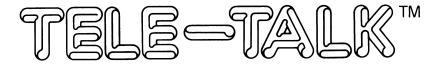
TELE-TALK



Datasons Inc.

Computer Software



by fabio ehrencruber

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TELE-TALK

INTRODUCTION

As we move further into the Information Age, the importance of staying on top of day-to-day world events becomes greater. The advent of new technologies, like the home computer you now own, has opened up new vistas and avenues of exploration. Though in its infancy, the personal computer promises to change the way we work, play, purchase, plan, and even participate in our government.

TELE-TALK is a new, comprehensive communication program for your ATARI 400/800 (32K). Joined with a modem, this package will connect you to other computer users, information utilities, and data bases. Information from these sources is displayed on your screen and may be saved in memory for storage to disk or print-out. TELE-TALK is entirely "menu-driven" so that even inexperienced users can achieve immediate results.

Use TELE-TALK to exchange programs with friends. Transfer documents, letters, and manuscripts between your home and work. Subscribe to services such as Compuserve or The Source and experience the convenience of shopping by computer and the power to search the news-of-the-day from major "on-line" publications. With new data bases emerging, the possibilities are almost endless!

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

- ATARI 400/800 Computer (32K minimum)
- disk drive (ATARI 810, Percom®, or equivalent)
- interface module (ATARI 850)
- ATARI compatible modem
- T.V. or video monitor
- ATARI compatible printer (optional)

Advances in technology are providing us with an increasing variety of hardware. Ask your local dealer about compatibility and reliability of these new products.

A WORD ABOUT MODEMS

A modem (modulator-demodulator) translates the digital output of computers into a series of audio tones that can be transmitted over phone lines. Most data transmissions are done at 300 bits per second (baud). The baud range can extend up to 9600 but noise on the line will interfere with transmission at higher baud rates.

The majority of modems are the acoustic-coupler type. These are also the least expensive. The acoustic modem is set up next to the system and the phone is firmly inserted into a set of rubber cups on the modem. The other more expensive type of modem connects directly into the phone line and is called a direct-connect modem.

GETTING STARTED

- Make sure your computer is turned off and the BASIC cartridge is removed.
- 2. Turn on the power to your T.V. or video monitor, disk drive #1, and the interface module.
- 3. Insert the TELE-TALK diskette and close the disk drive door.
- 4. Turn on the computer.
- 5. The program will load and run automatically.

If, on powering up, the message "Interface Not On" appears, the interface is either 1) not turned on, 2) not connected, or 3) malfunctioning. Make sure the interface is turned on and reboot the system.

ATARI to ATARI Communication

To establish communication between two ATARI computers one modem must be set to 0 (origination mode) and the other to A (answer mode). Both modems should be set to FULL duplex.

ATARI to HOST Communication

When communicating with a remote computer network such as Compuserve or Tymnet, you must know the remote computer's format, and both your computer and the remote computer must be set to the same BAUD RATE and be in the same duplex (HALF or FULL) mode.

After the program has been loaded, the first display to appear on your screen will be the COMMAND MENU. Since TELE-TALK is ready to use as soon as it is loaded, you can go directly to the TERMINAL MODE from the COMMAND MENU by pressing START or RETURN and begin transmission immediately.

THE TERMINAL MODE

The TERMINAL MODE allows communication to and from telecommunication networks such as The Source and Compuserve. All characters typed in this mode are transmitted over the RS-232C communication port.

An entire line of text may be transmitted while in the TERMINAL MODE by using the EDIT OPTION KEYS. This feature is set up by the EDIT OPTION KEY in the COMMAND MENU.

While in the TERMINAL MODE you may also change the background color of your display by pressing CTRL Ø.

Split Screen Option

TELE-TALK allows you to input the next response while the transmission from the telecommunication network is still in progress. This feature is very helpful when using CB-type networks which allow a group of users to communicate with one another simultaneously. Press SELECT to split off the bottom three lines of the screen. All text typed in these bottom lines will not be transmitted until a RETURN is entered. The lines can also be edited while a transmission is in progress. Press SELECT a second time to terminate this function.

Press **START** to shift between the TERMINAL MODE and the COMMAND MENU. If there is a delay when shifting it is because the XOFF, XON option in the Modify Port Configuration is set to YES. Set to NO to eliminate this delay.

THE COMMAND MENU

If you are in the TERMINAL MODE press START to return to the COMMAND MENU. Press M and you will see the Modify Port Configuration display.

