AUTORUN.COM

This program allows you to configure an auto-run command when CP/M boots (cold start, warm start or both). This program is specifically for Altair CP/M 2.2 and will not work with versions of CP/M for other types of computer.

PUNMSG.COM

This program allows you to type in a message and punch that message in human readable form on a Teletype or other paper tape punch.

SERBUF.COM

This program allows the Altair to serve as a serial buffer between a PC connected to 2SIO port A and a serial device connected to 2SIO port B or the 88-ACR Cassette Interface (SIO at 6/7). The Altair serves as a go-between from a PC to older serial devices that do not play well with modern USB serial adapters.

Data from the PC is received into a 32K circular buffer through serial port 1 (typically at 9600 baud) and transmitted out of the buffer through serial port 2. Serial port 2 can be at a lower baud rate (e.g., 110 baud for a teletype) and/or have handshaking enabled (e.g., to allow successful communication with older devices that have small buffering queues like my EP-1 serial EPROM programmer).

Data from the device is immediately transmitted to the PC without buffering.

When transmitting a file to a slower device, the file transfer dialog of the terminal emulator may indicate file transfer completion long before the transfer to the slower device has actually completed. To indicate when the slower transfer has completed, the message **Buffered I/O Complete** is displayed. This message is displayed only if substantial buffering of 256 or more bytes has taken place.

Using simple file transfers from/to a PC, paper tapes can be punched or read from a Teletype, cassette tapes can be written or read through the 88-ACR Cassette Interface, and files can be sent with handshaking to devices with small buffers that don't work well with USB adapters.

The program is also useful for isolating the send and receive sides of communication problems. For example, Teletype receive (print) operations can be isolated from keyboard/reader problems by using a terminal emulator on the PC. Whatever is typed on the PC keyboard goes straight to the Teletype printer mechanism. Or, a file with a specific sequence of characters to exercise the print mechanism can be transferred. Similarly, input from the Teletype keyboard can be received into the PC and displayed on a terminal emulator screen or captured into a file in order to study keyboard and reader problems.

Usage: SERBUF 1|2|A
    Where "1" or "2" uses 2SIO port B with 1 or 2 stop bits
    "A" uses the ACR SIO port