

GBBS Pro News

Vol. 1

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Bugged!

First release of v1.3 plagued by bugs

Programmer's insecticide was a significant asset in the battle to upgrade, as discovered by many of the 175 or so sysops who upgraded or bought new versions of GBBS 'Pro' v1.3.

After battling bugs in the msg.convert and user.convert segments, which were necessary to reformat the message and user files from v1.2 to v1.3, sysops found little critters abounding in the main program segments.

Lance Taylor-Warren, co-owner of L&L Productions, has been listing fixes on his bulletin board as they have been brought to his attention.

Taylor-Warren said he has released versions from v1.3f to v1.3h; the letter designations can be found in the logoff message of the main.seg.

He said he had been running v1.3e on L&L BBS, and when he released it to the public, he named it v1.3f. Unfortunately, it still contained a few bugs.

In v1.3g, however, when he fixed the bugs, he also inadvertently put in another bug, which made the "Subject:" invisible at the top of a post.

"I made the change and assumed it was correct," Taylor-Warren said. "I don't know how many I sent out before I fixed it."

Lance has made fixed segments available for downloading from a special v1.3 area of his Exfer file transfer system, and

he has also put up the corrected version of ACOS, which now should load floppies and /ram drives correctly.

Also, an oversight left out appropriate instructions relating to anonymous and unfiltered posting on select bulletin boards. Depending on what character is at the front of a bulletin board's name, certain flags are set. For example, if your bulletin board is named "Main board," users may not post anonymously and all posts will run through the profanity filter. However, if your bulletin board is named "\$Main Board," users will be allowed to post anonymously and posts will not go through the profanity filter. The following chart explains the details:

character	anonymous	filtered
no character	not allowed	yes
%	allowed	yes
\$	allowed	no
#	not allowed	no

In addition, Lance accidentally published the wrong telephone number for his support bulletin board in the new manual. The number should be (303) 420-3568. Please make a note of it, and spread it around!

Those dratted bugs: a list of the worst

Problem: Board croaks in msg.seg.

Solution: Under the label `cmd2`, find the line that reads `print \"[x] [Board #\"bb\" 1-\"msg(0)\"]`: Change the beginning of that line to add a free:

Problem: The subject doesn't appear on a post in v1.3h.

Solution: Under the label `post2a`, find the line that reads `if i$="" n=9:gosub backup:print:goto post2b` and change it to read `if i$=chr$(13) n=9:gosub backup: print: goto post2b`

Problem: In one of your homegrown

segments or a purchased mod, you try to look at record number `x` in the userfile, but it returns garbage.

Solution: The v1.3 userfile now has 128-byte records. So, find the code that says `position #1,64,un,x` and change it to `position #1,128,un,x`

Problem: In one of your homegrown segments or a purchased mod, your new bytes and nibbles in the user stats are being written over or demolished.

Solution: Ram has changed, too. Find a line that reads `move ram,34 to ram2` (and the corresponding line that

moves it back) and change it to `move ram,58 to ram2`.

Problem: In one of your homegrown segments or purchased mods, the user's name is printing in uppercase and you'd rather have lowercase.

Solution: `a1$/d1$` and `a2$/d2$` are the uppercase first and last name. `a3$/d3$` is the user's full name in upper- and lowercase.

Problem: User list in v1.3f shows

See Bug list, page 8

First Word



Match!

We've got the answer for the next time we hear the words "computer nerd." Show 'em this:

- International Photo Bank
- User Aliases
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First Word's Match! is massive; the system menu is even more detailed than the user menu. And it's only \$34.95. Pick photos from your region only, or the entire bank; pick any Apple format, or IBM.

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They told us you couldn't have arcade games on a BBS. And we didn't like that.

So take command of the S.S. Orion, a battlecruiser on duty near Alpha Centaurus. Your mission is simple: Keep the space lanes clear of pirates.

Orion is \$19.95. Fly the unfriendly skies.

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What do you do when you need the money for your next Pro module, or need another phone line? Install the Mall. You'll put CompuServe(tm) to shame.

