

The KAMAS Report

Issue Number 5

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IN THIS ISSUE

We have been unbelievably busy since the last issue of the KAMAS Report went out. See the "In the News" section for the scoop on the frenzied spring. With summer just around the corner, it's time to cool down a bit and get back in touch. Here's an overview of what's included in this issue.

-- Anne Hickman, Editor

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IN THE NEWS

A new version is released--earlier than planned. A re-christening occurs. And more. In the news.

A Rose by Any Other Name?

If you've seen our recent ads or if you've contacted us recently, you have probably already noticed that we've changed our company name. Our new name, KAMASOFT, is easier to pronounce and easier to spell than the old tongue twister -- Compusophic Systems. These days, I only have to tell people that it starts with a K instead of a C and they can pretty well guess the rest of it. KAMASOFT also sounds less arcane and has more of a recognition factor since it's based on our product name.

Version 1.2

Perhaps the biggest news since last time is the release of a new version of KAMAS. We had already been working on Version 1.2 when Kaypro Corp. came out with the New 2 (a single drive version of the Kaypro 2X). At the same time, they changed their CP/M operating system to a new version (2.2u) on their entire line of CP/M computers. To

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our surprise (and dismay) we learned that KAMAS Version 1.1 would not work with the new Kaypro operating system.

Finding out about this problem was all the encouragement that we needed to finish up work on Version 1.2 of KAMAS which runs on virtually any CP/M computer (including the Kaypro CP/M 2.2u machines). The only real snag in the whole scenario was that we had to start shipping before we could formally announce the new version. (Our first units were shipped May 17). Oh well. Better late with the announcement than announcing too far in advance and creating the notorious VAPORWARE ...

The biggest change in Version 1.2 is that KAMAS can now be installed on practically any Z80 computer with 64K of RAM, CP/M 2.2 or above, 200K of disk storage, and an 80 col x 24 line ASCII terminal with direct cursor addressing. We have reports of the new version working on the Apple and Frankln Ace with a wide variety of CP/M cards and the IBM PC with the Baby Blue card. We even hear that it's working on a TurboDos system. TurboDos is a CP/M look-a-like that runs on CompuPro computers and other S-100 systems.

About 15 machines are listed on the main install menu. If you have one of these systems, installation is a snap. You just select your computer, specify the disk drives that are available, and tell KAMAS if you want a Perfect Writer or Wordstar style editor. Then, you're done. All the computers that were available on 1.1 of KAMAS (Kaypro, Morrow, Epson, Osborne, Zorba, Xerox, and Lobo) are on the main machine menu. If your computer is not listed on the main menu, you can still install KAMAS by answering a few prompts about your system.

How to Order Version 1.2

Version 1.2 of KAMAS is available as an upgrade to registered customers only. If you purchased Version 1.1 of KAMAS (or even 1.0) prior to April 11, you can order the

update for \$30.00. The update includes a 55-page manual, two reference cards (one for Perfect Writer style editor and the other for Wordstar style editor), and a disk with the new software on it. If you purchased an older version of KAMAS after April 11, 1985, you can order the update for \$15.00.

Both prices include shipping which is by First Class Mail.

When you order, please specify the serial number of your older version and the name under which it is registered. If you did not purchase directly from us and you think you are eligible for the half-price deal, please include a copy of your sales receipt showing that you purchased after April 11. If you purchased direct from us, we use the shipping date on your invoice to determine if you are eligible for the half-price update.

What's New in 1.2

Most of the changes in Version 1.2 are in the Outline Editor. Many functions that could previously be done only in ROVE mode are now available in the Outline Editor. You can now do most of the Show commands (Show View, Show Focus, etc.), most of the Query Commands, Format Commands, Print Commands, and Output to File Commands in the Outline Editor. You can mount new topics in the Outline Editor. You can Jex stems that contain KAMAS programs from the Outline Editor. And you can now exit to CP/M from the Outline Editor.

In the Leaf Editor, you can reformat a paragraph. A new command allows you to exit from the Leaf and save the leaf all in one step. And the CTRL-T (CTRL-O in Wordstar configured editors) which splits the leaf now prompts before continuing to create a new stem.

