

The KAMAS Report

Issue Number 7

February, 1986

IN THIS ISSUE

Yes, we know we are late with the newsletter. In fact, we are very late. This issue (#7) should have been sent in December, 1985. But we missed our "window of opportunity" and, as a result, the entire issue got pushed aside by a frenzy of activity during the Christmas buying season. Here we are again --- hope you didn't give up on us.

We've had many great contributions since our last newsletter. Some have become articles in this and the next issue of The KAMAS Report. Others comprise Utility Disk 4. We want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who sent in contributions. Even if you didn't hear from us, your contribution is still greatly appreciated and will probably pop up in a future newsletter or utility disk.

We are past the point in sheer numbers where we can respond personally to you all. We would certainly like to because, to the degree that we have done so in the past, we have found some of the most fascinating people we have ever encountered.

This issue contains information on our new OUT-THINK plus a group of related articles that explain how to use KAMAS with specific peripherals: RAM disks for the Epson and Otrona Attache and printers. Even if you don't have the peripheral equipment described here, you can still follow the articles as models of how to use the KAMAS programming language to add to your outline processor and allow it to "hook into" your favorite peripheral device.

IN THE NEWS

By now, many of you have read about or heard of our new outline processor for CP/M systems, OUT-THINK. But you may still be wondering why we came out with another CP/M outline processor.

Here's the story behind OUT-THINK, which we started shipping in February, 1986.

When we started out with KAMAS more than 2 years ago, we designed it to be a sophisticated, integrated software package with its own built-in programming language. But since KAMAS had the only outline processor available for CP/M computers, we got a wide spectrum of customers from novices to experienced computer users.

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Many of you (both experienced and novice users) have taken advantage of the programming language to customize KAMAS and add the features that you wanted. (Witness the first three utility disks, the prior issues of the newsletter, and the upcoming Utility Disk 4.)

Others have stayed close to the outline processing, mainly sticking to the outline editor and its built-in outlining features.

With the introduction of OUT-THINK, we can better serve this broad spectrum of users. Now, we have a product line and customers don't have to purchase a complete programming environment just to get an Outline Processor. OUT-THINK is far more streamlined and easier to use than KAMAS. It benefits both from our experience in supporting KAMAS and your experience in using KAMAS. We've listened to your praise, your suggestions, your comments, and your criticisms. And we've incorporated as much as we possibly can into OUT-THINK, making it the best outline processor ever for CP/M. KAMAS continues to provide the awesome power and flexibility of an integrated tool that you can mold and shape into your own vision.

We're offering OUT-THINK at a substantial discount to KAMAS owners (See "Ordering Information" for details.) and we think it's well worth it. The two programs complement one another very well. OUT-THINK provides most of what you need an outline processor for and you can switch over to KAMAS to fill in the gaps with your own custom programs or with programs that others have written and contributed to our utility disks or newsletters.

Now for the Details

We started with the time-tested code in KAMAS (version 1.2) and removed ROVE mode and the programming environment. This left space for massive improvements in the Outline Processing. For Outline Processing alone, OUT-THINK is far superior to KAMAS.

Here are some of the major improvements that you'll find in OUT-THINK:

- OUT-THINK has no overlays resulting in big speed improvements
- Title editor that lets you edit a title instead of re-typing it
- Duplicate keys are allowed in topic files
- Built-in set of copy commands to copy within and between topics
- Built-in resize command to change topic sizes
- Built-in directory command lets you see what files are on your disk
- Topic manager to manage topic files replaces ROVE mode
- Lookup function is more comprehensive and easier to use
- Complete set of mark and gather functions
- Printing commands are more streamlined and easier to use
- More formatting commands are provided including headers and footers and a table of contents
- Improved install program lets OUT-THINK mimic the keyboard control of Wordstar or Perfect Writer
- Built-in commands to directly read-in and write-out standard ASCII text files and Wordstar document files

- Topic files are totally compatible from KAMAS to OUT-THINK
- Brand new, 200-page manual with an extensive hands-on tutorial

In addition, there are many small improvements such as being able to delete a word in the leaf editor, overstrike mode in the leaf editor, and retaining the last date entered during sign on.