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- Merchants Bazaar — lease storefronts to outside vendors.

● Detailed Work Menu for Merchants — *they* do the maintenance on their store menus.

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The First Word Mall is a powerhouse, and a proven moneymaker. It will pay for itself quickly — it could pay for every program on this page quickly. The First Word Mall is \$24.95.

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Here's a favorite question: How do you learn to program in ACOS?

Sorry. We can't teach you. But we can make life easy on you. Extended Command System is the toolset used by the First Word programming team: Developed by them to answer their needs.

E.C.S. replaces and extends your present System menu. It's just what the doctor ordered, and it's just \$39.95. Den of Iniquity included free with every purchase.

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You've heard rumors that multiporting is on its way. But we've got news: It's been here for months.

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- Free Updates
- The Best Prices
- Free mods disk with every purchase

First Word
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Houston, Texas 77006
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(713) 526-0714 (Europa BBS)

Send check or money order today. Questions and phone orders welcome; price list available.

Call the Doctor

DOCTOR Doom, how do you get the menu to toggle between 40 and 80 columns?

"No problem, Macros. Put a line in MAIN.SEG, right after the SETINT(1) statement, that says IF (EDIT(3)+1)=80 GOTO MENU80. Then use MENU80 to label your 80 column menu."

Den of Iniquity

It's late at night, and a warm breeze grips the city. Time for an adult amusement.

The Den is what Leather Goddesses could have been with guts. The Den is an adventure game that presses the outer limits.

Your goal? We're not telling, but you may have to roll around in a tangle to get there. And watch out for Linda: She's, er, catching.

The Den of Iniquity is \$24.95 — Jim and Tammy need not apply.

Sysop of the month:

D.C. sysop really 'Packs' in the users

The Apple Pack, the East Coast GBBS 'Pro' support board, was rated one of the top 10 bulletin board systems in the Washington, D.C., area by the Washington Post.

It was a surprise to sysop Ron Gabbert, 27.

"A Washington Post reporter called about 100 boards and was on mine for about a month," Gabbert recalled. "I had no idea who she was. She was talkative, posted a lot, asked questions, called twice a day.

"Then all of a sudden, she was gone. A couple of months later, I saw in the Washington Post that TAP was rated one of the top 10," he said.

This was high praise for a sysop who started his own BBS because he was "tired of busy signals."

"I was real anxious to learn about BBSes and computers," he said. "I got tired of calling other boards and not getting questions answered."

He admits impishly that he had only been calling bulletin boards for about a week before he decided he could do better.

He found an ad on another bulletin board's "for sale" sub-board, offering GBBS rev. h for \$25. He met the seller in a shopping mall, where he was handed two hand-labeled BASF disks.

"I thought, this guy is either ripping me off, or he is making a lot of money pirating," Gabbert said. "He said his originals had been destroyed. I asked for the manual, and he said that was destroyed, too. I paid for it. I didn't care. It was listing for about \$80, and I couldn't afford that."

Soon thereafter, in August 1985, Can of Worms went on-line. "It lasted a couple of days," he said, laughing.

Then he changed the name to The Apple Pack, nicknamed TAP by its faithful users. Before a berserk IOU chip in his Apple IIc ate his user file a few months ago, he had more than 900 users. Even after starting from scratch, he still boasts 460.

He's not sure where all of his users have found out about TAP, but the Washington Post article last summer didn't hurt business, and word-of-modem praises posted on bulletin boards across the country have

Picture not available at press time! You'll have to wait until next month to see what he looks like!

Ron Gabbert

Vital Statistics:

Name: Ron Gabbert
Age: 27
Real job: unemployed
BBS name: The Apple Pack
Phone: (703) 370-4223
PC Pursuit-able? via 202
Band rate: 300/1200/2400
Hours: 24 hours, 365 days
On-line since: Aug. 1985
Audience: general public
of users: 460
GBBS 'Pro' Version: v1.2
Storage: 20 megs
Up/downloads? Yes
Role-playing games? No
Other games? Yes
Sub-boards? 18
GBBS sysop board? Yes

filled his user file nicely.

