

Welcome to FastPlus II.	1
Making a Backup.	1
FastPlus II and TRS/LSDOS.	1
Two Drive SSDD Systems.	1
Three & Four Drive SSDD Systems and/or Hard Drive.	1
Standard File Configuration Two Floppy Drive System.	1
3 & 4 Floppy Drive System.	2
Hard Drive System.	2
Alternate Configuration.	2
Bulletin Files for FastPlus II	2
Help Files for FastPlus II	2
FPCONFIG/CMD.	3
About FPCONFIG/CMD.	3
Running FPCONFIG.	3
<1> FastPlus Program Options, Screen 1.	4
<A> Delete First Time Callers on Dropped Carrier.	4
 Enable Time Credit for UPLOADING.	4
Echo <C> Echo ASCII back to Remote During ASCII Uploading.	5
<D> Log-off msg to printer : Board Updated = #####.	5
<E> Log-off msg to printer : System Files Updated.	5
<G> 1200 Baud Modem Capability.	5
<H> Allow one word names at Log-on.	5
<I> Custom prompts for NEW USER at Log-off.	5
<J> Custom Prompts for REG USER at Log-off.	6
<K> Key Input Timer Enabled.	6
<L> Disconnect on Lack of Input.	6
<M> Sysop Mail to Printer at Log-off.	6
<N> Sysop Mail to Disk File at Log-off.	6
<O> Auto-kill msgs at log-off or when board switching.	7
<P> Auto-Kill all Answered PUBLIC MESSAGES (option O enabled).	7
<Q> Mark Mail as read in FORWARD/NEW and MAIL.	7
<R> Show Name of User who uploaded file in Download Catalog.	7
<S> System Time Limit Enabled.	7
<T> Blink a "*" during PAUSE (CTRL S).	7
Pause Action with Key Input Timer Enabled.	8
Special Notes on using Log-off Mail routing.	8
Possible Errors in Log-off Mail Routing.	8
<2> FastPlus Program Options, Screen 2.	8
<A> TRACK Mail Through All Boards Automatically.	8
 TRACK NEW MESSAGES Through All Boards Automatically.	9
<C> Return to Originating Board if TRACKING NEW/MAIL Aborted.	9
<D> Enable Escape Code Disconnect.	9
<E> Enable DTR Type Disconnect.	9
<F> Display "M" on User Log for Message to Sysop.	9
<G> Prompt for Deleting Marked Messages (Sysop only).	9
<H> User Record to Disk a Log-off.	9
<I> User Record to Printer at Log-off.	9
<J> Use "TERMINATE" word for disconnect in menus.	10
<K> Use "GOODBYE" word for disconnect in menus.	10
<L> Use USER00/LOG filename (if Option H enabled).	10
<M> Use USERmm/LOG (mm=current month).	10
<N> Auto Update of Download Catalog after Upload.	10
<O> Caller Allowed to remove files they uploaded.	10
<P> Allowed to remove from Disk and Catalog (Option O Enabled).	10

<Q> Display only Sub-Board names to which the user has access.	10
<R> Use Cassette Port for BELL.	11
<S> Using a Speed-up Board.	11
<T> Enable separate DL files for each sub-board.	11
<3> FastPlus System Values, Screen 3.	11
<A> Current System Time Limit Set in Minutes.	11
 Individual User Time Limit Set in Minutes.	12
<C> Auto-Update Rate for System Files in Callers.	12
<D> Video Display Rate for Local Mode Communications.	12
<E> Bell Delay Rate for Chat Mode Activation.	12
<F> Time Limit before auto C/R generation on lack of input.	12
<G> Password Attempts before System Terminates Caller.	12
<H> Drive to use for Bulletin File Storage.	13
<I> Drive to Use for SYSINFO/FPF File.	13
<J> Drive to Use for DL/FPF File (single file only).	13
<K> Drive to Use for USERS/FPF File.	13
<L> Drive to Use for MAIL/FPF File.	13
<M> Drive to Use for USERSxx/LOG file.	13
<N> Number of times to Ring CHAT Bell.	13
<O> Initial Board Access for New User.	13
<4> User Default Options, Screen 4.	14
<A> Auto Word Wrap for Message Entry Enabled.	14
 CR+LF.	14
<C> Video Type of Backspace.	14
<D> Send BELL for Prompts.	15
<E> Mark User as having individual time limit set.	15
<F> Allowed to UPLOAD files.	15
<G> Allowed to DOWNLOAD files.	15
<H> Allowed to DOWNLOAD Invisible Files.	15
<I> Allowed to Leave a Message.	15
<J> Allowed to Remove a Message.	15
<K> Allowed to View User List.	15
<L> Allowed to Read Messages and use Quick Summary.	15
<M> Allowed to CHAT with Sysop.	16
<N> Make their password entry INVISIBLE at Log-on.	16
<O> Enable REPLY OPTION during message retrieval.	16
<5> Remote Sysop Options, Screen 5.	16
<A> Allowed to Leave a Protected MSG (TO : ALL).	16
 May Remove a File from the Download Menu.	17
<C> May Remove a File from the DISK via Download Menu.	17
<D> Read any PRIVATE msgs left in system.	17
<E> May Remove a PROTECTED msg left to ALL.	17
<F> Allowed into the SYSOP EDIT MENU.	17
<G> Allowed to Enter Bulletins for sub-boards.	17
<H> Reserved for future use.	17
<I> Allowed to EDIT other users in the file.	17
<K> Allowed to READ SYSOP MAIL FILE from Disk.	17
<L> Allowed to KILL the SYSOP MAIL FILE from Disk.	18
<M> May Edit User Name (providing Edit <I> enabled).	18
<N> May EDIT USER PASSWORD (providing EDIT <I> enabled).	18
<O> May EDIT USER NUMBER (providing EDIT <I> enabled).	18
<P> May EDIT USER ACCESS (providing EDIT <I> enabled).	18
<Q> May DELETE USER from file.	18
<6> Sub-Board Configuration Menu, Screen 6.	18
<1> Add Sub-Board to List.	19
<2> Delete Sub-Board from List.	20
<3> Change Sub-Board Name.	20

<4> Change Drive for Sub-Board.	20
<5> Change Line Length for Sub-Board.	20
<6> Change Lines for Sub-Board.	20
<7> Change Upload Drive.	20
Message Size Considerations.	20
Deleting Board Filenames.	21
Special Considerations on Board Configuration.	21
Restoring a Sub-Board.	21
<7> Modem Configurations, Screen 7.	22
<A> Hayes Smartmodem 300, 300/1200.	22
 Hayes Compatible 300,300/1200.	22
<C> Hayes Smartmodem 300/1200/2400.	22
<D> Hayes Compatible 300/1200/2400.	23
<E> Anchor Signalman XII 300/1200.	23
<F> Radio Shack Modem II.	23
<G> Radio Shack DCM-5.	23
<H> Radio Shack DC-2212.	23
<I> Radio Shack 4P Internal Modem.	23
<J> Avatex DIP Switch Settings.	23
<K> User Defined Modem Control String.	23
Control Codes in Command String.	24
Hayes Compatible (almost).	24
<8> Define FastPlus Messages, Screen 8.	25
<A> Welcome Message.	25
 Sysop Name.	25
<C> Hours of Operation.	25
<D> BOOT Off Message.	26
<E> Restricted User Msg.	26
<F> Removing Files.	26
<G> Incorrect Log-off Message.	26
<H> Log-off Message.	26
<I> Unable to CHAT.	26
<J> Chat In Effect.	26
<K> Prompt for Mail.	26
<L> Time Out Message.	26
<M> New User Prompts at Log-off.	26
<N> REG User Prompts at Log-off.	27
Initializing FastPlus II.	28
Program Preparation.	28
Disk Space Management.	28
About the Printer.	30
Setting the TIME and DATE.	30
FastPlus Execution.	31
Shutting Down FastPlus.	32
Restarting FastPlus.	32
Changing the Configuration.	32
Error During Initialization.	32
RAM Memory Error.	32
Maintaining FastPlus.	33
Keeping File Backups.	33
Modem Problems.	33
Status Display.	33
Last Callers Line.	34

Enabling the Last Caller Line. 34

Active Caller Line. 34

User Number. 34

The Name. 34

User Status. 34

Board Info Line. 35

FastPlus Logon. 37

Special Function Keys. 37

Save Memory Contents. 37

Disable Chat Bell. 37

Starting a Local Mode Session. 37

Exiting to DOS Ready. 37

Displaying the Last 5 Callers. 37

Adjusting the Baud Rate. 38

Logging on the Caller. 38

Other Control Keys. 38

Cursor to Start of Line. 38

Aborting a Selected Function. 38

Control Key Equivalents. 38

Automatic Screen Blanking. 39

The Connection Sequence. 39

Bulletin Display. 40

Mail Acknowledgements. 40

Sysop Control Keys for Evicting a Caller. 41

Displaying Bulletins. 41

The Chat Function. 42

Letter Cases Supported. 42

End a Chat Session. 42

WordWrap During Chat Mode. 42

File Transfer Menu. 42

Uploading a File - Remote Regular User. 43

Using Xmodem Protocol. 44

Using 1K Xmodem Protocol. 44

Using ASCII Protocol. 45

Downloading a File. 45

Selecting Xmodem Protocol. 45

Selecting 1K Xmodem Protocol. 45

Selecting ASCII Protocol. 45

Selecting Manual Transmission. 45

Selecting Automatic Transmission. 46

Downloading a Protected File. 46

Downloading Protocol Options. 46

Catalog of Files. 47

Sysop File Messages Shown. 48

Removing a File from the Catalog. 48

Changing a Files Attributes in the Catalog. 48

Message Menu Option. 48

Leaving a Message. 49

Quick Message Summary. 51

Removing a Message. 51

Retrieving Messages Sequentially. 51

Retrieving New Messages. 51

Reading Mail (Yours). 51

Reading an Individual Message. 52

Search for Mail. 52

Terminating the Connection. 52

Reply Options. 52

Sub-Menu when Auto Kill Option Disabled.	53
Auto Message Space Retrieval.	53
Selecting a Sub-Board.	53
Terminating Connection.	54
User List Options.	54
System Configuration.	55
Sysop Control.	57
Edit Menu Command Options.	57
Find A User.	61
View Mail File.	61
Removing a Mail File.	61
Terminate Connection.	61
Exit to Main Menu.	61
Having more than one MAIN SYSOP.	61
Adding a User From Local SYSOP Mode.	62
Quick Mail Delete.	62
Evicting a Caller during Logon.	62
Evicting a Caller during a Session.	62
Uploading a file - User with Sysop Status.	63
Uploading a File - Master Sysop Only (remote).	63
Uploading a File - Master SYSOP (local).	63
Uploading Special Notes.	64
Changing a Files Status Single DL File.	64
Changing a Files Status Multi-DL Files.	64
Using User #'s Effectively.	65
Mail Route to Printer.	65
Private Mail at Log Off to Printer.	65
SYSOP ONLY File Information to Printer.	65
File Auto-Update Message to Printer.	65
Message File Update to Printer.	65
Switching Boards and Updating.	66
Callers Log Off Record.	66
Disk Errors.	68
Error When Working with Memory Files.	69
When to Restart the Program.	69
When to Reboot the System.	69
Disk Errors during Upload Mode.	69
Disk Errors during Download Mode.	69
Importance of Regular Disk Backups.	70
Disk Error Codes.	70
Technical Info.	70
FastPlus BBS Uart Specifications.	70
General Program Information.	71
Files Created by FastPlus.	71
FastPlus User File Structure.	72
USEREDIT/CMD.	76

Welcome to FastPlus II

Making a Backup

Before proceeding with the configuration and installation of your FastPlus II system, it is strongly suggested that you make a backup copy of the master diskette immediately. As a registered user, you can obtain additional backup copies of the master diskette for a nominal charge (diskette plus postage), but you can spare yourself the expense and inconvenience of having to order a replacement by making a backup copy now.

The master diskette supplied can be backed up quite easily by using the TRS/LSDOS BACKUP command. FastPlus II is not copy protected in any way. After you have completed making a backup copy of your master diskette, store the master diskette in a safe location and use it only to create a new backup copy if the copy you just have made fails.

FastPlus II and TRS/LSDOS

TRSDOS 6.2.x or LSDOS 6.3 is the only acceptable operating system for FastPlus II.

The current release of FastPlus II (V2.0 or newer) will honor high memory pointers so that if you have a hard disk driver which uses HIGH MEM it will be safe. Most filters will be ok to use as well. However, make sure that you do not have the COM/DVR filter installed. If you are in doubt, hold down the [CLEAR] key when you boot the DOS and any filters/drivers will not be loaded. Then type in SYSGEN to save the bare configuration. FastPlus II is a stand alone application and doesn't require the COM filter and will not work if it is installed.

Depending on your current system configuration, you may find that FastPlus II doesn't operate as outlined in this manual. In this event I suggest that you start with your original DOS disk and then build it back up to your current configuration step by step, testing it with FastPlus II as you go. Eventually you will find the conflicting program filter or driver, and will have to remove it. I would also like to know of the offending driver or filter that the information can be passed along to other FastPlus II owners.

If you intend to run FastPlus II in a floppy based system you may have to strip off some of the utility programs to make room for FastPlus II and its associated files. Here are some suggestions for the contents of your system diskette according to the system configuration you intend to run with FastPlus II.

Two Drive SSDD Systems

Will require that you set up your system diskette with a minimum configuration. You will have to remove all utilities and program files (like BASIC). Use the PURGE command to do this (i.e. PURGE :0 (I)).

Three & Four Drive SSDD Systems and/or Hard Drive

Having the additional storage will relieve the problems associated with a limited 2 drive system.

Standard File Configuration Two Floppy Drive System

Copy FASTPLUS/CMD and FASTPLUS/CFG to your system drive. Copy FPCONFIG/CMD, USEREDIT/CMD, DLEDIT/CMD and INFOEDIT/CMD to a blank formatted diskette.

3 & 4 Floppy Drive System

Copy FASTPLUS/CMD, FASTPLUS/CFG, FPCONFIG/CMD, USEREDIT/CMD and INFOEDIT/CMD to a blank formatted diskette in drive 1.

Hard Drive System

Copy FASTPLUS/CMD, FASTPLUS/CFG, FPCONFIG/CMD, USEREDIT/CMD, DLEDIT/CMD and INFOEDIT/CMD to any logical hard drive or a blank formatted diskette.

Alternate Configuration

The FastPlus II program uses approximately 24K on your diskette. As an option you may place it on a blank formatted diskette along with the remaining programs. i.e. FASTPLUS/CMD, FPCONFIG/CMD, USEREDIT/CMD, DLEDIT/CMD and INFOEDIT/CMD would all be on one diskette. Your system diskette in drive 0 could then be used for the FASTPLUS/CFG configuration file and the "BOARD/FPF" files that FastPlus II creates or for download files.

If you choose to have a setup like this, then you must execute the program from an alternative drive (any drive other than 0) and then make sure that the following files are available on drive 0.

FASTPLUS/CFG, BOARDA/FPF, USERS/FPF, DL/FPF and SYSINFO/FPF

This will enable FastPlus II to begin execution. You may then remove the program startup diskette from drive 1 (or the one with FastPlus II on it) and substitute another data diskette with more "BOARD/FPF" files on it. Once FastPlus II is operational it does not require itself again. The support programs, FPCONFIG and USEREDIT are not required while FastPlus II is in operation either.

You may rename the FASTPLUS/CMD program to a shorter name if desired like FP/CMD for example.

Bulletin Files for FastPlus II

Bulletins are now stored as files on the disk and may be variable in size. If created within FastPlus II itself, they can use as much as 1.2K or as little as 1 character. Since the DOS normally allocates 1536 bytes per file entry, you can assume that each bulletin file will take at least 1.5K of disk space per sub-board. Therefore if you have 4 active boards, $1.5K * 4 = 6.0K$ of disk space minimum.

Bulletin files are unique in their names for each sub-board. You will find that when you create them in FastPlus II they are called BULLA/FPF through BULLP/FPF.

Help Files for FastPlus II

Although it is optional, you may elect to have HELP command options available from you menus (see FPCONFIG). If this is the case you will also need some additional space for those files. They are supplied with your master disk and are HELP[menu letter]/FPF. They may be copied to any drive for access.

FPCONFIG/CMD

About FPCONFIG/CMD

FPCONFIG (short for FastPlus Configuration Utility) is the program that allows you to configure the bulletin board with the features you want to use. This program should be run before you attempt to run FastPlus for the first time and may be used at any other time (with certain considerations where noted in this manual) to change the operating characteristics of your board.

The program is very extensive and permits a great deal of "personalization". Therefore I suggest you simply read over the next section before you actually start to implement changes.

Running FPCONFIG

To execute FPCONFIG type in the following line from TRS/LSDOS ready mode :

FPCONFIG <ENTER>

The program will immediately search all of the mounted diskettes for the FASTPLUS/CFG file (which contains the configuration information). If it is found, it will be loaded into memory and a main menu will appear.

```
FastPlus Configuration Utility
Copyright 1988 by Mel Patrick

-----
<1> FastPlus Program Options
<2> FastPlus Program Options
<3> FastPlus Program Values
<4> User Default Options
<5> Remote Sysop Options
<6> Sub-Board Configurations
<7> Modem Configurations
<8> Define FastPlus Messages
<F1> Save New Configuration and Edit
<F2> Cancel All Changes and Restart
<F3> Cancel All Changes and Exit
```

Pressing one of the letters/numbers or the corresponding function key will act as a toggle to the function beside it. Each time you press the letter the option condition will change. The following is a list of all the options available from the FPCONFIG Main Menu.

<1> FastPlus Program Options, Screen 1

This section allows you to configure how FastPlus will handle certain operations. Each of the following sections of this main configuration menu is explained in the order they appear on the video display.

```
<A> Delete first time callers who drop carrier:YES
<B> Enable time credit for uploading:YES
<C> Echo ASCII back to remote during Uploading:YES
<D> Log off msg to printer : Board Updated #####:NO
<E> Log off msg to printer : System Files Updated:NO
<F> Insert HELP Menu Options:YES
<G> 1200 Baud Modem Capability:YES
<H> Allow one word name entries for log on:NO
<I> Custom Prompts for New User at log off:YES
<J> Custom Prompts for Regular User at log off:NO
<K> Key Input Timer Enabled:YES
<L> Disconnect on lack of input (two time outs):YES
<M> Sysop mail to printer at log off:YES
<N> Sysop mail to disk file at log off:NO
<O> Auto kill msgs at log off or when board switching:YES
<P> Auto kill all Public Msgs when answered (option O enabled)
    :YES
<Q> Mark mail as read in FORWARD/NEW and MAIL:NO
<R> Show name of user who uploaded file in download
    catalog:YES
<S> System Time Limit Enabled:NO
<T> Blink a * during PAUSE (CTRL S):NO
```

<A> Delete First Time Callers on Dropped Carrier

Many callers to your bulletin board only want to have a look around and if they don't find anything of interest will simply drop the carrier instead of terminating properly. Generally these individuals will have no interest in calling back or will simply be trying to "crash" your program.

While it is doubtful they can damage the program their lack of manners can be annoying. This option will delete the information they entered at log-on so that in the event that they do call back they will have re-enter it all again and thus be encouraged to use the bulletin board in the proper manner.

When a new user comes onto the system and terminates normally and then calls back and drops the carrier (i.e. doesn't exit properly), the program will not delete their user information. Once a user has signed on and terminates properly, the next time they call, they are considered a REGULAR user. However, if they drop the carrier, it will also show up on the printer log output.

** Enable Time Credit for UPLOADING**

This option is only affected if you have either the individual time limit or master system time limit imposed for your users. If a user uploads a file to the bulletin board, FastPlus will credit the amount of time required to upload with this option enabled. This will restore the amount of time they have remaining on the system to what they had before they uploaded.

If you do not have the SYSTEM TIME LIMIT set or any individual limits set, you may leave this option either on or off.

Echo <C> Echo ASCII back to Remote During ASCII Uploading

This option is only affected during an ASCII upload and will be largely dependent on the types of terminal programs your users have.

In effect what it does is echo all received ASCII characters back to the remote. Some terminals print the file they are uploading on the screen and ignore input coming back from the host while others do not.

<D> Log-off msg to printer : Board Updated = #####

This option when enabled will send a msg to the printer when the caller terminates and has left a msg or killed a msg. The name of the sub-board which has been updated will print out.

This is simply a visual indicator that the boards are being updated, remember there are 16 of them available.

<E> Log-off msg to printer : System Files Updated

This option will print out the msg shown when the auto-update rate has expired. The users file, download/bulletin file, system information file, and message file will be updated. The update rate will then be set back to its default value.

<G> 1200 Baud Modem Capability

If you are running a 300 baud modem, set this option to NO. This selection controls part of the modem reset routine and failure to set it correctly will result in erratic operation of the program.

If you are presently using a 300 baud modem and buy a 1200 baud modem, all you need do is change this one option to enable it.

Should you have a 2400 baud modem, set the 1200 baud capability on. FastPlus will respond properly to 2400 baud whenever you have the modem defined as a HAYESTTM and 1200 baud capability set.

<H> Allow one word names at Log-on

This option when enabled will allow user names like SUPERMAN, SPIDEY, SMOKEY etc. All names must be more than 5 characters but may consist of 1 or 2 words. Two word names are considered names like CYRIL SNEER, MEL PATRICK but may be changed to allow one word names or pseudonyms as they are sometimes referred to.

Obviously callers can still use names like THE BEAR, THE BANDIT but it does cut down on some of the more exclusive and unwanted names.

<I> Custom prompts for NEW USER at Log-off

Normally at log-off the callers have the option of leaving private mail to the sysop in the simple form of 'x' number of lines for their text. What this option does is allow you to generate custom prompts for the first 5 lines of the log-off msg instead of a "blank" page for them to fill in. These prompts will only appear when a person calls for the first time and decides to leave the sysop mail. If they terminate without leaving mail, the next time they call they will be considered a REG user.

This option only enables or disables the option. Configuration option 8 is where the prompts are actually entered.

<J> Custom Prompts for REG USER at Log-off

This option works exactly the same as the previous option, i.e. it only enables or disables the option, but for REG (regular) users. Again providing they decide to leave private mail to the sysop at log-off.

<K> Key Input Timer Enabled

The function of this option is somewhat unique. Effectively what it does is provide a time out on lack of input from the remote system which would be used in conjunction with any time limits, system or individual which have been implemented.

Most BBS systems will display a menu and then wait for the callers selection. After receiving it they will generally check the time the caller has been online, see if time limit has expired and then process the command if possible. Someone wanting to simply cause you headaches can simply remain at a menu and neglect to select any function.

Certain individuals seem to get great pleasure from tying up your BBS and just generally being a pain. This option when enabled will return a command to FastPlus to cycle through the menu and check to see if they have been on long enough. This prevents someone staying online and wasting time.

The time limit itself can be set from 5 to 99 minutes. Screen 3 is used to define the amount of time. This option only enables or disables it.

<L> Disconnect on Lack of Input

This option works in conjunction with the key input timer (option K). It uses the timeout value set in option 3 of this manual (FastPlus Program Values). The normal timeout value comes set as 5 minutes. If you have this option to disconnect, at the first 5 minutes time out they will receive a warning message to the effect that if they don't type something, the BBS will disconnect them. If another 5 minutes then passes without input from the remote system, FastPlus will disconnect.

This feature will generally save those who forget to log off or get preoccupied with something else and forget they are online. It is a good safeguard against having a caller on longer than they realize (you'll save them some money if they are calling long distance as well). This command is not affected by file transfers.

<M> Sysop Mail to Printer at Log-off

This option when enabled will route any private mail (for the sysop) left at log-off to the printer. It may be enabled or disabled as required by your own needs.