MODIFY PORT CONFIGURATION

Press the up and down arrow keys to move the selection pointer to the option you wish to modify. Press the left and right arrow keys to change the option. All options and changes can be saved in your profile by using the PROFILE SAVE command.

You don't need to change any of these options to use TELE-TALK. The program is "ready to go" after it is loaded into your computer. However, depending upon your requirements, the program is designed to enable you to make these changes to give you more flexibility.

The "PRESS D for DEFAULTS" at the bottom of the display will set all options to their original state after any changes have been made.

Options

PORT NUMBER—(1 to 4) Will select one of the four serial interface ports on the interface module. Port #1 is recommended. Check your interface and modem requirements for the correct setting. Make sure to plug the cable into the proper port number.

BAUD RATE—Selectable from 110 to 9600. The recommended settings are 300 and 1200. Check your modem manual for the appropriate settings. Make sure the number you are dialing supports your choice. When communicating between ATARIS, both must be set to the same BAUD RATE.

STOP BITS—(1 or 2) Normally set to 1, but may be set to 2 on some modems and networks. Consult network documentations for the appropriate setting.

MONITOR CRX, CTS, DSR—(YES or NO) Set to NO. Check your interface manual for specific instructions. If you choose to monitor these lines, the interface will not respond unless these signals (CRX, CTS, DSR) are present from the modem.

The above three abbreviations are used to represent the RS-232C signals or control lines for transmission and reception of data. The data set uses DSR (Data Set Ready) to signal that it is ready to receive or send data. CTS refers to the Clear To Send signal given by the data set that it is ready for the transmission of data from the data terminal. Carrier Detect (CRX) lets the data set notify the data terminal that communication between the two computers has been established.

INPUT AND OUTPUT PARITY—A parity check can be used to ensure that nothing is lost or garbled in transmission by instructing the data terminals to check for, and maintain, an equal number of binary 1's in each communication word. These options control the word parity by altering bit number 7 for each word to make the sum of bits either odd or even. All communication words consist of 8 binary bits.

For the odd parity check the 7th bit will be set to \emptyset if the binary data word contains an odd number of 1's, or set to 1 if the word contains an even number of 1's. The even parity check will set bit number 7 of each word to 1 if the total number of 1's in the word is odd, and to \emptyset if the total number is even.

INPUT: 8-NONE True 8 bit data words

7-ODD 7 bits of data, one bit odd parity 7-EVEN 7 bits of data, one bit even parity

7-SPCE 7 bits of data, bit (7) set to Ø

OUTPUT: 8-NONE True 8 bit data words

7-ODD 7 bits of data, one bit odd parity7-EVEN 7 bits of data, one bit even parity

7-MARK 7 bits of data, bit (7) set to 1

AUTO LINE FEED—(YES or NO) Adds a carriage return after all line feeds. Normally set to NO.

TURN DTR—Data Terminal Ready. A signal from the terminal that it is ready to send or receive data. Usually set to ON. The SAME option is used if you do not want to change the DTR signal (in the interface module) from its current setting. Check interface manual for other instructions.

TURN RTS—Request to Send. A signal from the terminal to the data set that it is ready to send data. This is usually set to ON. The SAME option is used if you do not want to change RTS from its current setting. Consult your interface manual for other instructions.

SET XMT—Data Transmit. The signal on which data is transmitted or "goes out." This controls the start and stop bits. The normal setting for XMT is MARK (defined as a signal that translates to a binary 1). In the majority of cases you will not need to change this signal from MARK. The SPACE option is the equivalent of a binary \emptyset . As with the DTR and RTS signals, the SAME option will leave the signal at its current setting. Again, consult your interface manual for more details.

DUPLEX—(FULL or HALF) Your modem should always be set to FULL duplex. TELE-TALK will simulate the HALF duplex function. If you get two characters for each one you type, set this option to FULL duplex. If you don't see the characters you type, set to HALF duplex.

FULL duplex allows the sender to see typed on his computer screen what he is sending because the receiving computer "echos" back to the sender each character as it is being typed. HALF duplex means the receiving computer does not "echo" what is being sent to it.

SCREEN WIDTH—(40 or 38) Is used to set the left margin of your screen. If using a T.V. monitor set at 38 if the first few characters of each line are off the screen. If you are using a video monitor, set at 40.

WORD WRAP—(YES or NO) Controls the roll to a new line when the last word will not fit on the current line. This option will not affect your transmission or data capture.

