructions on accessing and using this PLATO feature.

Text Processing, similar to word processing and idea processing, lets you organize text in documents or letters. You can enter text, move sections of text, and edit text.

Graphics Design is a tool for designing text characters and for creating your own graphics and textual displays that include lines, boxes, circles, arcs, and other shapes and symbols.

PLATO Programs contains a library of almost 600 games and educational programs that include topics from general interest to formal education, for preschoolers to seniors. See the chapter, Games and Educational Programs, for instructions on accessing PLATO's games and courseware.

File Management is used to store documents, graphics, notes, or other kinds of information created in other PLATO files.

Reference Aids provides help lessons on text processing, graphics design, and programming.

Other Features lets you access the User List (a list of PLATO users) for electronic communication, Terminal Tidbits for a whimsical message from PLATO, and Alarm for setting an audible timer. You can also use this menu item to create a customized User Menu.

Talk lets you communicate on-line with another PLATO user, similar to a telephone conversation. See the chapter, The Talk Feature, for instructions on using this PLATO feature.

Help provides you with assistance in using the features of the PLATO network.

User Menu lets you personalize the Main Menu by adding menu items that you use frequently. For example, if you play Scrabble often but never use File Management, you can replace File Management with the Scrabble game. The User Menu lets you move between the customized menu and the Main Menu. Instructions for setting up your customized menu are available when you access Other Features.

Leave lets you exit the PLATO network.

3. Time Indicators

The Current Time indicates the local time (Central) at PLATO's central system headquarters. The Connect Time indicates the minutes and hours you have been connected to the PLATO Homelink network. Check the Connect Time whenever you return to the Main Menu or exit the network to determine your billing charges in advance.

4. Terminal Tickler

You'll be greeted with a joke or bit of whimsy from PLATO every time you access the system. The Terminal Tickler changes every day .

5. PLATO Message

Sometimes, special messages concerning PLATO Homelink service appear at the bottom of your screen. The message "HOMELINK available all day Thursday and Friday" appeared shortly before Thanksgiving.

Before you can use the PLATO programs and files cataloged in the menus, you need to translate the PLATO function keys to the Atari keyboard. This information is given in the section on Atari Function Keys.

ATARI FUNCTION KEYS

■

PLATO was designed to be used with a Control Data keyboard. This keyboard has special function keys which are not on the Atari keyboard. But all of the PLATO function commands can be generated on the Atari keyboard. Most of them are generated by holding down [START] and pressing the first letter of the PLATO function key. For example, if a PLATO program prompts you to press "BACK" to view the previous screen, press [START] and [B] simultaneously on your Atari keyboard.

The "SHIFTED" function key commands used in PLATO can be used on the Atari keyboard by pressing [SHIFT] or [SELECT] while pressing the two keys that translate the PLATO function key. For example, to generate the PLATO "SHIFTED BACK" command, hold down [SHIFT] or [SELECT] while pressing [START] and [B].

All PLATO function keys are translated to the Atari keys in the Function Keys Translation Table on the following pages. Since these keys have different functions in different PLATO programs, prompts appear frequently on the screen advising you of the key functions in that particular program. However, some keys perform the same functions across most PLATO programs. These keys are listed below.

[START] [H]	gives you help
[START] [B]	takes you back to the previous screen
[RETURN]	advances you to the next screen
[SHIFT] [START] [S]	stops the program and returns you to the Main Menu

When performing a keystroke command, keep in mind that response time—from your input to the computer's output—varies considerably depending on your type of modem (300 or 1200 baud) and the system load on the PLATO network (how busy the network is at any time). Allow time for the computer to respond to a given command before giving any additional commands.

Function Keys Translation Table

PLATO KEYS	ATARI KEYS

General Commands

ANSWER	[START] [A]
BACK	[START] [B]
COPY	[START] [C]
DATA	[START] [D]
EDIT	[START] [E]
HELP	[START] [H]
LAB	[START] [L]
NEXT	[RETURN] or [START] [N]
STOP	[START] [S]
TERM	[START] [T]
SQUARE	[START] [>]
SUB	[START] [=]
SUP	[START] [−]
MICRO	◢ or ⛰

Mathematical and Geometric Commands

SUMMATION	[START] [+]
DIVIDE	[START] [/]
MULTIPLY	[START] [*]
ASSIGNMENT	[START] [<]

Function Keys Translation Table — Continued

PLATO KEYS	ATARI KEYS

Shifted Commands

SHIFTED BACK	[SHIFT] [START] [B]
SHIFTED COPY	[SHIFT] [START] [C]
SHIFTED DATA	[SHIFT] [START] [D]
SHIFTED EDIT	[SHIFT] [START] [E]
SHIFTED HELP	[SHIFT] [START] [H]
SHIFTED LAB	[SHIFT] [START] [L]
SHIFTED NEXT	[SHIFT] [RETURN] or
	[SHIFT] [START] [N]
SHIFTED STOP	[SHIFT] [START] [S]
SHIFTED SQUARE	[SHIFT] [START] [>]
SHIFTED SUB	[SHIFT] [START] [=]
SHIFTED SUP	[SHIFT] [START] [−]
FONT	[SHIFT] ◢ or [SHIFT] ⚛

Special Character Commands

DELTA (Δ)	[SHIFT] [START] [+]
INTERSECT (∩)	[SHIFT] [START] [/]
UNION (U)	[SHIFT] [START] [*]
SHIFTED ASSIGNMENT ARROW	[SHIFT] [START] [<]
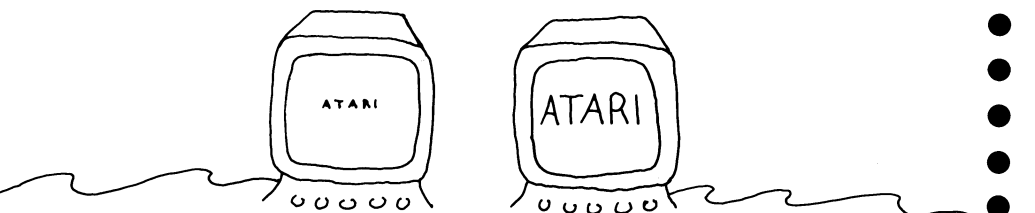
SPECIAL
SCREEN DISPLAYS AND
PRINTING FEATURES

■

You have several options for changing the look of your PLATO screen display.

Note: When using [OPTION] to change a screen display, be careful not to accidently press [RESET]. This will disconnect you from the PLATO network and sign you off.

To change the background color of the screen:
- Press [OPTION] and [C] simultaneously.
- Press [SELECT] to change the color. Each time you press [SELECT] the background color changes.

You can also adjust the dials on your color television or monitor to change the background color. (Some users recommend turning the color off completely for best readability.)

To change the background brightness of the screen:
- Press [OPTION] and [B] simultaneously.
- Press [SELECT] to change the intensity of the background color. Each time you press [SELECT] the brightness changes.

If you have a monochrome monitor or black-and-white television with a color monitor cable, you'll want to eliminate the vertical stripes that appear on your screen. Press [SELECT] several times until the stripes disappear.

To change the text brightness on the screen:
- Press [OPTION] and [T] simultaneously.
- Press [SELECT] to change the intensity of the text. Each time you press [SELECT] the brightness changes.

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To zoom in for a close-up of the screen:

- Press [OPTION] and [Z] simultaneously or press the joystick fire button. (See the chapter, Using a Joystick.)
- Press [OPTION] and [Z] again to return to the normal screen display.

