

Charles E. Balthaser

TYPIT

Turn your computer into a typewriter

Diskette: 24K

• (APX-20192)

• Version 1

Edition A

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TYPIT

by

C.E. Balthaser

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Introduction

Overview

The easy-to-use TYPIT word processor can turn your ATARI Home Computer into a typewriter. But you don't have to give up the latest editing capabilities of your computer.

A page of text appears on the screen just the way it will on the printed page, without code symbols. For example, when you want to skip a line between paragraphs, you just see a blank line on the screen. Each line is as long on the screen as it's going to be on the page. There's no "wraparound" of text from line to line. An audio signal warns you when you're at the end of a line. To help you visualize how it's going to look on paper, TYPIT displays a perforated line every 65 lines, to show the bottom of an 11-inch sheet of paper.

The seventeen editing commands are short and simple. But any time you're puzzled, you can call for the "help" screen, and the program reminds you what the commands are.

With a system having 48K of computer memory, you have room for four pages of text. With a system having 24K of computer memory, you can type about one page making it ideal for memos, letters, or short homework assignments, or macros or subroutines for programmers. You can save anything you write on diskette.

Required accessories

- 24K RAM
- ATARI 810 Disk Drive
- ATARI 825 80-Column Printer

Optional accessories

- DOS II formatted diskette(s) for storing text

Contacting the author

Users wishing to contact the author may write to him at:

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Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Getting started

Loading TYPIT into computer memory

1. Remove any program cartridge from the cartridge slot of your computer.
2. Turn on your disk drive.
3. When the busy light goes out, open the disk drive door and insert the TYPIT diskette with the label in the lower right-hand corner nearest to you. Close the door.
4. Turn on your computer and TV set. The program will load into computer memory and start automatically.

The first display screen

When TYPIT has loaded into computer memory, the following screen displays:

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press START key to begin

Figure 1 First display screen

Using TYPIT

THE EDIT SCREEN

When you press the START key, a list of abbreviations and explanations of the program's commands appears on the screen. This is called the "help" screen, and it's explained in detail below (see Figure 2).

Press the START key again for a black screen with a line of dots and arrows at the top. The dots mark off the characters (letters, numbers, spaces, and punctuation marks). The arrows show where the tabs are set, and the angle marks show the margins. There's a cursor at the top left. This is called the "edit screen", and it's ready for you to begin typing. Think of it as a blank sheet of paper you've just inserted in your typewriter. A full explanation of the commands for editing your text follows below, after the instructions on saving and printing the text. You can press the START key at any time to go back and forth from the edit screen to the help screen.

SAVING THE TEXT

After you've typed your message, remove the TYPIT diskette from the disk drive. Insert a DOS-II formatted diskette in its place and close the door.

Press the CTRL (CONTROL) key, and type W at the same time. This is called the "write" command. It means that the program is writing the text to the diskette, to be stored and called for later. The help screen (Figure 2, below) displays with the following message at the bottom:

```
ENTER WRITE FILE: __  
EXAMPLE: D1:MYFILE.001
```

To name a file, you begin with a "designator." This shows which disk drive you're using. It always includes a capital D, the number of your disk drive, and a colon (D1: in the example).

Next type a name for your text file, something like the example on the screen. The file name must begin with a capital letter, but the rest of the name may include numbers as well as more capital letters (up to a total of seven characters). You may add an extender after a period, like the .001 in the example.

Press the RETURN key and the process begins. When the program has finished saving the text, the edit screen displays again.

LOADING A TEXT FILE

Suppose you've saved some text (following the procedure above) and you'd like to edit or print it. Remove the TYPIT diskette from the disk drive, and insert the diskette containing your text. Close the disk drive door. Press the CTRL (CONTROL) key and type R at the same time. This is the command to "read" the file stored on the diskette. The help screen (Figure 2, below) displays, with the following message at the bottom:

```
ENTER READ FILE:___  
EXAMPLE: D1:MYFILE.001
```

Type the name of the file and press the RETURN key. When the program is finished loading the text, the edit screen displays.

The text is loaded at the top of the edit screen, and it overwrites any text that was already there.

PRINTING

You can print what you've typed whether you save the text or not. If you're writing something you don't want to save, just print when you finish typing. When you turn off the computer, that text is lost.

If you saved the text on a diskette, follow the instructions above to load a text into computer memory before you begin printing.

Make sure your printer and interface module are on, and that your printer is in the ONLINE mode. Press the CTRL (CONTROL) key and type P at the same time. The program starts printing everything from the cursor to the end of the text. (Use the CTRL-B command, described below, to return the cursor to the beginning of the text.) You can interrupt printing at any time by pressing any key except the BREAK key.

If you press the BREAK key, the message "BREAK KEY ABORT" displays beneath the help screen. This means you return to the edit screen and start over.

