ATARI

THE LEARNING PHONE™
Access Software for
PLATO® Homelink™ Service

EDUCATIONAL SERIES

For ATARI XE™, XL™, 400™, and 800™
Personal Computers with a minimum of 16K RAM.
Requires: Modem, Subscription to PLATO Homelink
Service, Major Credit Card.
PLATO HOMELINK SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Local Plato Access Telephone Number: ____________________________

Your Plato Name: ____________________________

Your Plato Group: ____________________________

Your Plato Password: ____________________________

ATARI, 400, 600XL, 800, 830, 835, 1030, XM301, and The Learning Phone are trademarks or registered trademarks of Atari Corp.

PLATO and Homelink are trademarks or registered trademarks of Control Data Corporation.

Bizcomp 1012 VersaModem is a trademark of Bizcomp Computer Company.

Microbit MPP1000C is a trademark of Microbit Peripheral Products, Inc.

No reproduction of this document or any portion of its contents is allowed without specific written permission of Atari Corp., Sunnyvale, CA 94086.

© 1985 Atari Corp. All Rights Reserved.
THE LEARNING PHONE™
USER’S GUIDE

ATARI® Access Software for
Plato® Homelink™ Service
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Meet The Learning Phone 1

Subscribing to the PLATO Homelink Service 5

Making the Connection 9
  * Direct Connect Modems 9
  * 300 and 1200 Baud RS232 Modems 10
  * Microbit MPP1000C Modems 11

Signing On and Off 15

Selecting a PLATO Menu Item 19
  * Menu Instructions 19
  * Main Menu Items 20

Atari Function Keys 25
  * Function Keys Translation Table 26

Special Screen Displays and Printing Features 29

Using a Joystick 33
  * Executing Function Key Commands 33
  * Simulating the Touch Screen 34
  * Zooming in on the Screen 34
Games and Educational Programs 37
   Homelink Catalog  39
   Etc.  42

Electronic Mail 45
   Personal Mail  45
   General Notes Bulletin Boards  52

The Talk Feature 63
   The User List  63
   Paging Another User  65
   Answering a Page  67
   Refusing a Page  68

Getting Help 71
   On Line  71
   By Letter  72
   By Phone  72

Helpful Hints 75
MEET THE LEARNING PHONE

The Learning Phone links your ATARI Computer to one of the biggest electronic information and communication networks in the country—Control Data Corporation’s PLATO network. A subscription to the PLATO Homelink service—a special service for home computer users—puts you in touch with hundreds of interactive games and educational programs, as well as with a powerful telecommunications system that you can use to send and receive electronic mail. You can also design your own graphics with PLATO, edit and arrange text in documents and letters, and carry on conversations with other PLATO users right on your screen.

PLATO began over 15 years ago as an instructional computing system available only on specially designed Control Data Corporation terminals. Atari is the first microcomputer company to develop and market a software cartridge that allows home computer users to access PLATO. The Learning Phone cartridge offers the advantage of an exclusive zoom feature for viewing close-ups of PLATO’s intricate display screens. And The Learning Phone access software is compatible with all ATARI Computers, modems, and printers.

Three brochures are enclosed with your software cartridge. PLATO Service Offerings describes the PLATO Homelink service charges (an annual subscription fee and an hourly rate for using the service) and the special evening and weekend hours that the service is available. Information on obtaining additional PLATO services such as vocational education courses and industry training courses is also provided. Telephone Numbers for Accessing PLATO Homelink Service provides you with your local Homelink access number. And PLATO Homelink Program Titles lists by title each of the Homelink programs.
This guide provides a step-by-step introduction to the PLATO Homelink service. The first sections are your access instructions on how to use the system. The guide begins with sections on how to subscribe, sign on and off the network, and how to select programs from the PLATO menu. The section on Atari Function Keys describes how to perform different functions in PLATO programs with your ATARI Computer. Special features of The Learning Phone are described in the section on Special Screen Displays and Printing Features. Here, you’ll find out how to change the characteristics of your screen, zoom in for a close-up of your screen, and print text from any PLATO screen display. The section on Using a Joystick explains how to use your joystick with your computer to execute function key commands, simulate a touch screen, and zoom in and scroll a close-up of the screen.

