

SUPERLETTER

Serving SuperBrain® Owners and Users Around the World

April/May 1981
Vol. 1 No. 2

There's an explosion going on!

New software products and hardware enhancements for the SuperBrain computer are now rapidly making their way into the marketplace. And we're going to find and introduce them to you with important details and facts that can help you with your critical buying decisions.

Beginning with this issue of Superletter, we'll be publishing an ongoing listing of all of these new products. Obviously, we can't guarantee their effectiveness or value unless manufacturers provide us with their products for a careful and objective user-oriented analysis. But, we can put all the information together in one place for you, and that's a first for SuperBrain users!

Yes, you'll see some big changes in our price and publishing schedules. Many of you responded with some very valuable feedback after reading our charter issue in February. Your comments and suggestions were warmly received and listened to.

Therefore, we are now going to publish bi-monthly and cut our sub-

scription rates in half. It seems that both readers and advertisers alike prefer that formula, so we have adapted our operations accordingly.

As you'll see in one of our articles, the price of the 64K SuperBrain has gone up. So has the drop-ship price to retailers. Although it means that infla-

tion has caught up with the price of Intertec products, (when some other computer prices are falling), one way to look at it is that the re-sell price will probably rise as well.

tomers so that we can send them a sample issue of Superletter. Any new venture can only succeed when it gets that kind of encouragement and support.

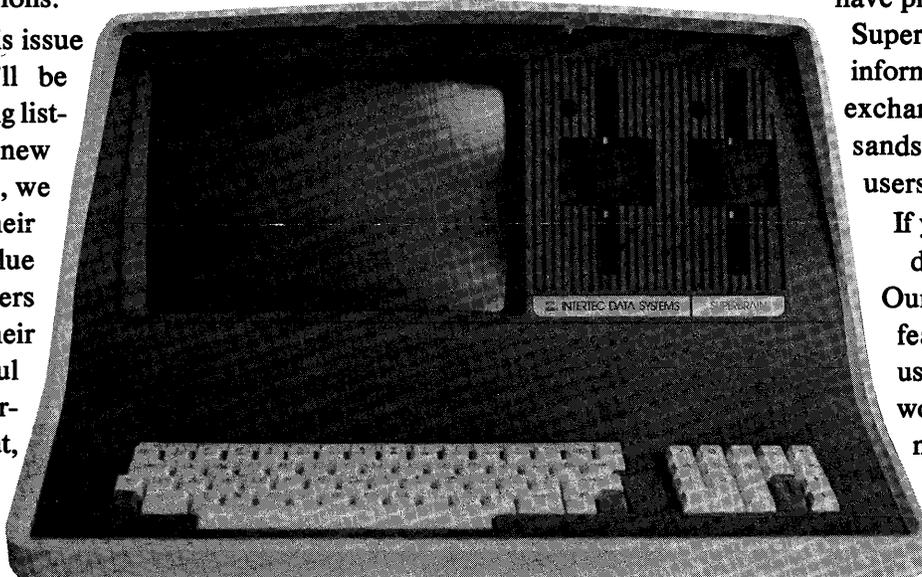
We are here to listen and help when we can. We appreciate the news and articles that many of you have provided us. By way of Superletter this beneficial information can now be exchanged easily to thousands of other SuperBrain users.

If you haven't subscribed, don't wait any longer. Our next issue will be featuring articles about using APL; how CP/M works in the SuperBrain; new detailed service and repair information, as well as the continued listing of available new products.

And for those of you who will be in Chicago, have a great NCC!

Albert Abrams

EDITOR





Peter Hendrick

Guest Interview

(Superletter this month talks with PETER HENDRICK of IE Systems, Inc. 98 Main Street, P.O. Box 305, New Market, New Hampshire 03857 (603) 659-5891)

Q: We understand that you make and market an enhanced PROM for the SuperBrain computer. How did that come about?

A: We're primarily an engineering and software house and we have been working with the SuperBrain since its inception. We had sold Intertubes and had suggested changes to Intertec on their design to include disk drives. Sure enough, Intertec did just that and thus was born the SuperBrain.