THE HELP SCREEN

When you follow the instructions on the first display screen (Figure 1) to press the START key, the following list of commands appears:

```
CTRL-B= go to beginning of text
CTRL-C= set/unset key click
CTRL-P= print text
CTRL-R= read file from disk
CTRL-W= write file to disk
CTRL-X= set/unset margin sign
CTRL-M= set margin
>= move margin marker right
<= move margin marker left
RETURN= accept margin settings
LOGO KEY= margin release
CAPS/LOWR= set/unset lower case
CTRL-INSERT= insert text
CTRL-DELETE= delete text
SHIFT-CLEAR= clear text
SHIFT-DELETE= delete line
SHIFT-INSERT= insert line

**START= enter/exit this menu**
```

Figure 2 Help screen

This is called the "help" screen, because you can summon it at any time to refresh your memory. Just press the START key.

All "CTRL-" commands require pressing the CTRL (CONTROL) key while pressing a letter key. The commands on the help screen are as follows:

START KEY: Use the START key at any time to display the help screen. Press the START key again to return to your text on the edit screen.

CTRL-B: Use this command to position the cursor at the topmost line of the edit screen.

CTRL-C: Use this command to turn the key click sound on or off. When the click sound is on, the keyboard sounds more like a typewriter.

CTRL-P: Use this command to print everything from the cursor to the end of the text. You can interrupt the printing at any time by pressing any key except the BREAK key. This command is explained in detail on page 4. Make sure your printer and interface module are on, and that your printer is in the ONLINE mode.

CTRL-R: Use this command to load a text file into computer memory from a diskette. When you use this command, you're magically transported to the help screen. At the bottom you see a prompt to enter the file name. The new text starts at the top of the

edit screen. This command is explained in detail on page 4.

CTRL-W: Use this command to save the text you're typing on a diskette. Remove the TYPIT diskette from the disk drive. Insert a DOS-II formatted diskette and close the door. You see the help screen and a prompt to enter a file name. Type a file designator and a file name (up to seven letters) and press the RETURN key. You can't save particular sections of a text file. When the program finishes saving the text, you return to the top of the edit screen. This command is explained in detail on page 3.

CTRL-X: Use this command only when you're saving your text to a diskette. Its function is to save the margins and tabs you've specified for the text you're writing to the diskette for storage. Look for a curved arrow at the top left of the screen to show that these margins are being saved. If you don't save the margins you set, TYPIT uses its own margins.

CTRL-M: Use this command to set margins by moving to the tab and margin line directly above the line of your typed text. The cursor is on the leftmost margin marker. Press the CTRL (CONTROL) key and the right and left arrow keys to move the cursor along the margin line. (You can't move the cursor past either of the margin marks.)

> and <: These symbols indicate left and right margins. To reset them, position the cursor over one of the markers and type the < or > keys. Moving margin markers over tab markers will erase the tab markers.

RETURN: When the margins are set where you want them, press the RETURN key. The cursor returns to the top line of the text.

ATARI LOGO KEY: Use this key as the "margin release" of a typewriter. Pressing this key lets you type beyond the right margin. You must release the margin afresh on each line. You can't cancel all the margins with this key.

CAPS/LOWR: Use this key to change from typing capital letters to typing lower case letters, and back again. For example, suppose you're typing lower case (using the SHIFT key for capitalized words), and want to type a long title or quotation in capital letters. Press the CAPS/LOWR key to start typing all capital letters, and then press the same key to return to the lower case mode afterwards. It affects only letter keys; it doesn't change a 4 into a \$, or a / into a ? You don't need to press the SHIFT key while you're pressing this key.

CTRL-INSERT: Use this key to "insert space". It inserts a space in your line of text at the cursor location. All text to the right of the cursor moves one space right each time you press CTRL-INSERT. You lose any characters at the far end of the line.

CTRL-DELETE: Use this key to delete any character (letter, number, space, or punctuation mark) beneath the cursor. All characters to the right of the cursor move one position to the left.

SHIFT-CLEAR: Use this command to clear the text from the screen. Begin by pressing the SHIFT key while you strike the CLEAR key. This doesn't clear text from the screen. It does sound a warning and change the screen to emphasize that all your hard work is about to go up in smoke. If you press the RETURN key at this point, you'll see ALL text from the cursor on disappear. If, however, you've had a change of heart, then striking ANY key except RETURN cancels the command.

SHIFT-DELETE: Use this command to delete the line the cursor occupies. You can't recover the line once you've deleted it! All lines below the deleted line move up one, and a blank line is inserted at the last line location.

SHIFT-INSERT: Use this command to insert a line. A blank line is inserted in place of the line where the cursor is positioned. The line that was replaced and all lines below it move down one.