Note: The zoom feature is not available on ATARI® 400™, 800™ with less than 48K, or 600XL™ Computers. If you press [Option] and [Z] or press the fire button on the joystick to zoom in, the screen will turn blue but the text will not be enlarged.
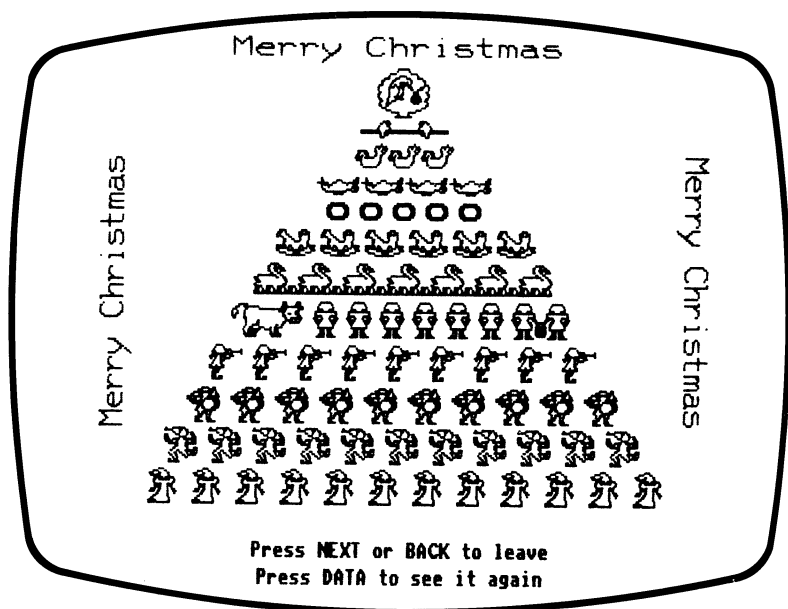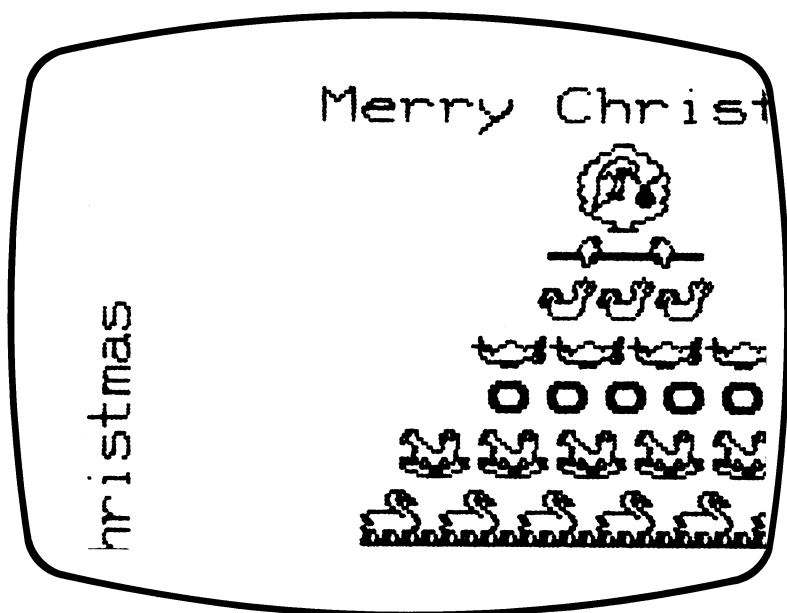
To eliminate double characters on the screen:
- Press (OPTION) and (O) (zero) simultaneously. This eliminates the echo problem.

To print text or graphics displayed on the screen:
- Connect your printer as explained in your printer owner's manual.
- Press (OPTION) and (P) simultaneously when all the text is displayed on the screen. (Do not attempt to print while text is being written on the screen.)

When you press (OPTION) and (P) to print, all the text on the current screen, including text that was plotted and then erased, will be printed. Refer to the owner's manual that came with your printer.

USING
A JOYSTICK

■

You can use a joystick in PLATO to perform three main functions:
- To execute function key commands.
- To simulate the touch screen capability of the Control Data terminals.
- To zoom in for a close-up of the screen. (The zoom feature is not available on the ATARI 400, 800 with less than 48K, or 600XL.)

To connect the joystick, plug the cable into Port 1 on your ATARI Computer.

Executing Function Key Commands

Instead of pressing two or three keys to execute a command, you can use the joystick and fire button when you are in full-screen display and the touch screen feature is not activated.
- Press [OPTION] and [F] simultaneously to enter the joystick function mode. The letter "F" will appear in the upper-left corner of the screen.
- Use the Joystick Translation Table below for the joystick translations of eight PLATO function keys.
- Press [OPTION] and [F] again to cancel the joystick function mode.

Joystick Translation Table

PLATO KEYS	JOYSTICK MOVEMENTS
NEXT	UP
BACK	DOWN
LAB	LEFT
DATA	RIGHT
SHIFTED NEXT	Press fire button and move UP
SHIFTED BACK	Press fire button and move DOWN
SHIFTED LAB	Press fire button and move LEFT
SHIFTED DATA	Press fire button and move RIGHT

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Simulating the Touch Screen

With your joystick, you can use any of the PLATO programs that were originally designed to receive input from Control Data's touch-sensitive screens, as long as you are in the full-screen mode. You'll recognize the touch-sensitive screens by the cross-shaped cursor that appears in the upper-right corner. You can also use your joystick for selecting menu items. Please note that some PLATO programs do not have touch screen features.

- Move the cross-shaped cursor on the screen with the joystick handle. If you want to select a menu item, move the cursor to touch the *text,* not the item's identifying letter.
- Hold the joystick handle in one direction to make the cursor move faster.
- Press the fire button to enter your input, such as to select a menu item.

Zooming in on the Screen

You can use your joystick to zoom in for a close-up of any screen display in PLATO. If you are using the joystick as an input device on a touch screen or to execute function key commands, press (OPTION) and (Z) simultaneously to initially activate the zoom feature.

- Press the joystick fire button to zoom in on one-third of the screen display.
- Move the joystick handle to scroll to other parts of the screen.
- Press the fire button again to return to the normal screen display.

rose in list #200
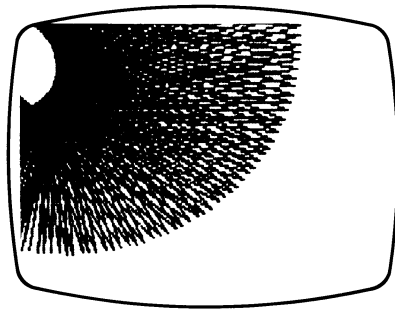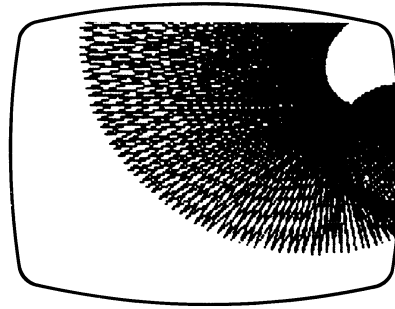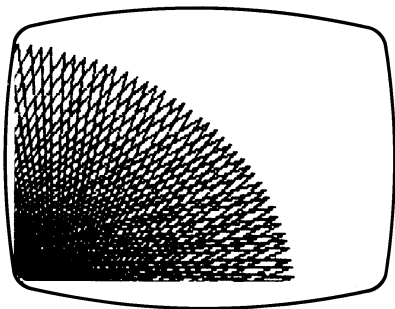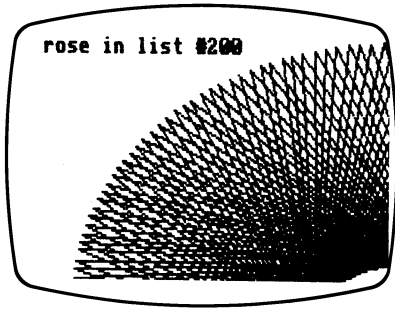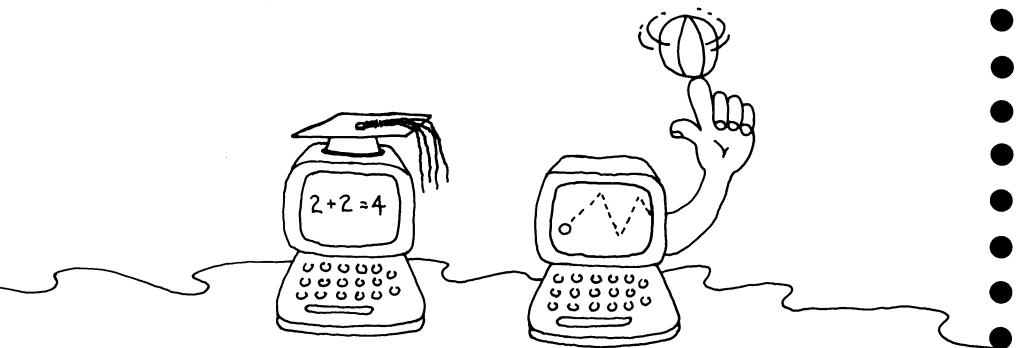
GAMES AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

■

PLATO Homelink contains a library of almost 600 educational programs and games in over 20 different subject areas. Some games can be played alone, against the computer, or with other PLATO users. For example, in Moria, PLATO's most popular dungeons game, you'll encounter other users as you explore over 250 mazes. In games like Chess or Backgammon, you can play against any PLATO user in the system. The educational programs cover such areas as astronomy, aviation, language (including lessons in French and Chinese), mathematics, music, nutrition, and social science. A special category, Ages 4-7, includes programs especially designed for children. The PLATO library of games and educational programs is composed of two separate files: Homelink Catalog and Etc.