In ROVE mode, the changes are in the View commands, the Status command, and the Format Margins command. SV and QV now behave like the View command on Utility Disk 1; both commands show a smaller neighborhood of surrounding keys. The

Status command (TS) now shows the current key and the available drives are shown in search order with the default drive first. The Format Margins command (FM) now shows the old margin values before prompting for new values.

The corresponding VIEW and STATUS commands in the language are changed similar to their ROVE mode counterparts.

You also get two reference cards for ROVE mode, the Outline Editor, and the Leaf Editor.

What's No Longer In 1.2

We have taken a few commands out of the KAMAS language. The majority of the commands that we removed are machine specific, so taking them out allows a wider variety of computers to run KAMAS.

The SETDRIVES command in the KAMAS programming language is no longer included in Version 1.2. Older versions of KAMAS were preconfigured for specific computers, and the number of disk drives available was fixed according to the machine. If you had added a RAM Disk or a Hard Disk, you could use SETDRIVES to inform KAMAS about the added drives. Now, in Version 1.2, you define the drives available when you install KAMAS, so SETDRIVES is no longer needed. An article later in this issue tells how you can change the available drives without re-installing KAMAS.

The SETBAUD command in the KAMAS programming language is no longer available. This command is machine specific and its definition varies from computer to computer depending on the type of RS-232 serial port installed in the system. We hope to publish examples of SETBAUD for a variety of computers in future issues of the newsletter and/or on future utility disks.

The telecommunications commands in the KAMAS programming language no longer work unless you are able to configure for

telecom during installation. The telecom commands are:

WCRCV, WCXMT, RECEIVE?,
TERMINAL, TOGREMOTE,
REMOTEGO, REMOTEVIOL

The SYSTOPIC that comes with Version 1.2 has been reduced in size to about 50K. This allows us to distribute KAMAS on a single floppy with as little as 126K available. Most of the abend help screens for the programming language have been removed. These screens are printed in Chapter 17 of the User's Guide. The JEX LEAFS branch has also been removed except for the AUTOJEX leaf. The KAMASBBS bulletin board application has been removed. The KAMASBBS application has some machine dependencies. Also, the version that was in 1.1 of KAMAS needs some changes to work with 1.2 of KAMAS. We hope to provide working versions of KAMASBBS for specific machines on upcoming Utility Disks.

All of the things that we took out of SYSTOPIC are going to be included on future Utility Disks for people that do not have the earlier versions. But if you already have an older version of KAMAS, you won't need this. Topic files from earlier versions are compatible with Version 1.2 so just use your old SYSTOPIC if you need this material.

Utility Disks 1, 2, and 3

Utility Disk 1 no longer contains the KAMAS LANGUAGE topic. It currently has the UTILITIES topic only containing utility programs. KAMAS LANGUAGE is now on Utility Disk 2. We made this change so that we could reduce the files down to a size that would fit on floppy with 126K or less. That way we can distribute it to anyone who can run KAMAS.

Utility Disk 2 is now available. It is a programmer's documentation disk. It contains the KAMAS LANGUAGE topic, an online document that describes the programming commands. It also contains

the help screens that we removed from SYSTOPIC for Version 1.2. These help screens are primarily error messages for the programming language abends. If you have KAMAS 1.1 or 1.0 and you have the early version of Utility Disk 1, you don't need this. You will find it redundant with files you already have.

Utility Disk 3 is now available. It is the latest update to UTILITIES.TOP that was originally released on Utility Disk 1. This latest version is meant to replace the earlier one. There are some bug fixes, but there are not really any new features. The difference is in how you run the programs in the UTILITIES topic. Now, you access those programs through MENU mode instead of loading all the programs at once when KAMAS initializes. You still access the utilities using the U command at the ROVE: prompt. The old way of loading the programs took quite a long time especially if you were running on floppies. The new way loads programs as you need them and is a little faster and more convenient. Utility Disk 3 also contains the Jex Leafs that we removed from SYSTOPIC. These leafs primarily contain program examples described in the User's Guide.