We have designed and implemented computer boards and an IO board for S-100 systems. We are local dealers for an S-100 computer plus the SuperBrain. We started working with the SuperBrain shipping Wordstar and other MicroPro products on it and running into some real

problems in the early models.

That led to the development of a new PROM and an enhanced BIOS that replaces the BIOS developed by Intertec that's shipped with their CP/M license set. Digital Research has referred a lot of their problem users to us because we've developed so much in-house experience with the SuperBrain.

We're about to release Version 4 of what we call SB/E, the enhanced SuperBrain EPROM and BIOS. It comes with a manual of instructions on interfacing the SuperBrain with nine various printers, on how to maintain the computer, and some operating hints.

Q: What are the features of the new EPROM?

A: Some of the things that will be available in Version 4 are greater disk capacity (up to 192 K bytes per side per drive). We can increase the "step rate" (faster disk access time) down to 6 milliseconds, except where there is a limitation on the

Shugart drives. We have keyboard "type-ahead" and "auto-repeat" on all keys. There is a programmable "key-click" function, if you want it, to give you a typewriter-like sound when you type. There are 35 programmable keys that can be programmed directly from a menu. And with that you get specially labelled key-caps for easier Magic Wand and Wordstar use.

Q: What about an increased I.O. port buffer?

A: We've added an increased 256 byte buffer that can be pointed to either port. And, we've implemented the I.O. byte capability of CP/M and programmable handshaking at either the Main or Aux ports with a menu program called "ACTIVATE".

Q: Anything else?

A: There is a real-time clock. Enhanced screen controls. We've also included an option that permits you to use the ADM-31 screen control that emulates that popular terminal.

We have a feature that lets you check out the speed of the disk spindle motors. It permits you to find out whether the motors are out of sync.

You can implement an automatic shut-off of the spindle motors that will happen when the disk drives are not being accessed after ten seconds. When you consider that the disk drives are only expected to have a normal 2,000 hour life, this feature's benefits become very apparent.

We also sell an optional diagnostic package that includes a screen exerciser, an I.O. port exerciser, a complete memory test and a screen tachometer for the spindle motors.

Q: What are the prices for these products?

Continued on next page



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Diablo 1640 (RO)	2,799.95
Diablo 1640 (KSR)	2,995.00
Diablo 1650 (RO)	2,950.00
Diablo 1650 (KSR)	3,199.95
QUME 5/45 (RO)	2,495.00
QUME 5/45 (KSR)	2,850.00
QUME 5/55 (RO)	2,595.00
QUME 5/55 (KSR)	2,999.95
TI-810 Basic	1,595.00

TERMINALS:

Soroc IQ 120	695.00
Televideo 912-C	725.00
Televideo 920-C	795.00
Lear 3-A	789.00

All products come with complete factory warranties.

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WORLD-WIDE COMPUTER SALES

P.O. Box 67735
Los Angeles, CA 90067
(213) 551-2990

A: The new IE PROM sells for \$195.

Q: Is it easy to install?

A: You just have to undo the hood and remove the PROM. If you're used to handling PROMS it's no problem. If you're not, you must use an PROM removal tool. That's the trickiest part: the handling of the PROM because of the danger of static electricity from the finger tips.

But the instructions are clear and should be followed carefully.

The diagnostic package of five tests sells for \$100.

You should also know that we market a mainframe auto-dial, auto-answer modem for the SuperBrain. It costs \$300.

Q: And your documentation?

A: We send along with our products a 40 page manual. We use a very straight-forward, easy-to-read style that explains each product and its installation and use. It takes the reader through each procedure step-by-step.

Q: Are you working on any other products for the SuperBrain?

A: We're working on a noise suppressor, a surge suppressor and other things that will take care of some of the power-related problems, like the RF emissions.

Q: What other tidbits of information could you pass on to SuperBrain owners?

A: Well, for example, we're working with the Diablo printer which is somewhat difficult to interface. Its wiring is tricky and it seems to vary from model to model. We'll have a standard interface for the Diablo printer series soon. We've had success with it, but it does have some problems now.

