

# Consol 1K Resident Operating System

*By Processor Technology*  
Emeryville, CA

## INTRODUCTION

CONSOL is a resident software operating system for Processor Technology's new single PCB intelligent microcomputer terminal product called SoL Terminal Computer™. The basic SoL Terminal Computer includes the following functional sections;

- 8080A CPU
- 1K bytes of static, low power RAM
- UART controlled RS-232 and 20 ma TTY serial I/O port with multiple baud rates of 75 → 9600 - Switch selectable.
- Video display circuit identical to the VDM-1 sold by Processor Technology. The video display section includes its own 1K bytes of RAM refresh memory. This RAM is in addition to the 1K RW RAM program memory.
- Parallel input-output port for data communications with fully implemented handshaking logic.
- ASCII Keyboard input port.
- PROM/ROM plug-in personality module for up to 2048 bytes of stored program.
- 300 or 1200 baud rate Kansas City Standard Audio cassette tape interface.
- MIB bus compatibility and expansion capability with all Altair/IMSAI/PTC bus plug-in products.

## SOL TERMINAL COMPUTER SOFTWARE CONFIGURATIONS

The SoL Terminal Computer™ can be configured by plug-in resident software modules as a stand alone microcomputer or as an intelligent remote editing terminal.

Basic system operating modes are stored in ROM or PROM on plug-in personality modules with a capacity of up to 2048 words. These modules may be changed in a few seconds to totally reconfigure the system for different applications. Other operating programs, such as BASIC AND FOCAL High level languages, can be loaded automatically into read/write memory (RAM) from cassette tape or floppy disc.

Software control programs for the operation of SoL are designed for three different levels of use. The first level program, CONSOL™, is contained in 1K of PROM and is designed to allow simple terminal operations. In addition, CONSOL allows direct control of the basic computer functions for entering data to, or examining data in, any memory location, or executing a program stored at a known location in memory.

The second level, designed for advanced terminal operations, is the SOLED™ editing terminal system. SOLED uses the full 2048 word capacity of a personality module and contains code to allow screen, file and cassette tape editing/transmission operations.

The stand-alone operating system, SOLOS™, turns the SoL into a versatile computer that is easy to use, but every bit as powerful as any 8080-based system available today. Using SOLOS and the built-in cassette interface, BASIC can be loaded in less than a minute following power-on. BASIC programs can be both saved and executed from cassette. The SoL operating under SOLOS, brings true 8080 computer power away from hardware tinkering to direct application and problem solving.

## CONSOL SOFTWARE

CONSOL is configured to allow the SoL TERMINAL/COMPUTER to operate as a standard CRT terminal and to provide access to the essential computer capabilities inherent within SoL. The CONSOL software allows self test and small diagnostic programs to be entered to the system memory and executed thus providing verification of correct system operation. In addition, CONSOL contains standardized entry points for all normal I/O operations. These entry point routines are common with each of the SoL System Software allowing each personality module in the SoL product line to interface with external programs in an almost identical manner.

A cassette read routine is included in the CONSOL module software allowing SoL System Software to be loaded and run in a SoL System with additional memory. SoL System Software includes BASIC, FOCAL, a Scientific Calculator and numerous "game" packages including an 8K assembly language version of STARTREK called TREK80.

## CONSOL OPERATION

When power is applied to the SoL unit, CONSOL initializes the system ram area, clears the screen, and enters the terminal mode.

In this mode the Sol System acts as a standard CRT terminal sending keyboard data to an output port and displaying received data on the screen. The COMMAND KEYS of the keyboard are not transmitted to the output port but are interpreted as direct internal operation keys. CURSOR MOVEMENT, HOME and CLEAR SCREEN all operate in this manner, while

## SOFTWARE SECTION

MODE causes an immediate change in the operation of the SoL Terminal Computer.