And OUT-THINK provides the first step in what we plan to offer as a migration path for those of you who are moving to MSDOS computers. OUT-THINK runs under CP/M, but we've made it more universal than KAMAS, so that it also works on many of the CP/M emulators available for MSDOS. We've tested it on the emulators from Intersecting Concepts and US Digital as well as several public domain emulators. OUT-THINK uses only the 8080 instruction set, so it also works with CP/M emulators using the new NEC V20 chip that replaces the processor in the IBM PC. As we test more emulators, we will let you know the ones that work.

Don't worry. We're not abandoning CP/M, but we are trying to provide a complete product line of idea processors that cover a broad spectrum of functionality and machines.

Ordering Information

As a KAMAS owner, there are two ways you can get a copy of OUT-THINK:

- a) Send \$30.00 with your order form (see the attached brochure) filled out. We'll verify that you own KAMAS and send you OUT-THINK at a discount of \$19.95.
- b) For an even greater discount, send your KAMAS Master Disk and \$25.00 with your order form. We won't have to verify that you own KAMAS if we see your master and we'll give you an extra \$5.00 discount. We'll also return your KAMAS Master in addition to your copy of OUT-THINK.

But do hurry. This offer ends on June 1, 1986.

FROM USER GROUPS

We've heard from the following folks who would like to start or attend user group meetings in their areas. If you're interested, contact these people.

Barry Brandt at 702-322-4295 in RENO, NEVADA would like to hear from other KAMAS owners.

Curtis Walker, Box 20515, Bloomington, MN 55420 would be interested in a KAMAS user group or SIG in the TWIN CITIES area.

Frank Belluccia in TAMPA, FLORIDA wants to start a user group in the Tampa Area. Contact him at 813-873-1234.

Finally, the SAN FRANCISCO COMPUTER SOCIETY would like someone familiar with KAMAS (or OUT-THINK now) to attend one of their meetings and give a talk, and/or a demo, and/or answer questions. If you are interested in becoming a famous KAMAS user and giving a talk about using famous KAMAS, contact one of the following:

- Bob Snyder, 415-665-6336
- Jim Wack, President SF Computer Society, 415-239-1399

USING SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT

RAM Fast

Dodge trucks may be built "RAM Tough". But we know of a lot of KAMAS users who have discovered the concept of RAM Fast with boards that are built to run at RAM speeds and emulate their slow cousins--disk drives.

Here are a few tips and pointers for those of you who are setting up RAM disks on your systems.

RAM Disk Setup for Otrona

Roger Golub reports that the T. Emerson RAM Disk for the Otrona Attache 8:16 can be added to the list of RAM disks that work with KAMAS. This RAM disk holds 248K and Roger has a few tips for maximizing use of that space.

The first tip is of use to those of you still using Version 1.1 or 1.0. Because of the way that KAMAS finds the default drive and its overlay files in Version 1.0 or 1.1, you have to play a trick to take advantage of the lightening fast speed on the RAM disk.

The KAMAS.COM file is only loaded once and so Roger leaves that on floppy drive A; its slow speed doesn't hurt in the one-time operation of loading KAMAS. The other KAMAS files (.OV1, .OV2, .OV3, .SWP, and SYSTOPIC.TOP) are accessed regularly while running KAMAS, so those go onto the RAM disk where the access speeds are so much higher. He uses the following SUBMIT file to invoke KAMAS from CP/M:

```
C:
PIP C:=A:*.OV?[G1]
GO C:=A:KAMAS.SWP[G1]
GO C:=A:*.TOP[G1]
KAMAS
```

The GO command is a feature of the ZCPR command processor and lets you run the last program that was loaded, in this case, PIP. That way you save time by not having to read the PIP.COM file in for each invocation. If you don't have ZCPR, just use the PIP command again in place of GO.