The final sections of the guide describe how to access and use three important PLATO features: Games and Educational Programs (from learning games for preschoolers to lessons on quantum numbers in physics), Electronic Mail (for reading and writing personal notes or notes on an electronic bulletin board), and the Talk feature (for on-line communication with another PLATO user). The procedures for using these features are explained in detail.

The last two sections of the guide provide some hints on using the system more effectively and whom to contact if you need more assistance.

Altogether, it is estimated that there are over 12,000 hours worth of programs offered by the PLATO service; several hundred hours are available to the Homelink subscriber. Short of describing every PLATO feature and program, this guide is intended to get you started on your own exploration of the PLATO system. Use the general guidelines contained here, and begin your adventure with PLATO.
SUBSCRIBING TO
THE PLATO HOMELINK
SERVICE

Before you can use The Learning Phone, you need a subscription to the PLATO Homelink service. The enclosed brochure, *PLATO Service Offerings*, gives information on the Homelink service. Homelink is the most economical service and is provided especially for home computer users. This service is available nationwide during the hours specified below.

To subscribe to the Homelink service fill out the enclosed PLATO Enrollment Card and read the instructions on how to receive your introductory enrollment offer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Zone</th>
<th>Weekday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday &amp; Holidays (excluding Christmas and New Year's Day)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>6PM-4AM</td>
<td>6AM-4AM</td>
<td>6AM-12PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>6PM-3AM</td>
<td>5AM-3AM</td>
<td>5AM-11PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain</td>
<td>6PM-2AM</td>
<td>4AM-2AM</td>
<td>4AM-10PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific</td>
<td>6PM-1AM</td>
<td>3AM-1AM</td>
<td>3AM-9PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When you receive your PLATO Name, Group, and Password, write this information on the inside front cover of this guide. You will need it each time you sign on to the PLATO Homelink network.
Refer to the enclosed brochure, *Telephone Numbers for Accessing PLATO Homelink Service*, for your local PLATO Access Telephone Number. Write this telephone number on the inside front cover of this guide.

Any billing questions should be addressed to:

Control Data Corporation
PLATO Homelink Offer
P.O. Box 1305
McLean, Virginia 22102

Or call the PLATO Hotline:

(703) 821-6888 (in Virginia, Alaska, and Hawaii)
(800) 328-7104 (in all other States)
MAKING THE CONNECTION

To access the PLATO Homelink network with The Learning Phone, you need to have a modem hooked up to your computer. The Learning Phone operates with three different types of modems:

- Direct connect modems, such as ATARI 835™, ATARI 1030™, or ATARI XM301™ modems.
- 300 and 1200 baud RS232 modems that require an interface module, such as ATARI® 830™, Bizcomp 1012 VersaModem™, Hayes Smartmodem, and Racal-Vadic VA3451 modems.
- Microbit MPP1000C™ modem.

The procedure for connecting with PLATO Homelink is slightly different for each type of modem. After you've identified which modem you are using, follow the section which applies to your modem type. (If you are unsure of your modem type, refer to the owner's manual that came with your modem.)

Direct Connect Modems

- Connect your modem to your computer and telephone line as explained in your modem owner’s manual.
- Turn on your modem.
- Insert The Learning Phone cartridge in the cartridge slot on the computer console (the left cartridge slot on the ATARI 800™ Computer).
- Turn on your computer. You will see the following message on your television screen or monitor:

  WELCOME TO THE LEARNING PHONE
  COPYRIGHT 1984 ATARI
  After the phone has a high pitch tone PRESS RETURN!
• Lift the receiver of your telephone and dial your local PLATO access number.
• When you hear the high-pitched tone, press RETURN on the computer keyboard.
• Hang up the receiver.

If you have successfully connected with PLATO, you will see this symbol on your screen: //. The double slash marks represent the dial tone. You are now ready to sign on. See the chapter, Signing On and Off, for instructions.