To access the Homelink Catalog and Etc.:
- Type E to select PLATO Programs from the Main Menu.

If you know the file name of a game or program:
- Type N to select Run Program. You will be prompted to enter the file name.
- Type the file name and press RETURN. (Use DELETE/BACKSPACE to type over any errors before pressing RETURN.)

If you do not know a specific file name:
- Type ⊙ for Select from Library from the submenu.

```
Type a letter:                        PLATO Homelink
   a    User Information
   b    Electronic Mail          m    Create or Change File
   c    Text Processing          n    Run Program
   d    Graphics Design          o    Select from Library
  •e    PLATO Programs           p    General Reference
   f    File Management
   g    Reference Aids
   h    Other Features

   i  Talk              j  Help            k  User Menu              l  Leave
   Current Time:  7:34                             Connect Time:  0:00
```

Homelink Catalog

The Homelink Catalog contains a listing of over 450 program titles se-
lected specifically for home computer users. Look at the brochure *PLATO
Homelink Program Titles.* You can view the program titles by subject area
or in an alphabetical listing while on line.

```
                    PLATO Homelink Library
    _____


                    1.   Homelink Catalog

                    2.   Etc...
```
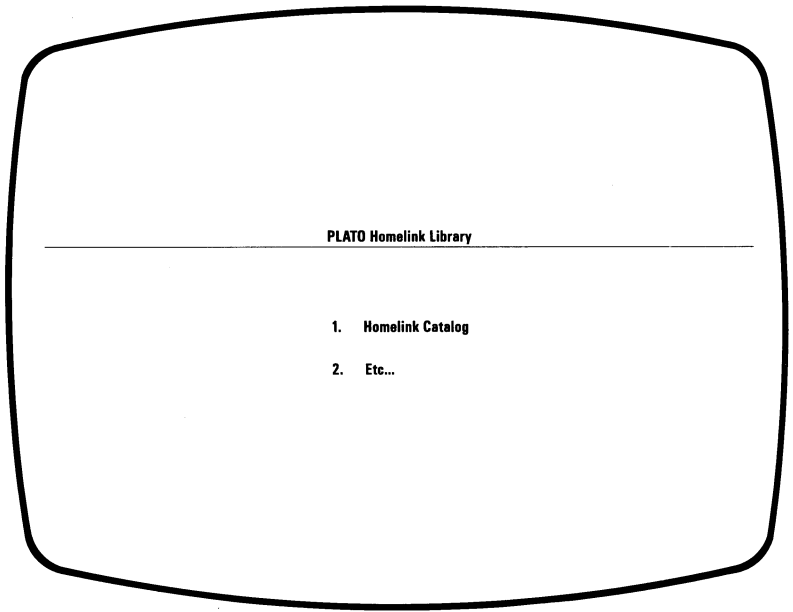
To select a program:

- Type ① to select Homelink Catalog from the PLATO Homelink Library menu. A menu appears giving you a choice of viewing programs by subject or title.
- If you type ⑤ for a subject listing: A list of 23 subject areas appears on the screen.

PLATO Homelink Catalog   Type a number:
_____

LIST OF SUBJECTS

1	Ages 4-7	13	Mathematics, elementary
2	Astronomy	14	Medicine
3	Aviation	15	Music
4	Biology	16	Nutrition
5	Business	17	Physics
6	Chemistry	18	PLATO topics
7	Computer science	19	Safety
8	Consumer credit	20	Simulations
9	Games	21	Social science
10	General interest	22	Spelling
11	Language	23	Youth
12	Mathematics		

›

Press NEXT alone for main index.

Type the number of the subject area you want and press RETURN . A list of program titles and their file names appear on the screen.
If you type ⓣ for a title listing: A list of program titles and their file names appear on the screen.

```
PLATO Homelink Catalog                                    Press a letter:
      LIST OF TITLES                                      FILENAME

      a.    spindex
      b.    100 Yard Dash                                 Odash
      c.    Acid-base titrations                          Ovucurve
      d.    Activity, health & body size                  Onut202
      e.    Addition and subtraction: beehive game        Obees
      f.    Addition and subtraction: bills and checks    Obank
      g.    Addition and subtraction: race track          Ozspeedway
      h.    Addition and subtraction: signed numbers      Opost
      i.    Addition: adding lengths                      Ozlengths
      j.    Addition: carrying                            Ozcarry
      k.    Addition: space port game                     Oport
      l.    Addition: using an easier problem — review    Ohsrev
      m.    Addition: using an easier problem — 1         Ohs1
      n.    Addition: using an easier problem — 2         Ohs2
      o.    Addition: using an easier problem — 3         Ohs3


   U  Next Pageok            V  Beginning of List         W  Return to Index
```

- Press [RETURN] to advance to the next screen of the list.
- Press [START] and [B] simultaneously to go back to the previous screen of the list.
- Type the letter of the program title you want to select. The program will appear on the screen.
- Press [START] and [H] simultaneously if you need instructions on how to use the program.

Etc.

Etc. is a collection of favorite games and lessons played and developed by PLATO users. Etc. currently contains almost 150 programs, but the collection is continually updated and expanded. Program titles can be displayed in alphabetical order by file name, by usage, or by key words.

To select a program:
- Type ② to select Etc. from the PLATO Homelink Library menu. Another two-item menu appears on the screen.
- Type Ⓐ to select Index of Lessons, Games, Notesfiles. You will be given three options for displaying the program titles.
- To display titles in alphabetical order by file name:
  Type Ⓐ.
  To display titles by usage:
  Type Ⓑ.
  To display titles by key words:
  Type Ⓒ.
- Press [RETURN] to advance to the next screen of the program list.
- Press [START] and Ⓑ simultaneously to go back to the previous screen of the program list.

1		aids	Complete PLATO programmers reference do	42
2	•	ainotes	Artificial Intelligence Notes	6
3		airbase	Animation of a typical airbase.	320
4	•	airnotes	AIRFIGHT Player Notesfile	5
5	•	alive	Health Issues	62
6	•	anim	Animation in notes (fun picture-notes)	188
7	•	antic	ANTIC Magazine on PLATO	21
8	•	apple	Notesfile for APPLE Users	52
9		art	Graphics — Samples of PLATO art.	324
10	•	atari	Notesfile for ATARI Users	69
11		authoring	Index: How to write programs on PLATO	70
12		camouflage	Stellar War Game	172
13		cdclib	Control Data Library	123
14		checkbook	Balance your checkbook	74
15	•	cinema	That's Entertainment	166
16		conquest	Inter-planetary Warfare	121
17	•	c64	Notesfile for Commodore Users	21
18		definesets	Defining your variables	17
19		designing	Designing Your Own Lesson	36
20	•	dreams	Notes about dreams	158
21		drygulch	Western mining town	264

Enter an item name or number: ❭

Page 1 of 6.
(HELP available)

- Type the number of the program title you want to select. The program will appear on the screen.
- Press (START) and (H) simultaneously if you need instructions on how to use the program.