SAVE TEXT—(YES or NO) One of the most important features of TELE-TALK is the ability to capture a transmission in memory (text buffer) to be later reviewed, saved to disk, or printed. To capture a data file from a network or during an ATARI to ATARI transmission, this option must be set to YES.

The size of the current, saved text is represented by a saved text indicator, a moving red or blue line across the top part of the screen. On a black and white monitor you will see a white dot instead of a line. When this line or dot reaches the right side of the screen you will have run out of room in the text buffer. You may interrupt the transmission at this point by pressing the START key. The COMMAND MENU will now be displayed. To clear the test buffer press the Clear command C. To save the text, use the SPOOL SAVED TEXT option.

USE XOFF & XON—(YES or NO) Some networks will interrupt their transmission when sent the XOFF (transmit off), and resume with an XON (transmit on) character. This option is useful if your text buffer becomes full in the middle of a transmission and you wish to save the text and load to a disk. TELE-TALK is designed to automatically send the XOFF and XON signals when you move from the TERMINAL MODE to the COMMAND MENU and back. There is some time delay when moving back and forth between these two modes to allow for the XOFF and XON commands. Set this option to NO when not in use to avoid this delay.

If you just want to temporarily freeze the screen to read the incoming text, you must send the standard XOFF and XON commands by pressing CTRL S and CTRL Q.

SHOW CTRL CHAR—(YES or NO) Use this option to see CONTROL A through Z displayed while in the TERMINAL MODE. Control characters will print in inverse video but will not be saved in the text buffer. This option should normally be set to NO.

EDIT OPTION KEYS

Press RETURN and the display will return to the COM-MAND MENU. Press and the EDIT OPTION KEYS display will appear.

TELE-TALK will store up to 10 predefined character strings which can be transmitted with a single key stroke. Use these for your logon I.D.'s passwords, etc. Each entry may contain up to 32 characters including the carriage return.

To edit one of these character strings, type the appropriate number key. The cursor will appear at the beginning of the line. Type the text and press **RETURN**

To transmit a saved character string while in the TERMINAL MODE, simultaneously press the OPTION key and the number of the string. The underline is for clarity only and will not be transmitted.

If you are using one of the newer "smart" modems these predefined character strings can be utilized as commands to the modem for automatic dialing, etc.

SPOOL SAVED TEXT

If you wish to save or print the transmission you have saved in the text buffer, press and the following will appear on the display.

Spool Filename—>D1:

If you want to save the transmission to disk drive #1, simply type the file name after the colon and then press RETURN. To save a file to a drive other than #1, delete the D1: and type D2: or 3, etc. and then press RETURN. If you want to print the transmission delete the D1: and type P and press RETURN. This command will print everything currently in the text buffer. If the text buffer is empty your commands will be ignored.

REVIEW SAVED TEXT

Press R to bring the current, saved text to the screen. Use the space bar to stop and start the scrolling. Press START to return to the COMMAND MENU.

CLEAR SAVED TEXT

When the saved text indicator at the top of the display reaches the right side of the screen your text buffer is full. Press C to empty the text from memory so that new transmission data can be saved. When C is pressed the saved text indicator will disappear.

To clear the local screen press SHIFT CLEAR.

UPLOAD TO ATARI OR HOST

This feature of TELE-TALK allows for the transmission of any DOS readable files between two ATARI computers or ATARI and HOST (such as a large IBM) line editors. Both ATARIs should have identical port configurations (Command M). The following prompt will appear on the screen after pressing U.

Upload Filename—>D1:

Reply with the filename you want to transfer. Example: GAME.BAS. Next press **RETURN**. TELE-TALK will then load your file into the saved text buffer. If the text you want to transmit is already in memory, press **RETURN** with no filename.

There are two kinds of file transfers possible: ATARI to ATARI transfer and ATARI to HOST line editor. Press (ATARI to ATARI) to begin transmission to another ATARI. Press (ATARI to HOST line editor) to begin transmission to the HOST computer. Press (RETURN) to display the COMMAND MENU.

DOWNLOAD FROM ATARI

Press D and the download display will appear.

This command captures a file from another ATARI computer running TELE-TALK with the ATARI to ATARI transfer command.

The block being transmitted will appear on the upper half of the screen. The bottom half will tell you if the block being sent is good. When the file has been successfully received press **RETURN** and you will then be asked if you want to save it. If you want to save it, press **Y** and the text will automatically be saved to disk.

If you want to review the captured file or save it under a different name, reply with a NO to return to the COMMAND MENU.