If the dial tone symbol does not appear on your screen, repeat the steps for making the connection. Sometimes you have to dial the number a few times before you make contact.

300 and 1200 Baud RS232 Modems with Interface Module

• Connect your modem to your computer, interface module, and telephone line as explained in your modem owner’s manual.
• Turn on your interface module.
• Turn on your modem.
• Insert The Learning Phone cartridge in the cartridge slot on the computer console (the left cartridge slot on the ATARI 800™ Computer).
• Turn on your computer. You will see the following message on your television screen or monitor:

```
WELCOME TO THE LEARNING PHONE
COPYRIGHT 1984 ATARI
1200 baud
```
Insert The Learning Phone cartridge in the cartridge slot on the computer console (the left cartridge slot on the ATARI 800™ Computer).

Turn on your computer. You will see the following message on your television screen or monitor:

```
WELCOME TO THE LEARNING PHONE
COPYRIGHT 1984 ATARI
Microbit 300 baud
```

If you have a printer which requires an interface module, the message "1200 baud" will appear on your screen instead of "Microbit 300 baud." Press [OPTION] and [M] simultaneously on the computer keyboard to select Microbit 300 baud.

Lift the receiver of your telephone and dial your local PLATO access number.

When you hear the high-pitched tone, set the modem switch to "DATA."

Hang up the receiver.

If you have successfully connected with PLATO, you will see this symbol on your screen: //. The double slash marks represent the dial tone. You are now ready to sign on. See the chapter, Signing On and Off, for instructions.

If the dial tone symbol does not appear on your screen, repeat the steps for making the connection. Sometimes you have to dial the number a few times before you make contact.
If you have a 1200 baud RS232 modem, skip to the next step (dialing your PLATO number). If you have a 300 baud RS232 modem, press [OPTION] and 3 simultaneously on the computer keyboard. The message "300 baud" will appear on the screen. (To change back to 1200 baud, press [OPTION] and 1 simultaneously.)

- Lift the receiver of your telephone and dial your local PLATO access number. If you’re using a smart modem, such as the Hayes Smartmodem, you may dial from the keyboard. Please refer to your modem owner’s manual for further instructions.

- When you hear the high-pitched tone:
  - on an acoustic modem (such as the ATARI 830™): place the telephone receiver in the modem coupler.
  - on a nonacoustic modem (such as the Racal-Vadic): set the modem switch to "DATA ACCESS," then hang up the receiver.

If you have successfully connected with PLATO, you will see this symbol on your screen: //. The double slash marks represent the dial tone. You are now ready to sign on. See the chapter, Signing On and Off, for instructions.

If the dial tone symbol does not appear on your screen, repeat the steps for making the connection. Sometimes you have to dial the number a few times before you make contact.

*Note:* If double characters appear on the screen, you are getting an echo. To eliminate the problem, press [OPTION] and 0 (zero) simultaneously on the computer keyboard.

### Microbit MPP1000C Modems

- Connect your modem to your computer and telephone line as explained in your modem owner’s manual.
- Set your modem switch to "VOICE."
SIGNING ON AND OFF

Signing On

When you have made the connection to PLATO, you will see this symbol on your screen: // The double slash marks represent the dial tone and indicate that you can now sign on.

- Press RETURN on the computer keyboard. You will see the following greeting on the screen:

```
WELCOME TO THE LEARNING PHONES
COPYRIGHT 1984 ATARI
NET (5-digit number)
PLEASE SIGN ON--
```

- Type: pca
  This is your system name for PLATO Central System A.
  Use DELETE/BACKSPACE to type over any errors.
- Press RETURN. You will be prompted for your PLATO subscription information.
Welcome to the "pca" system, a Control Data customer service.

Tuesday, November 20, 1984
7:33 pm CST

Type your PLATO name, then press NEXT.
>

PLATO ® is a trademark of Control Data Corporation.