When the MODE key is depressed CONSOL issues a prompt (>) and waits for a command line to be entered via the keyboard. The SoL is now operating as a computer and is ready to accept one of the following commands:

**D**Ump Dump memory locations to screen  
**E**Nter Enter data to memory  
**E**Xecute Execute a program in external memory  
**B**Asic Execute a program located at address zero  
**T**ErMinal Return to terminal mode  
**T**Load Load program or data from cassette tape  
**M**ODE Press key to start new command line

## CONSOL COMMANDS

The seven SoL CONSOL commands are defined in the following:

**DUMP** <addr> <addr>

The DUMP command displays memory data on the screen in ASCII Hexidecimal representation. As with all SoL commands the command is recognized by the first two characters and up to ten additional characters can be input without an error being forced. Thus, DU; DUST; DUMP; DUMPTHESE would all be recognized as being a DUMP command.

At least one address must follow the command or an error will result. Entering the command DU followed by addr will result in the data at 'addr' being displayed

## MICROCOMPUTER DEVELOPMENT SOFTWARE

on the screen. If two addresses are defined then all values from the first address to the last address will be displayed. The following example shows the DUMP command with the start and terminating addresses sepcified;

**DUMP 0 EF**

Up to ten blanks may be inserted between each parameter without forcing an error condition. Errors are flagged by a question mark (?) replacing the character where the error occurred. For example if the DU command were given without an address, the question mark would appear ten spaces to the right of the 'U' character of the \dump command.

**ENTER addr**

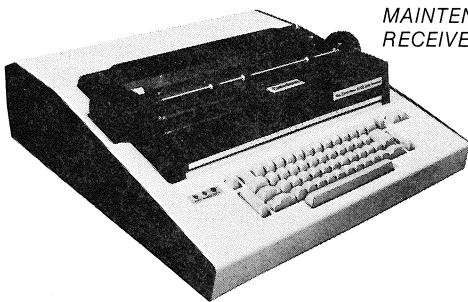
The enter command places sequential bytes into memory beginning at the specified address. Data, represented as hexidecimal values, are entered from the keyboard for storage in memory. Values are entered one line at a time with each line terminated by a carriage return or linefeed. The ENTER command function itself is terminated with a slash (/) and the CONSOL operating system returns to the command mode when the slash is encountered.

Data input lines are terminated with a carriage return or line feed. If the terminator is a C/R, CONSOL will erase all characters from the current cursor location to the end of the screen line. In this case, all valid input should be to the left of the cursor. If an error occurred during input the cursor may be moved back to

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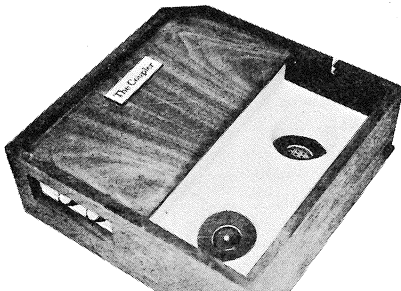
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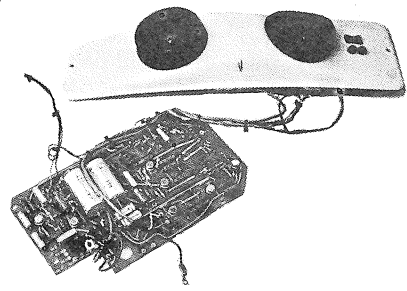
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UNTESTED \* IN WOOD ENCLOSURE  
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UNTESTED \* Physically fit into Model 33  
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the left to correct the error.

**TLoad <speed>**

CONSOL includes routines to read standardized Software from cassette tape. This standardized software is recorded on tape with a sixteen byte header that includes NAME, LOAD INFORMATION, FILE TYPE and execute address. CONSOL, because of space limitations, is unable to search for a program or file by name. After receiving the TLOAD command, CONSOL locates the next available data, uses the header information and loads the file to memory.

After loading the data, CONSOL returns to the command mode where the EXEC command can be used to execute the just loaded program. In addition, a return can normally be made to the command mode by pressing the MODE key. Program Space limitations again limited the mechanization of the escape function during the header search, so if the operation software system locks up in this routine the standard SoL restart must be used to escape.