43
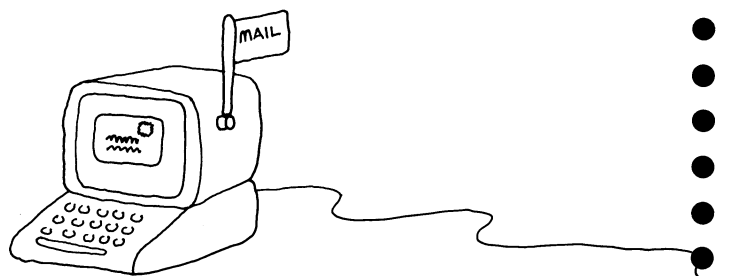
ELECTRONIC
MAIL

■

PLATO's Electronic Mail is a special communications system that puts you in touch with other PLATO users throughout the country. Telephone and satellite links enable you to send or receive messages.

Electronic Mail includes two types of communications: Personal Notes — a completely private, one-way communication service; and General Notes — a public bulletin board message service.
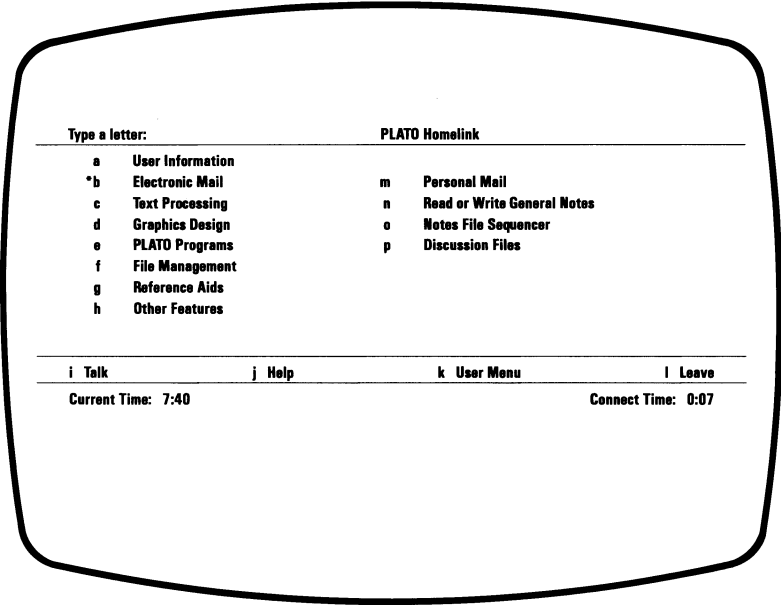
Personal Mail

Each PLATO network user has a personal notes file that stores the messages (also called personal notes or pnotes) received from other users. Your personal note file is similar to a mailbox. The file is identified by an address and has a limited capacity. When someone sends a personal note to your electronic address (your PLATO name, PLATO group, and pca system name), the note arrives in your file and is added to the end of the notes already there. Notes are received and added one-by-one to your file and numbered until the file is full.

Using the Personal Mail service is easy. To access your personal notes file:
- Type ⒷＢ to select Electronic Mail from the Main Menu.
- Type Ⓜ to select Personal Mail from the submenu.

From your personal notes file, you can read notes sent to you, delete notes, and send notes to other PLATO users.

```
Type a letter:                          PLATO Homelink
    a    User Information
   •b    Electronic Mail              m    Personal Mail
    c    Text Processing              n    Read or Write General Notes
    d    Graphics Design              o    Notes File Sequencer
    e    PLATO Programs               p    Discussion Files
    f    File Management
    g    Reference Aids
    h    Other Features


  i  Talk              j  Help            k  User Menu           l  Leave
  Current Time:  7:40                      Connect Time:  0:07
```

Reading Notes

When you sign on to the PLATO network, the Main Menu lets you know if you've received any new messages since the last time you signed on. An arrow will point to Electronic Mail in the Main Menu. When you select Electronic Mail, an arrow will point to Personal Mail on the submenu. Select Personal Mail and the new note will be immediately displayed on the screen.

If no new notes have been received, the Personal Notes display will appear on your screen.

```
┌─────────────────────────────────┐
│        PERSONAL NOTES           │
└─────────────────────────────────┘

Press:  LAB to read your notes
        DATA for other options
        HELP for explanation and policy


To whom do you wish to send a note:
   Name >

   Group

   System
```
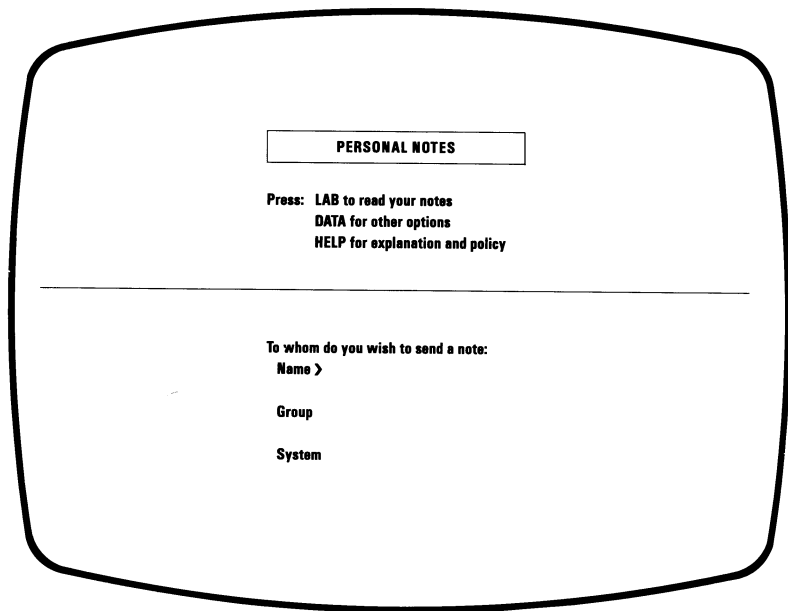
To read the notes in your file:
- Press (START) and (L) simultaneously. The first note in your file will be displayed.
- Press (RETURN) to view the next note.
- Press (START) and (B) simultaneously to go back to the previous note.
- Hold down (SHIFT) and (START) and press (B) to return to the Personal Notes display.
- Hold down (SHIFT) and (START) and press (S) to return to the Main Menu.

Deleting Notes

Since space is limited in your personal notes file, you'll want to delete any unneeded notes.

To delete a note:
- Hold down (SHIFT) and (START) and press (H) while your note is displayed on the screen. All subsequent notes move up and are automatically renumbered.

Sending Notes

Before you can send a note to another PLATO user, you need to know the user's PLATO name, PLATO group, and PLATO system name. The Personal Notes display serves as your envelope for entering the receiver's electronic address.

To address the envelope:
- Type the receiver's PLATO name, group, and system name, pressing (RETURN) after each entry. (Use (DELETE/BACKSPACE) to type over any mistakes before pressing (RETURN).)
- When you press (RETURN) after entering the system name, the Notes Editor display appears on the screen.

Personal note to PLATO name / group / system code.

Press:

NEXT	for the next line	**SHIFT·NEXT**	when finished
BACK	for the previous line	**SHIFT·BACK**	to exit and not send
EDIT	to change the line	**SHIFT·LAB**	to insert a line
HELP	for more directions	**SHIFT·HELP**	to delete lines
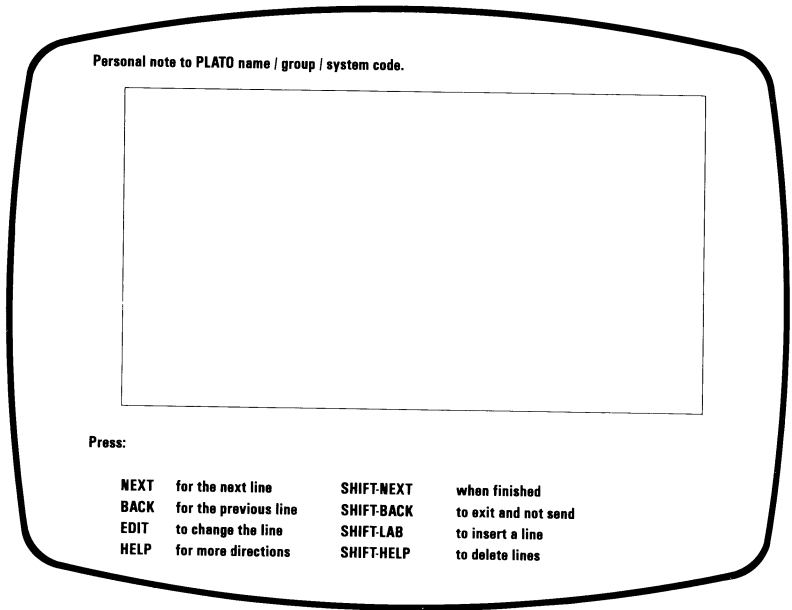
To write the note:

- Type your message inside the box, using up to 20 lines. (For longer messages, simply send multiple notes.)
- Use these keys for editing your message:

[RETURN]	to move to the next line
[START] [B]	to move up one line
[START] [E]	to erase a line and display the line a word at a time
[SHIFT] [START] [L]	to insert a line
[SHIFT] [START] [H]	to delete one or more lines
[START] [H]	to receive help
[DELETE/BACKSPACE]	to type over an error

```
                    Note#1 of 1


    11/19/84   5:54 pm   PLATO group / name

    Hello Learning Phone Owners,

    This is an example of a personal note you can write or
    send on the PLATO network. You can ask another user to
    play a PLATO game with you, such as Chess or Backgammon.
    Or you can ask for help or advice on using PLATO features.
    Type your message within the box—up to 20 lines. Use
    the special Atari function keys to edit your message.
    When you are ready to send, press [SHIFT] and [RETURN].
    Next time you sign on, look for a response in your
    personal note file.


    Your Friends at Atari



                    HELP is available.
```

To send your note:
- Press ⌈SHIFT⌉ and ⌈RETURN⌉ simultaneously. You will return to the Personal Notes display screen.

To discard your note:
- Hold down ⌈SHIFT⌉ and ⌈START⌉ and press ⌊B⌋.
- Type in a new note or hold down ⌈SHIFT⌉ and ⌈START⌉ and press ⌊B⌋ to return to the Personal Notes display screen.

To return to the Main Menu:
- Hold down ⌈SHIFT⌉ and ⌈START⌉ and press ⌊S⌋.

After you send a note and return to the Personal Notes display, a new line appears at the top of the screen: "Last note sent to [receiver's name]."


```
  •  Last note sent to:  PLATO name / group / system name

                      ┌─────────────────────────────────────┐
                      │          PERSONAL NOTES             │
                      └─────────────────────────────────────┘

                  Press BACK to return to reading your notes
   ──────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────

                      To whom do you wish to send a note:
                         Name >

                      Group

                      System
```
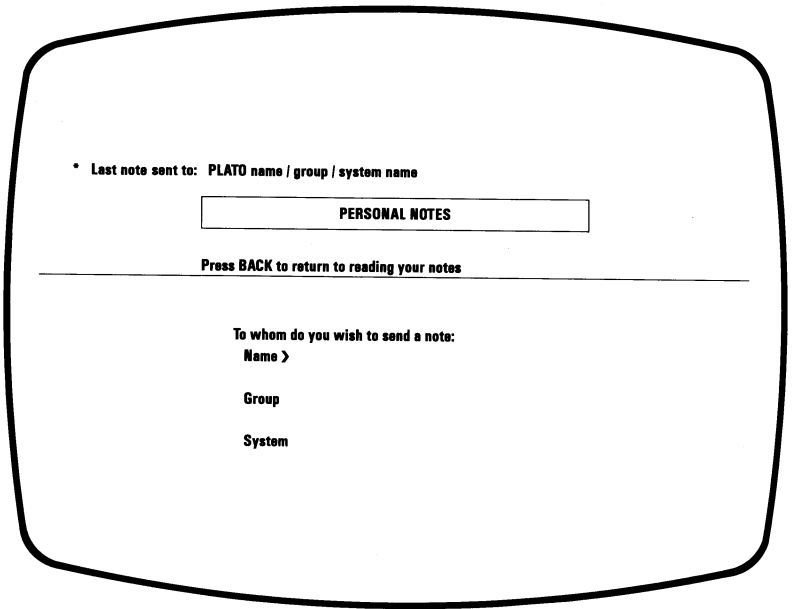
You now have three options. You can:
- Send a duplicate of your note to another PLATO user or to yourself.
- Send an edited version of your note to another PLATO user.
- Send a new note to any PLATO user.

To send a duplicate:
- Type the receiver's PLATO name, group, and system name, pressing [RETURN] after each entry.
- Press [SHIFT] and [RETURN] simultaneously to send your duplicate note.

To send an edited version:
- Type the receiver's PLATO name, group, and system name, pressing (RETURN) after each entry.
- Press (START) and (L) simultaneously to display your note.
- Make any changes you want to the note by using the edit keys explained above.
- Press (SHIFT) and (RETURN) simultaneously to send your edited note.

To send a new note:
- Type the receiver's PLATO name, group, and system name, pressing (RETURN) after each entry.
- Press (START) and (D) simultaneously to return to the blank Notes Editor display.

General Notes Bulletin Boards

The PLATO General Notes files are like bulletin boards where PLATO users can communicate with each other by writing notes. In General Notes, you can read and write notes on many topics.

Notes on a specific topic are grouped together in notes files under a file name, such as Atari (for notes on Atari and its products). All notes that enter a file such as Atari have titles and identifying numbers. These are known as base notes. Responses to a base note are sequenced in the order they are received. You can choose to read only the base notes on a specific topic and skip the responses, or you can read a base note and any or all of the responses to it.

To select a General Notes file:
- Type ⒷⒷ to select Electronic Mail from the Main Menu.

If you know a file name:
- Type ⓃⓃ to select Read or Write General Notes from the submenu. You will be prompted to enter the file name.
- Type the file name and press ⟮RETURN⟯.

```
Type a letter:                          PLATO Homelink
    a     User Information
   *b     Electronic Mail              m      Personal Mail
    c     Text Processing              n      Read or Write General Notes
    d     Graphics Design              o      Notes File Sequencer
    e     PLATO Programs               p      Discussion Files
    f     File Management
    g     Reference Aids
    h     Other Features


   i  Talk                  j  Help              k  User Menu              l  Leave
   Current Time:  7:40                                        Connect Time:  0:07
```
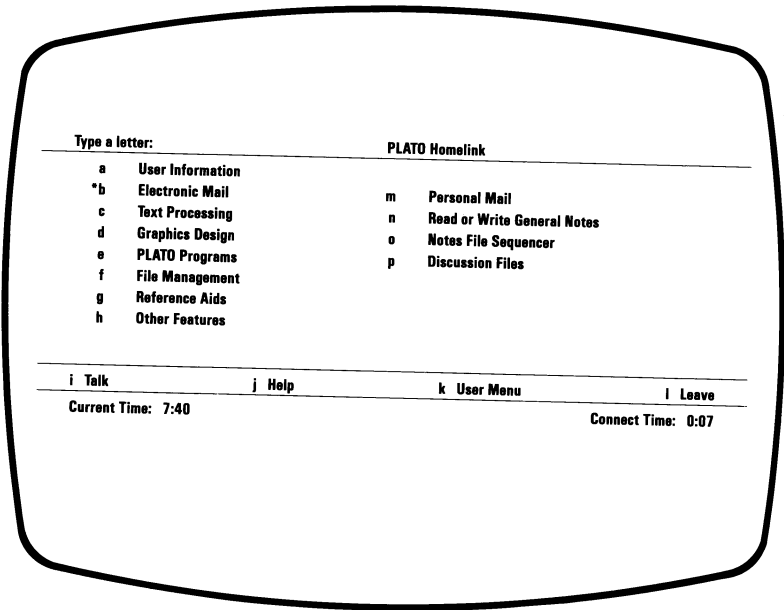
If you do not know a specific file name:

- Type P to select Discussion Files from the submenu. A list of many notes files and their file names appears on the screen.
- Press RETURN to advance to the next screen of the list.
- Press START and B simultaneously to view the previous screen of the list.
- Type the letter of the notes file you'd like to see.

PLATO Homelink Notefiles of Interest

Page: 2 of 4

(File Name)

Choose an option >

a.	PLATO System Announcements	(announce)
b.	PLATO Homelink Reference Notes	(homeref)
c.	IBM PC Users	(ibmnotes)
d.	ATARI Users	(atari)
e.	ANTIC Magazine on PLATO	(antic)
f.	Wantads	(wantads)
g.	Sportsline	(sports)
h.	Women's Issues	(womannotes)
i.	Games and Gaming Strategies	(gamenotes)
j.	New dates, New friends	(datenote)

Press SHIFT-LAB for descriptions.