- Type your PLATO name to answer the first prompt and press [RETURN].
- Type your PLATO group to answer the second prompt. Hold down [SHIFT] and [START], then press [S].
- Type your PLATO password to answer the third prompt and press [RETURN]. Your password will not appear on the screen as you type it. Instead, you will see a series of x’s. This is a security measure to prevent someone else from using your PLATO subscription.

  Note: If you have not changed your password in the past 60 days, a reminder message will appear on the screen. Changing your password every 60 days is an added safety feature to prevent someone else from using your PLATO subscription. If you don’t want to change your password, press [RETURN].

- Press [RETURN] to view the PLATO Main Menu.
Once you are signed on to the PLATO network, the Main Menu will appear on the screen. The next section of this guide describes each Main Menu item and how to make selections.

**Signing Off**

You should sign off whenever you are not using the PLATO service to avoid unnecessary charges. If your telephone connection is interrupted, the PLATO service will automatically sign you off and charges are stopped.

*To sign off:*

- Hold down **SHIFT** and **START** and press **5**. You will return to the Main Menu.
- Hold down **SHIFT** and **START** and press **5** again to sign off. When you see the double slash marks indicating the dial tone, you are disconnected from the PLATO network.
PLATO’s Main Menu appears on the left side of the screen immediately after you’ve signed on.

1. **Type a letter:**
   - a User Information
   - b Electronic Mail
   - c Text Processing
   - d Graphics Design
   - e PLATO Programs
   - f File Management
   - g Reference Aids
   - h Other Features

2. **PLATO Homelink**
   - i Talk
   - j Help
   - k User Menu
   - l Leave

3. **Current Time:** 7:33
   **Connect Time:** 0:00

4. **(TERMINAL TICKLER)**
   - A pipe gives a nice man time to think...
   - ...and a feel something to stick in his mouth.

5. **HOMELINK available all day Thursday and Friday!**

1. **Menu Instructions**

The 12 Main Menu items are identified by letters from a to l. To select a menu item, just type its letter. After you select an item, a submenu will appear on the right side of the screen. Each submenu item is also identified by a letter and selected in the same way. Selecting a submenu item often takes you to a third menu which numerically lists all the available programs or files by title. Selections are made by typing the number of the program you want. You can always cancel a selection by choosing another menu selection from the Main Menu.
You’ll find that PLATO is extremely easy to use, since all the instructions you need are built into each program. Instructions for using PLATO can be accessed from the Main Menu by pressing \[ J \] for help. When you need help within a PLATO program or menu, just press \[ \text{START} \] and \[ H \] (for help) simultaneously. Specific instructions will usually be displayed explaining how to proceed.

2. Main Menu Items

You will probably want to explore each PLATO menu item on your own. Here is a brief description of each Main Menu item to introduce you to some of the features of PLATO.

*User Information* introduces you to PLATO and provides the latest information on network features, operating rules, rates and billing, hours of operation, and how to get help.

*Electronic Mail* lets you communicate electronically with other PLATO users by sending and receiving Personal Notes and posting General Notes on an electronic bulletin board. See the chapter, Electronic Mail, for instructions on accessing and using this PLATO feature.

*Text Processing*, similar to word processing and idea processing, lets you organize text in documents or letters. You can enter text, move sections of text, and edit text.

*Graphics Design* is a tool for designing text characters and for creating your own graphics and textual displays that include lines, boxes, circles, arcs, and other shapes and symbols.

*PLATO Programs* contains a library of almost 600 games and educational programs that include topics from general interest to formal education, for preschoolers to seniors. See the chapter, Games and Educational Programs, for instructions on accessing PLATO’s games and courseware.
**File Management** is used to store documents, graphics, notes, or other kinds of information created in other PLATO files.

**Reference Aids** provides help lessons on text processing, graphics design, and programming.

**Other Features** lets you access the User List (a list of PLATO users) for electronic communication, Terminal Tidbits for a whimsical message from PLATO, and Alarm for setting an audible timer. You can also use this menu item to create a customized User Menu.

**Talk** lets you communicate on-line with another PLATO user, similar to a telephone conversation. See the chapter, The Talk Feature, for instructions on using this PLATO feature.