He logs 50 to 60 calls per day from users who live as far away as Japan.

His users are far from run-of-the-mill. Among the users who tie up the board nearly 24 hours a day are Apple developers Don Elton (Apple Library Utility author) and Chuch Shotton (Macintosh software developer); federal government employees; and many intelligent adult users as well

as young people.

Among the government employees are Gabbert's two co-sysops, Rick Donaldson and Frank Dooling. Donaldson, now sysop of his own GBBS 'Pro' board, is in the communications field; Dooling is a naval commander with a lot of bulletin board and communications experience.

"The reasons for co-sysops is I like to spend my time mainly on programming," Gabbert explained. "I try to come up with things to make the board unique."

Gabbert said he spends about two hours a week on system maintenance: purging, "checking the request file, answering mail, making sure nobody's acting like a jerk." But, he said, "basically, the users run the board."

Gabbert has more influence than he admits, however, as he posts on almost all of his 18 sub-boards semi-regularly.

He also spends up to 20 hours a week writing modifications, and because his alternate modem is in the shop, he doesn't call other boards. His current status as unemployed gives him a little more free time than he's accustomed to having, but he's not sure whether he's ready to take the plunge into v1.3, although he has a copy.

A communications specialist, Gabbert is looking for work "out of the rat race" and hopes to find something either in the Washington, D.C., area or in Florida. He lives in Alexandria, Va., about eight miles south of D.C., the only "big city" within his local calling area, even though it has a different area code.

Gabbert has been giving space to GBBS sysops for quite some time, and when Lance Taylor-Warren of L&L Productions sought an East Coast support board, Gabbert was glad to help out. Thanks, Ron, for supporting us!

To be considered for this column, send the information about your BBS in the format of the box above, to Chameleon Publishing, via U.S. Mail.

Highlights:

L&L (303) 420-3568

Lance is taking it easy, preparing for a June wedding, so he's been away from the board more than usual....

Available now (as of April 26) at your friendly neighborhood support board: new versions of X.DN and XDOS, on the L&L Utilities download section. Scott Galbraith (# 181) has been hard at work and says everyone should use these versions rather than the older versions available in the v1.3 master files section. He didn't say what the differences were....

Galbraith is also looking into what appears to be a complicated problem with ACOS and End Of File (EOF) values for BIN message files. His hard drive was completely trashed by such a bug, and he is "experimenting to try to figure out what went wrong. Those of you who are still experiencing the strange occasional trashing of EMAIL messages -- check your EOF for the Mail file and be sure it is valid." Unfortunately, he didn't explain HOW I go about checking that....

Hardware: Doug Granzow (# 368) wonders if anyone has managed to get the DAK Smart Duck to hang up when it's supposed to. He is using the multi-speed 1200-baud driver, but it just won't hang up. Assistance, anyone?

Wilson Anderson (# 63) said he has been running an HST for about two weeks with no problems. He has it configured as a CTS 2400, using cable #3.

Mods: (See also page 6) Jason

Cohen (# 231) (and many of the rest of us who have users who are used to (gasp!) AppleNet) wonder if anyone has figured out how to patch in a way to make /s save a message just like .s does??

Steve Frietas (# 108) is working on a private software trading mod, in which instead of sending each other E-mail, users could send each other files privately. It might incorporate something like the e-mail logon: "You have k-rad warez waiting, d00d." Heh heh.

Parik Rao (# 300) is looking for a language switcher that will allow him to run both GBBS and CP/M. Scott Bloom suggested that he boot GBBS on his harder and CP/M on his /ram; Robert Clark (# 84) thought maybe there was a Beagle Brothers software program that would allow such switching. Anybody else got any ideas or know what that program is? Has anybody tried this?