<N> Sysop Mail to Disk File at Log-off

This option when enabled will route any private mail (for the sysop) left at log-off to a disk file called MAIL/TXT.

The format of the file will be plain ASCII text consisting of the name of the caller and date followed by the information they left for you. As long as this file exists it will be appended to with any new information after the initial creation.

You may process this file in many ways. One being to use the SYSOP menu within FastPlus to read your mail. Another would be to load it into a word processor to extract information you actually wanted. And lastly you may simply type in the TRS/MSDOS command LIST MAIL/TXT and use the SHIFT @ key to pause it as you are reading it. Alternatively you may send that file to the printer by appending a P to the end of the command. i.e. LIST MAIL/TXT (P)

<O> Auto-kill msgs at log-off or when board switching

Enabling this option will automatically delete any callers MAIL which was left specifically to them and which has been marked by FastPlus as having been read. Unless a message has been read and marked by FastPlus, it will not be deleted.

If a message has been marked and the caller terminates, the message will be deleted and message space will automatically be reclaimed. At that point, FastPlus will update the corresponding disk file. The same holds true if the caller switches to another sub-board, providing you have granted them access to do so, their mail will again be deleted and the disk file will be updated automatically.

<P> Auto-Kill all Answered PUBLIC MESSAGES (option O enabled)

If this option is off, only PRIVATE messages will be removed when a caller terminates or switches boards. If this option is on (YES), then FastPlus will remove all the mail to this user when they terminate or switch boards. Depending on your specific requirements for a message service, if you do not remove public messages to another user, your remaining users may reply to them and this then will form a sort of message threading.

Note that both of these options are affected only if 1. the user has mail and 2. they have read their mail.

<Q> Mark Mail as read in FORWARD/NEW and MAIL

There are 2 ways in which a message may be marked. One is to require the user to use the MAIL (Yours) option in the message menu. The second is to mark it in all ways.

Effectively the second method means that if they read their message in any way it will be marked as read. However the first choice does offer them the opportunity to reply to the messages as they are retrieving them. The choice for marking will depend on your users and your own personal preference.

<F> Show Name of User who uploaded file in Download Catalog

This option when enabled will show the users name when any caller is using the <C>atalog option in the FILES menu. It can provide a service to those who want to reach this user with their questions or simply pass information along to them.

If a file has been uploaded by a user who no longer exists in the user file it will return a line saying "USER DELETED" which simply means that the original user is no longer available.

<S> System Time Limit Enabled

In FastPlus there are two methods of invoking a time limit on a user. One is to set this option on and have a system time limit. This time limit will apply to all callers. Screen option 3 allows for setting the number of minutes for this option.

The second method will apply to only one user. You can set a time limit on any one or more users and leave the system time limit disabled. This option would mainly be used to deter a user from accumulating too much online time, thereby making less time available for other callers.

<T> Blink a "*" during PAUSE (CTRL S)

FastPlus supports the standard control codes, CTRL C to abort an option, CTRL S to pause output, and CTRL Q to resume output. By invoking this option when a caller uses the CTRL S to pause the output FastPlus will send a *, then a backspace (to erase it) and keep doing this until the output resumes.

Depending on your callers you may want this on or off. In some cases users will have their terminal buffer open and many terminal programs will catch all the characters. If they paused the output with CTRL S, they would receive a large number of * and backspace into their buffers.

With this option off, the output will simply pause and wait for the CTRL Q resume, or any key in some instances.

Pause Action with Key Input Timer Enabled

If you have the Key Input Timer enabled and the caller has the output paused and the time limit expires, the output will automatically resume.

Special Notes on using Log-off Mail routing

You may elect to use either/or both routes for any mail you receive at log-off. FastPlus will handle them both at the same time but at least one must be selected to allow leaving private mail to the sysop. By disabling both of these options, when a caller terminates they will receive no opportunity to leave you any private mail.

Possible Errors in Log-off Mail Routing

Should there be an error during the routing process, for example if the disk with the MAIL file on it became full, the option will simply be turned off and processing will continue. However the option will be disabled for the next caller.

For example if you had output to the disk file enabled and the disk became full, the option would be shut off and become unavailable for the next caller. If both options become disabled, callers will not be able to leave private mail to the SYSOP at log-off.

<2> FastPlus Program Options, Screen 2

Pressing number 2 from the main selection screen will result in the following window display to appear. Press the letter within the "<>" signs to toggle to selection as required.

```
<A> Track Mail through all boards automatically:YES
<B> TRACK NEW messages through all boards:NO
<C> Return to originating board if TRACKING aborted:YES
<D> Enable Escape code Disconnect (+++ATH Hayes only):NO
<E> Enable DTR type disconnect for modem:YES
<F> Display "M" on User Log for message to Sysop:YES
<G> Prompt for Deleting Marked Messages (Sysop only):YES
<H> User Record to Disk at log off:YES
<I> User Record to Printer at log off:YES
<J> Use "TERMINATE" word for disconnect in menus:NO
<K> Use "GOODBYE" word for disconnect in menus:YES
<L> Use USER00/LOG filename (option H enabled):NO
<M> Use USERmm/LOG filename (option H enabled):YES
<N> Auto Update of Download Catalog after upload:YES
<O> Caller allowed to remove files they uploaded from catalog
<P> Allowed to remove from Disk and Catalog (option O enabled)
<Q> Display only sub-boards to which user has access:YES
<R> Use Cassette Port for BELL:NO
<S> Using a Speed up board:YES
<T> Enable separate DL files for each sub-board:NO
```

<A> TRACK Mail Through All Boards Automatically

When this option is enabled, the MAIL function in the FastPlus Messages Menu (option <M>) will cycle the user through all of the sub-boards which contain mail for them. If this option is disabled, only mail on the current sub-board will be

shown to the user, and they will have to manually select the next sub-board which contains their mail.

** TRACK NEW MESSAGES Through All Boards Automatically**

This option works almost the same as MAIL tracking except that the user invokes it by selecting NEW MSGS from the MESSAGES MENU in FastPlus. All the new messages on each sub-board will be cycled through for the user.

<C> Return to Originating Board if TRACKING NEW/MAIL Aborted

When reading mail or new messages with auto-tracking enabled the user is returned to the original sub-board at normal completion of the function. This option allows you to determine the action taken if the user aborts (cancels) the message reading function - either a return to the original board as on completion or to remain on the sub-board at which the user aborts.

<D> Enable Escape Code Disconnect

This option is provided for those who have HAYESTTM compatible modems, but do not support the DTR signal which is used by FastPlus to terminate connections. If enabled, FastPlus will use the +++ type of disconnect (though not those specific characters) to disconnect from callers. This option isn't as reliable as the DTR type of disconnect and should be avoided unless the DTR type does not work. For example, the Signalman Mark series requires this type of disconnect.

<E> Enable DTR Type Disconnect

For operating a reliable bulletin board system, modem disconnect via DTR is almost essential. Most auto-answer modems support this.

<F> Display "M" on User Log for Message to Sysop

User log in this case, refers to the line usually printer out on your printer when the caller terminates. This is the same line that is shown when the caller is online (caller line). If you enable this option and the caller leaves you a message, there will be an M at the beginning of this line either on the printer or in the disk file. When in a hurry, you need only glance at the log of your callers on the printer and you can see if there is any mail there for you to answer.

<G> Prompt for Deleting Marked Messages (Sysop only)

Since FastPlus handles marking messages differently than previous version, this new command was added to help process messages you want to delete. After selecting the messages you want to delete (see the section on messages) if you have this option enabled, you will be prompted for each of these messages to remove. You may select to remove them or go on to the next.

If this option is off, they will just be deleted automatically without asking you. Note that only the message header is shown not the complete message during this prompting.

<H> User Record to Disk a Log-off

The user status line usually gets sent to the printer. However if you have this option enabled, it will be sent to a disk file. The type of file is plain ASCII and you may load it with any TRS-80 word processor. The filename depends on options L and M of this menu. See those descriptions for more detail.

<I> User Record to Printer at Log-off

In the previous versions of FastPlus if there was a printer connected to your Model 4 the user status line would be automatically sent there when FastPlus disconnected. However this option will now allow you to control whether or not the user status line is printed.

<J> Use "TERMINATE" word for disconnect in menus

Many systems are setup for different computers and there seems to be two standards of disconnecting from most systems. First is the word BYE (a short form of goodbye) and the second is TERMINATE. FastPlus only looks at the first letter of the word but many prefer goodbye to terminate (especially those with non-friendly IBM type machine) so this option (and the next one) were provided so that either word could be used in the menus.

Regardless of which ever you decide to use, be aware that pressing T or G will still terminate.

<K> Use "GOODBYE" word for disconnect in menus

See previous option description.

<L> Use USER00/LOG filename (if Option H enabled)

If you select this option and have option H enabled, a continuous file will be appended to with each caller. Therefore keep in mind that in the course of a year this file is going to get big! Each caller will use up 80 bytes of disk file space, 1000 callers will use 80000 bytes. etc. A hard drive with lots of room and a word processor which can handle files like this is heavily advised if you want the file stored in a format like this.

<M> Use USERmm/LOG (mm=current month)

This option works almost the same as the previous one except that it will create a file by month. So all your callers in say July (any year) will be stored in a file called USER07/LOG (the 07 being the month of July). Since this routine uses the date function as provided by the DOS it is imperative that you use LSDOS 6.3 (TRSDOS patched is not advised unless you thoroughly test it first).

<N> Auto Update of Download Catalog after Upload

Normally the download (DL/FPF) file only gets updated after x number of callers. With this option enabled you may automatically have it updated whenever someone uploads or changes a files status. When they terminate or switch boards it will be updated.

<O> Caller Allowed to remove files they uploaded

With this option enabled, there is a new option in the Files Menu which will allow any caller who uploads a file to remove that file (or any other they have originally uploaded) from download catalog.

<P> Allowed to remove from Disk and Catalog (Option O Enabled)

Enabling this option will allow callers who have uploaded a file to not only remove it from the catalog, but also to remove it from your drive. In this way, a caller can always upload a newer version of any program(s) to your system without having to bother you to place it in your own DL file or rename etc.

<Q> Display only Sub-Board names to which the user has access

When displaying sub-board names there are two choices both dependent on this option. If this option is disabled, FastPlus will display ALL the available sub-boards you have configured when the caller requests it. When enabled, only the sub-boards to which the caller has access is displayed.

By using this option, it cuts down on many of the requests by callers for "ACCESS TO ALL BOARDS", regardless of whether they have any business being there or not. i.e. some callers will ask for full access just to see what you have and will not be productive on any sub-board.

<R> Use Cassette Port for BELL

FastPlus normally uses the internal sound board for the chat bell. Due to the fact that this board is located within the TRS80 itself and you have no control over volume it may be too quiet. If you have a slight hearing impairment the same could be true. On the back of the early Model 4 or the 4D there is a cassette port (used back in the early days but seemed to linger on) which you can connect a cable to. On the other end of this cable there are three jacks. Two of them are the same size and usually one of those two is GREY. Connect that grey jack to any amplifier input and you'll have enough volume to upset your neighbours dog.

If you have a 4P, Radio Shack left this jack off and while you can select this option, it will simply turn off the sound altogether.

<S> Using a Speed-up Board

This option is to generate a lower tone either through the cassette port or the sound board. The sounds created through the sound board or the cassette port are software controlled. Assuming a normal frequency of 4 MHZ (standard Model 4 clock speed), you will get a certain sound(s). However if you have a speed up board or XLR8er board, then the software time loops for the sound become much faster and as a result the sound will be much higher. Use this option to lower it.

<T> Enable separate DL files for each sub-board

Normally FastPlus uses one DL/FPF file for a download catalog. In this file there may be up to 409 separate filename entries that your callers may access. The file in this case is called DL/FPF.

By enabling this option, the restriction of 409 file entries total is gone. You then may have 409 entries for each sub-board. There are 16 boards maximum so if you multiply that out by 409, it is a lot of filenames. Should you elect to have this type of DL file, the filenames are DL[letter]/FPF, where the letter will be from A - P. They are stored on the same drive as the BOARD/FPF files so that if you have different boards on different drives all info will be kept together.

<3> FastPlus System Values, Screen 3

Pressing the number 3 from the main menu will display the values of some of the options used by FastPlus. You may change these values at any time required by your application except where noted.

```
<A> Current System Time Limit Set in Minutes:20
<B> Individual Time Limit Set in Minutes:30
<C> Auto-Update Rate for System Files in Callers: 5
<D> Video Display Rate for Local Mode Communications:450
<E> Bell Delay Rate for Chat Mode Activation:3000
<F> Time Lapse before auto C/R generation on lack of input: 5
<G> Password Attempts before System Terminates Caller:3
<H> Drive to use for bulletin file storage (BULLA-P/FPF):2
<I> Drive to use for SYSINFO/FPF:2
<J> Drive to use for DL/FPF (single DL file only):2
<K> Drive to use for USERS/FPF file:2
<L> Drive to use for MAIL/FPF file:2
<M> Drive to use for USERSxx/LOG file:2
<N> Number of times to ring CHAT BELL:10
<O> Initial Board Access for New User : AB.....
```

When the value screen is displayed, you may press the letter residing within the "<>" signs to invoke that option.

<A> Current System Time Limit Set in Minutes

This option allows you to set the amount of online time each user is allowed before the system will terminate them. Values from 5 through 99 minutes are acceptable.

** Individual User Time Limit Set in Minutes**

Any user may be given an individual time limit and this is the amount of time which they will have before the program terminates their connection. Only the callers who have a time limit set in their user record (done through the SYSOP EDIT MENU in FastPlus) will be affected by this option.

If you have the System Time Limit Set and the individual time limit set, FastPlus will use which ever limit expires first.

<C> Auto-Update Rate for System Files in Callers

FastPlus was designed to use RAM memory as information storage and save on disk accesses which makes FastPlus one of the fastest Model 4 BBS systems available, one of the least intensive disk wear and also the 128K requirement to use it. Periodically this memory which contains file information will be written to disk.

The value shown by this option indicates the number of callers FastPlus will cycle through before it updates most of the disk files. I suggest an initial value of 5 but you may want to change that depending on your total calls per day.

<D> Video Display Rate for Local Mode Communications

In FastPlus there are two methods of communication. One is from a remote location via a modem and the other is by the sysop from the keyboard. FastPlus always knows where the call originates from and handles it accordingly.

When you are using the keyboard without a remote connection active, FastPlus uses the value shown as a delay to slow down the display to allow you time to read it.

The value shown is slightly faster than normal 300 baud communications. By lowering the value you can make the display as fast as you like. Raising the value will slow down the display rate even more.

While in the SYSOP menu where user editing is done from within FastPlus, the display rate in the local mode is set to 1. This means that all screen information will be very quick to display.

<E> Bell Delay Rate for Chat Mode Activation

When a caller selects Chat from the main FastPlus menu, FastPlus will start a paging cycle using the internal sound board on the Model 4. Both the number of bells heard and time between each bell are programmable.

This option allows you to specify the amount of time between each bell sound. The value shown allows approx. 1 second between each "beep". Lowering the value will decrease this time, while raising the value will increase the time.

<F> Time Limit before auto C/R generation on lack of input

This is the time out detector value in minutes. FastPlus will cycle on lack of input after this amount of time. i.e. if the caller does not send anything to FastPlus within this time limit, FastPlus will send itself a character. If you have the option to disconnect, after two of these time outs, FastPlus will disconnect the caller.

<G> Password Attempts before System Terminates Caller

Most bulletin boards allow about 3 times to get the log-on password correct before they disconnect the caller. You may change this value from 1-9 incorrect tries before disconnecting. This amount also determines the number of times a caller has to type in their name. Many times a person will call and press [ENTER] or try to "crash" the BBS by sending it an ASCII text file instead of a name. While doing either of these things will not bother FastPlus, this value was inserted to discourage those who try this.

<H> Drive to use for Bulletin File Storage

Originally FastPlus used to store the bulletins within the DL/FPF file. While this made for faster access, it limited the number of file entries in the download catalog. That was changed so that instead of the previous 300 entries, you may now have 409. Consequently the bulletins are stored in plain ASCII text files on a drive. This drive number indicates where FastPlus will expect to find them.

<I> Drive to Use for SYSINFO/FPF File

This file contains all the system information on each board. The file itself is very small (in the order of 256 bytes). Any drive from 0-7 may be used.

<J> Drive to Use for DL/FPF File (single file only)

This file contains all the download catalog. The file is 32K in length (it will probably read 32K on a hard disk system and 63K on a floppy based system) and may be stored on any drive. Please note that this drive number is only used if you are using a single DL file. If you have a DL file for each sub-board, it will use the same drive number as the BOARD/FPF file so that they remain together.

<K> Drive to Use for USERS/FPF File

This file contains the complete user list. The file is 32K in length and may be stored on any drive.

<L> Drive to Use for MAIL/FPF File

This file is the one which is created or appended to when you have the SYSOP MAIL to DISK at Log-off option enabled (see section 2.3). Obviously this file will grow in size so it is a good idea to have sufficient room available on the drive where you elect to store it. Any drive may be used for this file.

<M> Drive to Use for USERSxx/LOG file

If you have selected to output the users record to disk (on screen #2), this drive number is used to indicate where to write the file. Remember that this file is constantly appended to and may grow to a fairly large size so make sure you select a drive where there is a fair amount of free space.

<N> Number of times to Ring CHAT Bell

This value determines the number of times that the sound board in the Model 4 will “beep” before FastPlus informs the caller that you are not available. To enable the CHAT mode you must press one of the keys on the keyboard before this value is gone.

Use this in conjunction with the bell time delay to obtain the most efficient time.

<O> Initial Board Access for New User

FastPlus allows one main board and up to 15 additional sub-boards to be activated. If you want a NEW caller to have access to more than the one main board you can enter the letter of the board here.

When the new user calls, they will automatically have access to the boards listed. Board A is the main board all other letters B-P are sub-boards.

If you elect to have them access more than one board, make sure you have activated that board using the Sub-Board Configurations section of this manual.

To disable any board, select this option and press the same letter. It acts as a toggle on/off. Board letters shown are the active ones.

<4> User Default Options, Screen 4

Many BBS systems allow an open and closed type of operation. Where open means the whole board is accessible to first time callers and closed means that they must apply for access to the Sysop before using the system.

FastPlus allows certain user options to be assigned to all new callers at log-on. This means you can give the new callers as little or as much access as you like.

All of the options listed are invoked by pressing the letter within the "<>" signs. The letter acts as a toggle and will change states each time it is pressed.

```
<A> Auto Word Wrap for Message Entry Enabled:YES
<B> CR+LF:YES
<C> Video type of Backspace:NO
<D> Send Bell for Prompts:NO
<E> Mark user as having individual time limit:NO
<F> Allowed to upload files:NO
<G> Allowed to download files:YES
<H> Allowed to download INVISIBLE files:NO
<I> Allowed to leave a message:YES
<J> Allowed to remove a message:YES
<K> Allowed to view user list:NO
<L> Allowed to read msgs and quick summary:YES
<M> Allowed to CHAT with Sysop:YES
<N> Make their password entry INVISIBLE at Log on:NO
<O> Enable REPLY option during message retrieval:YES
```

<A> Auto Word Wrap for Message Entry Enabled

When callers are leaving mail, normally they must press their <ENTER> key each time they get to the end of a line. With this option enabled they simply keep typing in the message.

Any word which would normally overflow the end of the line will be erased for that line and copied to the start of the next line. This works on all message lines except the last one which they must press the <ENTER> key for.

** CR+LF**

Many terminal programs require carriage return and linefeed characters to advance to the next line. Those that don't can generally filter out the linefeed character within their terminal program. Therefore I suggest that you leave this option on for all new users.

<C> Video Type of Backspace

There are two different types of backspace techniques used by communications programs. One is the standard destructive backspace and the second is the non-destructive. I will outline both here for your information and it will be up to you to decide which one to use.

Destructive Backspace

This is normally a single value (a CHR\$(8) to be exact) and serves on many terminal programs to back up the cursor one place to the left and erase the character under the cursor.

TRS-80 Model 1/3/4 terminals all use this type of backspace.

Non-destructive Backspace

The remaining terminals use a non-destructive backspace. This means on receipt of the backspace code, the cursor moves one position to the left but does not erase the character under the cursor. It resembles the word processor approach and you simply overwrite the character.

If you enable this option (i.e. Video Backspace enabled), FastPlus will send out a backspace code, then a space (which erases the character), and another backspace code to re-position the cursor one position to the left.

<D> Send BELL for Prompts

Enabling this option will allow FastPlus to send out a BELL signal each time that input is required from the remote system. The caller may disable this feature in the SYSTEM Configuration menu in FastPlus at a later date.

This option only works when you are connected to a remote system. The sound board in your Model 4 will not beep each time input is required.

<E> Mark User as having individual time limit set

In effect this option will be exactly the same as if you had a system time limit set. While this may seem rather redundant, it is not if you consider this method of using it.

If all of the callers (new) to your bulletin board were automatically given a time limit, they would all start equally. From that point in time, for your better users you could eliminate their time limit set by using the SYSOP menu in FastPlus to remove it.

<F> Allowed to UPLOAD files

This option will allow all callers to upload files to your BBS. Obviously not a good choice unless you are running a system with a restricted user base. No matter how much help you give some users, uploading will simply mystify them.

<G> Allowed to DOWNLOAD files

This option will allow all callers instant access to your files in the download catalog. The files they will be allowed to see are the visible files. Invisible files or sysop protected files will not be available to them.

<H> Allowed to DOWNLOAD Invisible Files

This option will allow all callers instant access to all visible and invisible files in the download catalog.

<I> Allowed to Leave a Message

This option will allow all callers to leave mail to other callers.

<J> Allowed to Remove a Message

This option will allow all callers to remove unprotected messages which have been left in the message base. Messages can still be auto-killed by FastPlus itself, regardless of the setting of this option.

<K> Allowed to View User List

This option will allow all callers to view the user list on the BBS.

<L> Allowed to Read Messages and use Quick Summary

This will allow a new caller to enter the message menu and read the messages which are stored there (non-private only). Alternatively they can use the quick summary to get heading information of the current messages.

<M> Allowed to CHAT with Sysop

This option allows the caller to chat with the sysop providing it is enabled. Disabled it will simply state that you are busy.

<N> Make their password entry INVISIBLE at Log-on

When a caller is logging onto the bulletin board their password entry may be either visible, where they can see what they are typing, or invisible which will simply return a “#” character for each character they type.

This option when enabled will make their password entry invisible so that they only receive the “#” signs. This option can be changed by the caller by using the <X> System Options in the FastPlus Main Menu at any time however.

<O> Enable REPLY OPTION during message retrieval

This option when enabled will be active only during a message retrieval. After each message has been printed FastPlus will print the phrase <R>epl / <N>ext / <Q>uit and wait for the user to respond by pressing the letter of the function they want. The caller can use the <X> System Configuration from the FastPlus Main Menu to change it at any time so that messages just scroll continually.

<5> Remote Sysop Options, Screen 5

Running a bulletin board as complex as FastPlus can be an extremely demanding task and at some point in time you may desire to have help. A remote sysop can be enabled in the Sysop Menu from within Fastplus so that they can share some of the sysop options you have from the keyboard. This section of the configuration utility allows you to determine exactly what power or control any remote sysop has.