**Help** provides you with assistance in using the features of the PLATO network.

**User Menu** lets you personalize the Main Menu by adding menu items that you use frequently. For example, if you play Scrabble often but never use File Management, you can replace File Management with the Scrabble game. The User Menu lets you move between the customized menu and the Main Menu. Instructions for setting up your customized menu are available when you access Other Features.

**Leave** lets you exit the PLATO network.

**3. Time Indicators**

The Current Time indicates the local time (Central) at PLATO’s central system headquarters. The Connect Time indicates the minutes and hours you have been connected to the PLATO Homelink network. Check the Connect Time whenever you return to the Main Menu or exit the network to determine your billing charges in advance.
4. Terminal Tickler
You’ll be greeted with a joke or bit of whimsy from PLATO every time you access the system. The Terminal Tickler changes every day.

5. PLATO Message
Sometimes, special messages concerning PLATO Homelink service appear at the bottom of your screen. The message “HOMELINK available all day Thursday and Friday” appeared shortly before Thanksgiving.

Before you can use the PLATO programs and files cataloged in the menus, you need to translate the PLATO function keys to the Atari keyboard. This information is given in the section on Atari Function Keys.
ATARI FUNCTION KEYS

PLATO was designed to be used with a Control Data keyboard. This keyboard has special function keys which are not on the Atari keyboard. But all of the PLATO function commands can be generated on the Atari keyboard. Most of them are generated by holding down \texttt{(START)} and pressing the first letter of the PLATO function key. For example, if a PLATO program prompts you to press ‘‘BACK’’ to view the previous screen, press \texttt{(START)} and \texttt{(B)} simultaneously on your Atari keyboard.

The ‘‘SHIFTED’’ function key commands used in PLATO can be used on the Atari keyboard by pressing \texttt{(SHIFT)} or \texttt{(SELECT)} while pressing the two keys that translate the PLATO function key. For example, to generate the PLATO ‘‘SHIFTED BACK’’ command, hold down \texttt{(SHIFT)} or \texttt{(SELECT)} while pressing \texttt{(START)} and \texttt{(B)}.

All PLATO function keys are translated to the Atari keys in the Function Keys Translation Table on the following pages. Since these keys have different functions in different PLATO programs, prompts appear frequently on the screen advising you of the key functions in that particular program. However, some keys perform the same functions across most PLATO programs. These keys are listed below.

\begin{itemize}
  \item \texttt{START H} gives you help
  \item \texttt{START B} takes you back to the previous screen
  \item \texttt{RETURN} advances you to the next screen
  \item \texttt{SHIFT START S} stops the program and returns you to the Main Menu
\end{itemize}

When performing a keystroke command, keep in mind that response time—from your input to the computer’s output—varies considerably depending on your type of modem (300 or 1200 baud) and the system load on the PLATO network (how busy the network is at any time). Allow time for the computer to respond to a given command before giving any additional commands.
## Function Keys Translation Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLATO KEYS</th>
<th>ATARI KEYS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Commands</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANSWER</td>
<td>START A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BACK</td>
<td>START B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPY</td>
<td>START C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATA</td>
<td>START D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDIT</td>
<td>START E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HELP</td>
<td>START H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAB</td>
<td>START L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEXT</td>
<td>RETURN or START N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STOP</td>
<td>START S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TERM</td>
<td>START T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SQUARE</td>
<td>START &gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUB</td>
<td>START =</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUP</td>
<td>START -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICRO</td>
<td>or A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Mathematical and Geometric Commands** | |
| SUMMATION    | START +           |
| DIVIDE       | START /           |
| MULTIPLY     | START *           |
| ASSIGNMENT   | START <           |
### Function Keys Translation Table — Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLATO KEYS</th>
<th>ATARI KEYS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shifted Commands</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIFTED BACK</td>
<td>SHIFT START B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIFTED COPY</td>
<td>SHIFT START C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIFTED DATA</td>
<td>SHIFT START D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIFTED EDIT</td>
<td>SHIFT START E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIFTED HELP</td>
<td>SHIFT START H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIFTED LAB</td>
<td>SHIFT START L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIFTED NEXT</td>
<td>SHIFT RETURN or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIFTED STOP</td>
<td>SHIFT START S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIFTED SQUARE</td>
<td>SHIFT START &gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIFTED SUB</td>
<td>SHIFT START =</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIFTED SUP</td>
<td>SHIFT START -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FONT</td>
<td>SHIFT or SHIFT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special Character Commands</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DELTA (Δ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTERSECT (∩)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNION (∪)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIFTED ASSIGNMENT ARROW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SPECIAL SCREEN DISPLAYS AND PRINTING FEATURES