Packers/Unpackers: There seems to be a consensus that those of us in the Apple BBS community need to come up with a standard packing protocol, but no one seems to be able to agree on which one we should use. The DOS 3.3 band vote for DDD; others for Ymodem batching; still others for Propacker, ALU, BLU or any number of other packers. I'd like to see a guest column on the pros and cons of some of these, and any suggestions on which should become standard. IBM has ARC and PKXARC, and we have too many choices and not enough information. Somebody help!

DOS 3.3: The few remaining DOS 3.3 sysops are desperately seeking updates, mods, fixes and help. I haven't ever used the DOS

3.3 version of GBBS, so I can't help much.

Random questions: Steve Schneider, last month's sysop of the month, is seeking to trade, by U.S. Mail, humorous or otherwise noteworthy textfiles. He's willing to send disks through the mail to save money on long-distance file transfers....

Apple Pack: (703) 370-4223

Sysop Ron Gabbert uses the ae.maker mod on his board, and several GBBS sysops have been asking how it works. I'm told that Ascii Express, The Professional automatically recognizes certain control characters as screen display coordinates. AE.Maker, for those of you who haven't seen it, allows a sysop to show a graphic image with twinkling stars or other "moving" objects. The documentation and program are available on several GBBS sysop boards.

Larry Johnson (# 299) says he has a friend who is writing a program that "will blow away ae.maker." He said it will be available for GBBS owners only. No further details as of press time....

Rick Donaldson (# 3) jumped the gun and asked about the possibility of a national network of GBBS boards... something that Lance Taylor-Warren hopes to provide with his ProLink, v2.0, if/when that is released. Rick would be interested, not so much in Fido-like e-mail transfers, but in nationwide forums. Me too! Lance has promised to keep me posted on the latest in ProLink updates.

Hardware: Tony Coluca (# 89) and Lance recommend that all switches on a super-serial card or an Apricorn be set UP.

P+ (214) 424-2001

Jan Porter and Darryl Ellingson have been busy bodies trying to update all their products for v1.2 and v1.3 as well as fix some buglets in their newly released SPUR program. But they seem to have prevailed, and Jan even dropped a hint on April 7 that they "will be working on a NEW module... details to follow when it is available for beta!" The suspense is killing me....

Jan said the Fantasy Football module will probably be available this summer, but since most people won't want to draft until the National Football League teams complete their final cuts, he's not quite sure how he'll work the players list.

P+ has also decided on its upgrade policy for v1.3:

"For some time, we will continue to support both ACOS v1.2 and 1.3. We have completed modifications for all our products and will provide upgrades to 1.3 as follows:

"1) You may mail in your original disks and have them upgraded to 1.3 for \$2 plus \$1 for each disk mailed. I.E., if you have three disks, the cost will be \$5.

"2) You may send a check and identify which registered disks you want updated. The cost will be \$3 plus \$2 per program. I.E., if you want three disks upgraded, the cost will be \$9.

"The upgrades MUST be

prepaid (CODs not accepted), and we will not accept MasterCard or VISA."

The STORE and RECALL functions have been added to the modules to avoid variable conflicts. In some cases, several changes had to be made to the modules and the changes were too numerous to itemize. They may, if time permits, be itemized on their appropriate support SIGs.

Also, in the future, when ordering P+ modules, you need to specify whether you want v1.2 or v1.3. If you don't specify, they'll assume you want v1.2. Their new address, in case you didn't get it in their full-page ad last month, is Peripherals Plus, 813 Harvest Glen, Plano, TX 75023.

SPUR: The buglets have been too numerous to enumerate. However, some of them have been quite important, and those with low serial numbers should check the board for the appropriate fixes.

Also, Jon Davidson (# 11) has been hard at work making his own modifications to the program: PRAY, allowing a player to pray to a diety for a wish to be granted; RC, adding room commands of IN and OUT and room level commands, so you can attach level 1 to level 4; GE, which allows users to shorten the name of the item they want to GET; and TH, which allows the sysop to set the number of points needed to gain a player level.

Jan has also decided that trading of user-designed levels and dungeons cannot be handled through normal BBS channels, and he is considering gathering completed mazes to offer on full, double-sided accessory disks.