All of the options listed are invoked by pressing the letter within the “<” signs. The letter acts as a toggle and will change states each time it is pressed.

```
<A> Allowed to leave a protected msg (To: ALL):YES
<B> May remove a file from the Download menu:YES
<C> May remove a file from the DISK via download menu:YES
<D> Read any private msgs left in system:NO
<E> May remove a protected msg left to ALL:YES
<F> Allowed into the SYSOP EDIT MENU:YES
<G> Allowed to enter bulletins for Sub-Boards:YES
<H> Reserved for future use
<I> Allowed to edit other users in the file:YES
<J> Reserved for future use
<K> Allowed to read Sysop Mail file from disk:NO
<L> Allowed to kill Sysop Mail file from disk:NO
<M> May edit user name (option I enabled):YES
<N> May edit user password (option I enabled):YES
<O> May edit user number (option I enabled):NO
<P> May edit user access (option I enabled):YES
<Q> May delete user from file:YES
```

<A> Allowed to Leave a Protected MSG (TO : ALL)

Whenever a message is left to all and you are a SYSOP you have the option of protecting it so that it can not be killed by another user either accidentally or on purpose.

Enabling this option will allow your remote sysop to leave a protected message ALL callers can read but only you will be allowed to delete.

** May Remove a File from the Download Menu**

Enabling this option will allow the remote sysop to remove a file entry from the download menu. The file they select will only be removed from the menu not from your drives unless the next option is enabled as well.

<C> May Remove a File from the DISK via Download Menu

When you have enabled the previous option and a remote sysop chooses to remove a file it will only be removed from the download menu. It will not be actually removed from the disk.

However by enabling this option they will have the option of removing the file from the disk as well. Should they remove the file from the disk, it will free up some space for additional file storage.

<D> Read any PRIVATE msgs left in system

Obviously FastPlus will allow a caller to leave private mail to any other caller (providing they have access to the same sub-boards). This option when enabled will allow the remote sysop to read these messages even though they are not specifically addressed to him.

These messages will not be marked for deletion when a sysop of any kind reads them.

<E> May Remove a PROTECTED msg left to ALL

Previously a remote sysop had the capability to leave a protected message to ALL. However they could not remove the message they had left hence this option is available so that they can remove any protected message left to ALL.

<F> Allowed into the SYSOP EDIT MENU

Enabling this option will allow your remote sysop into the Sysop Edit Menu. Many options are available from this menu and the options you allow them to use must be selected very carefully. What follows is a list of the options available to them from this menu.

<G> Allowed to Enter Bulletins for sub-boards

FastPlus supports different bulletins for each sub-board which is active. From the Sysop Edit Menu bulletins may be entered for any sub-board which is active.

Enabling this option will allow your remote sysop to enter bulletins for any sub-board as well. Note that whenever any new bulletins are added they will replace the current bulletins.

<H> Reserved for future use

<I> Allowed to EDIT other users in the file

This option when enabled will allow your remote sysop to edit certain options available to other users. For example they can enable/disable their upload, download, or message entry options.

<J> Reserved for future use

<K> Allowed to READ SYSOP MAIL FILE from Disk

FastPlus allows you to channel your mail to a disk file instead of using space in the message area. Also any mail left at log-off will be sent to this file. Enabling this option will allow your remote sysop to read this file, providing there is one.

<L> Allowed to KILL the SYSOP MAIL FILE from Disk

In the previous option your remote sysop could read the mail file from the disk. By enabling this option they will also be allowed to kill the file on the disk.

<M> May Edit User Name (providing Edit <I> enabled)

Some callers may accidentally enter incorrect characters when they initially log-on to the bulletin board. The next time they call, it is possible that unless they make the same entry error, the bulletin board will create a new entry for them.

By enabling this option, the remote sysop has the ability to change their name. Note that the name can be changed to anything and there are no checks made by FastPlus to ensure that it is not a duplicate name. Care must be taken when using this option.

<N> May EDIT USER PASSWORD (providing EDIT <I> enabled)

Enabling this option will allow a remote sysop to change any password of any user.

<O> May EDIT USER NUMBER (providing EDIT <I> enabled)

Although totally transparent to the callers, each of them is assigned a number by FastPlus the very first time they call. These numbers are used for message TO/FRM reference to their actual names. More detail is available on this in the FastPlus manual.

This feature, along with the previous features is generally used when a caller has been accidentally deleted and they have mail in the system. While you can re-enter the deleted caller, the message number reference will still not be valid. Hence if when they were deleted they were user #12, you can reinstate them to number 12 so that they can retrieve their mail.

Note that FastPlus will try to prevent you from deleting any user who has mail so the above procedure would only be required in case of a disk error.

Alternately you can change the NAME, PASSWORD and USER# of any existing user to match the deleted user, thereby killing two bugs with one swat.

<P> May EDIT USER ACCESS (providing EDIT <I> enabled)

This option will allow the remote SYSOP to grant the specified user access to the different sub-boards which make up the FastPlus system.

<Q> May DELETE USER from file

By enabling this option the remote sysop after selecting an individual user to edit, can delete this users information from the file.

The user can only be deleted if they do not have any mail in the system. If they have mail, the delete option will be ignored.

<6> Sub-Board Configuration Menu, Screen 6

This option allows you to define, remove, or change certain sub-board parameters like name of the sub-board and size of messages/bulletins. Up to 15 additional sub-boards are supported by FastPlus.

Each sub-board file requires a minimum 32K of disk space (depending on your configuration) and careful placement of these files will allow you to utilize all of FastPlus's features.

	Drive	Length	Lines	Size	Total	Upld
A: Public Board	2	60	10	638	51	2
B: TRS-80 SIG	2	60	10	638	51	2
C: Undefined Subbrd	1	0	0	0	0	0
D: Undefined Subbrd	1	0	0	0	0	0
E: Undefined Subbrd	1	0	0	0	0	0
F: Undefined Subbrd	1	0	0	0	0	0
G: Undefined Subbrd	1	0	0	0	0	0
H: Undefined Subbrd	1	0	0	0	0	0
I: Undefined Subbrd	1	0	0	0	0	0
J: Undefined Subbrd	1	0	0	0	0	0
K: Undefined Subbrd	1	0	0	0	0	0
L: Undefined Subbrd	1	0	0	0	0	0
M: Undefined Subbrd	1	0	0	0	0	0
N: Undefined Subbrd	1	0	0	0	0	0
O: Undefined Subbrd	1	0	0	0	0	0
P: Undefined Subbrd	1	0	0	0	0	0

The Display Format

On the screen will be displayed the total list of sub-boards, both active and inactive, the drive that the respective sub-board message file is stored on, the line length and number of lines for each message (maximum), the buffer size required by each message (calculated by $LINES * CHARACTERS$), the total minimum number of messages permitted on any sub-board and the drive which will be used to capture any files uploaded to this sub-board.

<1> Add Sub-Board to List

This option allows you to enter a new sub-board to the list. the board added will be the first undefined in the list to a maximum of 15. You will be prompted for :

- Name of Sub-Board. It will always be displayed on the top of the main menu in FastPlus to indicate the current board. The board letter will also be displayed in many menus in FastPlus.
- The drive to store the sub-board file on. This file is 32K in length and may be stored on any logical drive number from 0-7.
- Characters per Line (32-80). This feature is used for matching the screen size of your callers with your screen size for bulletins and messages.

All messages and bulletins will be set to this line length for entry and display. Note that during message entry there are 4 additional characters on each entry line. i.e. for line 12, 12>_start of text line. Therefore FPCONFIG will automatically subtract 5 from your answer to compensate for this and the position of the cursor at the end of the line.

For example if you were setting up a section for brand X computers who have an 80 column display you would simply type in 80. The configuration utility will automatically cut that back to 75 for you and allow 75 characters per line to be entered in both the bulletins and messages for that sub-board.

The reason for the 5 character lag, is for the FastPlus feature called WORD WRAP. If the starting line prompt took 4 characters and you type in an additional 80, the line and/or cursor would obviously wrap around on their 80 column screens. If you further had the FastPlus word wrap active, it is possible that the display could get very messy with words shifted off one line and moved to the start of the next. Therefore the automatic 5 character removal.

Of course it is possible to "fool" the utility and set a character length of 45 for a 40 column screen. Again this will not look very neat in the message section for text entry.

- Maximum Lines per Message. You may specify any number of lines per message from 2-30.
- Drive to capture files uploaded to this sub-board. Any drive from 0 to 7 may be used, but make sure that the drive first of all has ample space and is a valid drive. If you run sub-boards which are not related in any way to each other, I suggest you keep their uploaded files on different drives to make housekeeping a lot easier.

<2> Delete Sub-Board from List

This command will remove the last defined board in the list. If all boards have been defined it will remove the last one.

All of the board information, except for the drive number will revert to 0. Note that each board has a file and if you are removing an active board, you must also kill the file created by that sub-board. Failure to do this will cause problems if you re-activate that board at a later date. The reason for this is that when FastPlus initially creates a new board (from the FastPlus program itself), it zeros out all that boards information in the SYSINFO file. If you do not remove the board message base, it will use the current numbers it finds in the SYSINFO file, which are obviously going to be wrong.

FPCONFIG does not automatically delete the board since it may be an accidental selection and you can always restore a board by having the message file intact.

<3> Change Sub-Board Name

Used to change the name of any active sub-board at any time.

<4> Change Drive for Sub-Board

Used to change the drive of any active sub-board at any time. Note that if you do change the drive number, always copy the respective BOARD[_]/FPF file to the new drive you have specified.

If FastPlus can not find the BOARD file on the specified drive number it will create one on that drive. If this happens accidently, you may copy the correct BOARD[_]/FPF file from the wrong drive to the correct one without causing any problems within FastPlus.

<5> Change Line Length for Sub-Board

This command will allow you to change the line length used for message and bulletin formatting for any active board. Simply select the letter of the board you want to change.

All changes will be immediately displayed on the screen and can be changed as many times as desired.

<6> Change Lines for Sub-Board

This command will allow you to change the maximum number of lines allowed for each message. Simply select the letter of any active board you want to change.

All changes will be immediately displayed on the screen and can be changed as many times as desired.

<7> Change Upload Drive

This command will allow you to change the drive number to capture any uploaded files.*

Message Size Considerations

FastPlus makes available 32K for each sub-boards messages and a 1.2K buffer for initial storage of these messages (before placing them in the 32K file area).

The size required by each message is dependent on the number of characters per line multiplied by the number of lines per message (and add 38 for message header). This is how the TOTAL messages is arrived at. For example, suppose you had a line length of 75 and 8 lines per message. Inserted in a formula it would look like this :

$(75 * 8) + 38 = \text{size of messages (maximum)}$
 $32767 \div \text{size of messages} = \text{total messages allowed (minimum)}$

In our example it would allow 51 messages minimum. By adjusting the messages sizes you can raise or lower the number of messages (minimum) supported by each sub-board. I suggest that you try to keep the number around 50.

Throughout this text I have been referring to the total number of messages as the minimum value. This is because of another FastPlus feature called message compression, or variable length messages.

Most bulletin board programs have each message predefined for the space it will require and therefore allow you only "x" number of messages. In FastPlus only the text which was entered will be saved. Any unused portion of the message will still be available for the next message. For example, if a caller left a message to another caller which simply said, "Sorry I missed you, call me later" on only 1 line, FastPlus will save the message but only that one lines worth. In addition, it will purge any spaces left on the end of line until it reaches the first non-space. Hence additional message space will remain for other messages.

FastPlus also allows a variable length subject entry. It only saves as many characters as they enter. It will allow up to 25, but if they only type in 1, it will only save that 1.

From this observation we can determine that although you may have set the minimum of 51 total messages in our sub-board example, it is very likely that you will be able to store a great deal more. All depending on the verbosity of your callers. I find that on my own BBS, I can store about 100-120 messages.

Deleting Board Filenames

FastPlus uses the LETTER of the board in the filename for each board. For example, the message file for board A would have the filename BOARDA/FPF. Board B would be BOARDB/FPF etc.

If you delete an active board and don't intend on using it again, always remove the respective message file. Use the TRS/LSDOS REMOVE command to delete the file.

In addition always go into the download menu and change any downloads which were available for any files on this sub-board. Refer to the section on Uploading in the FastPlus manual for more detailed information on this.

Special Considerations on Board Configuration

I suggest that if you change the line length or lines of a sub-board which contains messages, you first delete all the messages available in that sub-board. If not, FastPlus will try to format them with the new parameters and may not be able to successfully do it. Also remember to check the bulletin format after changing line length or number of lines.

An alternative would be to delete the file containing the messages for that particular sub-board. FastPlus would then create a new message base with the new parameters.

Restoring a Sub-Board

It is very possible to restore a sub-board at a later date, although the messages will be out of date (obviously). Simply delete that current board from the list, but do not delete the respective BOARD/FPF file. Save it on another drive or diskette. When you want to restore it, select option <1> Add Sub-Board to List, and type in the name, drive#, line length, number of lines, etc. of the original entry.

Now rename your original BOARD[_]/FPF file to the new letter and copy it to the new drive (providing either has been changed, if no changes have occurred this is not required).

Lastly you will have to check the FILE menu to ensure that you have the correct downloads available for this sub-board. Download files are carried in their own file and are not interactive with the message file, but rather refer directly to the letter of a board.

<7> Modem Configurations, Screen 7

The FastPlus BBS supports a number of popular modems, with the result that even if your modem is not one of the ones specifically mentioned here, it is probably compatible with at least one of them. Some of the selections will also allow you to disable the internal speaker (such as on the Hayes™ type modems and compatibles).

If your modem is not one of those specifically identified, you should still attempt to run FastPlus with your modem, selecting the various modem options until you find one that works. If after all of that however, you do not have a modem that will work with FastPlus, contact me directly for details on the possibility and cost of modifying FastPlus.

```
<A> Hayes Smartmodem 300, 300/1200
<B> Hayes Compatible 300, 300/1200
<C> Hayes SmartModem 300/1200/2400
<D> Hayes Compatible 300/1200/2400
<E> Anchor Signalman XII 300/1200
<F> Radio Shack Modem II
<G> Radio Shack DCM-5
<H> Radio Shack DCM 2212
<I> 4P Internal Modem
<J> Avatex Modem 300/1200 (non HC type)
<K> User Defined Modem Control String
```

<A> Hayes Smartmodem 300, 300/1200

Use this setting if you are using a true Hayes™ modem. You must configure the DIP switches located behind the front panel of your modem. These switches control various functions of the Smartmodem, but will not impair normal usage of the modem with another program, i.e. a smart terminal, like FastTerm.

Once these switches are set, they may be left that way and will function normally with any terminal program or with the FastPlus BBS program. The operating parameters to which your modem should be set are:

- Don't force DTR
- Don't force carrier detect
- Don't force Auto Answer
- Enable modem programming options if switch selected

** Hayes Compatible 300,300/1200**

Use this setting if your modem is not a true Hayes but proports to be Hayes compatible. Examples of modems like this would be SmartTeam, Lightspeed, Lynkers, Mercury, and Concord.

<C> Hayes Smartmodem 300/1200/2400

Use this setting if you are using either a true Hayes™ modem, or a 100% compatible modem. The SupraModem is 100% compatible and should use this setting. If you are not sure the easiest way to tell is to see if your modem has front panel DIP switches. If it does then it is not a 100% compatible, therefore you should not use this setting.

<D> Hayes Compatible 300/1200/2400

Use this setting if your modem proports to be 100% Hayes compatible but has front panel dip switches. Modems with DIP switches are NOT 100% Hayes compatible since a real Hayes doesn't have front panel dip switches.

<E> Anchor Signalman XII 300/1200

The Anchor modems do not support DTR, so if you are using one of these modems make sure you are using the ESCAPE sequence for disconnect (found on Option 2, screen 2). If you forget and leave it set as DTR disconnect, your modem will not be able to terminate the connection properly.

<F> Radio Shack Modem II

To use the Radio Shack Modem II with FastPlus first ensure that you have the unit plugged into the power pack and power off, then set the switches located on the top of the modem (one in the back where noted) to the following settings:

- AUTO ANSWER MODE
- TEST-OFF
- DTR-OFF (located on back panel)
- POWER-ON

Always set the switches in this order before you actually run the FastPlus BBS program. Failure to do this will result in FastPlus not working properly.

<G> Radio Shack DCM-5

There are no switch settings required for using the DCM-5 modem.

<H> Radio Shack DC-2212

Simply ensure that the auto-answer mode switch on the rear of the modem is enabled.

<I> Radio Shack 4P Internal Modem

There are no switch settings required for using the Model 4P internal modem.

<J> Avatex DIP Switch Settings

The DIP switches for the Avatex 300/1200 baud modem can be found on the back of the modem. To enable FastPlus to work with the Avatex ensure that all the DIP switches are in the UP position. Note that if your AVATEX is the 1200HC, use the first setting in the menu not this Avatex one (HC stands for Hayes Compatible)

<K> User Defined Modem Control String

If you have a modem which is partially Hayes compatible but not completely enough for the Hayes or Avatex settings to work properly you have the option of defining your own command string.

All Hayes compatible modems have their functions controlled by an ASCII command line. Depending on the information contained in this line you can program the modem quite easily.

The FastPlus FPCONFIG/CMD program allows you to set the program up with the modem of your choice. It is also from within this program (FPCONFIG) that you must program the control string if required.

What follows is a suggested programming string along with a description. Refer to the manual which accompanied your modem to determine your commands using our guidelines.

Control Codes in Command String

A “\” and “_” serve as imbedded control codes for FastPlus and have special purposes. The “\” or backslash is the code in the modem string for a carriage return. This character can be generated from the keyboard by holding down the CLEAR key and pressing the / key.

The “_” sign (underline) is a code for a two second pause. The code can be generated from the keyboard by holding down the CLEAR key and pressing the ENTER key.

Note that these codes are not really recognized by the modem, but interpreted by FastPlus and control the modem string. The reason for the two second pause is that most Hayes compatible modems require this delay before the next programming command is sent to them. If you leave the delay code out of the command string you risk not having the modem programmed properly.

If you can not manage to get your modem to work using this option and it is a known Hayes compatible modem, contact me directly.

Hayes Compatible (almost)

Although many modems are advertised as “Hayes Compatible” there are a growing number which are not 100% compatible. Some of these modems make use of a limited form of AT command set which is the standard set by Hayes but do not allow many or all of the extended command as the Hayes does. The AVATEX 1200 (not the 1200HC) is one of these modems, the Volksmodem is another. I am using a Discovery DataTronics 2400E and it works perfectly (and can be found for under \$200.00 in some magazines).

FastPlus relies on the modem to help distinguish the baud rate the caller is using. To do this the extend Hayes command response is a necessity. If you are considering buying a 1200 or 2400 baud modem it would be in your benefit to examine the command set of your choice against the Hayes command set. Specifically the commands you should look for are :

V - for verbose messages

Q - for quiet or non quiet modes

E - for echo commands back to host

S0...15 - command registers which can be read or set

X1...3 - the extended command set (and used by FastPlus for baud rate detection)

If you have selected the HAYES COMPATIBLE setting in FastPlus and are experiencing problems it's probably one of these almost 100% modems. As an alternative to this unfortunate problem short of selling the modem, I suggest the following. I have done this a number of times with complete success when dealing with "not quite up to Hayes standard" modems.

Use FPCONFIG/CMD and select the MODEM CONFIGURATION. From there DON'T use the standard items, like HAYES or what have you. Instead use USER DEFINED. A line will appear at the bottom for you to enter a string on and I suggest you enter one of the following strings (EXACTLY!) :

ATV0Q1E0S0=2S2=126S7=15\

OR

_ATZ_AT_ATV0Q1E0S0=2S2=126S7=15\

Those strings seem to cure almost any modems problems from not working properly. Make sure you get the "funny" characters right as in the above examples.

Some other things to note as well :

- Make sure you have the modem powered up and ready before executing the BBS program.
- Make sure your DIP switch settings match the ones in the FastPlus manual (if you don't have DIP switches you could be in for trouble already).
- Make sure you are using a FULL 25 conductor cable not one of the popular 4 wire wonder cables.
- Make sure you don't have any /FLT or /DVRs installed you aren't aware of (like COM/DVR). Use the original unSYSGENed copy of your DOS if you still have trouble. Or hold down the CLEAR and ENTER keys when you boot to cancel the SYSGEN.

If you run FastPlus with the new configuration (as shown above), have someone call it remotely. They will have to press [ENTER] to enable FastPlus to LOCK onto their baud rate instead of having FastPlus do it for them. Of course there is a drawback. If you have a 2400 baud modem, you can't use this method. But it works nicely with 300/1200 (I used it this way for almost a year to test it).

FastPlus was written with a Hayes modem in mind. There are many advantages to using a Hayes modem and by having a fully compatible unit, when you do upgrade your computer system your modem will work with it without additional problems.

If you are using a Radio Shack modem, there are known problems with using them and for any serious application they should be avoided at all costs.

<8> Define FastPlus Messages, Screen 8

This section will allow you to customize some of the messages which are returned to the caller in the normal operation of FastPlus. Due to the size limitations in FastPlus most of the messages and menus are encoded to save valuable programming space. Hence you will only be able to modify a few of these messages.

```

<A> Welcome Message
<B> Sysop Name
<C> Hours of Operation
<D> Boot Off Msg
<E> Restricted User Msg
<F> Removing Files
<G> Incorrect log-off
<H> Log-off msg
<I> Unable to CHAT
<J> Chat in Effect
<K> Prompt for Mail
<L> Time Out Message
<M> NEW User Prompts at log off
<N> REG User Prompts at log off

```

<A> Welcome Message

This option will allow you to enter the short welcome phrase usually found whenever you call a BBS system.

 Sysop Name

This is where you type in the SYSOP name so that your callers will know who to leave messages to.

<C> Hours of Operation

This entry is where you type in the hours of operation of your BBS system. Although many say 24 hours a day, it is likely that you will want to use your computer for other tasks at some time or other. During the day is usually the slowest

period due to the normal work hours and long distance charges so it is a good time to use it for yourself if at all possible.

<D> BOOT Off Message

After three (depending on the log on attempts set in option screen 3) this is the message which will be sent to the remote computer when FastPlus disconnects them.

<E> Restricted User Msg

For callers who become a pain and you flag them as *RESTRICTED*, this is the message they will receive at log-on (after which the program will disconnect on them). I suggest a message to the effect of "Sorry BBS System ERROR" or something. Everyone can relate to a computer which is having problems and they may take a while to catch on.

<F> Removing Files

If you have the option enabled whereby a caller can remove their own uploads from either the catalog or the disk, this is the message they will get if they try to remove a file which they didn't upload.

<G> Incorrect Log-off Message

This is the message the caller will receive if they do not use the TERMINATE command from any of the menus, but just drop the carrier to disconnect. FastPlus keeps track of the number of times a caller has done this so that you can remind a caller to use the BBS properly.

<H> Log-off Message

This is the last message the caller will receive before he gets disconnected from the BBS.

<I> Unable to CHAT

This is the phrase returned when the caller selects CHAT but you are either not around or do not want to CHAT to the caller.

<J> Chat In Effect

This is the message the caller will receive when you decide to enter into the CHAT mode.

<K> Prompt for Mail

This is the message the caller will receive during the log-off process. It simply asks if they want to leave any private mail to the SYSOP.

<L> Time Out Message

This is the message which will be displayed if the caller doesn't type anything on their remote keyboards for the time delay you have set in FPCONFIG. In effect it will warn them that if nothing is received before the next time out, FastPlus II will disconnect them.

<M> New User Prompts at Log-off

When a caller decides to leave the SYSOP mail at log-off, the format is the same as during message entry. They have 'X' number of lines by 'X' number of characters for leaving the message. Normally the user just leaves their message and terminates. However there is an option on option 1, screen 1, where you can select to leave custom prompts to the caller.

This takes the form of the first five lines of the message leaving process. i.e. they are prompted with these defined messages as they leave the message. Once they enter the first five lines, the message entry just resumes with the remaining lines.