OTHER COMMANDS

TYPIT has other commands you can use besides those on the help screen.

SHIFT-TAB Use this command to set a tab mark.

CTRL-TAB Use this command to clear a tab mark. The cursor must be on a line where there's a tab. There's no "clear all tabs" command.

DELETE/BACK S erases the character upon which the cursor was positioned and moves the cursor to the previous position.

Press the CTRL (CONTROL) and the arrow keys simultaneously to move the cursor around the edit screen.

FILE INDEX

When you're saving text files on diskettes, you may want to check the contents of the diskettes from time to time. Load the DOS menu into computer memory from any diskette that has DOS on it. Insert the storage diskette in the disk drive and select "A" from the DOS menu. An index of the files on the diskette displays on the screen.

DELETING A TEXT FILE

Load the DOS menu into computer memory from any diskette that has DOS on it. Insert the storage diskette in the disk drive and select "D" from the DOS menu. Then type the name of the file you want to delete. The prompt asks you for confirmation before the file is finally deleted.

Controls for the printer

The following commands help you specify instructions to your printer. By typing these commands, you can select the print for your text. Type the key sequence at the beginning of a line, and add the text on the same line.

If you see the abbreviation ESC, press the ESCAPE key first. The abbreviation CTRL means that you type the next letter while holding the CTRL key down.

The abbreviation "cpi" in the following table means "characters per inch." A character is a letter, space, number, or mark of punctuation.

KEY SEQUENCES

PRINTER ACTION

ESC CTRL-N

start elongated print

This line shows elongated print.

ESC CTRL-O

stop elongated print

ESC CTRL-Q

select proportional character set*

This line shows proportional character set printing.

ESC CTRL-S

select monospaced character set* (10 cpi)

This line shows the monospaced character set.

ESC CTRL-T

select condensed character set* (16.7 cpi)

This line shows the condensed character set.

CTRL-O

start underline

CTRL-N

stop underline

* You must place the key sequences for selecting the character sets at the absolute left edge of the edit screen. The ATARI 825 80-Column Printer is designed so that these sequences must be the first thing sent to the printer on a line. TYPIT is written so that if your margin is set in from the left side, the characters preceding the margin are sent to the printer as spaces. This also means that you can't change character sets within a line. Do some experimenting for yourself with these special key sequences.

Error messages

BREAK KEY ABORT

You've used the BREAK key to abort a printer or diskette operation.

NON-EXISTENT DEVICE

You've tried to write or read from a device that doesn't exist. For example, if you used a lower case "d" as a designator of a text file, this message would display. You must use a capital "D".

NOT A TEXT FILE

You've tried to read from a diskette a file that's not a text file. For example, trying to read DOS.SYS with the TYPIT program causes this error message to display.

CHECK YOUR EQUIPMENT

Either a piece of equipment isn't functioning properly, or you forgot to turn something on. For example, using the CTRL-P command while the printer is turned off causes this message to display.

DISK DRIVE # ERROR

You've entered an invalid number in the file designator. For example, you might have entered D2:FILE.001 without a second disk drive.

THE DISK IS FULL

You've tried to write a file onto a diskette that doesn't have enough room for it.

FILE NAME ERROR

You've entered an invalid file name. File names must follow the conventions in the Disk Operating System Reference Manual. For example, entering D1:12345.ABC causes this error because file names must begin with letters (such as D1:H2345.ABC).

THAT FILE IS LOCKED

You've tried to overwrite a diskette file that has been "locked" by the Disk Operating System "F" command.

THE DIRECTORY IS FULL

You've tried to write a file to a diskette that has too many files on it. You should either exit from TYPIT and delete an unnecessary file or two (using DOS command "D"), or use another diskette with fewer files.

FILE NOT FOUND

You've tried to read from the diskette a file that doesn't exist. Check that you're typing the correct file name, or that you're reading from the correct diskette.

THERE IS A PROBLEM SOMEWHERE

TYPIT issues this message when it finds an error that isn't covered by one of the error messages above.

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1. Name and APX number of program.

2. If you have problems using the program, please describe them here.

3. What do you especially like about this program?

4. What do you think the program's weaknesses are?

5. How can the catalog description be more accurate or comprehensive?

6. On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being "poor" and 10 being "excellent", please rate the following aspects of this program:

- _____ Easy to use
- _____ User-oriented (e.g., menus, prompts, clear language)
- _____ Enjoyable
- _____ Self-instructive
- _____ Useful (non-game programs)
- _____ Imaginative graphics and sound

7. Describe any technical errors you found in the user instructions (please give page numbers).

8. What did you especially like about the user instructions?

9. What revisions or additions would improve these instructions?

10. On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 representing "poor" and 10 representing "excellent", how would you rate the user instructions and why?

11. Other comments about the program or user instructions:

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[seal here]