Q: How would you compare the advantages of the SuperBrain versus its weaknesses?

A: We think it's a very good desk-top computer. From the applications standpoint we think some people have tried to make it do things it wasn't designed to do with its size and without its mass storage capability.

From a technical viewpoint, there's been a learning curve and things have been found and corrected. But on the whole we think the SuperBrain is going to grab a major share of the desk-top computer market, not only here in the States, but world-wide as well. 

Calendar

THINGS TO COME:

April 3-5, San Francisco, CA. THE SIXTH WEST COAST COMPUTER FAIRE, Civic Auditorium, San Francisco, CA. The Faire is a major personal-computing event. A full program of talks plus a large display of hardware and software are featured. For more information, contact Computer Faire, 333 Swett Rd., Woodside. CA 94062, (415) 851-7075.

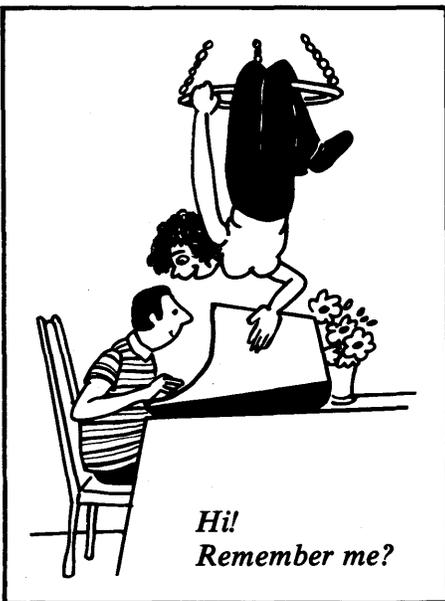
April 13-16, Mexico City, Mexico. THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON MINICOMPUTERS AND MICROCOMPUTERS, MIMI '81, Sheraton Hotel, Mexico City, Mexico. This symposium covers hardware, software, distributed processor architecture, computer networks, telecommunications, real-time applications, education, and more. Contact Ing. Jorge Gil, Academic Secretary, MIMI Symposium, IIMASUNAM, Apartado Postal 20-726, Mexico 20 D F, Mexico.

MAY 4-7, Chicago, IL. NATIONAL COMPUTER CONFERENCE, McCormick Pl., Chicago, IL. Approximately 90,000

Continued next page

people are expected to attend the National Computer Conference (NCC) this year. The use of robots and artificial intelligence will be among the program sessions at the Personal-Computing Festival during the NCC. For the first time, personal-computing exhibits will join the rest of the conference in the main exhibit area. Over thirty technical sessions will be held. All major companies will be represented. Contact the American Federation of Information Processing Societies Inc., POB 9658, 1815 N. Lynn St., Arlington, VA 22209 (703) 558-3617.

May 11-13, Atlanta, GA.
THE THIRTY-FIRST ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS CONFERENCE, Colony Square Hotel, Atlanta, GA. Papers on semiconductor-processing technology, optoelectronic devices, manufacturing technology, materials, hybrid microcircuits, discrete components, interconnections, reliability, and connectors will be read. Contact T.G. Grau, Bell Laboratories, Whippany Rd., Rm. 3B-312, Whippany, NJ 07981; or Electronics Industries Association, 2001 Eye St. NW, Washington, DC 20006.



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COMPATIBLE PRODUCTS

Magic Wand	300.
Anadex 9500/01	1395.
Epson MX80	550.
Okidata 80	495.
Okidata 83	1095.
TI 810 Basic	1590.
NEC 5510 w/trac	2995.
Diablo 630 w/trac	2495.
Starwriter 25	1595.

Call for quotes on other products.

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VR Data, a manufacturer of innovative computer products, is known world-wide for quality, dependability and prompt, personal service since 1972.

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 777 Henderson Blvd.
 Folcroft, PA 19032

New Products

SUPERBRAIN SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE LISTING:

I.T.I.
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, INC.
 56 Kearney Road
 Needham, MA 02194
 (617) 444-5702

Contact: Leonard F. D'Innocenzo
 Andrea Frulla

HARDWARE: I.T.I. is a dealer for the Model 4 SB/E PROM and enhanced BIOS disk. Also, compatible printers, SuperBrains, Intertubes, the Emulator and CompuStar Systems.