Pricing and Policy on Utility Disks

Utility Disks are Public Domain. This means that if you can find someone who has a Utility Disk and they will let you copy it, you can get the disk free. If you get the Utility Disk from us, we charge a modest fee to cover our costs in producing the disks and shipping them to you.

There are two prices for Utility Disks: one for purchasing Utility Disks separately and the other for purchasing Utility Disks with some other order, e.g., with KAMAS or with a KAMAS update.

Purchase Utility Disks Separately:

 \$10.00 for first Utility Disk on an order
 \$ 5.00 for each additional disk included
 on the same order

Purchase with KAMAS System or Update:

 \$ 5.00 for each Utility Disk included on
 the order

On the disks that contain programs, we include a User's Guide topic that describes the programs on the disk. You can print the User's Guide topic to get printed documentation. Most of the material included on the disks is supplied by KAMAS users who are running it on their machines. We also test it as much as possible before including it on a disk. If you find a bug on a utility disk, we would appreciate learning about it, and we'll correct it the next time we update the program involved.

Other News

Since the last issue of the newsletter, articles on KAMAS have continued to appear in national publications as well as local area newsletters. The March issue of the Epson Connection contained a review of KAMAS. The March issue of KUGRAM also contained a review. The May issue of Personal Computing had an article about Outline Processors in which KAMAS was prominently featured. And the June Personal Computing had an article on CP/M software which also discussed KAMAS.

FOCUS ON OUTLINE PROCESSING

Here is a tip that you might find useful from Jim Newell.

Recovering from a TOODENSE Abend

Another jewel from Newell. This time Jim wrote in to offer a tip on recovering from a TOODENSE abend. This tip is one I wish I had known about several times.

If you are like me, you are stingy with disk space. I tend to make my topics too small and fill them until they crash.

When you save a leaf with ESC S, and you get the dreaded TOODENSE abend, go to the top of the leaf and use ESC M to mark the beginning. Then, go to the end and use ESC W to put the leaf into the swap buffer and

erase the leaf. Then, use ESC S (in Version 1.2 you can also use ESC Q) to save the now empty leaf.

Next, delete the key for the stem that just overflowed. This may give you enough space to go to another title in the topic and save the leaf that's in the swap buffer with ESC Y (ESC U if you have configured for Wordstar). Or switch to some other topic that has some free space and save the swap buffer there.

Now, you can resize with TCOPY or the branch copy in AUX ROVE.

Finally, go to the stem where you temporarily stored the leaf you were working on and use ESC M and ESC W again to get that leaf back into the leaf buffer. Now, move the leaf back into your original topic and its original title.

Thanks, Jim, I know that one can be of use to lots of people.

FOCUS ON WORD PROCESSING

Wordstar users will find some useful hints in this section. Also, there are some tips on printing outlines.

Wordstar Users

The Wordstar file output option on Utility Disk 1 allows you to convert a topic file to a Wordstar document file. It requires that every stem in the topic being converted to be marked either full or left justify. You can accomplish the formatting easily in Version 1.2 in the Outline Editor with the ESC F T option. Here's a tip that comes from Lucian Minor to format the entire topic automatically during the conversion.

Mount the UTILITIES topic and go to the key OUTLINE OUT. Edit the leaf of this stem and find the line:

```
FILENAME STUC STARTLOG .IFSO
```

Just above this line insert the following line:

```
?WSFLAG IFSO GT LOOP MARKLJUST GF ?ENDLINK  
UNTILT .LOOP .IFSO GT
```

Then, when you output the topic to a Wordstar document file, the entire topic is formatted automatically.

Reading in Wordstar Files

Note that when you use the FINPUTJOB to read in the Wordstar document files, the print control characters embedded in the file (^PH) are dropped. These characters have no meaning within a KAMAS topic and they can cause problems in some cases when you are later editing the text.

Printing Topics and Outlines

Two notes about printing outlines. First, when you use the OO output option in ROVE mode, you don't get a blank line after the title prints. If you want a blank, you have to insert it as the first line of the leaf. However, don't insert a carriage return only. Instead, insert a spacebar and carriage return on the first line of the leaf.