<N> REG User Prompts at Log-off

These prompts work exactly the same as the <L> option, but they only appear for regular users. First time callers never see them.

Initializing FastPlus II

Program Preparation

Before you run FastPlus for the first time, you must ensure that your system is properly configured for the operating characteristics you specified in the FPCONFIG configuration program and that your hardware is set up to reflect how you wish FastPlus to perform.

Disk Space Management

As mentioned briefly in the chapter on running FPCONFIG, FastPlus will create a number of files when it is executed for the first time. Here is a partial list (others will be created for sub-boards when they are required), associated with FastPlus and their respective disk space requirements.

Filename	File Size	Comments
FASTPLUS/CMD	24K	supplied your the master disk
FASTPLUS/CFG	1.5K	“ ”
FPCONFIG/CMD	24K	“ ”
USEREDIT/CMD	4K	“ ”
SYSINFO/FPF	1.5K	created by during initialization
USERS/FPF	33K	“ ”
DL/FPF	33K	“ ”
DLE[]/FPF	33K	only created if your are using multi DL option
BOARDA-P/FPF	33K	created for each new sub-board
BULLA-P/FPF	variable	created on disk for storing bulletins for each board
MAIL/FPF	variable	created if sysop mail to disk enabled or log-off mail to disk enabled
USERS/LOG	variable	created on if option on and file is monthly or yearly

FASTPLUS/CMD, FPCONFIG/CMD, USEREDIT/CMD are the three command files that are supplied on your FastPlus master diskette. The FASTPLUS/CFG is the configuration file which FastPlus II loads at startup and configures itself to. Never use this master diskette, always use a backup. Once you have FastPlus configured it is also a good idea to make a backup of it so that in the event of a problem with your storage media you always have a working copy to fall back on.

SYSINFO/FPF, USERS/FPF, DL/FPF (DLE for multi-download files) and BOARDA/FPF will be created by FastPlus the first time FastPlus is executed and they will be placed on the drive you selected for each file in the FPCONFIG program. The drive[s] selected to accommodate these files must have at least the amount of free space shown in the above list.

USERS/LOG is only created if that option is selected in FPCONFIG. Remember this file will simply append new information to itself once created so remember to remove it before it gets too big. The initial size required is 1.5K.

DL/FPF and DLE[]/FPF are the files which contain the download catalogs. If you are using only one DL file, it will be 33K in size and reside on the drive specified in the FPCONFIG program. If you are using multi DL files, then each board will have a download file for itself and each one of these will be 32K in size.

They will reside on the save drive that the BOARD/FPF files are stored on.

MAIL/FPF is only created if the log-off messages are sent to a disk file or if you have selected the option to have all SYSOP mail routed to the file instead of the message base. The initial size of this file will be 1.5K but if you have a large message format selected it will grow quickly.

BOARD[B-P]/FPF are only created when a new sub-board is activated. It will be created by FastPlus the first time you attempt to switch to that sub-board. It will be created on the drive specified in the FPCONFIG program.

About the Printer

When FastPlus is first executed, it will check for a line printer being on-line and powered-up. If there is one, but not online, FastPlus will prompt you to enable it or continue with it off line. Note this prompt will remain in effect for about 5 minutes after which time it will continue as if you didn't have a printer connected. This will allow you to create a JCL file to start FastPlus II in the event of a power failure. Certain caller information such as name, type of caller, options selected, date, time on, time connected, baud rate, and dropped carriers is called a user log. Depending on the options you have set in FPCONFIG, you may have this log sent to the printer, a disk file (USER/LOG) or both.

If a printer is not available, FastPlus will still function properly. You may not route your mail to the printer, nor may the log-off private mail for the sysop be directed to the printer.

I have had the previous experience that although FastPlus checks for a printer on-line, TRS/LSDOS appears to return an incorrect status. i.e. TRS/LSDOS seems to think that the non-existent printer is actually on-line. Therefore, if you do not have a printer I suggest that you turn off the following options providing they were to the printer:

- Disable the routing of messages left to the Sysop to the printer.
- Disable the Sysop private mail to the printer at log-off.

These problems have only appeared on some Model 4's and seem to be a hardware problem. If your computer suffers from this annoying feature, I suggest that you make sure that there is no connection made between the computer and any printer you have attached. i.e. no cable connected to the computer.

Setting the TIME and DATE

Any time you execute FastPlus, you should first set the date and time. The system date is very important because FastPlus uses it to keep track of when a user was last on, when messages were left in the message base and date that files were uploaded to the files section.

The time although not as critical as the date, should be set in a 24 hour format so that the date will properly advance after midnight. It also allows any log information sent to the printer to be more accurate with regard to actual time.

Set the date and time is accomplished with the following two commands which should be entered from the TRSDOS Ready prompt:

```
DATE MM/DD/YY      <enter>
TIME HH:MM:SS      <enter>
```

Always remember to set the time using a 24 clock. If you don't the date will not advance at midnight. In a 24 hour clock, any time after 12 noon has 12 added to it. i.e. 1pm would be 13, 2=14, 3=15 etc. For example 9:10pm should be entered as 21:10:00.

For faster entry, you may substitute a "." (period) for both the "/" and ":" shown in the previous examples. This will allow you to enter the time and date using only your numeric keypad.

FastPlus Execution

Before executing your FastPlus program make sure that your modem has just been powered up. If it has been previously programmed, FastPlus may not be able to correctly reprogram it for its own operation.

Now is the time to execute your FastPlus program. make sure you have all the proper diskettes in the associated drives ready before you execute the program.

From the TRS/LSDOS Ready mode type in:

```
FASTPLUS <enter>
```

The video display will clear and the file FASTPLUS/CFG will be loaded. If one is not found it will be created on the first available disk drive. Always ensure that drive 0 has 1.5K of disk space and is not write protected. After the loading of this file is completed FastPlus II will test your alternate 64K bank of RAM memory as follows:

Testing Memory

Bank <1>....Bit <0>

In a standard 128K Model 4 there are 3 banks of memory. Each one of these banks has 32K bytes in it. There are 8 bits per byte and FastPlus will check each one of these bits in each location for banks 1 and 2. You will see the BIT count go from 0 though 7, and then the bank count will increment by 1. The two banks, 1 and 2 will have all of their memory locations checked and if error free FastPlus will continue with its initialization sequence.

Immediately after the memory test is successfully completed, FastPlus will test for the line printer being on-line and ready. It will print out "Initialized" on your printer if connected otherwise it will wait 5 minutes for a retry/continue response and then will assume that you don't want to use the printer and continue as if it were off line.

FastPlus will then initialize the modem if a modem which requires programming was specified in the FPCONFIG program.

After the modem is initialized, FastPlus will display the following on the top of your screen:

```
FastPlus II: Copyright 1988 by Mel Patrick
```

```
420: Public Board   Calls:0....  Msgs:0...  Users:0.. Free : .50 Dwnlds:0..  Screen:60
```

FastPlus will now begin to create or load the files it requires for its operation. During the initialization sequence the last four letters of the program name will be displayed on the screen. The printing of each letter can be used for diagnostic purposes as each letter in the name refers to a file which FastPlus requires.

P – SYSINFO/FPF (contains all the boards numerical info)

L – USERS/FPF (contains all the USERS information)

U – DL/FPF or (DLEA/FPF)(contains all the download file info)

S – BOARDA/FPF (contains all the messages for the Public Board)

Depending on how you configured FastPlus for yourself, your bottom line may be different in the name, or screen size. However if you have left the Public Board set as it was configured on the FastPlus master disk, it will be the same as shown.

If all the files are loaded or created correctly FastPlus will display the following:

```
0 Callers [5] Ready..
```


This "0 Callers" indicates how many callers you have had so far since you last logged in from the keyboard. The "[5]" shows how many more callers you must have before the disk files are automatically updated. This number was the number set in the FPCONFIG program as the auto-update rate.

Shutting Down FastPlus

Shutting down FastPlus is a simple task. First disconnect the phone line so that you can not accidentally receive an incoming call, then press the [F1] key. This action will cause FastPlus to store current files in memory to their respective files on the disks. As this task is being done, FastPlus will print the name of the file it is updating on the video display.

Upon completion of updating, FastPlus will again respond with the " 0 Callers [5] Ready.." message line on the screen. You may then turn off the computer or re-boot the system as you wish.

You may also elect to shut down without rebooting. If that is the case, you must have a Hayes or compatible type modem. From the waiting message, press [SHIFT] [F1]. FastPlus II will save all of your files in memory and reset the modem so that it will not answer any incoming calls.

Restarting FastPlus

To restart FastPlus, make sure all your disks are in their respective drives, make sure that you have the modem freshly powered up, the time and date are accurate and the printer ready and on-line.

Changing the Configuration

You can run FPCONFIG whenever you would like to change or modify any of the operating parameters for FastPlus. The only considerations are that if you should change drive designations, make sure that you move the files from their old drive to the new one you have specified.

The FPCONFIG program configuration portion of this manual also states if changing any option is undesirable.

Error During Initialization

While it is not likely that during the first time execution of FastPlus you will have any file errors, anything is possible. Should you get an error, FastPlus will return the decimal value of the error encountered and the onus is on you to determine exactly what caused the error. The error codes and the description can be found in your TRS/LSDOS manual (in the appendix). The PLUS printed out on the screen should give you some indication as to which file caused the error. I then suggest you check the configuration using FPCONFIG to make sure you have drive designations right and then possibly check the diskettes FREE space.

If you have a computer system which is not 100% reliable, FastPlus will probably let you know where it fails. In short make sure your computer system is properly maintained and you don't have any problems with reading and writing diskettes.

RAM Memory Error

It is always possible to have a RAM memory error and to catch this I have programmed FastPlus to test the memory each time before it uses it. Should the memory fail, it could be as simple as one memory chip, or as complicated as a PAL (programmable array logic). I suggest if you have a memory error, you try to execute the program again. If it will still not pass the memory test it would be a good idea to have it checked out and/or serviced by authorized personnel. Keep in mind that only a simple RAM test routine is used in FastPlus and it may not be able to find a RAM error unless it is repeated a number of times.

For your own information, and maybe to speed up turn around time in the repair shop, I have included the following description of the RAM banks.

Bank <0> is the main bank of 32K memory normally used all the time. Bank <1> and <2> are the upgrade 64K memory chips. Hence if you receive an error in bank 1 or 2, have a technician check out the 64K memory upgrade.

Maintaining FastPlus

FastPlus itself requires little work to maintain. A purging of users no longer active on the system, new bulletins from time to time and updating the download files with new files.

On the more physical side, I strongly recommend using good quality diskettes for all the files used by FastPlus. Don't try saving money by using single sided diskettes in a double sided drive or "bulk" diskettes. Unless you can afford the loss.

FastPlus is a RAM based BBS thus will ensure that you achieve maximum life from your diskettes. Starting with quality material in the first place will further enhance this.

If you are planning on running your system more than a few hours a day, I suggest that you turn down the brightness control for the video display. Even though FastPlus II has a built in screen blanker after about 2 minutes while waiting for a call, when a user signs on, the screen will again be displayed.

The last point concerns the use of a hard drive. FastPlus was written with the hard drive owner in mind and can benefit greatly from the increased storage capacity and speed of the hard drive. However, if you plan on running FastPlus for more than a few hours a day, I suggest that you do clean out the air filter located on the back of most hard drives to keep the internal temperature down. It only takes a minute to do and will greatly extend the life of the components within the hard drive itself. If the climate you live in is fairly warm, it may also pay you to invest in a small fan and make a small box to fit atop your Model IV to remove any heat build up there.

Keeping File Backups

As with any program where you are dealing with critical data, FastPlus files should be backed up periodically. If you receive a high rate of callers you should perform backups more often. I consider a high rate to be greater than 50 callers in a 24 hour period. In this case one backup session a week would serve as a good safe guard against accidental file loss.

Modem Problems

Many problems associated with FastPlus for initial users can be traced back to the modem. Although your modem may state that it is a Hayes™ compatible modem, it may not actually be so. Since there are so many modems currently on the market, it is obvious that I can not possibly test FastPlus with each one. If you are unfortunate enough to fall into this category, then I suggest you photocopy the modem manual you are using and forward it to me. I can usually tell quickly whether or not the BBS will work without too much trouble.

Status Display

FastPlus now shows much of the system information for the SYSOP on the top three lines of the video display. These lines will change as calls are received or the SYSOP logs on.

On your screen will be shown a copyright message at the very top, current baud rate letter U,H,L at the top right corner, followed by a blank line and finally some information about the board which is currently active. The blank line in the middle is for caller information while they are online.

The top line with the copyright notice is called the "Last Callers Info" line. The middle line is called the "Active Caller" line. The bottom line is called the "Board Info" line. We will examine each of these to see how they are affected in actual operation.

Last Callers Line

If there is no one on the BBS this line will display the copyright notice. However as soon as a caller successfully logs on to the bulletin board this line will show the names of the last 4 callers including the active caller. i.e.

The callers name on the right hand side of the display is the current one. As the list progresses from left to right, you got from the most recent callers to the oldest callers.

```
MEL PATRICK    TJ JOHNSTON    ROBERT BELL    JIM SMITH    CY GALLEY *
```

The “*” (splat) will indicate that a carrier has been detected. It will be present until the carrier is either lost or FastPlus terminates the connection.

Enabling the Last Caller Line

You may want to view the last callers without actually signing on to the system in the Local Mode. Simply press the <SPACE BAR> to replace the top copyright line with the “Last Callers” line. Although the last callers line usually displays five names, you may find a blank where a name should have been. The blank indicates that there was a caller but they dropped the carrier (i.e. did not terminate properly). If you have the log to printer enabled, a “*” will precede this record on your printout.

Active Caller Line

Whenever a connection is made either from the keyboard in Local Mode or from remote terminal via the modem, this line will change from blank to a line of information about the caller.

A typical line for a regular caller would be :

```
176: OBEONE KANOBE....:NEW:..... Date:06/15 On:21:09 Time:5:23 Baud:U
```

This line contains a considerable amount of information and is simple to follow once you understand the format.

User Number

Each time a new caller signs onto the FastPlus system, they are assigned a user number from 1 to the total number of users your configuration will allow. While the users themselves will never see these numbers, you may use them when you are

leaving mail or selecting a user to edit in the SYSOP menu.

The Name

This is obviously the current callers name.

User Status

This is the information located with the “I I” signs. FastPlus indicates 3 types of users; regular, special and new. In this status area you will find the abbreviations :

Reg - for a regular caller, i.e. anyone who has called more than once.

Spl - a special caller which must be individually deleted from the user file.

New - indicates this is the first time connection by this caller.

Options Selected

The periods in this field will display some of the options available on FastPlus to give you an idea what they did while they were on line. There are 7 dots or periods and each one can be replaced with a letter to show which FastPlus options they selected. The letters "SCMKUD*" each have a specific meaning.

S – indicates the caller entered the Sysop Edit Menu
C – indicates the caller tried to chat with the Sysop
M – indicates that the caller left a message in the system
K – indicates the caller has killed a message in the system
U – indicates the caller has uploaded a file
D – indicates the caller has downloaded a file
* – indicates the caller has uploaded a SYSOP ONLY file

One of these letters can take on additional meaning depending on the option set with the FPCONFIG. For example if the Auto-Kill for messages is enabled, the "K" could indicate that either the caller removed their own message, or the system did it automatically.

Current Date

This shows the date that they have logged on. It is in the format of MM:DD. The year is left off to allow more information for the remaining line.

Time Caller Logged On

This number will show the time that the caller actually logged on. i.e. they entered their name and password and were accepted. The time is in the standard 24 hour format and the seconds were left off on purpose.

Connect Time

This field will remain blank until the caller or FastPlus terminates the connection. At that time it will be filled in with the length of time that the caller was connected.

This time will not be correct if the Time Credit option was selected from the FPCONFIG program and the caller uploaded a file. In this event, the time will show the amount of time they spent doing other things on the BBS, and not reflect the actual time elapsed for their upload.

Baud Rate Used

This last field shows the baud rate which the caller used. It will be one of the three letters; "U" for 2400 baud, "H" for 1200 baud or "L" for 300 baud. This is useful in many 2400/1200 baud operations when you see that a caller seems to have trouble with the higher baud rates. i.e. continues to drop the carrier. You could suggest that he try 300 baud.

Board Info Line

The third line of the status display area is used to indicate many things at a glance to the sysop. I will cover these as they occur.

```
420 A: Public Board  Calls:....0  Msgs:....0  Users:...0  Free:51 Dwn:...0 Scr:60
```

The information shown represents the current active board. Remember FastPlus supports up to 15 additional boards besides the Public Board. Should the caller change to a different board, this information is automatically updated with information from the new board.

Maximum Users

The first number shows the maximum users you can have in the files. Since all users are automatically given access to the public board, when you compare this value to the USERS value on this line, you can see how full the file is getting. The normal value here will be 420. If you have some of the high memory reserved for drivers or filters this number will be smaller.

Board Letter

After the maximum users is a space followed by a letter. This letter indicates the board currently active (A-P).

Board Name

This first field on this line indicates the name of board as you defined it from the FPCONFIG program.

Total Calls

This field displays the number of total calls to this board or sub-board. Whenever a caller switches to a different board, that is recorded as one call for that board.

Total Messages

This field shows the total number of messages on this board or sub-board. As messages are killed or added this number will change immediately on the display.

Total Users

This field shows how many users have access to the board which is currently active. While in the Public Board, this number reflects the total number of users you have on the system.

FastPlus has the ability to store 420 active users and 1 transient caller whose information is destroyed after they terminate. If this number starts to edge up around 400 I strongly suggest some purging of callers to make room for new callers.

Free Message Space

This number will reflect how many FULL messages your sub-board can handle before it is full. As the Msgs increase this number will decrease proportionally. i.e. the calculation used for this number is based on the full size of a message as reported in FPCONFIG when you initially set up any boards. For example, if a full messages was considered to be 638 bytes (characters), then to arrive at the FREE space remaining FastPlus will divide the amount of free memory left by 638.

When this number gets down to around 3 or 4 it's time to do some message deleting to bring it back up again. It is meant as a visual tool for indicating the approximate number of full messages which may be entered in the current board before it is full.

Total Download Files

This field shows the total downloads available on the current active board or sub-board. As files are uploaded this number will change immediately. Sysop ONLY files are not included in this total.

Screen Size

This field shows what the line length is for entering messages or bulletins. It will normally be about 5 characters less than actual screen size. For example, a board set up for an 80 column screen would show 75 in this area.

FastPlus Logon

Local and Remote Session Modes

FastPlus has two modes for user sessions. The Remote Mode specifies any session between your BBS and a connection made through the RS232 interface of your computer to another computer (usually involving the modem and telephone system as well). The Local Mode is simply a way of saying that you are conducting the session from the keyboard of your computer.

Special Function Keys

In the local mode only, three Model 4 functions keys and four other keys are engaged to perform special functions related to the operation of your bulletin board system. The operation of these keys is only enabled while FastPlus is waiting for a caller at log on.

Save Memory Contents

Pressing [F1] will cause FastPlus to update the disk files with the information that is currently in memory and is the means by which you can prepare your FastPlus system for shutdown.

Disable Chat Bell

Your FastPlus system provides your users with a Chat option, whereby they can request to type interactively with the SYSOP. When this option is requested, and if your Model 4 has the sound board option installed, a bell will be sounded on your machine to alert you to the user's request. At times it may be desirable to disable the bell if, for example, the computer is in a room where the bell sound can interrupt your sleep. Pressing the [F2] key will toggle the chat bell functioning on and off. This will also result in the current status of the bells setting begin displayed on the video display.

This option is only temporary and the next time you start FastPlus it will default to being on again.

Starting a Local Mode Session

Pressing the [F3] key will initiate a local mode session. During a local mode session FastPlus will display information on the screen according to the video speed you have it set to in the FPCONFIG program. The default value of 1280 is approximately 600 baud. You can adjust this speed to be slow enough to allow any information to be read but fast enough not to be time consuming for normal functions.

If you are using a non-Hayes modem (or compatible), before you initiate a local mode session I suggest you remove the phone connection from your modem so that an incoming calls will not be automatically answered. This will ensure that you are not disrupted during your online time.

If you have selected the Hayes compatible selection in FPCONFIG, you needn't worry about disconnecting the phone. As soon as you press [F3] to start the local mode, FastPlus will send a command string to the modem which will disable the auto answer mode (it will be re-enabled when you terminate the local modem session).

Exiting to DOS Ready

While the Waiting for a Call msg is displayed you can exit to DOS Ready without having to reboot* your computer system. Press the SHIFT [F1] keys and FastPlus II will update all the disk files from the memory files, if you have a Hayes™ modem a command string will be sent to the modem so that it will not answer any incoming calls and the program will exit to Dos Ready.

Displaying the Last 5 Callers

Pressing the [SPACE BAR] will remove the copyright message from the top of the display and replace it with the names of the last five callers who successfully signed on (a blank line if you have not had any callers). This line is always displayed

when a caller logs on, but you may want to see who was last on.

Adjusting the Baud Rate

When you are using a non-Hayes compatible modem it is possible to confuse the baud rate detection routine within FastPlus. Normally the caller must press their [ENTER] key in order for FastPlus to detect the baud rate. Providing you can tell what baud rate the caller is at (assuming you have visual indicators on your modem), you may switch the baud rate from 1200 to 300 or vice versa by pressing the [CLEAR] [B] keys. The baud rate currently enabled will appear at the top right corner of the display.

This option is only useful for non-Hayes type modems and for 300/1200 baud operation. FastPlus will not switch to 2400.

Logging on the Caller

Once you have the baud rate correctly set but it appears the caller still hasn't pressed their [ENTER] key, you can help out by press your [SHIFT] [ENTER] keys. If you haven't got the correct baud rate, the caller will no doubt receive a lot of garbage and probably disconnect.

Other Control Keys

FastPlus recognizes certain control keys and will act according to the description below when one of these control values is received.

Cursor to Start of Line

During a remote session, reception of a [CTRL] [X] will position the cursor to the start of the line and erase all text encountered as it moves there. In local mode sessions you may use the same keys or alternatively the [SHIFT] [LEFT ARROW].

Tab Cursor

During a remote session, reception of a [CTRL] [I] will tab the cursor to the right 6 spaces. In local mode sessions you may use the same keys or alternatively the [RIGHT ARROW].

Pausing the Output from FastPlus

Should you want to suspend the output from FastPlus you may press the [CTRL] [S]. This option will work in either local or remote mode.

Resuming Output after Pause

To resume output from FastPlus after a pause control code has been issued, use [CTRL] [Q]. This option will work in either local or remote mode.

Aborting a Selected Function

Certain functions in FastPlus such as reading messages or reading bulletins can be aborted/cancelled by pressing [CTRL] [C]. This option will work in either local or remote mode.

Control Key Equivalent

Some terminals which will be using your bulletin board may not be able to generate the necessary control keys. FastPlus has optional keys for those users to obtain all of FastPlus's features. Below is a cross reference table for three of the control

keys.

[CTRL] [S] - pressing the P key will initiate a pause
[CTRL] [Q] - pressing the Q key will resume output
[CTRL] [C] - pressing the A key will abort the selected function

There are no key equivalents for the TAB or cursor to start of line. However some terminals maybe able to use [CTRL] [I] for the tab function and [CTRL] [X] to move the cursor to the beginning of the line.

Automatic Screen Blanking

FastPlus will now automatically blank the screen to prevent image burn in while waiting for a call. If you have a normal unmodified Model IV, i.e. no XLR8er board, it will blank after approximately two minutes without receiving a call. If you have an XLR8er board installed it will blank in approximately one minute.