Reading Notes and Responses

When you select a notes file, the titles of the most recent base notes (up to 10) that were entered in the file appear in a box in the upper-left corner of the screen. Each base note has a number. The date the note entered the file and the number of responses it has received so far are also given.

#	Date	Title	Resp
121	9/23	atari-CES	
122	9/24	Security?	1
123	9/25	800XL is back	
124	9/27	forsale	4
125	9/30	Drives	13
126	10/9	PLATO cart	2
127	10/16	DIN PIN	4
128	10/31	rana 1000 4 sale	
129	11/2	13'25 pin ?	7

Atari Notes

** intersystem notefile **

What note? ⟩

Press LAB for file policy

SHIFT-LAB to write a note

SHIFT-BACK to exit

Press HELP for information
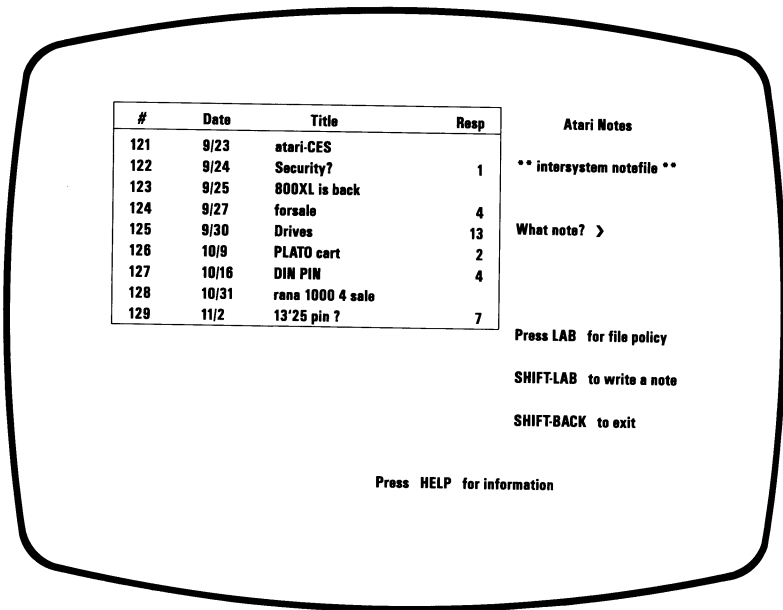
To read a note:

- Type the note's identifying number and press [RETURN]. The note will appear on the screen.
- Press [RETURN] to read the next base note in the file.
- Press [START] and [B] simultaneously to go back to the previous note.

```
                        Atari Notes
                    Note #126    (PLATO cart)

                        2 responses


        12/9/84          5:37 pm            j vega / team

        Hello PLATO users! Can someone tell me when Atari's
        access software for PLATO will be available?

                    ****  LAB for response  ****
```
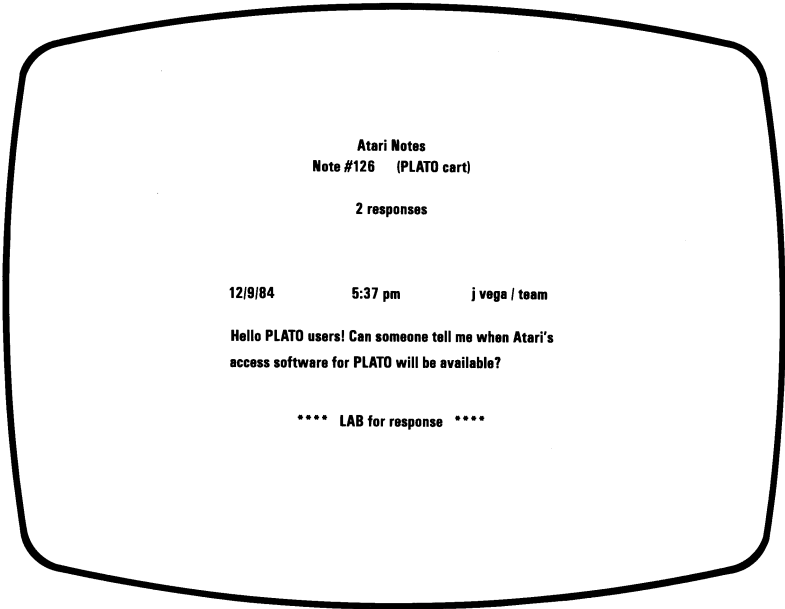
To read a response to a note:
- Press [START] and [L] simultaneously when a base note is displayed on the screen.

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```
                        Atari Notes

        Response 1 of 2 to #126        (PLATO cart)

                        2 responses




        12/13/84           9:03 pm          m murphy / nicknm

        I read a review in =antic= magazine that said
        look for it late January or early February, 1985.