You will notice that a white dot will appear on the line across the top of the screen as you begin the download. This is a file length indicator. As you download the current file the saved text indicator will move to the right until it reaches the file length indicator. At this point the file has been completely received.

DOWNLOADING FROM HOST COMPUTER

To capture a text file from a large computer such as an IBM, use the following method.

- 1. Logon as usual.
- 2. Edit the file containing the text (using TSO editor).
- 3. Press START
- 4. Clear the text buffer.
- Set the "Save Text" option in the Modify Port Configuration to YES.
- 6. Press START to return to the COMMAND MENU.
- 7. Press START again to return to the TERMINAL MODE.
- 8. Type in a list command (L*9999).

The file will be printed on your screen as well as saved in the text buffer. When the file has been completely received, press START, return to the COMMAND MENU and use the SPOOL SAVED TEXT option to spool the file to disk or printer. Don't forget to return to TERMINAL MODE and logoff.

TIME FUNCTIONS

Return to the COMMAND MENU and press T. The TIME FUNCTIONS display will appear. Use this command to set the current time of day and the hourly rate-connect time charge.

TELE-TALK has three internal clocks which keep track of the current time, the total time connected, and the connect charge amount. Time of day is expressed in hours, minutes, and seconds—7:30 PM = 073000. Always use six digits when setting the time. **RETURN** will not change the current time setting.

Cash is expressed in dollars and cents—\$12.50/hr. connect charge = 12.50. The cash clock will be updated every minute by 1/60 of the hourly rate. Press CTRL 9 in the TERMINAL MODE to reset the cash clock to Ø. Press CTRL 8 to start and stop the cash clock. Press CTRL 7 to eliminate the entire time function from the screen. To bring the time back again, press CTRL 7. The time function can only be eliminated from, or returned to, the screen in the TERMINAL MODE.

PROFILE SAVE, LOAD, OR CATALOG

Press P and the DOS functions included in TELE-TALK will appear on the screen.

This command is used for file maintenance, disk directory, and profile maintenance. Profiles are composed of all port configuration parameters and option key definitions. You may load or save as many profiles as appropriate.

One special profile is used to set default configuration parameters (DEFT.PRO). If you modify any options in the Modify Port configuration display and want to use these same options every time you use TELE-TALK, you can make your changes to the port options and save them in the special default profile (DEFT. PRO). After this profile is saved TELE-TALK will automatically boot this saved file into the program every time you load so you will only have to make the changes once. If you delete this profile the options in the Modify Port Configuration display will automatically return to their original state.

Disk directories for drives one to four are selected by their corresponding drive number. You may also delete, rename, lock, and unlock a file from this menu by pressing the keys indicated.

SPECIAL KEY FUNCTIONS

TELE-TALK converts some of the ATARI ATASCII characters into ASCII characters. The following table defines these special key functions.

KEYBOARD CHARACTERS TYPED	SENDS (ASCII)	MEANS (ASCII)	
TAB	Control I	Tab	
ESC	ESC	Escape	
CLEAR	Nothing	Local clear screen	
CTRL A	ASCII Control A	As defined	
through	through	by ASCII	
CTRL Z	Control Z		
RETURN	Control M	Return (CR)	
BACK S	Control H	Backspace	
DELETE	Delete	Rubout	
BREAK	Nothing	Nothing	
SHIFT BREAK	(Transmits ½ second break)		
CTRL,	Opening brace	Opening brace	
CTRL .	Closing brace	Closing brace	
CTRL /	Tilde	Tilde	
CTRL;	Accent grave	Accent grave	
CTRL L	CTRL L	Formfeed (clear screen)	
CTRL J	CTRL J	Line feed	
		(printer terminals only)	
CTRL H	CTRL H	Backspace	
CTRL G	CTRL G	Bell	
CTRL S	CTRL S	XOFF	
CTRL Q	CTRL Q	XON	

HELPFUL HINTS

To Copy a File

To copy a file, first use the UPLOAD option to load it into the text buffer. Use the **RETURN** key to get back to the COMMAND MENU and use the SPOOL SAVED TEXT option to spool the saved text back to disk.

Error Messages

TELE-TALK will display the error number on the title line of the display. Use your ATARI manuals for a full description of each error.

Duplex Error

This message will appear when using the UPLOAD and DOWNLOAD functions between ATARIs. Both modems must be set to FULL duplex when transmitting files between ATARIs.

Losing Connection During Transmission

TELE-TALK has been designed to recover from a temporary loss of transmission during an ATARI to ATARI file transfer. If you should lose connection during a transmission, redial and reconnect. TELE-TALK will retransmit the last buffer and continue processing automatically.