As soon as any of the function keys are used or a carrier is detected, the screen will be displayed again. If you simply want to recall the screen to check on any activity of the BBS, press the [ENTER] key. You should see a normal waiting... screen. Any other type of display would tend to indicate that the program has been corrupted and that either you should try to log on and check it out, or shut down and restart.

The Connection Sequence

To connect in local mode, all you need do is press [F3]. If you are set as the Master Sysop FastPlus will fill in your name and password for you automatically, otherwise you will have to manually enter them.

In a remote session when using a non-Hayes modem, callers will need to press their enter/return keys once or twice (after a carrier has been detected and depending on the modem you have selected to use with FastPlus) in order to initiate the board and allow FastPlus to synchronize to the callers baud rate. With a Hayes compatible modem, codes received from the modem will automatically set the proper baud rate before the log on process starts.

User Logon

After a local or remote session has been initiated, FastPlus will prompt for the log on name, whether or not that is correct, and based on that answer your password.

Names should be entered in UPPER case even though it is possible to use lower case in a local session. Any characters issued by either the remote caller or a local mode connection will be converted to upper case. FastPlus will accept between 5 and 16 characters for a name.

Depending on the option you have set using the FPCONFIG program, callers (or the SYSOP) may be able to use one word names or 2 word names. However any name entered which contains more than 1 space or less than 5 characters, it will be ignored and the prompt will be repeated.

Once a syntactically valid name has been entered, FastPlus checks to see if the name entered matches the name of any existing user in the User file. Regardless of whether it is found in the User file or not it will reprint it on the screen and request verification.

Name : MEL PATRICK
Name : MEL PATRICK

Correct (Y/N) :

A [N] in response to this prompt will return the user to the Name prompt. If the caller verifies the name entered as correct they will proceed to the password entry.

Password Entry for New User

Should FastPlus find the entered name in it's file, it will assume that the caller is a REGular caller and enter the normal password entry routine. However if the name is presently not contained in file, the user will be prompted for a seven character password to use in future logons.

```
Enter up to a 7 character password :
```

The password they enter at this time must be used in future to gain access to FastPlus.

Password Entry for REG User

While the user logon sequence is always the same for either a new or regular user, the password routine is handled differently. Assuming that FastPlus finds a match in it's file for the entered name, it will assume that the caller is already an existing caller and simply provide the password prompt :

```
Password :
```

Name and Password Attempts

Set in the FPCONFIG program are the number of tries the caller has to enter a name and password. Default is 3. If after three times the caller has incorrectly entered a name or password, FastPlus will disconnect and recycle.

Successful Logon

After the password prompt has been answered correctly and the caller has logged onto the system, your normally blank line (the User Display Line) will instantly display some information about your caller. This information is only shown on your screen and not transmitted to the user.

Bulletin Display

FastPlus will now look for bulletins in the particular board or sub-board which is active and display them if there are any.

When switching boards the bulletins will only be seen once, the second time they would switch to the same board/sub-board, the bulletin printing is suppressed. However bulletins may still be recalled from the main command menu.

As the bulletins are being displayed the caller may pause them by using [CTRL] [S] (or the P key), and may skip or abort them by pressing [CTRL] [C] (or the A key).

Mail Acknowledgements

Just before entering the main command menu for FastPlus, the caller will be advised if they have any mail and if so where it is located. For example a typical message as follows may be displayed:

You have mail in the following systems :

<A> Public Board
 TRS80 SIG BBS

FastPlus does not keep track of the actual number of messages for this caller. It only knows that there is some mail for this caller. If the caller has no mail, the main menu is entered.

Sysop Control Keys for Evicting a Caller

You may want at some point in time to disconnect on a caller before they manage to log onto the bulletin board. Generally this will be a caller who is becoming a pest.

Pressing the [F2] key while the remote caller is trying either enter to their name, or a password, will disconnect the modem instantly with no warning given to the remote caller. FastPlus will then re-cycle for the next caller. This procedure is much easier than removing the phone plug from the modem or turning off the modem (not recommended).
Main Menu

After a successful log on, callers will be presented with a Main Command Menu selection. By pressing the letter key which resides within the "<>" signs, they will invoke the corresponding option.

```
System : Public Board
-----
<B>ulletins
<C>hat W/Sysop
<F>iles
<H>elp
<M>essages
<S>elect Sub-Board
<G>oodbye
<U>ser List
<X>System Configuration
```

Most of FastPlus's menus are called hot menus. This means that while the menu is being displayed you may press the key of the function you want and it will be executed. You do not have to wait for the complete menu display and prompt before executing a selection.

At the top of the main menu FastPlus will always have the name of the current board or sub-board displayed. i.e. System : Public Board. At the "Option" prompt at the bottom of the menu it will always display the letter of the currently active board or sub-board. i.e Option [A] : would indicate you are currently on "A" board.

Note on the menu options shown above the HELP option has been enabled and also the normal TERMINATE has been changed to GOODBYE in FPCONFIG. If you have these options off, your menu will appear differently.

Displaying Bulletins

Pressing [B] in the Main Command Menu will redisplay the bulletins for the currently active board or sub-board. Useful for callers who missed or aborted the initial display of the bulletins at log on or during board switching.

During this option callers may pause, resume or cancel the output using the control keys or alternatives mentioned previously.

The Chat Function

Pressing [C] will permit online interaction between the SYSOP and remote caller. FastPlus first checks to ensure that you have the callers Chat option active (see FPCONFIG for initial defaults) and if active will indicate to the remote caller that you are being advised that a user wishes to CHAT with you. If the caller has their CHAT option disabled they will receive a message that you are not available and control will return to the Main Command Menu.

On your system (FastPlus host), you will hear a “beep” from the Model 4 internal sound board or from the cassette port if you have that option enabled providing the chat bell has not been disabled with [F2]. This will continue for the number of times /speed you have set in the FPCONFIG program. If you have not acknowledged by the end of this time, the user will be returned to the Main Command Menu. If the CHAT has been disabled with the [F2] key, FastPlus will report that you are not available and return to the main menu.

The caller may also abort the option during the paging routine by pressing [CTRL] [C] or “A”. This will abort the Chat page option and return them to the Main Command Menu.

To signal to the caller that you are there and wish to chat, press the [F1] key. A brief hello message (defined in FPCONFIG) will be displayed to the caller and you may begin to chat.

Letter Cases Supported

From your keyboard you may type in any combination of upper and lower case letters, and any graphics characters you can generate from your keyboard using combinations of the [CLEAR] and letter keys.

From the remote caller, only standard ASCII characters will be accepted. They are unable to send control characters other than a carriage return or backspace.

End a Chat Session

To end the chat session press your [F2] key and any disk files will be closed, printer output cancelled and the caller will return to the Main Command Menu.

WordWrap During Chat Mode

During the chat mode, there is no need to press [ENTER] when approaching the end of a line. FastPlus automatically configures itself to wrap any unfinished words from the end of any line, to the start of a new line. This works like most word processors do for paragraph entry. i.e. you only press the [ENTER] key to end a paragraph or in our case, when you have completed typing.

File Transfer Menu

Pressing [F] will indicate to FastPlus that the caller wishes to gain access to the File Menu. If they do not have access to this section FastPlus will inform them that they do not have a sufficient access level and return them to the Main Command Menu.

```
File Menu: Public Board
```

```
<U>pload a File  
<D>ownload a File  
<C>atalog  
<H>elp  
<R>emove a File
```

```
<M>essages
<G>oodbye
<E>xit to Main Menu
```

The commands <R>emove, <H>elp, and <G>oodbye are options which have been enabled in the FPCONFIG program. If you have them disabled, your menu will appear shorter than the one above.

FastPlus supports two levels of access to the files available. Any user who has the basic access level can view and download all the VISIBLE files which have been uploaded with that status. Users who have been granted 'Download SP' in the SYSOP EDIT menu can download all visible and invisible files.

There are also four different procedures for uploading. One is for regular callers who have access to the upload option, the second is for users with SYSOP status, third for Master SYSOP from remote location and fourth a Local SYSOP mode.

Uploading a File - Remote Regular User

Pressing [U] will cause FastPlus to check the users data to see if they have access to the upload option. If they do not, they will be returned to the File Menu. If the caller does have access FastPlus II will display the number of free bytes remaining on the upload drive.

```
Upload Free Space 65,000 bytes
```

When a regular caller wishes to upload a file, they must first be in the board or sub-board in which the file is to appear or in the case of a SYSOP ONLY file they can be on any board since the filename will not be stored in the download catalogue.

First you must specify what type of access you want to set for your uploaded file.

```
<V>is / <I>nv File :
```

Pressing [V] will make the file available to all users with the basic access level. Pressing [I] will make it available to only those users who have additional "Download SP" access.

The user will now be prompted to see if this is a SYSOP file only. SYSOP ONLY files are transferred to your upload drive using the bulletin board but the filename is not stored in the download catalog so that no one else can access them.

```
SYSOP File ONLY (Y/N) :
```

FastPlus will now prompt for the filename. The filename which is entered must conform to the standard TRS/LSDOS file syntax. i.e. filenames with spaces or which start with a numeric character are not allowed.

```
Filename (i.e. MOREDATA/DOC) :
```

After a valid filename has been entered, FastPlus will ask for a description of the file to be uploaded. There is 55 character space available for this.

```
Description :.....
```

When the description entry is completed, FastPlus will prompt for the protocol to use.

```
Protocol Selection
-----
<X>modem
<Y> 1K xmodem
<A>SCII
<E>xit to Main Menu
```

Pressing the [X] key will provide another menu to select the type of xmodem protocol.

```
Xmodem Protocol
-----
<1> CRC
<2> Checksum
<E>xit to Main Menu
```

FastPlus supports the two standard xmodem protocols, CRC and Checksum. These are not interchangeable and the user should be aware of the type that their terminal is capable of. A rule of thumb is that most terminals with xmodem support can use the checksum mode, while only some can support the CRC type.

Using Xmodem Protocol

Once the type of xmodem protocol is selected the following message will appear:

```
You have 60 seconds to begin transfer...GO!
```

At this time the remote user would enter the xmodem transfer at their terminal and select a file to send to you. On your screen the type of xmodem protocol will be printed, i.e. CRC or CHECKSUM. The block number being received and any errors caused will be displayed on your screen only during transmission.

Upon completion of transfer, the entry will be stored according to the previously specified parameters. i.e. a SYSOP ONLY file will be stored on the disk. Either a visible or invisible file will be stored in the respective boards catalog for access by other users.

If there are too many errors received during disk transfer, FastPlus will send a CTRL X (CHR\$(24)) which indicates to many smart terminals to abort the transfer. It will then display an error message if applicable and return to the File Menu.

If you have the time credit option set, FastPlus will restore the users time limit remaining before the uploading was commenced. Thus they will still have maximum time left on the system.

Using 1K Xmodem Protocol

If the caller selects [Y] to indicate 1K Xmodem protocol, they will not be offered a choice for CRC or checksum. 1K Xmodem states that all transfers must be done with CRC mode and FastPlus will automatically use that mode.

1K Xmodem differs from xmodem in the simple fact that instead of 128 bytes sent and then error testing, 1024 bytes are sent and then check. If there are more than four errors on the same block, FastPlus will automatically revert back to xmodem.

The advantage of using 1K Xmodem is faster transfers. For example when downloading a 50K file, up to three minutes of time may be saved by using the 1K Xmodem protocol. On the negative side, 1K Xmodem requires cleaner phone lines and after 4 block errors, any advantage gained by using 1K Xmodem has been lost.

Using ASCII Protocol

The other option FastPlus allows is to upload using a standard Xon/Xoff ASCII protocol. With this option selected the user will receive the following message:

```
You have 60 seconds to begin transfer...GO!  
Use ^C (CTRL C) when upload completed.
```

FastPlus has a 1200 character buffer for uploading and will automatically send out an XOFF when this buffer becomes full. It will then write the buffer to disk using the filename specified and then send an XON signal to the remote to continue. Obviously the remote terminal program must support XON/XOFF protocol for ASCII transmission.

Downloading a File

Pressing [D] in the Files Menu will allow any file to be downloaded according to the users access level. The user must type in the filename exactly as it appears in the catalogue option.

```
Filename (i.e. MOREDATA/DOC) :
```

FastPlus will search through its file list for a matching file in that board area. If one is found, the user will be allowed to continue and download it.

The next prompt will ask the user to select the protocol to use for downloading the file.

Selecting Xmodem Protocol

Pressing [X] will select the xmodem protocol for downloading. FastPlus provides automatic CRC or Checksum recognition and configures itself accordingly for that xmodem protocol.

During the downloading process, FastPlus will display the current block number being sent and display any errors in transmission.

Selecting 1K Xmodem Protocol

Pressing [Y] will select 1K Xmodem protocol and CRC checking. The terminal must support proper 1K Xmodem protocol not xmodem with a 1024 byte buffer as some older terminal programs do.

Selecting ASCII Protocol

Pressing [A] will select a choice of two types of ASCII output.

```
Select : <M>anual,<A>uto :
```

You then have a choice as to whether you want manual output or automatic output. Pressing the letter within the "<>" signs will select that option.

Selecting Manual Transmission

Pressing [M] will select manual transmission. Manual transmission requires that [ENTER] or [RETURN] be pressed to signal the start of the transfer and again to signal to FastPlus the transfer is complete.

This is generally used in a case where the user must open a buffer in their terminal program and then capture the file in that buffer. The carriage returns to start and signify end allow them to capture only the file and not any unwanted information.

Selecting Automatic Transmission

Pressing [A] will select the autoxfer mode. The transmission of the file will start after sending a CHR\$(18) to the remote user to open their buffer. The file will then be sent and at completion, FastPlus will send a CHR\$(20) to close their buffer. Obviously not all smart terminal programs will honor the remote open and close buffer codes but for those that do downloading is made easier. TRS-80 terminal programs like FastTerm support these codes as well as the standard xmodem protocols.

Downloading a Protected File

Any user can download a protected file by entering the filename when prompted for it. Standard protocols may be used. Due to the nature of protected files, the SYSOP must tell the user exactly what the filename is.

Downloading Protocol Options

Any file which was uploaded with an xmodem or 1K Xmodem protocol must be downloaded with the same type of protocol.

Any file which has been uploaded in the ASCII format can be downloaded using either the ASCII, xmodem or 1K Xmodem formats. However as previously noted the reverse is not true.

Filename Protocols

FastPlus accepts all valid TRS/LSDOS filenames. These are standard alpha filenames with 8 characters maximum, a "/" followed by a 3 character extension. i.e. MOREDATA/DOC would be an acceptable filename.

However many computer systems which may be using your bulletin board could have vastly different formats. For example IBM formats use the "." (period) as an extension delimiter. If you uploaded a file with a name like MOREDATA.DOC to TRSDOS it would assume that you wanted to password protect the file. FastPlus compensates for this by removing the "." from the name and replacing it with the acceptable "/" for TRS/LSDOS when storing the file on the upload drive. However, the FastPlus catalog option will still show the filename with the "." but it will be stored on your disk correctly.

Aborting During File Transfers

While there seems to be no real standard for aborting during downloading, FastPlus does support two methods of achieving this.

During an xmodem or 1K Xmodem download, you may abort by pressing [CTRL] [X]. It may require that you press it a number of times, but it will eventually abort the option and return to the Files Menu. The same may be done during uploading to abort the process.

During ASCII downloading, you may abort the option by pressing [CTRL] [C] (or alternatively pressing [A]). This will abort the download and return to the Files menu. The same may be done during uploading to cancel the process.

File Error during Downloading

While it is not likely, you may have a file which is corrupted but available on your download catalog. FastPlus can not know that the file is bad in advance and will try to read and send it out. Should an error occur in file reading, FastPlus will automatically flag the file, cancel the transmission, and inform the user that the file is in error and can not be used.

When the Master Sysop is using the catalog option, files which have been flagged like this will show up quite visibly. See the section on the catalog for more detailed information.

Catalog of Files

Pressing [C] will start listing files available for the current board or sub-board. Files are always listed from the newest to the oldest.

Depending on your level of access a user may see only visible files. Users with "Download SP" access will be able to view all visible and invisible files. No user except the MASTER SYSOP will be able to view any protected files.

```
AUG87.TXT      45K      11/22/87      Accesses : 0      Frm: MEL PATRICK
MM:12          ASCII      Bulletin File from local Users Group Aug 87
```

The filename always shows first followed by the file size to the nearest K, number of times it has been successfully downloaded. Additionally if set in the FPCONFIG program, who actually uploaded the program.

The second line shows the approximate time in minutes at the callers baud rate to download the file, the type of protocol which the file was uploaded with and a short description of the file itself. FastPlus does not distinguish between xmodem or 1K Xmodem and report xmodem only regardless of which was actually used to upload the file.

The catalogue will print eight (8) filenames and their associated information before stopping with a prompt line:

```
<C>ontinuous / <A>bort / <N>ext :
```

Pressing the letter within the "<>" signs will invoke the selected option:

Pressing [C] will toggle the display into a continuous state until the end of the list is reached.

Pressing [A] will abort the listing of files and return the user to the Files Menu.

Pressing [N] will display the next eight files available.

Enter the Message Menu

Pressing [M] will enable the user to directly enter the message menu without having to return to the Main Command Menu.

Terminating the Connection

Pressing [T] (or G if you have the GoodBye options enabled in FPCONFIG) allows the user to terminate from the bulletin board without having to return to the Main Command Menu.

Returning to the Main Command Menu

Pressing [E] will return the user to the Main Command Menu.

Sysop File Messages Shown

FastPlus keeps track of three special file type identifiers for displaying to the master SYSOP. These are protected files, invisible files and files which have errors in them.

During a catalogue option for the master SYSOP any applicable flag message will be displayed preceding the filename:

```
FILE ERROR--> AUG86.TXT  6K   11/22/86  Accesses: 0   Frm: MEL PATRICK
PRO -> AUG86.TXT  6K   11/22/86  Accesses: 0   Frm: MEL PATRICK
INV-> AUG86.TXT  6K   11/22/86  Accesses: 0   Frm: MEL PATRICK
```

The "FILE ERROR" message indicates a file which was downloaded and FastPlus could not read the complete file. The "PRO" message indicates a protected file visible to only the master sysop, and "INV" indicates an invisible file. Only the master SYSOP will be able to view these messages.

Removing a File from the Catalog

To remove a file from a single DL/FPF file (not the multi DL files) in the download catalog, you do not need to be in any specific board. i.e. where the file is actually available. From the Files Menu press "R" (for remove) and provided you have sufficient access or are the Main Sysop, you will be prompted for the filename to remove. FastPlus will ask if you want to remove it from the catalog and/or the drive it is stored on.

In the MULTI-DL file environment, you must be in the sub-board where the file is located to actually remove it.

The REMOVE option is always available to Sysops and/or Remote Sysops, and if enabled in FPCONFIG your callers may also use to remove any file they have uploaded. Note that they can not remove a file which has been uploaded by someone else, only their own uploads. In additional, if you have it enabled in FPCONFIG, they may also remove their file from your disk as well as the download catalog.

Changing a Files Attributes in the Catalog

Files that are uploaded to your BBS may be uploaded in the wrong board, or you may wish to make these files available to users on your other sub-boards. Rather than switch to each board and upload the file there (which FastPlus will not allow anyway because of the duplicate filename), you may change the attributes which were set when the file was initially uploaded. Press "S" from the Files Menu and you will be prompted for the filename you want to modify. FastPlus will then ask which boards you want it available from. You may have as many as you like or as few as 1. You will then have the option of making the file Visible, Invisible or a Protected File.

If you have the MULTI-DL option enabled, then you will have to delete the filename from the incorrect catalog, switch the proper sub-board you want the file to appear on, and upload it from a local mode. When you do this, your name will appear in the FROM field. You may want to advise the person who uploaded the file about the fact that they should be in the proper board to upload in the future.

This option will cut down on any needless filename duplication since any one filename entry can be made accessible from any number of boards. Again in a multi-dl environment, duplication is unavoidable. This command is invisible and for Sysops or Remote Sysops only.

Message Menu Option

Pressing [M] from the Main Command Menu will allow the user to enter the message menu and select various options providing you have granted them sufficient access.

Pressing the letter which resides within the "<>" signs will select the corresponding function.

```
Message Menu : Public Board
```

```
<L>eave a Message
<R>emove a Message
=====
<Q>uick Summary
<F>orward Seq
<N>ew Msgs
<M>ail (yours)
<I>ndividual
=====
<H>elp
<S>earch for Mail
<G>oodbye
<E>xit to Main Menu
```

Leaving a Message

Pressing [L] will permit a caller to leave a message to ALL or any other caller who has access to the current board. If the caller does not have access to a particular board, FastPlus will not allow mail to be left to them.

FastPlus will prompt for Name to leave the message to, Subject, Private (Y/N) and finally prompt as to whether the information received was correct. The number of lines and line length are set in the FPCONFIG for each board and message entry will use these preset values. To terminate message entry press [ENTER] at the start of any line (no characters entered on that line). A sub-option menu will appear as follows:

```
<S>ave / <E>dit / <L>ist / <C>ontinue / <A>bort :
```

Save Message

Pressing [S] will save the message in memory and return to the message menu.

Edit Message Line

Pressing [E] will permit any valid line entered to be edited. FastPlus will prompt for the line number, will display that line, then prompt the caller to enter the new line or press [ENTER] to leave the line as presently entered.

If the message was terminated before it was full, and the user selects the same line on which they terminated the message entry, the continue mode will be entered on that line instead of editing a blank line.

Message Editing Commands

After selecting the line number you want to edit the line will be displayed as it is currently stored. After than a short edit selection menu will show. This menu provides most of the same commands that were used by Basic line editors.

With an editor such as the one used in FastPlus it has to work on a number of different computer systems. In that respect no control codes or special escape codes could be used. Hence it remains fairly standard in usage and will work on any terminal.

With a line editor, you position the cursor to the position you want and then select one of the edit commands. The command then affects either the characters under the cursor or the remainder of the line.

Cursor Positioning Control Keys

<SPACE BAR> will advance the cursor position one character to the right until the end of the line is encountered. It will not wrap around to the beginning the line. Characters will appear as the line is moved through.

<BACKSPACE> will step the cursor back one position til the beginning of the line is reached. Characters will be removed from the display as you backspace over them.

Edit Control Keys

Once you have the cursor to the position you want the following commands may be used. Simply press the letter of the command, there is no need to press [ENTER].

<A>bort this command will allow you to return to the previous sub-menu and will not replace the original line with any changes you have made on the line.

<C>hange will change one character. This character is the one on which the cursor is currently located. Once this command is selected the next character pressed will replace the old character.

<D>elete will delete the character under the cursor. To indicate the character has been deleted, it will be displayed between two \ signs such as \G\ to show that the letter G (in this example) has been deleted.

<E>nd replaces the original line with the edited line. Once done, there is no undo command.

<H>ack this will remove the characters from the cursor position to the end of the line and allow you to enter more text from that point on. To end this mode, press [ENTER].

<I>nsert will allow you to begin to insert characters from the cursor position. Text may be entered until the maximum length of the line is reached and then no more text may be entered. If necessary you may backspace any characters which were mistakenly inserted.

<L>ist this command will re-list the edited line and print the mini-edit menu again. Use this command if you done deletions, insertions to see what your total line looks like.

<X>tend if the line is already at full length, this command will have no effect. However, if not the line will be displayed to the last character and then you may enter text til to the maximum length of the line.

If you manage to get lost during editing, use the <L>ist command and give you a fresh start.

[ENTER] is used to terminate entry during Xtend, Hack and Insert. I suggest you use the List command after one of these commands.

List Message

Pressing [L] will display the message complete with line numbers to the caller.

Continue with Message Entry

Pressing [C] will allow entry to resume at the line where entry was initially terminated.

Aborting the Message Entry

Pressing [A] will abort the message entry and return to the message menu.