SOFTWARE: Fully interactive and SuperBrain compatible American Business Systems' General Ledger, Order Entry/ Inventory Control, Accounts Receivable/Payable and Payroll software.

Also Real Estate, Client Accounting, Financial Modeling and Correspondence Management Systems.

I.T.I. also provides the latest versions of Magic Wand and Wordstar for the SuperBrain with snap-on keycaps.

DIVERSIFIED DATA SYSTEMS

8043 W. 82nd Street
 Indianapolis, IN 46278
 (317) 299-0115

Contact: Steve Maschmeyer

HARDWARE: I.E. - type PROM with a special hardware option that permits connection to their own 10-Megabyte, 8" HARD-DISK Winchester system for the SuperBrain.

Also available is a special 300 Baud MODEM incorporated inside the SuperBrain with auto-dial, auto-answer, and a phone jack that comes out of the computer. It's FCC approved for direct-connect.

A COMPOSITE VIDEO KIT allows you to run the Brain to a separate TV monitor. Especially good for large educational uses. The kit is assembled, easy to install and uses the 40-pin cable connector that sits inside the computer.

D.D.S. claims to have the only true S-100 BUS ADAPTOR coming soon for the SuperBrain computer. Though not standard by IEEE, it uses a "piggy-back" board on the existing Z-80 chip with an additional power supply. With it you'll be able to add an additional disk controller, serial or parallel ports or any other S-100 attachment. Technical expertise and some CP/M knowledge will be required to use it.

They also sell the entire Intertec line and their own hard-disk systems. SOFTWARE: Almost all commercial software packages for the SuperBrain and their Pharmacy System written in COBOL. They are COBOL specialists.

VR DATA

777 Henderson Boulevard N-6
Folcroft Industrial Park
Folcroft, PA 19032
(215) 461-5300

Contact: Warren Rosenkrantz

HARDWARE: All Intertec products and a local technical service center equipped with Intertec parts.

VRData sells a working PARALLEL PRINTER PORT for the SuperBrain and the QD allowing full use of all Centronics printers. It snaps on in minutes and comes with a full warranty for parts and service.

They also offer the only DRIVE 3 and DRIVE 4 ADD-ONS for the SuperBrain which can increase disk storage to 700K and up to 1 Meg in the QD's. Kit includes two 40 track drive assemblies with cable and

patch programs and instruction for plug-in installation.

MICROAGE CONSULTANTS

53, Acton Road, Long Eaton
Nottingham NG10 1FR
England
(06076) 64264

Contact: Andrew Billson

HARDWARE: SUPERBIOS is a strong product from these English SuperBrain experts. It contains a real-time clock, XON/XOFF or ETX/ACK protocols, repeat and type-ahead keyboard functions, compatible with their own designed 8" hard-disk system with the Decitek 8000/S. Also, the product makes Wordstar workable.

SUPERVID is a product of their MicroMod division. It permits dim video, reverse video, blinking and underline, line drawing and graphics, lower-case descender, attributes mixed on the screen and three alternative character ROM sockets so that you can use chess symbols, APL, etc. Distribution of their pro-

ducts will be handled by special dealers on both American coasts.

They'll be introducing a new INTERFACE CARD for Seagate Technology's ST-506 5" Winchester Disk providing 5 Meg storage inside the cabinet.

MEASUREMENT MASTERS

2740 "H", South Harbor Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA 92704
(714) 754-0528

Contact: Don Baer

HARDWARE: The entire Intertec line with special regional service facilities and parts. Also compatible printers including a large-buffer, bi-directional NEC Spinwriter and Tiger Printers.