Menu Transfer

You may use the START key to terminate or transfer to any function. Example: to leave the Profile-DOS menu press START. To leave the COMMAND MENU and go to the TERMINAL MODE, press START. Likewise, to return to the COMMAND MENU press START.

Sending Text Files to Non ATARI Computers

TELE-TALK may be used to send text files to other computers using other software such as an Apple with Apple software. This transmission is done by using the UPLOAD command to bring the file into the text buffer and spooling the text buffer to device R1: which refers to port #1 in the interface module for the RS-232C communication line. To spool to R1:, delete the D1: with the delete key and type R1: in its place. Press RETURN. Your text will be transmitted through port #1 in the interface module. However, no display of the text will appear on your screen.

The Reset Key

This key will reset the ATARI computer back to its original state. Text buffer contents are preserved as well as your profile. Use this key when all else fails.

COMPUTER NETWORKS

Computer Networks are groups of computers linked to one or more main-frame computers accessed by remote terminals. The main computer provides information and computing services such as business, financial, news, electronic mail, banking, reservations, and games. Prices vary with the type of network and the time of day called. Some data banks charge by the minute, some by the hour, and others have minimum-time requirements. What follows is a sampling of a few of the larger networks.

Compuserve — 5000 Arlington Centre Blvd.
Columbus, Ohio 43220
(614) 457-8600

A subsidiary of H&R Block, Compuserve provides stock and commodity data, mail, banking, local and national news, reservations, games, and bulletin boards. Its suppliers include Citibank, Value Line, and Standard & Poor's.

Data Resources, Inc. — 29 Hartwell Ave. Lexington, MA 02173 (617) 861-0165

A large vendor offering data banks in agriculture, banking, construction, economics, energy, finance, insurance, and securities. Detailed U.S. regional, national, and international economic, demographic, and financial indicators are also tracked.

Dow Jones News/Retrieval — 22 Cortland St.
New York, N.Y. 10007
(212) 285-5000

A bibliographic data bank compiling the Wall Street Journal, Barron's, and the Dow Jones News Service. Dow Jones compiles its own data bank, providing the market activity of a company along with all the news about that company. Stock prices are maintained on a current basis.

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The Source — 1616 Anderson Rd. McLean, VA 22102 (703) 821-6660

A subsidiary of the Readers Digest Association, The Source is a public information utility. The Source offers electronic mail, 36 categories of news, commentary on business and financial markets, prices on stocks, airline schedules, restaurant reviews, games, and bulletin boards.

These are just a few of the networks available. New ones are being added every month. Some computer owners are also radio amateurs who have kept interactive communication alive by establishing computer bulletin boards. Most of these are sponsored by computer clubs and user groups. Callers can leave and receive messages.

Cable, local, and personal networks are already here. They will continue to expand in line with the growth of the home computer. Soon the local networks will interface with the world-wide public information networks that send data from satellites. The possibilities for instant communication and information access from any place on the globe are limitless.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

BAUD: Bits per second. The measure of speed at which

serial data is transferred between computers. 300 BAUD is the usual rate (30 characters per second),

although faster rates are possible.

BUFFER: Memory set aside temporarily for use by the

program. Memory used to make up the difference in data transfer rates of computers and external

devices.

HOST: The primary computer in a multi-computer or

terminal hook-up.

MODEM: MOdulator/DEModulator — An I/O (input/output)

device that allows communication over phone

lines.

PORT: A single addressable channel used for commu-

nications.

RS-232C: An interface that converts parallel data to serial

data for communication. The output is universally

standard.

DATA A computer, keyboard, or CRT in which data is

TERMINAL: either received or generated.

DATA SET: A device connected to a terminal that receives data

from the terminal and carries it over the telephone

line.

SPOOL: Loading a text onto disk.

UPLOAD: To transmit (send) a file to another computer.

DOWN- To receive a file from another computer.

LOAD:

LIMITED WARRANTY

This software product and the attached instructional materials are sold "AS IS," without warranty as to their performance. The entire risk as to the quality and performance of the computer software program is assumed by the user. The user, and not the manufacturer, distributor or retailer assumes the entire cost of all necessary service or repair to the computer software program.

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If failure of the medium, in the judgment of DATASOFT, resulted from accident, abuse or misapplication of the medium, then DATASOFT shall have no responsibility to replace or repair the medium under the terms of this warranty.

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