Quick Message Summary

Pressing [Q] will allow a user to obtain message header information. The message header consists of the message number, who it was to, who it was from, the date it was entered and the subject of the message.

```
<F>orward Seq. / <N>ew Msgs :
```

Pressing [F] will allow you to enter the message number to begin at. Pressing [N] will display any new messages since the last message you retrieved.

The summary looks like this :

```
Msg#: 1000 (X)
TO      : FRED SMOTZ
Frm     : MEL PATRICK
Sub     : Using the BBS System
Date    : 11/21/86
```

When a master SYSOP is using this option after the message number there may be one of two possible messages. One possibility could be *Private Msg* and the other *Protected Msg*. The (X) beside the message number indicates that this message has been read by the TO: user.

Removing a Message

Pressing [R] will permit a user to remove messages. Private messages may only be removed by the user who left the message, the caller designated to receive the message or the master SYSOP. Note that any message left which was a PUBLIC message may be removed by any user. PUBLIC messages have no protection status. This was done for the simple reason that if a caller has to leave a message and the message base is full, they may remove one or more of the older messages and leave theirs. In the LOCAL mode any messages may be removed.

Protected messages may be removed by the MASTER SYSOP or a user with SYSOP status providing the option to do so is enabled with the FPCONFIG program.

Retrieving Messages Sequentially

Pressing [F] will permit a user to read messages from a selected message number forward. The starting message number is the subsequent prompt. Pressing [N] will skip to the next message.

Retrieving New Messages

Pressing [N] will display any new messages since the caller was last on. The new message pointer only gets updated when a complete message is read. If the user skips reading the message by pressing [N] (for next) the pointer is not set. Eventually if they read a whole message after skipping some messages, the pointer will save that message number for resuming when this option is used again.

Reading Mail (Yours)

Pressing [M] will permit a user to read any private or non-private mail addressed specifically to them. As they are reading their mail they may reply directly to the user who left the mail for them.

Reading an Individual Message

Pressing [I] will permit any individual (non-private) message to be shown. Enter the number of message as per the prompt and press the [ENTER] key.

Search for Mail

FastPlus has the ability to support up to 15 additional boards plus the main public board which everyone calls in on. Due to this fact a user could have mail spread pretty much throughout the various boards. Pressing [S] will show which boards have mail for the user so that he can switch to those boards to access it.

Terminating the Connection

Pressing [T] will allow a user to terminate their connection from the bulletin board.

Exiting to the Main Command Menu

Pressing [E] will return the user to the Main Command Menu.

Reply Options

In FastPlus there are a number of ways in which a caller may reply to a message while reading them. To enable these features, the caller can select the SYSTEM CONFIGURATION and enable the REPLY option or you may do it in FPCONFIG so that they have it as a default.

Reply options are enabled during forward, new or when reading mail. Using reply during forward or new, works a little different than during mail and is noted below.

Reply Option in Mail

Pressing [R] will fill in the message header up to the Subject and allow you to leave this user a message directly. This way you can see what their message said and make it easier to format your own message in return. FastPlus marks the mail read and if you have auto delete enabled in FPCONFIG it will erase it when the caller terminates or switches boards.

Skipping the Reply

FastPlus normally marks a message to you after you read it. If you wish to preserve this message, so that you can re-read it and reply later, press the [S] key. It will not be deleted when you hang up or switch boards.

Select the Next Message

Pressing [N] will advance and display more of your mail if there is any.

Aborting the Mail Option

Pressing [Q] will abort the option and return to the Message Menu.

Reply Option in Forward/New

This option works almost the same as when reading mail, but with one some simple rules.

- If the message was TO you, the reply will go to the FROM name.
- If the message was FROM you, the reply will go to the TO name.
- If the message was to ALL, the reply will go to the FROM name.

f the message was neither TO you or FROM you, FastPlus II will ask which person the message should be addressed to.

```
Msg # 2075
A:BILL SMITH
B:FRED SMOTZ
```

```
To : <A>, <B>, <E>xit :
```

Sub-Menu when Auto Kill Option Disabled

The prompt shown in the example would be if you had the auto-kill for messages enabled (using the FPCONFIG program). If it was disabled the prompt would contain one more selection :

```
<D>elete,<S>kip.<R>eply,<N>ext,<Q>uit :
```

In this case, pressing [D] would delete the message and continue on with the next message if there were any.

Auto Message Space Retrieval

When a caller tries to reply or leave a message, FastPlus will first determine if there is enough room in the message base to receive the message. If there is not, FastPlus will start searching at the lowest message number for a msg to ALL. If it finds one, it will automatically delete it to make room for the new message. Due to the fact that FastPlus stores the messages in compressed format, removing one message to ALL may not be enough. Hence in that case a search will be performed for the next msg to ALL and it will be deleted.

If not messages can be found, or after deleting the messages to ALL there is still an insufficient amount of space, FastPlus will not allow the message to be either replied to, or entered.

Selecting a Sub-Board

FastPlus can support up to 15 additional boards, called sub-boards. Pressing the [S] will permit a user to at least view any additional sub-board names you have available (depending on the setting in the FPCONFIG program). If you have also granted them access to one or more of these boards, they may switch to that board.

```
Board Letter or ? for List [A] :
```

If the user knows the letter of the board, he can enter that letter and switch immediately to that board (providing they have access to it). Pressing the [?] will display a list of all the current boards and will mark the ones which the user can access.

```
Board List (*=Accessible)
```

```
*<A> Public Board
*<B> TRS-80 SIG BBS
    <C> Mac Mouse SIG
    <D> Big Blue SIG
```

The asterisks indicate that the user has access to that board and can move there by entering the letter within the "<>" signs. The boards C and D may not show up unless configured to do that in FPCONFIG.

As boards are switched FastPlus will load the corresponding BOARD file which contains all the messages for that board. Once the user has reached the new board, they will be apprised of any mail they have (and where it is still located), the bulletins for that particular board (if there are any) and finally the Main Command Menu.

Note that the bulletins are shown only once when switching boards. After that they are suppressed but the bulletin reprint option from the Main Command Menu may still be used.

If the auto-kill message option is enabled, FastPlus will see if any of the users mail can be removed before switching to another board. If some mail can be removed, FastPlus will update the current message file before loading in the new one. If the user didn't read their mail it will not be removed.

Terminating Connection

Pressing [T] in the Main Command Menu will cause FastPlus to disconnect from the call and depending on the auto-update number, may or may not update all the diskette files. This also applies to LOCAL mode calls.

In addition to auto-updating, if the message auto-kill is enabled, FastPlus will scan the current message file for any mail to this user that they have read and automatically remove it. This relieves the SYSOP from having to constantly remind users to delete their messages. It also enables shorter calls from long distance users since they don't have to take the time to delete their mail.

During the process of terminating various options are available to the user. i.e. you may have a plain "Private Mail for SYSOP (Y/N)" or use FPCONFIG to create some custom prompts for new or regular users.

Any mail left to the SYSOP will be routed to either the printer or a disk file according to the configuration set in the FPCONFIG program. If neither disk or printer output is selected then this section will be skipped and the user can not leave any private mail to the SYSOP.

Some callers will not exit the BBS system using the [T] command, but will simply hang up. While this doesn't bother FastPlus (it was designed to handle this), it is needless because of FastPlus's speed. If the caller terminates this way, after they have signed on the next time they call, the message you specified for this situation will be displayed (set in the FPCONFIG program).

At the termination of a user session FastPlus sends the control message to the modem to disconnect. Some users will try to stay on the line as long as possible trying to break into the system. FastPlus automatically detects this and will send the control string again until the connection is gone or the caller hangs up. While it is impossible to break into FastPlus these callers do tie up the phone lines needlessly.

User List Options

Pressing [U] will display the User List Options menu.

```
User List Options
-----
<?> List Sub-Board
<A>ll
<B>oard (Current)
<F>ind
<M>essages
<G>oodbye
<E>xit to Main Menu
```

Pressing the letter which resides within the "<>" signs will invoke the corresponding option.

(?) Display all Active Boards/Sub-Boards

Pressing [?] will display a list of the sub-boards in FastPlus and their respective letters.

(A) List All Users In the File

Pressing [A] will list all the users in the file, the date they were last on and the letters of the sub-boards they have access to.

```
MEL  PATRICK    ,11/24/86,ABCD
```

(B) Display only Users with Access to this Board

Pressing [B] will display only users who have access to the current board. They will be displayed in the same format as ALL.

(F) Find a Single User

Pressing [S] will allow the user to enter the name of any user and see when the last time they were on the BBS and which boards they have access to. Pressing [ENTER] without entering a users name will return them to the User List Options Menu.

(E) Exit to the Message Menu

Pressing [M] will allow the user to enter the Message Menu without having to return to the Main Command Menu.

(G) Terminate Connection

Pressing [T] or [G] in this case, will allow the user to terminate without having to return to the Main Command Menu.

(E) Exit to the Main Command Menu

Pressing [E] will return the user to the Main Command Menu.

Listing Order of Users

The listing of users that is obtained is not sorted in any particular order (unless modified by the USEREDIT program). Most users are only looking for one or two other users so the [F]ind option was added because it took less memory than a sort routine.

System Configuration

Pressing [X] will allow users to change some of the FastPlus terminal support parameters or their password for the next time they call.

```
System Options
-----
<L>ine  Wrap
<C>R + LF
<V>ideo Backspace
<B>ell
<P>SWD  INV
<M>sg   Reply
<N>ew   Pswrd
<E>xit  to Main Menu
```


This menu is one of the two in FastPlus which is not a “hot” menu. Users must wait for it to complete scrolling and printing before any keys can be pressed. Pressing the letter within the “<>” signs will invoke the corresponding option.

(L) Controlling Line Wrap

Pressing [L] will toggle the line wrap option during message entry on and off. This alleviates the need to press [ENTER] at the end of each entered line (except the last one).

(C) Add a Linefeed to a Carriage Return

Pressing [C] will toggle FastPlus from sending a carriage return only, to sending a carriage return and linefeed. Some terminals require both the carriage return and linefeed while others do not. If a user reports that all the text your BBS is sending him appears on one line, they obviously need the carriage return and linefeed.

(V) Selecting the type of Backspace to Use

Pressing [V] will toggle the type of backspace used on FastPlus from a standard backspace, to a video backspace.

A normal backspace character is considered a CHR\$(8) and will cause the callers cursor to step back one character to the left and erase that character. Some terminals do not support a destructive backspace for this control character, rather they step back one character but do not erase the character and using this type of terminal requires you to overtype your mistakes.

For this terminal the caller should enable the video backspace option. This command then sends following codes: CHR\$(8);CHR\$(32);CHR\$(8). i.e. a backspace to step the cursor back one, a space to erase that character (after which the cursor moves ahead), and another backspace which will reposition the cursor to the proper character.

To determine if the caller requires the video backspace, the CHAT mode works the best. Simply type in a few characters, backspace to erase them and press [ENTER]. The characters you backspace over should be absent from the callers screen if their terminal program supports a destructive backspace. If not tell them to select this option from the System Options Menu. You will find that most CP/M and TRS-80 Colour Computer terminal programs require this option enabled. The current setting of this option will be stored in the users record and be in force whenever the user calls back, unless reset.

(B) Controlling the Bell Signal

Pressing [B] will toggle the bell prompt from being sent from FastPlus when the menus are displayed.

(P) Changing Password Entry Type

Pressing [P] will toggle the users password entry from its current state to the alternate state. i.e. from invisible to visible and vice versa.

(M) Controlling Message Reply

Pressing [M] will toggle the message pause on or off. When this option is enabled it will enable the caller to reply to messages while they are reading them with the forward or new message options.

(N) Entering a New Password

Pressing [N] will allow the user to change their password. If no change is desired they can just press [ENTER] to leave it as it was.

(E) Exit to the Main Command Menu

Sysop Control

During the course of running your bulletin board system it will be necessary to perform various maintenance functions, such as deleting expired user records. To accomplish this you will need a MASTER SYSOP access level. This flag should be set for yourself only in the Edit Menu.

SYSOP Access Level in LOCAL Mode

If you are performing a local call from the keyboard of your computer, FastPlus will only provide you with most of the MASTER SYSOP options. Use the EDIT MENU to enable yourself as the MASTER SYSOP and all the options throughout this manual will be automatically available to you.

MAIN SYSOP Access Level in Remote Mode

If you are calling your system from a remote location, you may perform SYSOP editing functions if you enabled yourself with either SYSOP STATUS or as the MAIN SYSOP. I strongly suggest that you use the MAIN SYSOP enable. If neither of these parameters is enabled you will not be able to edit in any way.

Invisible Commands in the Main Command Menu

There are two invisible command keys which are available in the Main Command Menu for a user with SYSOP STATUS or for a MAIN SYSOP. These keys work differently under different circumstances.

Enter Edit Menu from the Main Command Menu

Pressing [Z] will enable you to enter the Edit Menu from the Main Command Menu to do various SYSOP editing functions. It may be used from either a LOCAL or Remote call.

Enter Edit Menu while Remote Caller Online

Pressing [F3] will allow you to enter the Edit Menu but will not send any of the information you see out to the remote caller who is online. This way you may change their access level or do any necessary user modifications while the caller waits for you.

Edit Menu Command Options

While in the Edit Menu there is a great deal of command options. Some of these command options will be available to a user with SYSOP STATUS (not to be confused with the MAIN SYSOP) if set in FPCONFIG.

```
Edit Menu
-----
<I>nput  Bulletins
<S>elect User
<F>ind User
<V>iew Mail File
<R>emove Mail File
<G>oodBye
<E>xit to Main Menu
```

To select any option press the letter which resides within the "<>" keys. If your access level is correct that option will be invoked.

Input New Bulletins

Pressing [I] will allow you to enter bulletins for any of the boards you have active. You do not have to be any particular board to update it's bulletins since you can select the board here.

A prompt will appear for the letter of the board to update and by selecting that letter you will enter a simple text entry mode. The text entry mode works exactly the same as text entry when leaving a msg. Hence you may enter your bulletin and edit it before saving it.

The number of characters per line determine the number of lines you can type it. FastPlus allocates 540 characters per bulletin and if you divide that by the characters per line (screen width) you have set for that board you will end up with the number of lines for entry. FastPlus will always print the number of lines you have available anyway.

To terminate entry press [ENTER] for any line without entering any characters on it. There will be the usual message entry edit options and if you select SAVE, the bulletin file will be written to the drive selected in the FPCONFIG program.

Select User to Edit

Pressing [S] will allow you to select a user who you want to edit. You may select the user by entering either their name or their reference number (if it is known).

For example if you wanted to edit MEL PATRICK who was USER #1, you could type in the name of the user, or simply #1 (with the # sign) in response to the prompt.

If you have selected a valid user another completely different menu will be displayed. All parameters which respond with a Yes or No are toggle keys. i.e. you press the same key to toggle the value.

```
User# : 1
Name   : MEL PATRICK
Password : Sysop
Last On: 06/02/88
Board Access [A] : ABCDE

<A> Restricted Access    <B> Time Limit    <C> Sysop Status
<D> Upload Acc         <E> Download    <F> Download SP
<G> Msg Entry          <H> Msg Kill    <I> User List
<J> Spcl User          <K> Read Msgs   <L> Chat
<M> Mail -> Prt        <N> Mail -> Disk <O> MAIN SYSOP
<P> Change User Name   <Q> Change User Pswd <R> Change Board Access
<S> Delete User        <T> Edit Menu    <U> Change User#
<V> Main Menu
```

Note that any value which you change is active on all the boards. i.e. you can not control each users features on an individual board basis. For example, if you enable the Msg Entry option they will be able to leave messages on any board they have access to.

A Restrict Access

Pressing [A] will enable/disable the user from signing onto your bulletin board using the name shown. Of course they may get around this by using a different name but eventually they will become discouraged enough to leave you alone.

B Time Limit

Pressing [B] will enable/disable an individual time limit which was imposed on any single user. The FPCONFIG program determines what length of time an individual time limit is set for. If you have the MAIN TIME LIMIT imposed, FastPlus

will use which ever value is lower.

C Sysop Status

Pressing [C] will enable/disable SYSOP STATUS. The amount of control any individual has with this option enabled is set in the FPCONFIG program.

D Upload Access

Pressing [D] will enable/disable this user to upload files to your bulletin board.

E Download Access (Visible Files)

Pressing [E] will enable/disable this user to download any visible file in the download catalog.

F Download SP (Invisible Files)

Pressing [F] will enable/disable this user access to download any invisible files in the download catalog. To do this, the caller need not know the filename since when they request a catalog option, both the visible and invisible files will be shown to them (with no distinction between the two).

G Message Entry Access

Pressing [G] will enable/disable this user to leave any messages on any board or sub-board.

H Msg Kill Access

Pressing [H] will enable/disable this user to remove non-private or non-protected messages from any board or sub-board. If the message was private from either FROM or TO this user, they may remove it as well.

I User List Access

Pressing [I] will enable/disable this user to be able to display or search for other users on your bulletin board.

J Spcl User Flag

Pressing [J] will mark this user a special user so that both the DELETE by YEAR or DELETE by MONTH (in the USEREDIT program) do not affect them. To remove this user from the file you must specifically select him and remove him using an option explained later in this section.

K Read Msgs Access

Pressing [K] will enable/disable this user to read any non-private messages in the bulletin board. Private mail left from or to this user may also be read by them.

L Chat Access

Pressing [L] will enable/disable this user to enter the CHAT mode. When this option is disabled, FastPlus will state that the sysop is not available and return them to the Main Command Menu.

M Mail Route to Printer

Pressing [M] will route all the mail normally left to this user to your printer (if one is connected). Generally this is used only for a SYSOP as they will get a great deal more mail than any other caller. When this option is enabled, FastPlus will try to send the completed message to the printer, if this fails the message will not be lost but will be stored in the message file. Hence if you had this option on and seen that your mail was not getting to the printer, there may be something wrong with your printer (i.e. out of paper, not online, not turned on etc).

Any mail routed to the printer will not show up in the message section. If you enable this option I suggest that you inform your users that if they go looking for the message after they have left it, it will not be there. Failure to do this may well result in them leaving many messages and eventually giving up in frustration.

Both this option and the mail to disk file option are independent. i.e you may have either or both enabled.

N Mail Route to a Disk File

Pressing [N] will route all the mail normally left to this user to a disk file (the file drive was set in the FPCONFIG program). Generally this is used only for a SYSOP as they will get a great deal more mail than any other caller. When this option is enabled, FastPlus will try to send the completed message to the disk file, if this fails the message will not be lost but will be stored in the message file. Hence if you had this option on and seen that your mail was not getting to the disk file, your disk could be full. This mail file is always appended to so its an idea to remove it from time to time.

Any mail routed to a disk file will not show up in the message section (except in the event of an error). If you enable this option I suggest that you inform your users that if they go looking for the message after they have left it, it will not be there. Failure to do this may well result in them leaving many messages and eventually giving up in frustration.

This option may be used by itself or in conjunction with the mail route to printer option.

O Main Sysop Access

Pressing [O] will enable/disable this users access as the MAIN SYSOP. This should be set for one user and one user only. It is referenced during the auto-logon from the local mode and if you have more than one MAIN SYSOP it may not work correctly. In normal applications the HOST computer operator (you) will be the MAIN SYSOP.

P Changing a Users Name

Pressing [P] will allow you to change the users name displayed. This command is generally used to remove unwanted characters from an entry or do a spelling correction. Note you can also log on a user by replacing any existing users name.

Q Changing a Users Password

Pressing [Q] will allow you to change the password of the displayed user. Be careful when changing the password since the user may want the mixture of odd characters and will not be able to log on if you change it.

R Changing Board Access

Pressing [R] will display all the names and letters of the current boards you have active. To enable or disable any of these press the letter of the desired board. This works as a toggle so pressing the board letter once will enable it, selecting [R] again and pressing it will disable it.

S Deleting a User from the File

Pressing [S] will delete the displayed user from the file and return you to the Edit Menu. If the user has mail, you will have to delete their mail before you can delete them from the user file. If they have no mail, but the system assumes that they do, you can force a delete by pressing CLEAR S instead of S. They will be immediately deleted regardless of who they are.

T Return to the Edit Menu

Pressing [T] will return you to the Edit Menu for further processing.

U Change User Number

FastPlus actually references many items by a user number for the simple reason that it only requires 2 bytes to do. Whereas a full name could take 16 bytes. If required you may change the users number to any number from 1-410 (or the maximum users permitted in your system; never use 999 as a user number).

No error checking is done to ensure that you have not duplicated a number so be careful.

This command was meant to be used in the event that a user was accidentally erased from the file and you want to reinstate them. When they call back they will have a new entry in the user file and it may not match the same one they had after they were deleted. Therefore any messages or download credits they received will be invalid. By careful use of this command you can restore their user number and FastPlus will again recognize them.

V Return to the Main Menu

Pressing [V] will return you to the Main Command Menu.

Find A User

Pressing F will allow you to locate a user if you can not remember their user number or you want to see when they were last on. The format used for display is the same as the one in the User List option, but will have their user number displayed first. i.e.

```
1,MEL  PATRICK,06/06/88,ABCDE
```

View Mail File

Pressing [V] will allow you to view the mail file which was used by either the “route mail to disk file” or the “private messages to sysop at log off”. Who the message was from and the date will be shown before the actual message.

After each message is shown you will be prompted to continue.

Removing a Mail File

Pressing [R] will remove the mail file from the disk. If you get a considerable amount of mail in this file, keep in mind that it is always appended to and can become quite large. Problems could arise from lack of diskette space.

Terminate Connection

Pressing [T] will allow you to terminate directly from this menu rather than having to return to the Main Command Menu. Depending on your setting, the word terminate may be replaced with the word goodbye, in which case a G can be used.

Exit to Main Menu

Pressing [E] will return you to the Main Command Menu.

Having more than one MAIN SYSOP

While it is not intended that you have more than one MAIN SYSOP, it is possible to do. The users are stored in the memory as they call. If you are the first caller, probably from the local mode as you are setting up the board, mark yourself as the MAIN SYSOP.

After this FastPlus will recognize a LOCAL session and will always start searching for anyone with MAIN SYSOP access and will auto logon this user. If you are the first in the file, it will always be you.

By enabling other users now to be MAIN SYSOPS, they will have the same SYSOP options you have but because they are calling remote, it will not auto-log them on. Hence you can have another MAIN SYSOP.

Be warned that when you use the USEREDIT/CMD program it is possible to change this order quite significantly and destroy the order by using the SORT options and the UPDATE file options within the program. In that case if another user with MAIN SYSOP status appeared in the file before you did, and you initiated a LOCAL mode call they would be auto-logged on not you.

Adding a User From Local SYSOP Mode

To manually add another user to your system, you may use one of two methods. First, disable yourself as the MAIN SYSOP and log on with their name and password and then terminate and update your disk files ([F1]).

Alternatively you may logon as the MAIN SYSOP, enter the EDIT MENU and select a user who has not called for while. Replace all that users information with the new users information then terminate and update your disks ([F1]).

This procedure is generally used where you run a very closed system and do all of your user confirmation by mail. Or you want to log on a number of persons and notify them that they have access.

Quick Mail Delete

Normally to delete any mail in the message bases, you are required to use the [R]emove option from the message menu. If you have a great number of messages to delete this can be quite slow. However, if you are the Main Sysop, you have one further option if you enabled a certain option in FPCONFIG. The condition is to have Auto-Delete enabled, and you must be the Main Sysop (set from within FastPlus). After that when you are reading any messages using either Forward or New, you may press the [F1] key to mark the message for deletion.

When you do this, FastPlus will display the message *MARKED*.