The other note about the OO option has to do with right margins. OO indents all the levels of your outline on the printout. If you have a lot of levels, your lowest levels will be indented way over from the left margin (indentation is set at two spaces per level). This can cause the line to overflow the right printer margin. If the leaf is formatted, there will be no problem within your text. But the title is not affected by formatting. You have to make the low level titles short enough to fit on one line even when they are preceded by spaces from being indented. What happens when the title overflows? It depends on your printer. Some printers automatically print the leftover title on the next line. Then, the line count will be off by one and your page breaks won't be correct. KAMAS counts the title as one line even though the printer might use two. Other printers truncate the left-over title and the page breaks are OK but the title is clipped. The best solution is to watch the size of these lower level titles if you are going to use OO to print the outline.

Printing Leafs Only

Robert Delapaz sent in this useful set of commands to print only the leafs without any titles. You can type these commands into a leaf and jex it to run the program. The first line shown below is the title of the stem and the following lines go in the leaf. The program outputs the leafs to a file or to the printer.

```
PRINTLEAF - Job to print only leafs of a topic
LANG SYS
NEWLINE "WHAT TOPIC? " STOUT WORKST STIN
WORKST TBUILD NEWLINE "PRINT? (Y) " STOUT
YESNO DUPW IFSO TOGPRINT
ELSE NEWLINE "FILENAME " STOUT
WORKST STIN WORKST STARTLOG
.IFSO
LOOP SHOWLEAF GF ?ENDLINK
UNTILT .LOOP
IFSO TOGPRINT ELSE STOPLOG .IFSO
.SYS .LANG ROVE
```

FROM USER GROUPS

With our recent promotion and all the press coverage that we have been getting, KAMAS owners are becoming a large group. We have had numerous requests about user's groups. Some people are interested in joining them. Others are interested in forming them.

Washington, DC Area

Honors for forming the first KAMAS User's Group go to Joe Cobb and the folks at the Capitol Kaypro User's Group (CKUG). They formed a KAMAS SIG in February. Anyone in the DC area (zip codes from 20001 through 22399) is welcome and encouraged to join. It's not necessary to have the Kaypro version of KAMAS to join. Any version will do. Contact Joe Cobb at 202/547-6622 from 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm or from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. If you get an answering machine, leave your name, number, and address and Joe will be in touch.

Attorneys

We have had a lot of requests from attorneys who want to contact other attorneys using KAMAS.

If anyone wants to serve as a focus point for a KAMAS Attorney's User Group, let us know and we'll publish your name and address in the next issue.

Other Professions

Forming KAMAS User Groups for specific professions sounds like a good idea.

So, if any of you are interested in contacting other members of your profession who also use KAMAS, let us know and we'll publish your name and address too.

Bulletin Boards and Artificial Intelligence

Mike Sale of Glendale, California is interested in hearing from people with experience in setting up a Bulletin Board System using KAMAS. Contact Mike at 207 W. Lomita, # 216, Glendale, CA 91204. Phone (818) 502-0826.

Mike is also interested in forming a Special Interest Group for Artificial Intelligence Applications in KAMAS.

Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Sacramento

We've had requests from people in all three of these areas about forming user groups. Anyone who would like to serve as a focal point in getting a group started, let us know and we'll publish your name, address, and phone number. From the calls we've had, I think there are enough interested parties to start a group in each of these areas.

FROM THE SUPPORT LINE

This section of the newsletter contains tips and notes based on support calls that we have received recently.

Utility Disk 1 Notes

If you are using Utility Disk 1 with KAMAS Version 1.2, here are a few things that you should take note of:

1. The KAMASBBS that is on Utility Disk 1 works with Version 1.1. It requires modification to the NOCARRIER? command before it will work properly with Version 1.2. Also, you must write a SETBAUD command for your computer. We hope to include several SETBAUD commands for different systems on future Utility Disks.
2. The Outline Output option on Utility Disk 1 does not obey the margin settings when you are outputting to a file.
3. Don't install Utility Disk 1 with KAMAS Version 1.2. That is, don't run the INSTALL command from Utility Disk 1. This command replaces the KAMAS AUTOJEX with a new leaf that loads the programs from the Utility Disk. Version 1.1 of KAMAS needed this replacement AUTOJEX. It's already built-in to Version 1.2. If you have already run INSTALL, you might want to replace your AUTOJEX leaf with the one from your original master to get the Version 1.2 AUTOJEX back. It's a better AUTOJEX than the one on the Utility Disk.