                ****  LAB for response  ****
```
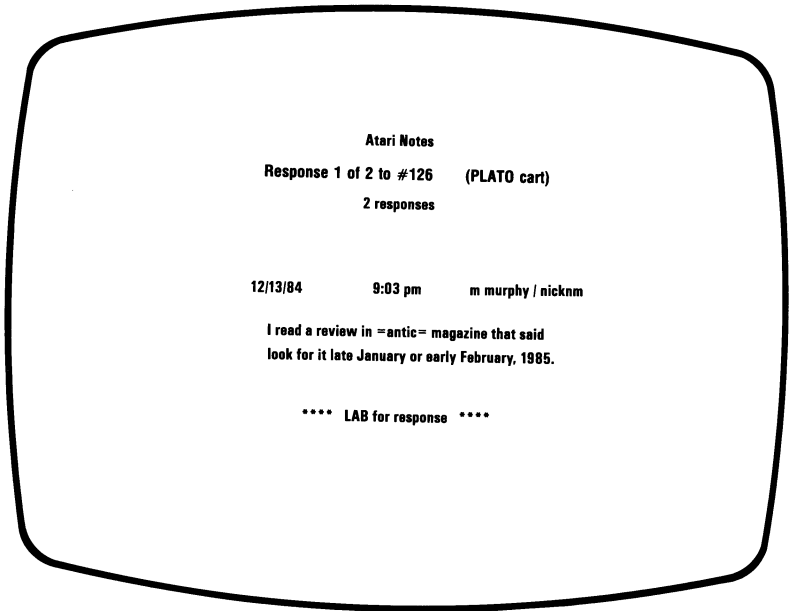
To return to the notes file list:

- Hold down [SHIFT] and [START] and press [B].

To return to the Main Menu:

- Hold down [SHIFT] and [START] and press [S].

Writing Notes

Before you can write a base note, you need to choose an appropriate notes file.

If you don't know the file name of the notes file:
- Select Electronic Mail from the Main Menu, then Discussion Files from the submenu.
- Type the letter of the notes file where you want the note to be filed and press [RETURN].

If you know the file name of the notes file:
- Select Electronic Mail from the Main Menu, then Read or Write General Notes from the submenu. You will be prompted to enter the file name.
- Type the file name and press [RETURN].

To type a note after you've read the notes file:
- Type the letter of the notes file where you want your note to be filed.
- Hold down [SHIFT] and [START] and press [L]. The Notes Editor display appears on the screen.

(Base note file name)

Press:

NEXT	for the next line	**SHIFT-NEXT**	when finished
BACK	for the previous line	**SHIFT-BACK**	to exit and not send
EDIT	to change the line	**SHIFT-LAB**	to insert a line
HELP	for more directions	**SHIFT-HELP**	to delete line
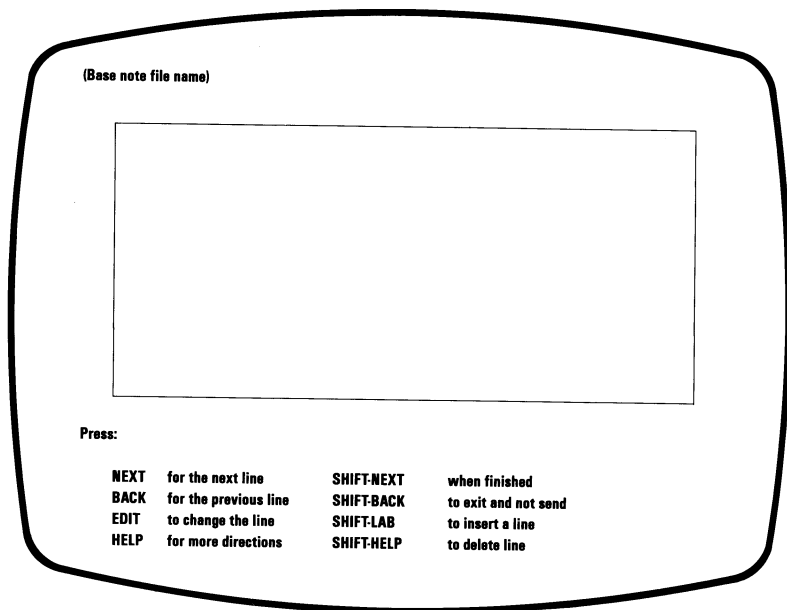
- Type your message inside the box, using up to 20 lines.
- Use these keys for editing your base note:

[RETURN]	to move to the next line
[START] [B]	to move up one line
[START] [E]	to erase a line and then display the line a word at a time
[SHIFT] [START] [L]	to insert a line
[SHIFT] [START] [H]	to delete one or more lines
[START] [H]	to receive help
[DELETE/BACKSPACE]	to type over an error

- Press [SHIFT] and [RETURN] simultaneously when your note is complete.
- Type a title for your note to answer the prompt and press [RETURN]. Your note will be added to the end of your chosen notes file and automatically numbered.

Writing Responses

Before you can write a response, you need to display the base note you are responding to. See the section on Reading Notes and Responses.

To write a response:

- Hold down `SHIFT` and `START` and press `L`. The Notes Response Editor display appears on your screen.
- Type your response in the box, using up to 20 lines.
- Use these keys for editing your response:

`RETURN`	to move to the next line
`START` `B`	to move up one line
`START` `E`	to edit a line and redisplay the line a word at a time
`SHIFT` `START` `L`	to insert a line
`SHIFT` `START` `H`	to delete one or more lines
`START` `H`	to receive help
`DELETE/BACKSPACE`	to type over an error

- Press `SHIFT` and `RETURN` simultaneously when your response is complete. Your response will be added to the end of the existing list of responses.
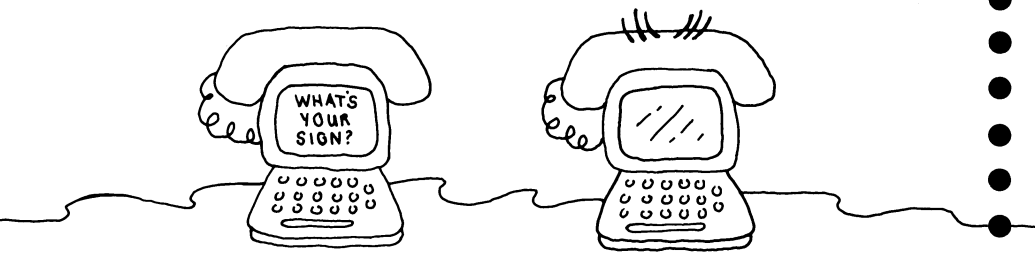
THE
TALK FEATURE

■

Talk is a two-way communication feature of PLATO that lets you carry on a conversation with another PLATO user. Talk simulates a telephone conversation in which you interact with another person and get immediate feedback. You talk by typing messages on the screen to another PLATO user.

To initiate a conversation, you'll need to access the User List to see who is currently using the network and then page that person. You'll also need to know how to answer a page to fully use PLATO's Talk feature.
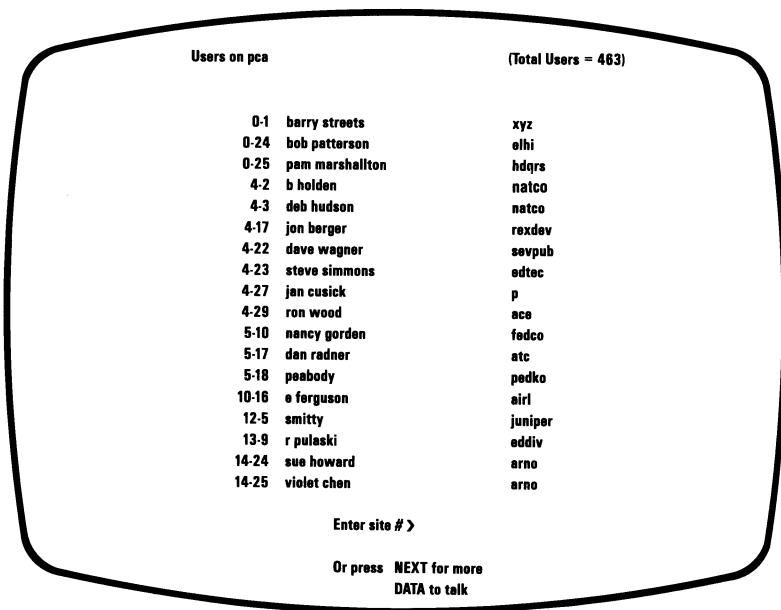
The User List

The User List includes the PLATO name and PLATO group of all the users currently on the PLATO network. You will need this information to page someone.

To access the User List:
- Type ⒣ to select Other Features from the Main Menu.

```
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│                                                       │
│  Type a letter:              PLATO Homelink           │
│     a    User Information                             │
│     b    Electronic Mail      m    Alarm              │
│     c    Text Processing      n    User List          │
│     d    Graphics Design      o    Edit User Menu     │
│     e    PLATO Programs       p    Terminal Tidbits   │
│     f    File Management                              │
│     g    Reference Aids                               │
│    *h    Other Features                               │
│                                                       │
│  ─────────────────────────────────────────────────   │
│   i  Talk          j  Help        k  User Menu    l  Leave │
│   Current Time: 7:49              Connect Time: 0:16  │
│                                                       │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```
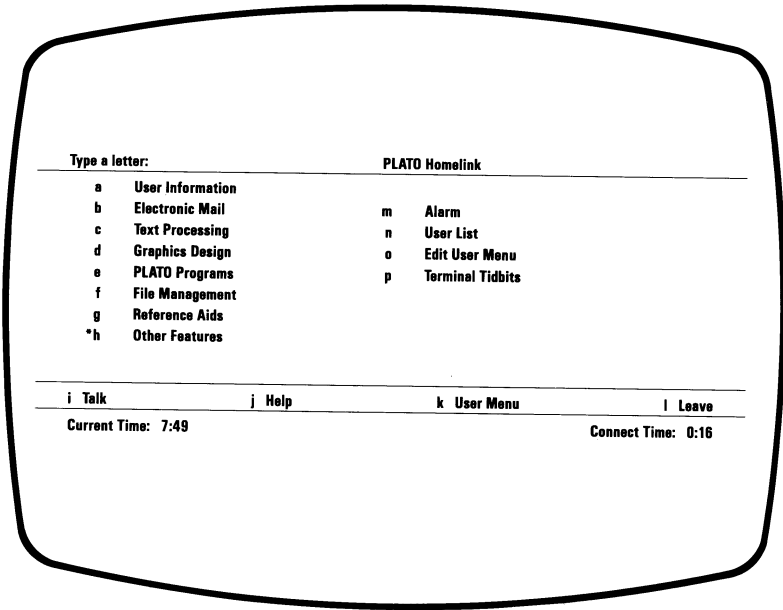
- Type ⟨N⟩ to select User List from the submenu. A list of on-line PLATO users and their groups appears on the screen.
- Press ⟨RETURN⟩ to advance to the next screen of the list.
- Press ⟨START⟩ and ⟨B⟩ simultaneously to go back to the previous screen of the list.