Once the entire message base has been gone through FastPlus will check to see if you marked any messages. if you did, it will enter the delete mode and display the header of each message marked and prompt to delete it or not.

I normally use this option to remove all messages which are more than a month old. Your own experience may prove otherwise.

Evicting a Caller during Logon

During the course of operating any BBS there will be callers who call up and try to abuse your system. Most of these mindless individuals think of themselves as "hackers" and nothing could be further from the truth in most cases. If you happen to be watching one of these undesirable persons try to log on, you may press the F2 key for the name or password prompt and FastPlus will disconnect them.

A few times of doing this usually discourages them from calling back for a while.

Evicting a Caller during a Session

The easiest way to disconnect any caller who is using your BBS improperly is to press T,Y,N from any menu which will allow a terminate option. Remember that even though the caller has partial control of the BBS, your keyboard is still very much operational. If this doesn't work (and can be the case depending on the circumstances) you can always remove the phone plug from the modem.

Uploading a file - User with Sysop Status

There are two additional prompts for uploading of this type for those users with this type of status. One appears before the visible/invisible prompt and requests them to indicate which board(s) the upload is for. The example given assumes that you have more than one board active to choose from. If you have the Multi-DL option enabled in FPCONFIG this option will not appear since you must be in the current board you want to upload to.

```
Board Selection [A] :  
<A> Public Board      <B> TRS-80 Board      <C> Private Board  
  
Board Letter [A] :
```

If they simply press [ENTER] the file will be available on the current board or sub-board (shown in the “[]” signs at the prompt). They will next be prompted for vis/inv status.

If they want to make the file available for more than one board, press the letter of the board they want the file available on. This prompt will keep repeating until they have selected all the board(s). When selecting board(s) in this way, press [ENTER] to continue without entering any letter (i.e. advance to the next prompt vis/ins). Pressing the same board letter twice will remove a selected board from the list of letters.

```
<V>isible,<I>nvisible :
```

FastPlus will then continue processing and ask for the filename, description and protocol to use for receiving the file. They can then upload the file using the same method as described for regular users.

Uploading a File - Master Sysop Only (remote)

For the Master Sysop there are the same two options as for a user with remote sysop status plus one additional one. It will appear immediately after the vis/inv prompt.

```
Protected (Y/N) :
```

This option allows a file to be stored in the file catalog but it will not be displayed to anyone but the Master SYSOP. However it can be downloaded by anyone who has access to the download option and knows the filename. Hence you can upload a file and leave a message to another user to download it. You will have to inform them of the filename because of the protected status.

The remainder of the procedure is exactly like that of a remote user with SYSOP STATUS.

Uploading a File - Master SYSOP (local)

FastPlus automatically recognizes the MASTER SYSOP when in the local mode and follows the procedure outlined previously with two exceptions.

The first exception is after you type in the filename, FastPlus will try to locate that file on one of your drives. It will start with drive 0 and advance through all of them, to locate it. If it is not available already, the option will be aborted.

Should the file be available, FastPlus will try to open the file to make sure that it is good. If this test fails, the option will be aborted.

After ensuring the file is good, the process will continue and you will be asked to select a protocol. Either ASCII or XMODEM may be selected.

Instead of actually entering the selected uploading procedure, FastPlus will store the filename and associated data (like who sent it, the size to the nearest K, date and description) in the catalog and display that the upload was successful. Control will then return to the Files Menu.

Uploading Special Notes

Should a regular user or users with SYSOP STATUS try uploading a file using the name of an existing file on the upload drive, FastPlus will abort the upload so that the original can not be accidentally overwritten.

```
OverWrite (Y/N) :
```

For MASTER SYSOP's they have a prompted option of whether they want to overwrite that file or not.

Changing a Files Status Single DL File

If you are using a single DL file, you may change a files status. i.e. where it is available, visible/invisible and if it is protected or not. To do this, you must be in the FILES menu. Pressing the S key will cause FastPlus to prompt for the filename to modify.

```
Filename (i.e. MOREDATA/DOC) :
```

Once you have entered the filename and FastPlus has verified that it does exist, you have the option of selecting which boards it will be available on.

```
Board Selection [A] :  
<A> Public Board      <B> TRS-80 Board      <C> Private Board
```

```
Board Letter [A] :
```

The board letters are a toggle. Pressing the letter once will enable it, again will disable it. When you have changed it enough, press [ENTER] to continue with the file modification.

The next item you can change is the visibility status of the file. i.e. you may change it from visible to invisible.

```
<V>isible,<I>nvisible :
```

The last item to change is the protection level of the file. If you make the file protected only sysops (local or remote) will be able to see the file. Anyone with a lower access level will not know that it is available (you'll have to tell them).

```
Protected (Y/N) :
```

Once all these questions have been answered, the file will be stored back in the DL catalog in its modified condition. You may change any file any number of times.

Changing a Files Status Multi-DL Files

This command works the same as the single DL file with one major difference. The prompt for the board to make the file available on will not appear since you have elected to make a separate DL file for each sub-board. Therefore you can not just move the file from one DL file to another. Also with the single DL file, you can change a files status from any Files Menu, while in a multi-DL environment, you must be in the board of the file you want to change.

Other than those differences, the remaining commands work the same.

Using User #'s Effectively

If you noticed before, when the MASTER SYSOP does a FIND (search for a user) FastPlus always reports the users number as well. There are two sections which you can take these numbers. The first is the message section.

Instead of leaving a message and entering the name, you may enter the users number instead. FastPlus will find that users name and display it for you.

```
TO : #1  
TO : MEL PATRICK
```

Secondly you may use it when you are editing a user. Again, use the same format #number and FastPlus will find and enter the edit mode with that user.

Printer Log

During the initialization FastPlus will test for a printer and if you have one connected and on-line it will automatically use it, if not it will ask if you want to continue or connect one and try again. If you connect a printer to your Model 4 FastPlus will supply a fairly detailed output log.

Mail Route to Printer

If you have your mail being routed through to the printer, it will be printed immediately after the user selects to [S]ave it from the message menu. These messages will always precede the final log off record which happens to be a log of what the user did while on line.

Private Mail at Log Off to Printer

If you have this option enabled any user who leaves you private mail at log off will have that mail directed to your printer. This information will appear before the callers log off record as well.

SYSOP ONLY File Information to Printer

If a user uploads a SYSOP ONLY file to the bulletin board, they will be prompted to leave both the filename and description which will be directed to your printer. The reason for this is that the filename is not stored in FastPlus, the BBS is merely used for obtaining the file.

The filename and description lines will precede the callers log off record so that you can easily locate the file the caller sent.

File Auto-Update Message to Printer

If you have the auto file update message to printer enabled in the FPCONFIG program, it will be sent to the printer before the callers log off record. It will simply say "Updating Disk Files...".

Message File Update to Printer

Whenever a caller leaves or removes a message and terminates, FastPlus will print out the name of the board and indicate that the message file was updated. Any of these messages will always precede the callers log off record.

Switching Boards and Updating

If the user leaves a message and changes boards, the board will be automatically updated but will not indicate on the printer that it has been updated.

Callers Log Off Record

After each caller has been disconnected and any file updating has been done, FastPlus will send a single line of data to the printer. On this line are pieces of information about the caller and what functions they selected.

```
25: MEL PATRICK   ISPLI.C...D.Date:11/30   On:13:35   Time:11:17   Baud:H
```

Each of these fields has a special meaning when you understand the codes used. They will be discussed in the order that they appear.

The User Number

The first number on the line indicates the callers user number. While normally transparent to all who will be using FastPlus, it can be used in place of typing in the users name when in the SYSOP MENU or when leaving a message to another user. i.e. instead of using Name: MEL PATRICK, you could use Name: #25. Both are perfectly acceptable.

```
25: MEL PATRICK   ISPLI.C...D.Date:11/30   On:13:35   Time:11:17   Baud:H
```

The Users Name

The next field is for the users name.

```
25: MEL PATRICK   ISPLI.C...D.Date:11/30   On:13:35   Time:11:17   Baud:H
```

Type of User

The next field between the "I" signs indicates the type of user. There will be a possible of three types in this area. New, Reg and Spl which are new callers, regular callers and special users respectively.

```
25: MEL PATRICK   ISPLI.C...D.Date:11/30   On:13:35   Time:11:17   Baud:H
```

New User Definition

A new user is considered to be one who has just logged on for the very first time. i.e. the BBS has no idea who they were before they called.

Regular User Definition

A regular user is considered to one who has called previously. Whether you have granted them any access in the meantime is immaterial to FastPlus.

Special User Definition

A special user is one which you have flagged in the SYSOP MENU as a SPCL user. This user is unaffected during the mass delete modes offered in the USEREDIT program. Usually these are infrequent callers who you do not wish to accidentally delete.

Options Selected

The seven dots represent what options the caller invoked while on line. They are only for quick reference and just give you an idea of what the users do while on line.

25: MEL PATRICK ISPLISCMUKD*Date:11/30 On:13:35 Time:11:17 Baud:H

- S If the user entered the SYSOP MENU the letter “S” will appear on the record line. Not that they may not have actually done any editing, it only indicates that they were in that section.
- C The letter “C” indicates that the caller tried either successfully or unsuccessfully to chat with the SYSOP.
- M The letter “M” indicates that the caller left mail in one or more of the boards to one or more of the valid users on that board.
- K The letter “K” indicates that the caller removed one or more of the messages in one or more of the boards. The message could have been to anyone, or if you have the auto-kill enabled, it would indicate that FastPlus removed one of the messages left to them.
- U The letter “U” indicates that the caller has uploaded a file to one or more of the boards (depending on their access level). The file itself may be visible or invisible depending on their upload selection.
- D The letter “D” indicates that the user downloaded a file from one or more of the boards which they have access to.
- * The symbol “*” indicates that this user uploaded you a file which is stored on your upload drive, but does not appear in any of the board catalogs. The description of this type of upload will be printed out on your printer if one was connected.

Date the User Connected

The date field is shown in only a MM/DD format, the year is assumed to be the current one.

25: MEL PATRICK ISPLI.C...D.Date:11/30 On:13:35 Time:11:17 Baud:H

If a user calls one day close to midnight and stays until the clock moves to the next day, FastPlus will still report the correct day in which the caller logged on. i.e. the previous day in this case.

Time of Day the User Connected

The connect time of day field is shown in a HH:MM format. It shows the time that the user was actually recognized by the BBS. i.e. after they enter their correct password.

25: MEL PATRICK ISPLI.C...D.Date:11/30 On:13:35 Time:11:17 Baud:H

Actual Connect Time

The elapsed time field shows in the HH:MM same as the connect time. The difference is that it starts from the moment that FastPlus detects a carrier, not from when the caller signed on.

25: MEL PATRICK ISPLI.C...D.Date:11/30 On:13:35 Time:11:17 Baud:H

Using this field you can tell when a user is staying on too long and take any appropriate action you deem necessary.

Connect Baud Rate

This field will show the letters "L", "H" or "U" which indicate the connect baud rate to be either 300, 1200 or 2400 baud respectively.

25: MEL PATRICK ISPLI.C...D.Date:11/30 On:13:35 Time:11:17 Baud:H

Using this information along with other information in the next section will indicate to you that a user may be having problems connecting at the higher baud rates and you may want to leave a message for them to possibly consider using a lower baud rate for more reliable communications.

Improper Disconnect Procedure

There will always be some users who do not use the [T] for terminating properly. Most use the excuse that the BBS is too slow in responding to their selection. Combine the speed and hot menus of FastPlus and they don't have a case. In the event that a caller should disconnect improperly the callers record will be preceded with a "*". i.e.

* 25: MEL PATRICK ISPLI.C...D.Date:11/30 On:13:35 Time:11:17 Baud:H

This indicates that the caller dropped the carrier and didn't terminate properly. The next time this user calls they will receive the message which you have defined for this action.

Erasing New Users who Drop the Carrier

If you have the "Delete first time callers who drop carrier" enabled in the FPCONFIG program, the users record will have an "E" prefix. i.e.

E 25: MEL PATRICK INewI.C...D.Date:11/30 On:13:35 Time:11:17 Baud:H

This indicates that the user was a first time caller and dropped the carrier so FastPlus erased his entry from the user file.

Mail to Sysop Quick Check

Many times you will sign on to the system but will not find any mail for you. I usually check the printer log and look for a code to see if mail was left to me. If there was, an "M" will show as the first character on the printer log line and this indicates that there is at least one message to you in the system somewhere.

M 25: MEL PATRICK INewI.C...D.Date:11/30 On:13:35 Time:11:17 Baud:H

Disk Errors

FastPlus has built in routines for handling disk errors. Because of the size of the FastPlus program, error codes are not returned with a message as in the normal TRS/LSDOS environment, but with a decimal value. It is then up to the SYSOP for the action to take. What follows is some of the areas which can generate a disk error and what to expect from

FastPlus.

Error When Working with Memory Files

There are four main files in memory which FastPlus will try to update depending on the rate you have set in FPCONFIG. Three of these files are 32K line length and one is 256 bytes. When FastPlus encounters an error in one of these files, it will first of all shut down the modem. If a user is on line they will be presented with the disk error message so they can understand what's going on, and then they will be disconnected.

FastPlus will then display a prompt on the screen asking if you (the SYSOP) want to restart the program or re-boot the DOS.

When to Restart the Program

If you had a disk error while writing one of the four files, you may try to look up the decimal error code displayed and see if the problem can be readily fixed. If so you may restart and examine all the messages and download catalog for errors. If the information seems intact you can terminate and update the disks (after having fixed the problem of course) using [F1].

If this generates another error, I suggest you reboot the whole system and again try to ascertain what is causing the problem. It may be something as simple as a write protected disk, or having the wrong drive number; such as a nonexistent drive enabled.

When to Reboot the System

If you try to restart and get the same errors, you may as well reboot and try to fix the problem. If you had an error, you may want to try to restart initially before abandoning all hope. Again if you do restart FastPlus, check everything before you update files!

Disk Errors during Upload Mode

While receiving files it is possible that you could generate a disk error. For example if you were receiving a 20K file and there was only 18K of free space on your diskette the upload would be aborted.

Should this happen, FastPlus will send any required codes to the remote users terminal to get it to stop transmission and then inform them to leave a message to the SYSOP informing you of the error.

Their file entry will be automatically erased from the catalog in this case so that you don't have an invalid file available.

If you have users who call at the higher baud rate and try to upload you a file(s) and continually generate errors, you may want to suggest to them to use a lower baud rate.

Disk Errors during Download Mode

Should there be a disk error while FastPlus is reading a file to send to the remote, it will cancel transmission, inform the user of a file error and mark the file in the catalog as having a file error. Thereafter it will not be visible to anyone but the MAIN SYSOP.

Normal procedure at this point would be to erase the file from both disk and catalog.

Importance of Regular Disk Backups

As with any program of the magnitude, keeping backups of your files are important. Should anything go wrong with one of your files, FastPlus would be more than happy to continue with a backup of that file. It will immediately restructure itself with the new information quite readily in most cases.

While I am not suggesting that you make backups each day, you obviously know the reliability of your computer system and experience may show how long you can go without making a backup.

For hard disk owners, if you plan on using FastPlus with your hard disk I strongly suggest backups be made at least once a week. A hard drive may contain a lot of information and if it were lost for any reason it could take a while to restore. FastPlus was designed and written using a Radio Shack 5 meg hard drive (which by the way eventually developed a media fault and required replacement). Without those backups, FastPlus would have been never started again, let alone finished.

Disk Error Codes

I have taken the liberty of copying the "official" list of TRS/LSDOS error codes from the DOS manual. While the error messages may look somewhat cryptic, they do normally indicate what happened if you think logically about it. A detailed description of these error can be found in your DOS manual, appendix D, pages A61 - A69.

Dec	Hex	Message	Dec	Hex	Message
0	00	No Error	22	16	HIT read error
1	01	Parity Error during header read	23	17	HIT write error
2	02	Seek error during read	24	18	File not in directory
3	03	Lost data during read	25	19	File Access Denied
4	04	Parity error during read	26	1A	Full or Write Protected disk
5	05	Data record not found during read	27	1B	Disk Space Full
6	06	Attempted to read system data record	28	1C	End of file encountered
7	07	Attempted to read locked/deleted data record	29	1D	Record number out of range
8	08	Device not available	30	1E	Directory Full, can't extend file
9	09	Parity error during header write	31	1F	Program not found
10	0A	Seek error during write	32	20	Illegal Drive Number
11	0B	Lost data during write	33	21	No device space available
12	0C	Parity error during write	34	22	Load file format error
13	0D	Data record not found during write	37	25	Illegal access, protected file
14	0E	Write fault on disk drive	38	26	File not open
15	0F	Write Protected Disk	39	27	Device in use
16	10	Illegal logical file number	40	28	Protected System Device
17	11	Directory Read Error	41	29	File already open
18	12	Directory Write Error	42	2A	LRL open fault
19	13	Illegal Filename	43	2B	SVC parameter error
20	14	GAT read error	44	2C	Parameter error
21	15	GAT write error	63	3F	Extended error

Technical Info

This chapter describes all of the FastPlus files and some additional information concerning each file. This information is mainly for the SYSOP who is well versed in patching, or custom disk zapping. If you are unsure what anything means, don't try changing it to see what happens.

FastPlus BBS Uart Specifications

All FastPlus systems run with 8 data bit, 1 stop bit and with parity disabled (no parity). While it is possible to change this it would render some of the FastPlus options useless (like xmodem).

General Program Information

Without any high memory reserved for drivers or the like, FastPlus can support 420 regular callers and one transient caller (whose information will be erased by the next new caller). If these persons desire regular status, you can either delete a regular user so they will assume that slot when they call, or you can use the SYSOP MENU to replace a regular users information with their information.

FastPlus supports whatever the TOTAL number of messages that were shown when you configured any additional board using the FPCONFIG program. All of FastPlus messages are variable length so the less verbose your users are the more messages FastPlus can hold before it gets full. In addition to this, FastPlus offers the SYSOP the option of having their mail routed directly to a disk file or to the line printer which saves more space.

For the download menu, FastPlus allows up to 409 filename entries which can be active for any number of boards. Hence you do not have any file duplication when making a download file available to more than one board. If all 16 boards were in operation and you had downloads on each one you could have 18 files for each board. Remember that FastPlus does allow any download you so determine to be accessible from more than one board. With the 409 separate filenames available this should satisfy even the most avid hard disk user. Also disk management becomes a problem for even the most avid Sysop when faced with a large number of filenames. If that is too limiting, you may enabled the multi-DL option to give you 409 entries for each sub-board.

For file sizes in the download menu, the only restriction is with DOS itself. TRS/LSDOS can not accommodate a file larger than 65,535K which again should be more than ample except for possibly IBM files which seem to take four times more memory than any other application known to man.

Files Created by FastPlus

FastPlus will initially create and use only 4 files. I have included a detailed outline of these files and any necessary bits which are stored in these files. Bit positions and values (Zero or Non Zero are noted along with a detailed description of each bit).

A file which is mainly numeric information will be refered to as a BINARY format. A file which contains legible information will be called ASCII format (although it may contain some encoded information; like in the messages file). Most FastPlus files are comprised of a mixture of both (where noted).

SYSINFO/FPF - Length 256 Bytes - BINARY FORMAT

Field Name	Offset	Comments
------------	--------	----------

Total Callers	0,1	total callers to this sub-board
Total Msgs	2,3	total messages in sub-board
Low Msg#	4,5	starting message number
High Msg#	6,7	ending message number
Next Msg#	8,9	number of next message entered
Users	10,11	total users on sub-board
Downloads	12,13	total downloads for sub-board
Reserved	14,15	reserved for future expansion

The list shown above is considered to be one block (16 bytes per block). There can be a maximum of 16 blocks if you have all the boards active.

The FastPlus user file contains only information pertaining to each user. There are some bit controls in each users record and the effects they have one the users options and parameters are shown in detail.

FastPlus User File Structure

USERS/FPF - Length 32K - BINARY/ASCII FORMAT

Field Name	Offset	Length	Reference
User #	0,1	2	Used for msg ref.
Name	2-17	16	ASCII Name storage F/L
Date Last On	18-20	3	Converted date (bytes only)
Password	21-27	7	ASCII Password
Downloads	28-29	2	Total all files downloaded
Uploads	30-31	2	Total all files uploaded
Messages	32-33	2	Total all messages entered
Carriers	34	1	Total dropped carriers
Calls	35-36	2	Total calls to the system
Board access	37-38	2	1 bit per board (16 max)
Mail Flags	39-40	2	which boards have mail for you
Last Msg#	41-72	32	2 bytes per msg # per sub board
Bit Control #1	73	1	see detailed section
Bit Control #2	74	1	" "
Bit Control #3	75	1	" "
Total	73 + 3 bits =	76	per user

The bit control #1-#3 are used in a SET state. The comments shown are for when the corresponding bit is active.

Bit Control #1 for USER File (Offset +73)

Flag Set	Bit	Comment
Carrier Dropped	0	remind to terminate properly
Auto Word Wrap	1	for message entry only
Restrict User	2	not allowed to log on
CR + LF	3	set if cr + lf needed
Backspace	4	Video or Normal
Bell	5	On Off toggle
Time Limit Restrict	6	Impose on 1 user only
Sysop Status	7	Allow for more than 1 sysop

Bit Control #2 for USER File (Offset +74)

Flag Set	Bit	Comment
Upload	0	access to uploading features
Download	1	access to visible download files
Download Special	2	access to visible & invisible download files
Msg Entry	3	access to enter a message
Msg Kill/Remove	4	access to kill or remove a message
User List	5	access to user list (present board)
Special User	6	must be manually removed
Read Msgs/Quick Sum	7	allowed to read the messages

Bit Control #3 for USER File (Offset +75)

Flag Set	Bit	Comment
Baud Rate	0	300/1200 baud rate used (not used on HAYES types)
Chat	1	allowed to chat or not
Unused	2	future expansion
Password	3	visible/invisible

Mail to Printer	4	mail to printer only, not file
Mail to Disk	5	mail to disk file only, not file
More Toggle	6	pause between messages when set
MAIN Sysop	7	the one and only sysop

Detailed Control #1

Offset	Bit	Value	Comment
+73	00	terminated properly	
	1	dropped the carrier	
10		normal msg entry (wrap off)	
	1	word wrap on	
20		normal user allowed on	
	1	restricted user, not allowed on	
30		carriage return only needed	
	1	cr+lf required	
40		normal backspace used	
	1	video backspace required	
50		bell off flag for prompts	
	1	bell on for all prompts	
60		no time limit set for user	
	1	this user has a time limit	
70		normal user	
	1	enabled to be remote sysop	

Detailed Control Byte #2

+74	00	Uploading not allowed
	1	allowed to upload files
10		
	1	can view visible downloads
20		
	1	allowed to view invisible files (special files)
30		not allowed to leave a message
	1	allowed to enter a message
40		not allowed to remove a msg
	1	allowed to remove a message
50		not allowed to view user list
	1	allowed to view user list
60		normal user
	1	special user, delete manually
70		reserved for future use
	1	reserved for future use

Detailed Control Byte #3

+75	00	300 baud used for last connection (used for NON-HAYES only)
	1	1200/2400 baud used (used for NON-HAYES only)
1	0	user not allowed to chat
	1	allowed to chat
2	0	not allowed to change password
	1	allowed to change password
3	0	password visible entry
	1	password invisible entry
4	0	all mail to message base file
	1	send to printer only

5	0	all mail to message base file
	1	mail to disk only
6	0	will not pause after message
	1	will stop after each message
7	0	normal user
	1	THE MAIN SYSOP

Download File Structure Single DL file type
DL/FPF - Length 32K - BINARY/ASCII FORMAT

Field Name	Offset	Length	Comments
Board	0,1	2	16 bits, one for each board (bit set position indicates board)
Status	2	1	see bit controls for features
Filename	3-14	12	Standard TRS/LSDOS Filespec (ASCII)
Date	15-17	3	compressed date (in binary)
From	18,19	2	User # the file is from
Length	20,21	2	Length in Kbytes of the file
Accesses	22,23	2	times accessed
Comments	24-79	55	comments on the file itself (ASCII)

Field BOARD is only used when a single DL file is used, in a multi-DL system, only one bit will be set.