The [G1] parameter is also a feature of the ZCPR command processor which, in this case, gets the source file from User Area 1 instead of the normal User Area 0. The destination file is on the RAM disk Drive C: User Area 0. This allows you to permanently store those overlays in User Area 1 on the floppy where they are "hidden" during normal KAMAS operations. KAMAS does not see the files in other user areas when it is running. The first copy of the overlays and SYSTOPIC that KAMAS sees is on Drive C in User Area 0. In Version 1.0 and 1.1, drive C then becomes the default drive and overlays are loaded in quickly off the RAM disk. If you don't have ZCPR, leave off the [G1] parameter and insert the following rename command before the line invoking KAMAS:

```
REN A:SYSTOPIC.BAK=A:SYSTOPIC.TOP
```

The second tip from Roger can be helpful to you no matter which version of KAMAS you run. To further maximize space on the RAM disk, you can strip anything extraneous out of UTILITIES. For example, the job that makes an 8K SYSTOPIC is no longer needed after you run it. If you have Utility Disk 1, you can also eliminate the job that changes the editor to Wordstar configuration, after you run it. Utility Disk 1 included the User Guide in the main UTILITIES topic (UD3 has it in a separate topic). So, if you have UD1, you can delete the documentation in the User's Guide branch after you have printed it and recover more space. You can bring UTILITIES from UD1 down to about 52K by resizing it with the TCOPI utility or the AUX ROVE topic copy. UTILITIES on UD3 can also be reduced in size by removing jobs that you don't want to use.

Furthermore, if you have UD1, you can delete the file UTILITIE.TOP off of the RAM disk after you have loaded AUX ROVE into memory. The AUX ROVE functions are available even after the topic is deleted. If you use UD3, UTILITIES.TOP must remain available to load the jobs as they are needed. Roger modified AUTOJEX as follows to get rid of UTILITIES from UD1 after it was loaded.

```
....
NEWLINE "==== Load AUX ROVE (N)? " STOUT NOYES
IFSO 'UTILITIES TFIND IFSO "AUX ROVE" KJEX .IFSO .IFSO
      ; to conditionally kill utilities.top
      ; add the next two lines
NEWLINE "==== Kill topic UTILITIES (N)? " STOUT NOYES
IFSO 'UTILITIES TKILL .IFSO
      ; now back to the rest of AUTOJEX
'SYSTOPIC TBUILD TOPICS LOOP TRUEWF
NEWLINE "==== Edit What Topic: " STOUT WORKST STIN WORKST NOT STNULL=
IFSO WORKST TFIND
....
```

If you follow these steps you will end up with an overhead of about 40K on the RAM disk with 208K free on the T. Emerson RAM disk for the Otrona, but remember that if you use UD3, you must leave UTILITIES on the RAM disk while running KAMAS.

RAM Disk Setup for the Epson

Jim Newell wrote in with the following suggestions for Epson QX-10 users. Here's one for setting up KAMAS to work with the RAM disk.

1. Using SETUP, select the Disk Statistics menu, and enable the RAM disk.
2. Select the Drive Assignments menu
 - a. Set the RAM Disk to drive A
 - b. Set the left floppy to drive B
 - c. Set the right floppy to drive C
3. Exit using the Permanent option.
4. Reset your computer and the new setup will be on-line.
5. Try out the new configuration.
 - a. Try DIR A: and notice that it says NO FILES. Don't worry. Your files have not been lost, just rearranged.
 - b. Try DIR B: and notice that all the files that used to be on drive A are now on B. Do the same for drive C. All the files that used to be on drive B are now on C.

Now, the fastest disk drive, i.e., the RAM disk, is drive A.

Next, reconfigure KAMAS. If you run Version 1.2, install KAMAS for drives A, B, and C. If you use an earlier version of KAMAS, do the following:

1. Type B: return at the CP/M A> prompt to get to drive B.
2. Type KAMAS return to run KAMAS from the left floppy.
3. After KAMAS gets to ROVE, type GK AUTOJEX.
4. Type EL to edit this leaf.
5. Insert the following line as the new first line of the AUTOJEX:

```
LANG SYS 3 SETDRIVES
```

This tells KAMAS that you now have 3 drives.

Making the RAM disk into drive A gives the fastest speed up possible. You could however assign it as drive C.