Continued on page 7

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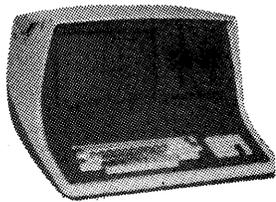
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<p>DOT MATRIX All printers with RS-232</p> <p>PAPER TIGER 440 w/graphics & 2k Buffer \$985</p> <p>TI 810 Reg. \$1895 \$1650</p> <p>TI 810 w/full ASCII Reg.\$2155 . \$1950</p>	<p>DAISY WHEEL or THIMBLE</p> <p>XYMEC Reg. \$2875 \$2530</p> <p>QUME 5/45RO Reg. \$3073 \$2695</p> <p>KSR Reg. \$3537 \$3145 With tractor Reg. \$3787 . . . \$3350</p> <p>ANADEX DP 9500 or 9501 \$1399</p>	

TERMINALS

Intertec EMULATOR List \$895 \$745	Intertec INTERTUBE III List \$895 \$745
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WORD PROCESSING

Magic Wand Reg. \$400 \$325
VTS-80 Reg. \$549 \$469
WORD STAR Reg. \$495 \$400
WORD STAR/MAIL MERGE \$515
LINK 80 COMMUNICATIONS . . . \$89
CAT Novation Modem \$169

LANGUAGES

C Basic Your Cost \$125
M Basic \$325
Fortran \$450
Cobol \$650
Pascal (UCSD) Reg. \$400 . . . \$325
EPROM Reg. \$125 \$120 Cuts access time in half. Allows serial number of machine on chip and all software.

SOFTWARE

Osborne - TCS - Graham-Dorlan - CMC

	CBasic	MBasic	Reg.	Cost
Account Receivable	x	x	\$750	\$350
Accounts Payable	x	x	\$750	\$350
General Ledger	x	x	\$750	\$350
Payroll	x	x	\$750	\$350
Inventory	x	x	\$750	\$350
Restaurant Payroll	x		\$750	\$350
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Technical Corner

For 64 (Q) CP/M5/5 et al.
Submitted by Dr. Andrew Billson,
London, England.

These programs are actually copies of the operating system (to be found at 0980 up when the files are inserted under DDT) with SYSGEN22 located in the area between 0100 and 097F.

The following changes make them work without inviting "SOURCE DRIVE NAME":

- Set 0383 to 24
- Set 04D3 to 11
- Set 04D6 to 0E } Put 09 in C
- 04D7 to 09 }
- 04D8 to CD }
- 04D9 to 05 } Call BDOS
- 04DA to 00 }

Fill 04DB, 04E0, with 00 NOP's

- Set 04E2 to 1B
- 04E3 to 03

Before SAVEing this modification { SAVE 48 CPMOD5/5.COM }, careful readers may wish to change the CONFIGUR bytes - -

Set 3086 to 01 to enable DSR handshaking on AUX port.

Set 3087 to FF to require Read After Write Verification.

To cause some command line to be executed automatically on cold start you can also put this command at 0988ff:

Eg. to "DIR":

- Set 0987 to 03 no. of characters in command
- Set 0988 to 44 D
- Set 0989 to 49 I
- Set 098A to 52 R
- Set 098B to 00 End Flag

New Products

Continued from page 5

SOFTWARE: They feature special software created for the machine tool industry and the normal available package of commercial CP/M software configured for the SuperBrain, including Wordstar and the Peachtree package.

NOESIS COMPUTING COMPANY

615 Third Street
San Francisco, CA 94107
(415) 495-7440

Contact: Paul Schoenberg

SOFTWARE: Specialists in UCSD Pascal and Fortran software for the SuperBrain.

COMPUTER MARKETING CORPORATION

11058 Main Street
Bellevue, WA 98004
(206) 453-9777

Contact: Jerry Jones

HARDWARE: All the Intertec products including all the CompuStar hard-disk systems. Printers, terminals and modems. They're a regional distributor and West Coast service center.

SOFTWARE: Their own VTS-80 word-processing and Link-80 communications packages are available in addition to the Osborne, TCS, Graham-Dorian, Peachtree, Wordstar and Microsoft software products.

SuperClassified rates are:

\$4.00 per line

(3 line minimum — 5 words per line.

Please note: Publication of all SuperClassifieds are dependent on dates of receipt of copy and payment and space availability.)