You have several options for changing the look of your PLATO screen display.

*Note:* When using [OPTION] to change a screen display, be careful not to accidently press [RESET]. This will disconnect you from the PLATO network and sign you off.

*To change the background color of the screen:*

- Press [OPTION] and [C] simultaneously.
- Press [SELECT] to change the color. Each time you press [SELECT] the background color changes.

You can also adjust the dials on your color television or monitor to change the background color. (Some users recommend turning the color off completely for best readability.)

*To change the background brightness of the screen:*

- Press [OPTION] and [B] simultaneously.
- Press [SELECT] to change the intensity of the background color. Each time you press [SELECT] the brightness changes.

If you have a monochrome monitor or black-and-white television with a color monitor cable, you’ll want to eliminate the vertical stripes that appear on your screen. Press [SELECT] several times until the stripes disappear.

*To change the text brightness on the screen:*

- Press [OPTION] and [T] simultaneously.
- Press [SELECT] to change the intensity of the text. Each time you press [SELECT] the brightness changes.
To zoom in for a close-up of the screen:

- Press \texttt{OPTION} and \texttt{Z} simultaneously or press the joystick fire button. (See the chapter, Using a Joystick.)
- Press \texttt{OPTION} and \texttt{Z} again to return to the normal screen display.

\textit{Note:} The zoom feature is not available on ATARI\textsuperscript{®} 400\textsuperscript{TM}, 800\textsuperscript{TM} with less than 48K, or 600XL\textsuperscript{TM} Computers. If you press \texttt{Option} and \texttt{Z} or press the fire button on the joystick to zoom in, the screen will turn blue but the text will not be enlarged.
To eliminate double characters on the screen:
- Press [OPTION] and [0] (zero) simultaneously. This eliminates the echo problem.

To print text or graphics displayed on the screen:
- Connect your printer as explained in your printer owner’s manual.
- Press [OPTION] and [P] simultaneously when all the text is displayed on the screen. (Do not attempt to print while text is being written on the screen.)

When you press [OPTION] and [P] to print, all the text on the current screen, including text that was plotted and then erased, will be printed. Refer to the owner’s manual that came with your printer.
USING A JOYSTICK

You can use a joystick in PLATO to perform three main functions:
- To execute function key commands.
- To simulate the touch screen capability of the Control Data terminals.
- To zoom in for a close-up of the screen. (The zoom feature is not available on the ATARI 400, 800 with less than 48K, or 600XL.)

To connect the joystick, plug the cable into Port 1 on your ATARI Computer.

Executing Function Key Commands

Instead of pressing two or three keys to execute a command, you can use the joystick and fire button when you are in full-screen display and the touch screen feature is not activated.
- Press [OPTION] and [F] simultaneously to enter the joystick function mode. The letter "F" will appear in the upper-left corner of the screen.
- Use the Joystick Translation Table below for the joystick translations of eight PLATO function keys.
- Press [OPTION] and [F] again to cancel the joystick function mode.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLATO KEYS</th>
<th>JOYSTICK MOVEMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEXT</td>
<td>UP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BACK</td>
<td>DOWN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAB</td>
<td>LEFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATA</td>
<td>RIGHT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIFTED NEXT</td>
<td>Press fire button and move UP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIFTED BACK</td>
<td>Press fire button and move DOWN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIFTED LAB</td>
<td>Press fire button and move LEFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIFTED DATA</td>
<td>Press fire button and move RIGHT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Simulating the Touch Screen

With your joystick, you can use any of the PLATO programs that were originally designed to receive input from Control Data's touch-sensitive screens, as long as you are in the full-screen mode. You'll recognize the touch-sensitive screens by the cross-shaped cursor that appears in the upper-right corner. You can also use your joystick for selecting menu items. Please note that some PLATO programs do not have touch screen features.