Several of us are working on our own personalized dungeons, so it shouldn't be too long before we all want to start trading our goodies.... More details will be available when the first SPUR scenarios are completed.

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Mods!

You asked for it; you got it. Mods, mods, mods!

The big news is the demise of TAGS, the role-playing game once highly touted as the game to end all GBBS games. Unfortunately, the bug-ridden pay-to-play mod has died from lack of support. L&L Productions announced on April 12 that it will no longer sell or support TAGS. Those who bought TAGS through L&L should have been notified by telephone or mail as to a "final solution" for TAGS; those who bought it elsewhere should contact the dealer or distributor through whom they purchased the product.

This should serve, perhaps, as a warning to those contemplating buying modifications for GBBS and to those who sell GBBS products. I hope any sysop who is planning to sell a product will have it available in beta-test for those who are considering buying it. If not, I think I would be VERY hesitant to buy, as a sysop...

Speaking of beta-test, if you want to see Mike Golaszewski's Exfer v4.0 running with batch sends under Ymodem, call Mark Roberts' board at (714) 793-9614. You can use the GBBS sysop user number, 15, password EXFER. Watch this space for more information on release dates for the new Exfer., which has been delayed by legal questions, manual printing, a couple of bugs and Mike's skiing accident. He had hoped to release it on April 27, but I don't know if he managed or not. Among the changes from v3.0 to v4.0 (aside from Ymodem): file information may be edited or added by the librarian or sysop, and the sysop may print out the directories on paper (Yay!).

This from Bruce Berna: "Tired of having to set access levels of users who want access to a board? Are your co-sysops tired of having to ask you to validate Joe Cool for use of their sub-boards? CSysop is just what you're looking for. CSysop will allow co-sysops to control access to their sub-boards and send bulk-mail to all their users. It also allows each board to have a "board welcome" like the system news. "And more," Berna says. You can find this mod on Peripherals Plus or L&L BBS.

If the thought of typing in all these mods from hardcopy (assuming I continue to have enough room to run mod listings) makes your fingers fall off, and the thought of a phone bill for downloading all of them withers your checkbook, there a couple of sysops who have come up with their own semi-official list of public-domain GBBS 'Pro' mods, and they hope to have the first six disks (no kidding!) available for sysops who want to save time and energy. Watch here for more details.

Now for a "Mod of the month." This modification is written for Version 1.0 but should work in 1.2/1.3 if you change the " to ' and double-check the variables used.

The purpose of this modification is to allow a user control of his own destiny when it comes to how many new messages he has to wade through. If a user logs on after not calling for 30 days, by using the '#' command he can change that number to a number or whatever was posted since last Thursday. This mod uses a data file called data5 (name it whatever but ensure that all references are renamed also) to store the system high message number at the end of each day.

```
=====
;: CHANGE # OF NEW MESSAGES MOD      :]
;:           by Steve Schneider      :]
;:   of the RainForest BBS   (305) 434-4927 :]
;:-----:]
;: Not PC Pursuitable as of 2/28/87   :]
=====
```

;ADD TO =MAIN= LABEL IN MAIN SEGMENT

if i\$ = "#" goto msgcount

;ADD TO TERMINATE= LABEL IN =MAIN= SEGMENT

;This is written for an Apple//e w/128k using a
;Thunderclock... play with the value ;that subtracts from
;'a' after the PEEK statement to get the correct value of
;'a'. The final correct value of 'a' will give you a '1' for
;SUNDAY. This sets the pointer in the random access file.

```
if ct$<>da$
  nibble(2)=0:aa$=time$:a=peek(516):a=a-47
  create "b:data5":open #1,"bta5"
  position #1,50,a:print #1,mn:close
```

*** NOTE **** the first part of this prevents a user
;that logs on before midnight and logs off after midnight
;from being screwed on calls for the day. The rest writes
;the data file.