Status Byte Control Bits Detail

Offset	Bit	Value	Comments
+2	0	0	normal file uploaded
	1		Sysop Only File
1	0		Visible file in menu
	1		Invisible file, only for special users
2	0		Unused
	1		Unused
3	0		ASCII type of file only
	1		requires XMODEM protocol
4	0		File ok to use
	1		error in reading file
5	0		Normal type of file
	1		Private and for Sysop only!
6	0		Unused
	1		Unused
7	0		Unused
	1		Unused

Note that the bulletins for FastPlus are stored at the end of this file for each board. There is 540 characters reserved for each bulletin.

This section explains the message file format. Note that the messages themselves are variable length.

FastPlus Message File Structure

BOARD A,B,C,/FPF etc - Length 32K - BINARY/ASCII FORMAT

Field Name	Size	Comments
Date	3	compressed format for date (binary)
Length	2	total length of message from Date (binary)

Message #	2	the message reference number (binary)
Status	1	see bit controls for this one
To	2	who to
From	2	and from
Subject	1-25	variable length input for this
Text	1,200	variable length buffer

Detailed Bit Controls for Status Field

Offset	Bit	Value	Comments
--------	-----	-------	----------

+7	0	0	normal message, anyone kills
	1		all can read, sysop must kill
1	0		normal message TO
	1		private message, only TO can read
2	0		not read by TO yet, don't kill
	1		read by TO, may kill if needed
3	0		Unused
	1		Unused
4	0		Unused
	1		Unused
5	0		Unused
	1		Unused
6	0		Unused
	1		Unused
7	0		Unused
	1		Unused

USEREDIT/CMD

There are two support programs on your MAIN disk with FastPlus. One was the FPCONFIG/CMD program which is used for customizing your system. The second is the USEREDIT/CMD program which will allow you some additional capabilities for editing users and for displaying FastPlus statistics.

Running USEREDIT/CMD

To execute the USEREDIT program you must first have the FastPlus file USERS/FPF available for USEREDIT to work with. If it is not found, you will return to TRS/LSDOS Ready. If it is found, USEREDIT will load the entire file into memory to work with and present you with a command list.

- <0> Clear a Board Flag
- <1> List Users to Video
- <2> List Users to Printer
- <3> Search for a User
- <4> Clear Upload Count
- <5> Clear Download Count
- <6> Clear Messages Count
- <7> Clear Dropped Carrier Count
- <8> Clear Total Calls Count
- <9> Sort User File
- <A> Delete all Restricted Users
- Delete Users by Year
- <C> Delete Users by Month
- <F1> Update User File on Disk & Exit
- <F2> Cancel Changes and Restart
- <F3> Exit to DOS Ready

Pressing the letter, function key or number which resides within the "<>" signs will invoke the corresponding option.

Maximum Users Display

Whenever you run FastPlus or USEREDIT, the maximum users you are permitted is always displayed. In FastPlus the number is shown on the Board Line, in USEREDIT it's at the top of the main menu. Underneath this will be the total users you currently have in the system.

This number reflects any drivers or memory which is reserved for your particular computer configuration. For example if you had a hard disk driver which required some high memory, the maximum users allowed would be smaller than the number shown in our menu example window.

A word of warning. Before you set up FastPlus, install all the filters and drivers you require, then run FastPlus. If you continually change your system size, FastPlus will no doubt become confused and may not work at all. I also further suggest that you always use the same system configuration for running FastPlus and USEREDIT (since they both figure out how much memory you have and the size the users file).

0 Clear a Board Flag

Pressing [0] (zero) will allow you to turn off access to any board for all users (MAIN SYSOP excluded). For example if you had three boards active and you wanted to shut one down, you would first use the FPCONFIG to deactivate the last

board, and then use USEREDIT to turn off access to all who have it. USEREDIT will prompt you for the board letter. Be careful in your selection because it will only take a second or two to clear any board access flag. If you made the wrong selection, press the [F2] to restart fresh.

1 List Users to the Video

Pressing [1] will list all of the users in the file to the video display. They will fill one page at a time and you may press any key to advance to the next page, or press [BREAK] to return to the main menu.

An example of the listing format is as follows:

#	Users Name	Pswrd	Date	Access	Up	Dwn	Msgs	Call	Cd	T
25	MEL PATRICK	TRS80	11/28/86	ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOP	1	0	21	1	0	M

The users # is shown, along with their name, password, date they were last on, all the board letters they have access to, total uploads, total downloads, total messages left by them, total times they have called, total times they have dropped the carrier and the type of user they are (M-MAIN SYSOP, S-Special etc.)

Each user will be displayed on a line like this with approx 20 per page. USEREDIT will then stop and you may press [ENTER] to continue or [BREAK] to return to the main menu.

2 List Users to Printer

Pressing [2] will send the total users file to the printer. The format which is sent is exactly the same as the previous section. If you require printing to be aborted, press the [BREAK] key during the run.

3 Search for a User

Pressing [3] will allow you to search and display (in the format shown previously) any individual user in the file. USEREDIT will prompt for the name to search for and if located will display it on the screen. If you just press [ENTER] without typing in a name, you will return to the main menu.

Optional User Delete

Should the users name be found and displayed with their information you have the option of deleting that user, or pressing any key to search for another user. If you decide to delete the displayed user, there is no recovery should you change your mind unless you abort and restart from the main menu.

4 Clearing Upload Count

At some point in time you will probably lose track of the number of uploads users have sent to your system. i.e. you will have new users joining from time to time and you may want to start everyone from fresh. You may even want to run a contest to see who can send the most uploads in a certain time period.

Regardless pressing [4] will remove everyone's upload counter.

5 Clearing the Download Count

Almost everyone who calls a bulletin board wants files of some description. I don't imagine yours will be any different. Therefore from time to time you may want to zero out this field so you can readily see who your heavy file abusers are and perhaps encourage them to send some files to you.

6 Clearing the Messages Counter

By using this counter you can readily see who are some of the more prolific message mongers. Pressing [6] will clear everyone's messages left counter. Don't be surprised that it always seems the SYSOP leaves more messages than anyone else.

7 Clearing the Dropped Carrier Counter

If FastPlus knows who an individual is (i.e. they have signed on), and they drop the carrier rather than terminate properly, this counter will be increased by 1. By clearing this counter from time to time, you can tell who is having trouble or just being ignorant. From here, you could check that users log on the printer and if they are using a high baud rate 1200 or higher, you could suggest they stay at 300 to ensure more reliable communications. Or you may want to restrict them entirely from the system.

8 Clearing the Total Calls Counter

FastPlus will keep track of each time a caller signs onto your BBS. You may want to clear this total from time to time to see how many calls you get over a certain time period.

9 Sort the Users File

Pressing [9] will allow you nine (9) different way to sort your user file for different formats for printing or listing to the video. Sorting usually takes in the order of 1-2 seconds total. Note only single field sorts are supported. This is a utility program, not a database. If you require more and have some BASIC or machine language programming ability, examine the file formats in the technical section and write your own specialized routines. If you do this, I would be interested in knowing about it.

- <1> Sort by User Number
- <2> Sort by Date (old->new)
- <3> Sort by Date (new->old)
- <4> Sort by Total Uploads (M>L)
- <5> Sort by Total Downloads (M>L)
- <6> Sort by Total Messages (M>L)
- <7> Sort by Total Messages (L>M)
- <8> Sort by Total Calls (M>L)
- <9> Sort by Total Carriers Dropped
- <F3> Exit to Main Menu

Pressing the number or function key which resides within the "<>" signs will invoke the corresponding function.

1 Sort by User Numbers

Pressing [1] will sort all the users by their associated numbers from lowest to highest.

2 Sort By Date Last On

Pressing [2] will sort all users by the date they were last on. Dates will go from oldest to most recent (newest).

3 Sort by Date Last On

Pressing [3] will sort all users by the date they were last on, but will go from most recent to oldest.

4 Sort by Total Uploads

Pressing [4] will sort all users according to the number of uploads they have sent to your bulletin board. The list will go from most to least.

5 Sort by Total Downloads

Pressing [5] will sort all users according to the number of times they have downloaded from your bulletin board. The list will go from most to least.

6 Sort by Total Messages Left

Pressing [6] will sort all users according to the total number of messages they have left on your BBS. The list will go from most to least.

7 Sort by Total Messages Left

Pressing [7] will sort all users according to the total number of messages they have left on your BBS. The list will go least to most.

8 Sort by Total Calls

Pressing [8] will sort all users according to the number of times they have called and signed onto your bulletin board. The list will go from most to least.

9 Sort by Total Carriers Dropped

Pressing [9] will sort all users according to the number of time they have not terminated properly from your BBS. The list will go from most to least.

F3 Exit to the Main Menu

Pressing [F3] will return you to the main menu.

A Delete all Restricted Users

Pressing [A] will instantly delete all users who you have marked as restricted from the SYSOP MENU in FastPlus.

B Delete User by Year

Pressing [B] will allow you to type in a 2-digit year and all users in your file who last called in that matching year and which are not marked as spcl users will be deleted. There is no way to recover from this mass deletion so make sure of your typing when you enter the year.

The format for entry requires only 2 digits so that the year 1986 would be entered as 86.

A hardcopy is also selectable so that any user who match the year in question, will be printed along with their password so if you inadvertently remove one, you can reinstate them.

C Delete User by Month

Pressing [C] will allow you to type in a 2-digit month and all users in your file who last called in that matching month and which are not marked as spcl users will be deleted. There is no way to recover from this mass deletion so make sure of your typing when you enter the year.

The format for entry requires only 2 digits so that the month February would be entered as 02.

A hardcopy is also selectable so that any user who match the month in question, will be printed along with their password so if you inadvertently remove one, you can reinstate them.

<D> Display ALL Remote Sysops

This command will display on the screen all the users whom you have given Remote Sysop capabilities to.

<E> Display ALL Special Users

This option will display all users whom are marked as a special user (in the FastPlus II Sysop Edit Menu).

<F> Display ALL Users with Mail

This option was provided so that you can see at any time the users who have outstanding mail. For example if you have a user who hasn't called in a few months but you are not able to delete them because of the mail option, you now know who they are and can probably delete them anyway since you probably removed their messages sometime ago.

INFOEDIT/CMD

INFOEDIT/CMD is one of the supplied utilities to help you better manage your FastPlus BBS system. It works in conjunction with the file created by FastPlus called "SYSINFO/FPF" and the FastPlus/CMD program.

When to use INFOEDIT

The time to use this utility is when you notice an unexpected change in the numbers FastPlus is reporting when leaving messages, the actual number of callers etc. All of this information is contained in the SYSINFO file and like any file, can be corrupted and partially disable your BBS. With INFOEDIT you can quickly change or restore certain information to get you back up and running.

A second usage for INFOEDIT is if you want to change around boards. They are created sequentially by FPCONFIG and after having created them and using them for a while you may want to remove one. This presents no problem if the board you want to remove is the last one created, but if it's not, then this utility will help out.

INFOEDIT Display

Start INFOEDIT by typing in that filename from the DOS Ready prompt. It will look on all your mounted drives for the SYSINFO/FPF file and if found, load it and present the following display (your data may be different than what is shown).

Sub-Board	Total Calls	Total Msgs	Low Msg#	High Msg#	Next Msg#	Total Users	Total Dnlds
A:	9010	42	1306	1661	1662	293	91

Notice that each board has a specific line upon which information which pertains directly to it is displayed. Some of the information can be changed by using the edit options at the bottom of the screen while others are just reported for your own interest. Although not shown in the display above, a graphic hand will be displayed beside the A: board line.

Selecting a Board Line to Edit

Use the [UP] / [DOWN] arrow keys to move the hand which points at the board letter. Which ever letter (line) this hand points to will be affected by some of the editing commands. When the hand is not used for editing, you will be prompted for the board letter to use.

The hand is constantly in a wrap mode. i.e. if you go off the top of the display it will reappear on the bottom board letter and vice versa.

Changing the Total Calls

Use the hand to position to the board you want to change and press your 1 key. INFOEDIT will respond with :

Enter # of Total Calls :

Enter a DECIMAL number for the calls you want to start with. If you press [ENTER] without entering anything it will be assumed that you want it reset to zero. Pressing [BREAK] for the prompt will abort the change mode and change anything.

Changing the Next Msg#

Shown to reset numbers are the low msg# and the high msg#. The next msg# should always be higher (by at least 1) than the high msg#. If it is not, your users will not be able to retrieve NEW messages since the numbering order will not be sequential any more.

Also if you notice that any board has a low msg# which is higher than the HIGH msg# (or vice versa), you already have a problem. To cure it, you'll have to run FastPlus and switch to that board and use the FORWARD mode of message retrieval and REMOVE the messages which are out of order. From there, exit the board (which will save the message base) and then exit FastPlus (don't forget to save using the F1 before shutting down) and run INFOEDIT again to correct this problem.

If you're a capable disk zapper you may actually change the message number in the BOARD/FPF file (see the information in the technical reference section on the format of a message). However you will need a working knowledge of hexadecimal and a file editing tool. I strongly suggest a back in case you change something which wasn't supposed to be changed.

The low message number must always be just that. The next message number must always be higher than the high message number. Failure to have this properly set will no doubt result in a farked message section which will take considerable time and energy to restore if allowed to continue.

Clearing a Board

This command is included for only one reason. If you have a board message base which was damaged and you didn't have a backup, you can CLEAR than board and FastPlus will rebuild it's information. If you move a board from it present position to another and use FPCONFIG to delete a board, you may use this option to clear all the board numbers. It has no other use other than to reset all numbers to zero in the hopes that FastPlus will restore some of them correctly (which it usually will).

When using this option INFOEDIT will always prompt to make sure you want to clear it.

Are you sure you want to CLEAR (Y/N) :

Swapping a Board

This command is used to swap the positions of two different boards. For example, if you had 5 boards active (boards A-E) and you wanted to delete board C, using FPCONFIG you would normally have to delete all the way back to board C and then reenter the information for board D and E. Remember that FPCONFIG only deletes from the highest board to the lower sequentially.

With this option you can swap boards E and C in our example and then use FPCONFIG to delete board E.

Exchange Source Board (A-P) :
Exchange Destination Board (A-P) :

Whenever you swap a board, INFOEDIT will change all the entries for the board name, size, lines, screen, and drives for that particular board within FastPlus for you as well. This why it also reads in the FastPlus/CMD configuration file.

Moving a Board

This command is mainly used to move a board from one position to another and overlay an existing board. It will not delete the information from where it was moved but will simply duplicate it at the destination selected.

For example if you had a board which was fairly inactive in the middle of your board list but the last board in the list was very active, you may move the last one to the middle position and then use FPCONFIG to delete the last entry. Additionally you may also move a board to an unused position to save it for a later date (and then move it back).

Move Source Board (A-P) :
Move Destination Board (A-P) :

Again, INFOEDIT will also move all the information required by that board.

Save and Exit

Pressing F1 will save both the SYSINFO/FPF and FASTPLUS configuration files back to disk. If you receive an error of any kind during the save of either of these files. Don't use the files, use a backup copy. You can never be sure of what was written and what wasn't.

Restart

Pressing F2 will allow you to cancel all changes made and restart by loading the unaltered files again. If you are not sure about what you changed, better to start again than risk corrupting your work with the incorrect data.

Exit

Pressing F3 will cancel all changes and exit to DOS Ready.

Chapter 10

USEREDIT/CMD

There are two support programs on your MAIN disk with FastPlus. One was the FPCONFIG/CMD program which is used for customizing your system. The second is the USEREDIT/CMD program which will allow you some additional

capabilities for editing users and for displaying FastPlus statistics.

Running USEREDIT/CMD

To execute the USEREDIT program you must first have the FastPlus file USERS/FPF available for USEREDIT to work with. If it is not found, you will return to TRS/LSDOS Ready. If it is found, USEREDIT will load the entire file into memory to work with and present you with a command list.

Pressing the letter, function key or number which resides within the "<>" signs will invoke the corresponding option.

Maximum Users Display

Whenever you run FastPlus or USEREDIT, the maximum users you are permitted is always displayed. In FastPlus the number is shown on the Board Line, in USEREDIT it's at the top of the main menu.

This number reflects any drivers or memory which is reserved for your particular computer configuration. For example if you had a hard disk driver which required some high memory, the maximum users allowed would be smaller than the number shown in our menu example window.

A word of warning. Before you set up FastPlus, install all the filters and drivers you require, then run FastPlus. If you continually change your system size, FastPlus will no doubt become confused and may not work at all. I also further suggest that you always use the same system configuration for running FastPlus and USEREDIT (since they both figure out how much memory you have and the size the users file).

Clear a Board Flag

Pressing [0] (zero) will allow you to turn off access to any board for all users (MAIN SYSOP excluded). For example if you had three boards active and you wanted to shut one down, you would first use the FPCONFIG to deactivate the last board, and then use USEREDIT to turn off access to all who have it. USEREDIT will prompt you for the board letter. Be careful in your selection because it will only take a second or two to clear any board access flag. If you made the wrong selection, press the [F2] to restart fresh.

List Users to the Video

Pressing [1] will list all of the users in the file to the video display. They will fill one page at a time and you may press any key to advance to the next page, or press [BREAK] to return to the main menu.

An example of the listing format is as follows:

#	Users Name	Pswrd	Date	Access	Up	Dwn	Msgs	Call	Cd	T
25	MEL PATRICK	TRS80	11/28/86	ABCDEFGHIJKLMN	OP	1	0	21	1	0 M

The users # is shown, along with their name, password, date they were last on, all the board letters they have access to, total uploads, total downloads, total messages left by them, total times they have called, total times they have dropped the carrier and the type of user they are (M-MAIN SYSOP, S-Special etc.)

Each user will be displayed on a line like this with approx 20 per page. USEREDIT will then stop and you may press [ENTER] to continue or [BREAK] to return to the main menu.

List Users to Printer

Pressing [2] will send the total users file to the printer. The format which is sent is exactly the same as the previous section. If you require printing to be aborted, press the [BREAK] key during the run.

Search for a User

Pressing [3] will allow you to search and display (in the format shown previously) any individual user in the file. USEREDIT will prompt for the name to search for and if located will display it on the screen. If you just press [ENTER] without typing in a name, you will return to the main menu.

Optional User Delete

Should the users name be found and displayed with their information you have the option of deleting that user, or pressing any key to search for another user. If you decide to delete the displayed user, there is no recovery should you change your mind unless you abort and restart from the main menu.

Clearing Upload Count

At some point in time you will probably lose track of the number of uploads users have sent to your system. i.e. you will have new users joining from time to time and you may want to start everyone from fresh. You may even want to run a contest to see who can send the most uploads in a certain time period.

Regardless pressing [4] will remove everyone's upload counter.

Clearing the Download Count

Almost everyone who calls a bulletin board wants files of some description. I don't imagine yours will be any different. Therefore from time to time you may want to zero out this field so you can readily see who your heavy file abusers are and perhaps encourage them to send some files to you.

Clearing the Messages Counter

By using this counter you can readily see who are some of the more prolific message mongers. Pressing [6] will clear everyone's messages left counter. Don't be surprised that it always seems the SYSOP leaves more messages than anyone else.

Clearing the Dropped Carrier Counter

If FastPlus knows who an individual is (i.e. they have signed on), and they drop the carrier rather than terminate properly, this counter will be increased by 1. By clearing this counter from time to time, you can tell who is having trouble or just being ignorant. From here, you could check that users log on the printer and if they are using a high baud rate 1200 or higher, you could suggest they stay at 300 to ensure more reliable communications. Or you may want to restrict them entirely from the system.

Clearing the Total Calls Counter

FastPlus will keep track of each time a caller signs onto your BBS. You may want to clear this total from time to time to see how many calls you get over a certain time period.

Sort the Users File

Pressing [9] will allow you nine (9) different way to sort your user file for different formats for printing or listing to the video. Sorting usually takes in the order of 1-2 seconds total. Note only single field sorts are supported. This is a utility program, not a database. If you require more and have some BASIC or machine language programming ability, examine the file formats in the technical section and write your own specialized routines. If you do this, I would be interested in knowing about it.

Pressing the number or function key which resides within the "<>" signs will invoke the corresponding function.

Sort by User Numbers

Pressing [1] will sort all the users by their associated numbers from lowest to highest.

Sort By Date Last On

Pressing [2] will sort all users by the date they were last on. Dates will go from oldest to most recent (newest).

Sort by Date Last On

Pressing [3] will sort all users by the date they were last on, but will go from most recent to oldest.

Sort by Total Uploads

Pressing [4] will sort all users according to the number of uploads they have sent to your bulletin board. The list will go from most to least.

Sort by Total Downloads

Pressing [5] will sort all users according to the number of times they have downloaded from your bulletin board. The list will go from most to least.

Sort by Total Messages Left

Pressing [6] will sort all users according to the total number of messages they have left on your BBS. The list will go from most to least.

Sort by Total Messages Left

Pressing [7] will sort all users according to the total number of messages they have left on your BBS. The list will go least to most.

Sort by Total Calls

Pressing [8] will sort all users according to the number of times they have called and signed onto your bulletin board. The list will go from most to least.

Sort by Total Carriers Dropped

Pressing [9] will sort all users according to the number of times they have not terminated properly from your BBS. The list will go from most to least.

Exit to the Main Menu

Pressing [F3] will return you to the main menu.

Delete all Restricted Users

Pressing [A] will instantly delete all users who you have marked as restricted from the SYSOP MENU in FastPlus.

Delete User by Year

Pressing [B] will allow you to type in a 2-digit year and all users in your file who last called in that matching year and which are not marked as spcl users will be deleted. There is no way to recover from this mass deletion so make sure of your typing when you enter the year.

The format for entry requires only 2 digits so that the year 1986 would be entered as 86.

A hardcopy is also selectable so that any user who match the year in question, will be printed along with their password so if you inadvertently remove one, you can reinstate them.

Delete User by Month

Pressing [C] will allow you to type in a 2-digit month and all users in your file who last called in that matching month and which are not marked as spcl users will be deleted. There is no way to recover from this mass deletion so make sure of your typing when you enter the year.

The format for entry requires only 2 digits so that the month February would be entered as 02.

A hardcopy is also selectable so that any user who match the month in question, will be printed along with their password so if you inadvertently remove one, you can reinstate them.

Update User File on Disk & Exit

Pressing the [F1] will take the current user file in memory and store it back on the disk ready for use next time by FastPlus. If you have sorted the file in any order it will be stored in that order.

I suggest that you just use the sort when you want a printout of the users file in a certain order, and that you use this update command when deleting restricted users, clear counter or clearing board flags.

It will not matter to FastPlus if you do not follow this procedure but if you have more than one MAIN SYSOP for example and you sort and resave the file it can create a headache or two.

Cancel All Changes and Restart

Pressing [F2] will ignore any changes you have made to the file in memory and reload the original file from the disk. Of course if you have saved the modified file, USEREDIT will only reload that file.

This command is usually for those “oops” occasions we all seem to have from time to time.

Exit to TRS/LSDOS Ready

Pressing [F3] will simply exit USEREDIT without saving anything.

Using USEREDIT Productively

Through the careful use of USEREDIT and the versatile sort routines therein you can obtain many different types of simple statistical printouts. It can help you tailor your system to your users but keeping track of the most used functions.