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```
              Users on pca                    (Total Users = 463)

                    0-1   barry streets        xyz
                    0-24  bob patterson        elhi
                    0-25  pam marshallton      hdqrs
                    4-2   b holden             natco
                    4-3   deb hudson           natco
                    4-17  jon berger           rexdev
                    4-22  dave wagner          sevpub
                    4-23  steve simmons        edtec
                    4-27  jan cusick           p
                    4-29  ron wood             ace
                    5-10  nancy gorden         fedco
                    5-17  dan radner           atc
                    5-18  peabody              pedko
                    10-16 e ferguson           airl
                    12-5  smitty               juniper
                    13-9  r pulaski            eddiv
                    14-24 sue howard           arno
                    14-25 violet chen          arno

                         Enter site # >

                         Or press  NEXT for more
                                   DATA to talk
```
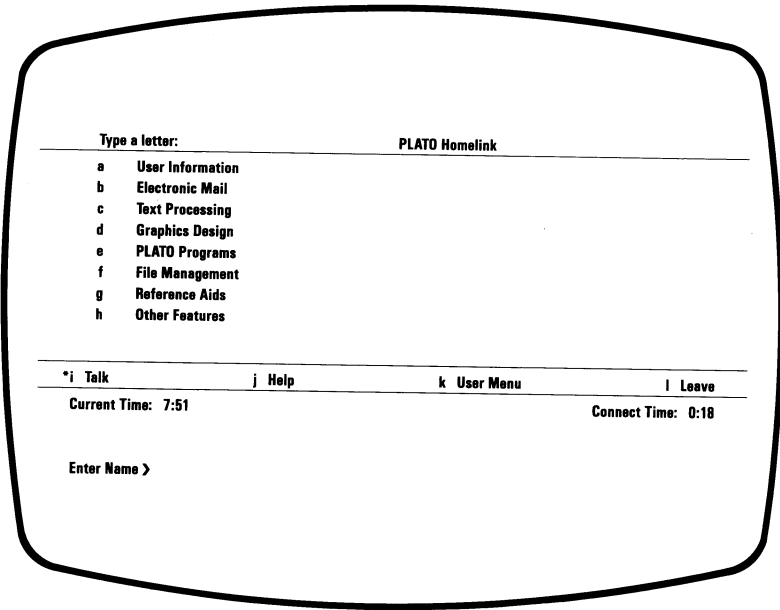
Paging Another User

Once you know the PLATO name and PLATO group of an on-line user, you can page the user:

- From the Main Menu.
- From the User List.
- From any screen display in PLATO.

To page from the Main Menu:

- Type Ⓘ to select Talk from the Main Menu. You will be prompted to enter the user's name and group.
- Type the user's PLATO name and group, pressing [RETURN] after each entry. A beep and a message will flash on the user's screen indicating that he or she is being paged.

65

```
Type a letter:                    PLATO Homelink
    a    User Information
    b    Electronic Mail
    c    Text Processing
    d    Graphics Design
    e    PLATO Programs
    f    File Management
    g    Reference Aids
    h    Other Features


*i  Talk              j  Help           k  User Menu           l  Leave
  Current Time:  7:51                              Connect Time:  0:18


  Enter Name >
```

To page from the User List:

- Press [START] and [D]. You will be prompted to enter the user's name and group.
- Type the user's PLATO name and group, pressing [RETURN] after each entry. A beep and a message will flash on the user's screen indicating that he or she is being paged.·

To page from any screen display in PLATO:

- Press [START] and [T] simultaneously. You will be prompted, "What term?"
- Type the word "talk" to answer the prompt and press [RETURN]. You will be prompted to enter the user's name and group.
- Type the user's PLATO name and group, pressing [RETURN] after each entry. A message will flash on the user's screen that he or she is being paged.

66

If the user doesn't answer your page after a minute or two, you can assume that the person is busy. Cancel the page by holding down [SHIFT] and [START] and pressing [S].

When the user answers your page, two arrows appear at the bottom of your screen. Type your message on the top line. A response will appear on the second line.

To end your conversation, say good-bye to the user and hold down [SHIFT] and [START] and press [B].

Answering a Page

You may be paged at any time when you're signed on to the PLATO network. When this happens, you will hear a beep and see the message "TERM-talk" flash on the bottom of your screen. The message includes the PLATO name and group of the person paging you.

To answer the page:
- Press [START] and [T] simultaneously. You will be prompted, "What term?"
- Type the word "talk" to answer the prompt and press [RETURN]. Two arrows will appear at the bottom of your screen. The pager's message will appear on the top line.
- Respond by typing a message on the second line.

To end your conversation, say good-bye and hold down [SHIFT] and [START] and press [B].
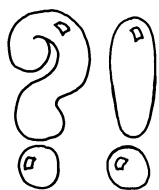
67

Refusing a Page

Participation in Talk is strictly voluntary. If you are busy with a PLATO program, you may not want to answer a page.

To refuse a page:
- Press (START) and (T) simultaneously. You will be prompted, "What term?"
- Type the word "busy" to answer the prompt and press (RETURN). The pager will receive a message that you are unavailable for conversation.

GETTING
HELP

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There are many sources of help available to you when you use PLATO.
You can get immediate on-line help, or you can write or phone Control
Data Corporation to solve a special problem.

On Line

When you are in a PLATO program and are not sure how to proceed,
press [START] and [H] simultaneously. In most programs, instructions will
be instantly displayed on your screen.

When you need reference aids for using the Text Processing, Graphics
Design, or Programming features of PLATO, type [G] to select Reference
Aids from the Main Menu. Then type the letter of the PLATO feature you
want more information on.

When you want to exchange information with other users on a particular PLATO
feature, type [B] to select Electronic Mail from the Main Menu. Then type [P]
to select Discussion Files from the submenu. You will see a list of notes files. Select
the file User Information Exchange (Homelink) and read or write notes relating
to the PLATO Homelink services. See section on Writing Notes in the Electronic
Mail chapter for instructions on writing notes and responses to notes.

When you want immediate help from another PLATO user, use the PLATO Talk
feature. See the chapter, The Talk Feature, for detailed instructions on using
this two-way communication service.

By Letter

When you have questions, comments, or ideas on PLATO, Control Data would like to hear from you. Write to:
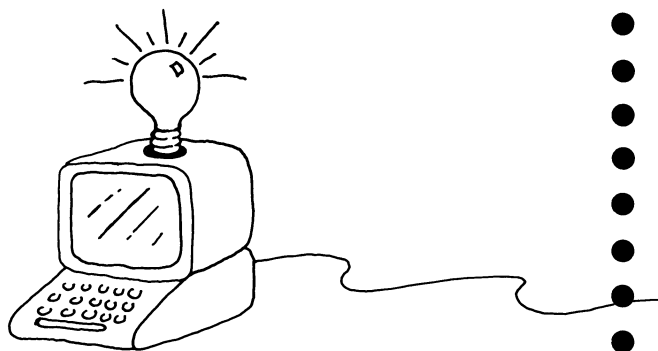
Plato Homelink Customer Service
P.O. Box 1305
McLean, Virginia 22102

By Phone

When you need help on a special problem relating to the PLATO system, call the PLATO HOTLINE between 7 A.M. and 7 P.M. (CST) Monday through Friday:

(703) 821-6888 (in Virginia, Alaska, and Hawaii)
(800) 328-7104 (in all other states)

HELPFUL
HINTS
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Response times—from your input to the computer's output—vary considerably depending on your type of modem and the system load on the PLATO network. Generally, 1200 baud modems are four times faster than 300 baud modems. Regardless of your type of modem, you should allow time for the computer to respond to a given command before issuing any additional commands.

On some ATARI Computers, [OPTION] is positioned close to [RESET] on the keyboard. When using [OPTION] to select modem baud rates or special screen displays, be careful not to accidently press [RESET]. This will disconnect you from the PLATO network.

The zoom feature for displaying close-ups of the screens is not available on ATARI 400, 800 with less than 48K, or 600XL Computers. When [OPTION] and [Z] are pressed or when the fire button on a joystick is pressed on these machines, the screen's background color will change to blue but the image will not be enlarged.

Do not attempt to print a screen display while text is being written on the screen. Wait until all the text is displayed and then press [OPTION] and [P] to print.

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the product documentation in this manual. However, because we are constantly improving and updating our computer software and hardware, Atari Corp. is unable to guarantee the accuracy of the printed material after the date of publication and disclaims liability for changes, errors, or omissions.