;ADD TO END OF =MAIN= SEGMENT

```
msgcount
a=mn-rl:if rl=0 then a=tm
print sc$:home:print "\"There are \"a\" new messages..\"\\
input @1 \"Do you wish to change this ? (Y/N) \"i$
if i$<>\"Y\" return
print\\ \"You now have =TWO= options...\" 1) Change
number manually \" 2) Since one of last seven days\"\\
input\" Which? (1 or 2) : \"i:if i<> 2 then i=1:goto cnt.2
cnt.1
print\\ \"By choosing one of the days listed\"\\ \"you will
reset your message count\"\\ \"so that quickscan or NEW
will\"\\ \"scan from the first call of that\"\\ \"day forward
through your call today.\"\\
print\\ \"1 = Sun\"\\ \"2 = Mon\"\\ \"3 = Tue\"\\ \"4 = Wed\"\\ \"5 =
Thu\"\\ \"6 = Fri\"\\ \"7 = Sat\"\\
input\\ \"Which day? (1-7) : \"i
if i>7 goto cnt.1
if i<1 goto cnt.1
open #1,\"b:data5\":position #1,50,i
input #1,a:close:i=mn-a
goto cnt.3
cnt.2
input @1 \"How many NEW messages do you want ? \"i
if i < 1 or i > mn goto msgcount
cnt.3
lr=mn-i:nb=lr:nn=lr:rl=lr:goto msgcount
return
```

Message files: mystery revealed

I got an interesting letter from John Stallings asking a very good question, and thought I'd share some insights (and the answer) with all of you:

Can you tell me how to get ram to write and read from these two? I tried doing something like this...

```
ready uf$:print #msg(a),0,0,0,0,0,0
print #6,z1$\z2$\z3$\z4$\z5$\z6$\z7$\z8$\lc$\za$\z9$
write #6,ram,18:msg(a)=1:update
```

All the stuff makes it to the file but the ram... I get it back like this...

```
ready uf$:
input #msg(x),z1,z2,z3,z4,z5,z6,z7,z8
input #6,z1$\z2$\z3$\z4$\z5$\z6$\z7$\z8$\lc$\za$\z9$
read #6,ram,18
```

All the information comes back out but the ram.... How do I get the ram into and out of a message type file?

The answer is (more or less) you don't. Message files use a special form of compaction that crams eight bytes into seven bytes by stripping the high bit off the first 7, and using the first seven high bits to encode the eighth byte. For example, the word "PRESUMED" is normally encoded as:

```
[P] $50 %01010000
[R] $52 %01010010
[E] $45 %01000101
[S] $53 %01010011
[U] $55 %01010101
[M] $4D %01001101
[E] $45 %01000101
[D] $44 %01000100
```

See Binary, page 8

In response to the response

The response to the questionnaire has been great! I really appreciate all of you who filled out the questionnaire and those of you who took time to write additional comments.

Let me say, first, that I was surprised at some of the reactions. Most of you requested that we run mod listings, something I am happy to do, but didn't really expect to do. As noted by Dave Haberle on L&L BBS, "It seems odd, in a way, that we should be publishing a written newsletter and sending it via 3rd class bulk mail for people who use electronic message systems."

That irony was not lost on me, and I thought about how we could make an online version. However, since this newsletter is aimed at people who are NOT in the regular online network, it seemed self-defeating to offer it online.

On the other hand, since the majority of subscribers do not hunt out the latest modifications, they are terribly mod-hungry. The most-often requested addition to the board is a section containing listings of modifications. Being the kind of person who would rather do almost anything than type in pages of modifications, I really didn't expect too much interest. But, then, all I have to do is download them to the Mac disk and print 'em out, so it's no skin off my nose. Once I get more situated with how much space I have and figuring out how to print them, we'll have some of the longer mods.

In addition, Mike Golaszewski, a veritable fount of GBBS wisdom, has graciously offered to write technical columns, and I'm working on softening up a few of the other knowledgeable L&L posters to do the same. And, of course, guest columnists are always welcome...

We will also be adding reviews of non-public-domain GBBS mods that are available, as well as trying to keep up-to-date on fixes, patches and additions for those purchaseable mods.