Warning Note about Versions and Patches

In the past, we have printed ways that you can patch KAMAS by changing its object files using the CP/M utility DDT. These patches apply only to the Versions specified. In most cases, a patch for Version 1.1 will not work in Version 1.2 and vice versa.

The insides of KAMAS were changed drastically to make the installable version possible. This means that memory locations that once had initialization code for a modem no longer have that. If you change those same locations in Version 1.2, there is no telling what you are changing or how it may affect KAMAS. So don't patch the new 1.2 KAMAS.COM using patches in Issues 2-4 of The KAMAS Report.

Newsletter Policy

We've had a number of questions about the newsletter. Who gets it? How many do you get? And so on. Here's our policy. I hope this clarifies things a little.

The current issue of the newsletter is included when you purchase KAMAS.

Only registered users can get additional issues of the newsletter. You register by filling out and returning the registration card that comes with your disk.

If you purchased Version 1.1 or 1.0, you get 12 issues of The KAMAS Report included in your purchase. You can get back issues as part of your 12 issues if you want, or you can start the 12 issues with the time of your purchase. To get back issues, write a note on your registration card or drop us a post card requesting them if you already sent your registration card.

If you purchased Version 1.2, you get one year of The KAMAS Report included in your purchase. The newsletter is not published on a regular schedule. It comes out roughly every quarter, so you get about 4 issues. For now, you can also get back issues by requesting them on your registration card.

The stock on back issues is limited, so this back-issue policy will necessarily change in the future. You will know when it changes because the registration card will no longer have a box to check to receive back issues. We'll also announce the new back-issue policy in the newsletter. If your registration card says you can get back issues, we'll honor your request for back issues.

USING SPECIFIC EQUIPMENT

Here are a couple of items that will help if you are running keyboard macro software or if you want to change your disk drive setup within KAMAS.

Keyboard Macros

Many of you have written to tell us that you have been using some of the keyboard macro utility programs with KAMAS.

We have reports that the public domain program KSTROKES.COM works as well as SmartKey, Backgrounder, and XtraKey.

With some of these programs, you must either confine your macro to a single line or insert a pause at certain points in the macro so that KAMAS gets enough time to process the command.

Keyboard macros can be very useful within the leaf editor to add functions like moving the cursor ahead or back by more than one character. We even had reports of someone writing a paragraph reformat using a keyboard macro to issue sequences of leaf editor commands. Version 1.2 has the reformat built in but other additions sure could be helpful.

Dynamically Changing your Drive Array after you Install Version 1.2 of KAMAS

In Version 1.2 of KAMAS, the SETDRIVES command is no longer included. This command allowed you to change the disk

drives that KAMAS was aware of while running KAMAS. Now, in Version 1.2, the disk drives are set up during installation. However, you can still change them within KAMAS using a program that is included on Utility Disk 3. The program is called SETDRIVES and it prompts you for a new drive array. It does not permanently change the KAMAS file and must be run each time you run KAMAS. If you need to permanently change the drive array, go back to your master disk and make a fresh copy of it and re-install KAMAS for your new drives.

The SETDRIVES job is intended to make changes occasionally. For example, suppose you run KAMAS on the Morrow MD5 computer. If you specify the floppy when you install KAMAS, you have to place a disk in drive B everytime that you run KAMAS. Normally, you want to use the hard disk and ignore the floppy drive B so you would not specify drive B during installation. But occasionally you may want to read a topic that is stored on the floppy. The SETDRIVES program works well for this purpose. It makes KAMAS aware of drive B for the session.

KAMASOFT™

KAMASOFT, Inc.
2525 SW 224th Ave.
P.O. Box 5549
Aloha, OR 97007



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