Mail to: SuperClassifieds
P.O. Box 3121
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

Letters to the Editor

I certainly appreciate your starting Superletter and I'm looking forward to reading them.

I am a contractor currently using the Peachtree business software package (general ledger, payroll, etc.). However, it does not fit the total needs of the contracting business.

We need a "one write" system, in addition to the Peachtree group, that will give us a job cost, set up an estimating system that would issue purchase orders, and set up a budget to compare with the job cost.

If any of the Superletter readers know of a software system like that, we'd sure like to know.

Also, could you tell us what the thin plastic strip on our SuperBrain with the "F" numbers on it is for?

Harry S. Roberts, Jr.

President

Buddy Roberts, Inc.

P.O. Box 7097

Columbus, GA 31908

Editor's Note:

Regarding your software search, contact Carolina Business Computers, Oakwood Center, 350 3rd Avenue, NW, Hickory, NC 28601 (704) 322-6005, and ask them about "Report Writer", the VisiCalc-like software system for CP/M users.

The plastic strip you mentioned is simply a left-over item Intertec used on the Intertube terminal to fill a similar space. Believe it or not, it has no use for the SuperBrain at all.

We are Esperantists and using a SuperBrain, but we cannot get our Esperanto characters on our screen. Making another character generator

is not possible for the one in the computer has a multi-function task.

Perhaps one of your readers know how this can be done. French and Danish have the same problem. We need the following characters:

ĉ Ĉ ĝ Ĝ ĥ Ĥ ĵ Ĵ ŝ Ŝ ŭ Ŭ

We do not need the x, y, q, w, X, Y, Q, or W.

Hope you can help us!

A.J. Bout

Internacia Esperanto-
Instituto

Riouwstraat 172

2585 HW Den Haag
Holland

SuperClassifieds

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INVENTORY SALE! NEW 64KDD, DOS 3.0, CP/M 2.2 SUPERBRAINS, JUST \$2,495.00!! AIR FREIGHT INCLUDED! WE FULLY TEST AND INSPECT EVERY UNIT. ONLY THREE AVAILABLE AT THIS PRICE. TELL A FRIEND OR CALL TO RESERVE ONE AND ASK ABOUT OUR BARGAIN SOFTWARE. (813) 542-3164. PESCHEL INSTRUMENTS, 1411 SE 10TH STREET, CAPE CORAL, FLORIDA 33904.

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Factory News

INTERTEC ANNOUNCES PRICE HIKE AS 64K BECOMES NEW STANDARD FOR SUPERBRAIN.

The 32K SuperBrain, factory priced at \$2,995, will soon be a thing of the past as Intertec now has begun shipping only their 64K Model at a new factory price of \$3,495.

The additional 32K will be installed as a part of the manufacturing process and the units will be "fully tested and burned-in before leaving the plant," according to a recent Intertec press release.

Dealer and OEM pricing will be increased proportionally, although it is expected that reseller discount margins will remain about the same.

Intertec sales have soared from \$6 million in 1979 to nearly \$20 million

in 1980. Sales projections for 1981 are expected to be somewhere between \$35 and \$40 million.

The price change is the first in nearly two years.

NEW "OFFICE PRODUCTS DIVISION" TO DEBUT IN MID-81.

Intertec is exploring the lucrative business word-processing market with a new multi-user system that will retail for less than \$9,000 and feature up to 7 megabytes of dual disk storage.

The proposed new business system will be expandable up to 255 work-stations with each targeted at about \$2,000 each.

Although plans are now only in the research and development stage, most of the software and design

aspects are said to have been started.

Marketing plans for the new "Office Products Division" may mark the premier of Intertec's first TV and radio commercials on a national and regional scale. Also on tap are point-of-purchase displays, factory training, and even a special Intertec van for mobile demonstrations.

Sales and distribution of the new product, when the green light is officially given, will be handled by separate sales, service and marketing departments apart from the existing operations in Intertec's Data Systems division.

The new product will be distributed by a select group of independent sales organizations already serving the retail office products industry. Strict requirements will be applied during the selection of dealers. 