As for other interests -- education, business and that nebulous "other" category -- I was amazed to find out how many educators use GBBS for various purposes. We should have no problem finding sysops-of-the-month who can explain how they use their systems for education and business, as well as the occasional system operator who

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Binary secrets hidden in msg files

Continued from page 7

Notice that none of the high bits are used (in fact, ProDOS strips high bits in text files). By using the high bits of the first seven bytes to encode the eighth byte ("D" in our 8 letter word), the new encoding looks like:

```
[P] $D0 %11010000
[R] $52 %01010010
[E] $45 %01000101
[S] $53 %01010011
[U] $D5 %11010101
[M] $4D %01001101
[E] $45 %01000101
  ^
  !
  [D]
```

I feel this encoding technique to be a great stroke of brilliance on Greg's part.

Since message files will insert and delete high bits at will to accomplish the data compaction, your raw data usually becomes an accumulation of gook ('das right ...gook).

The best method for READING and WRITEing raw data is to use a random access text file (ProDOS only strips high bits when PRINTing to a text file; READs and WRITEs are left untouched).

The number of the record containing the files data would probably equate to the message file number of the message containing pertinent information:

```
ready "b:message.file":open #1,"b:text.file"
ready #msg(a):position #1,32,a
```

...etc.

I recommend using multiples of 16 as record lengths (ie: 16, 32, 64, 128, 256, and 512). The reason being that [1] ProDOS blocks are 512 bytes long, and data in "mutiples of 16 record lengths" are loaded faster, and [2] ProDOS blocks are 512 bytes long, and data lost because of a disk error is more easily found/recovered (you wont have data overlapping onto other blocks).

It's good practice to READY #MSG(message) before INPUTing data from it. Also remember you must PRINT #MSG(number) before you can PRINT to device #6.

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Mike Golaszewski is the author of EXfer and a frequent and knowledgeable poster on L&L BBS. He has also volunteered to work as technical editor of Pro News if/when his collarbone heals from a skiing accident.

Respondents are mad about mods

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has modified his system to where it no longer resembles GBBS 'Pro' at all.

For your information, we also have several foreign subscribers, which makes us an international newsletter. Canadian owners outnumber the other non-U.S. subscribers, but we also have paid subscriptions from the Republic of Singapore and Australia, as of this writing.

An often-heard complaint was about jumping articles from one page to another. I'll see what I can do about that, but I can't promise anything, since I am too much a journalist to toss good layout techniques out the window.

It's still fun, and that's what counts. Keep those cards and letters coming to Chameleon Publishing, P.O. Box 671521, Houston, TX 77267-1521, or even in e-mail on L&L, P+, Apple Pack or my system (Chameleon BBS, (713) 586-0914 and PC Pursuitable, if you can ever get through the busy Houston node and my busy phone line). On my system, log on as user number 18, password PROGUY, for full access on your first call.

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Stephanie A. McGrath is publisher of Pro News and sysop of Chameleon BBS, guaranteed to be one of the most original Bulletin Board systems you'll ever call.

Bug list!

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non-valid users.

Solution: Find the **usrlst2** label in the main.seg. The second and third lines below that label should be reversed so that if **a\$="" goto usrlst3** is line 2.

Problem: In v1.3f, the subject is not cleared/set on a forwarded piece of mail.

Solution: Under the label **forward**, find the line that reads **rewind:s=7**. Immediately after that line, add: **input @4 "Subject:" sb\$:if sb\$="" then sb\$="For your information"**

Problem: In v1.3f, when you forward a piece of mail to a bulk of users, the message doesn't forward correctly.

Solution: After the label **snd.blk2**, find the line **gosub wr.ltr:goto send.blk2** and change it to **gosub wr.ltr:if s=7 rewind and add the line goto snd.blk2** immediately after that line.

Problem: In v1.3f, when the sysop doesn't want to delete his/her mail, it sometimes is deleted anyhow.

Solution: In main.seg, find the label **termin2**. The third line below that label is **ma=(i\$=Y"**). That line should be appended with a colon to the line above it.