Jim recommends the same technique that Roger Golub uses on his Otrona for running KAMAS. Put the .OV0, .OV1, .OV2, and .OV3 files the .SWP file and the SYSTOPIC.TOP file on the RAM disk. Leave the KAMAS.COM file on the floppy. And use a smaller version of SYSTOPIC.TOP. You can create a SUBMIT file similar to the one that Roger recommended to transfer the files from the floppy to the RAM disk and invoke KAMAS.

Printers

We've had lots of contributions containing printer initialization routines. Here is one with more to come.

Morrow MP100/Silver Reed 400/Transtar 120

The following commands are from Keith Fieldhammer to set-up the Morrow MP100 printer to 10, 12, or 15 pitch. They also work for the Silver Reed 400 and the Transtar 120.

```
LANG SYS
SETHX
'15PITCH : 1B WCPRT D WCPRT 50 WCPRT 1B WCPRT 1F WCPRT 8 WCPRT .
'12PITCH : 1B WCPRT D WCPRT 50 WCPRT 1B WCPRT 1F WCPRT A WCPRT .
'10PITCH : 1B WCPRT D WCPRT 50 WCPRT 1B WCPRT 1F WCPRT C WCPRT .
SETDEC
```

You can define the commands by typing TE at the ROVE: prompt and then typing the above lines at the language prompt.

After you have defined these commands, execute the one that you want to initialize your printer by typing its name at the language prompt. Type ROVE at the language prompt to return to ROVE mode.

Or try entering the commands in leafs as follows. You'll need three leafs -- one called "15 PITCH", one called "12 PITCH" and one called "10 PITCH".

You can insert these leafs in UTILITIES topic after MAKE 8K SYSTOPIC if you have Utility Disk 3. Then, they'll appear in the AUX ROVE menu and you can run them by jexing them.

15 PITCH

```
LANG SYS SETHX 1B WCPRT D WCPRT 50 WCPRT 1B WCPRT 1F WCPRT 8 WCPRT ROVE
```

12 PITCH

```
LANG SYS SETHX 1B WCPRT D WCPRT 50 WCPRT 1B WCPRT 1F WCPRT A WCPRT ROVE
```

10 PITCH

```
LANG SYS SETHX 1B WCPRT D WCPRT 50 WCPRT 1B WCPRT 1F WCPRT C WCPRT ROVE
```

Or enter them in the MISC UTILITIES topic or in SYSTOPIC on your working system disk if you have room. Or create a new topic on your working system disk to contain miscellaneous programs like these.

If you follow this last approach, go to the leaf called 10 PITCH and jex it when you want to set your printer for 10 pitch. Likewise for the other pitches. To jex a leaf, go to it in ROVE mode and type G J at the ROVE: prompt.

A final way to enter the same commands is to insert them at the very beginning of the AUTOJEX leaf:

```
LANG SYS SETHEX
'15PITCH : 1B WCPRT D WCPRT 50 WCPRT 1B WCPRT 1F WCPRT 8 WCPRT .
'12PITCH : 1B WCPRT D WCPRT 50 WCPRT 1B WCPRT 1F WCPRT A WCPRT .
'10PITCH : 1B WCPRT D WCPRT 50 WCPRT 1B WCPRT 1F WCPRT C WCPRT .
SETDEC
NEWLINE "Do you want 10/12/15 pitch? " STOUT WGIN
WOCASES
10 WOCASE 10PITCH .WOCASE
12 WOCASE 12PITCH .WOCASE
15 WOCASE 15PITCH .WOCASE
OTHERS NEWLINE "Sorry, that is not available" STOUT
.WOCASES
```

If you type 10 return, your printer will be set for 10 pitch; 12 return sets your printer for 12 pitch, and 15 return sets it up for 15 pitch.

This program illustrates the many ways to "skin a cat" in KAMAS. You can define and execute commands at the language prompt; you can type sequences of commands into a leaf and jex that leaf; or you can add the same basic commands to the AUTOJEX leaf which is automatically jexed during initialization.

Many thanks to Keith Fieldhammer for supplying these printer init commands.

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