The Audio Cassette Interface electronics within the SoL will record or receive data at either of two standard speeds. TLOAD will accept a parameter to select this speed, 0 being high speed and 1 being low (300 and 1200 bits per second). If no parameter is given, CONSOL will default to high speed operation as all standard SoL-System Software is recorded at this speed.

**EXecute addr**

The execute command is used to run programs located in external memory. CONSOL branches to the external routine in a manner similar to a CALL so that the program can return to the command mode using a standard RET instruction if normal stack operations are used.

**BASIC**

The BASIC command is provided for executing programs whose starting address is 0. (Such as SoL-BASIC5).

**STANDARD I/O ROUTINES**

All SoL System personality modules contain similar I/O code for input/output operations. CONSOL, using 1K of memory, has routines for KEYBOARD and SERIAL PORT input as well as SERIAL and VIDEO DISPLAY OUTPUT. Although the same code for SOLOS and SOLED contains expanded functions, the I/O operations appear almost identical when used with external software.

SoL BASIC5 for example performs all I/O using the jump table of the personality modules. Thus, without altering BASIC the user may output to either the serial port or to the display screen. Provision is also made within BASIC to programatically change to any of the four available Input or Output options. CONSOL is of course limited to the two provided.

\*\* ALS-8 PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM \*\*

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PROCESSOR TECHNOLOGY CORP.  
6288 HOLLIS STREET  
EMERYVILLE, CALIF. 94608

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C000 0002 *
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C000 0045 *
C000 0046 *
C000 80 0047 DB 0 FOUR PHASE WONDER
C001 C3 65 C2 0048 BGIN JMP STRTA
C004 0049 *
C004 0050 *
C004 0051 *
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C004 0053 *
C004 0054 *
C004 0055 *
C004 0056 *
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C004 0069 *
C004 0070 *
C004 0071 *
C004 0072 *
C004 0073 *
C004 0074 *
C004 0075 *
C004 3A 03 C8 0076 SOUT LDA OPORT GET PORT NUMBER FROM MEMORY LOCATION
C007 E6 03 0077 AOUT ANI 3 KEEP IT IN CONTROL
C009 E5 03 0078 PUSH H WE'LL RESTORE IT LATER
C00A 21 84 C1 0079 LXI H,OTAB POINT TO TABLE
C00B 07 0080 RLC COMPUTE ADDRESS
C00C 85 0081 ADD L WE HAVE IT
C00D 8F 0082 MOV L,A WE HAVE IT
C010 C3 71 C0 0083 JMP DISPT GO TO HL...
C013 0084 *
C013 0085 *
C013 0086 *
C013 0087 *
C013 0088 *
C013 0089 *
C013 0090 *
C013 0091 *
C013 0092 *
C013 0093 *
C013 0094 *
C013 0095 *
C013 0096 *
C013 0097 *
C013 0098 *
C013 3A 04 C8 0099 SINP LDA IPORT GET PORT NUMBER FROM MEMORY LOCATION
C016 E6 03 0099 ANIP ANI 3 WE MUST BE RESPONSABLE
C018 E5 03 0100 PUSH H SAVE HL
C019 21 8C C1 0101 LXI H,ITAB POINT TO TABLE
C01C 87 0102 RLC THE MATH
C01D 45 0103 ADD L
C01E 6F 0104 MOV L,A DONE
C01F C3 71 C0 0105 JMP DISPT WE HAVE THE ADDRESS...GO TO HEAVEN
C022 0106 *
C022 0107 *
C022 0108 *
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C022 0114 *
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SOFTWARE SECTION

MICROCOMPUTER DEVELOPMENT SOFTWARE

Assembly code listing for software section, including instructions like JNZ, CALL, and labels like C370, C380, etc.

Assembly code listing for microcomputer development software, including instructions like MOV, ADD, and labels like C390, C400, etc.

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