- Move the cross-shaped cursor on the screen with the joystick handle. If you want to select a menu item, move the cursor to touch the text, not the item's identifying letter.
- Hold the joystick handle in one direction to make the cursor move faster.
- Press the fire button to enter your input, such as to select a menu item.

Zooming in on the Screen

You can use your joystick to zoom in for a close-up of any screen display in PLATO. If you are using the joystick as an input device on a touch screen or to execute function key commands, press `OPTION` and `Z` simultaneously to initially activate the zoom feature.

- Press the joystick fire button to zoom in on one-third of the screen display.
- Move the joystick handle to scroll to other parts of the screen.
- Press the fire button again to return to the normal screen display.
GAMES AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

PLATO Homelink contains a library of almost 600 educational programs and games in over 20 different subject areas. Some games can be played alone, against the computer, or with other PLATO users. For example, in Moria, PLATO's most popular dungeons game, you'll encounter other users as you explore over 250 mazes. In games like Chess or Backgammon, you can play against any PLATO user in the system. The educational programs cover such areas as astronomy, aviation, language (including lessons in French and Chinese), mathematics, music, nutrition, and social science. A special category, Ages 4-7, includes programs especially designed for children. The PLATO library of games and educational programs is composed of two separate files: Homelink Catalog and Etc.

To access the Homelink Catalog and Etc.:
- Type E to select PLATO Programs from the Main Menu.

If you know the file name of a game or program:
- Type N to select Run Program. You will be prompted to enter the file name.
- Type the file name and press RETURN. (Use DELETE/BACKSPACE to type over any errors before pressing RETURN.)
If you do not know a specific file name:
- Type 0 for Select from Library from the submenu.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type a letter</th>
<th>PLATO Homelink</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>User Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>Electronic Mail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>Text Processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>Graphics Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>PLATO Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>File Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g</td>
<td>Reference Aids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h</td>
<td>Other Features</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>Create or Change File</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>Run Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>Select from Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>General Reference</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>i</th>
<th>j</th>
<th>k</th>
<th>l</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Talk</td>
<td>Help</td>
<td>User Menu</td>
<td>Leave</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current Time: 7:34  Connect Time: 0:00
Homelink Catalog

The Homelink Catalog contains a listing of over 450 program titles selected specifically for home computer users. Look at the brochure *PLATO Homelink Program Titles*. You can view the program titles by subject area or in an alphabetical listing while on line.
To select a program:

- Type **1** to select Homelink Catalog from the PLATO Homelink Library menu. A menu appears giving you a choice of viewing programs by subject or title.
- If you type **S** for a subject listing: A list of 23 subject areas appears on the screen.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLATO Homelink Catalog</th>
<th>Type a number:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIST OF SUBJECTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Ages 4-7</td>
<td>13 Mathematics, elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Astronomy</td>
<td>14 Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Aviation</td>
<td>15 Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Biology</td>
<td>16 Nutrition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Business</td>
<td>17 Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Chemistry</td>
<td>18 PLATO topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Computer science</td>
<td>19 Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Consumer credit</td>
<td>20 Simulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Games</td>
<td>21 Social science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 General interest</td>
<td>22 Spelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Language</td>
<td>23 Youth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Press NEXT alone for main index.

Type the number of the subject area you want and press **RETURN**. A list of program titles and their file names appear on the screen.
If you type **T** for a title listing: A list of program titles and their file names appear on the screen.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIST OF TITLES</th>
<th>Press a letter:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a.      spindex</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b.      100 Yard Dash</td>
<td>Odash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.      Acid-base titrations</td>
<td>Ovucurve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d.      Activity, health &amp; body size</td>
<td>Onut202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e.      Addition and subtraction: beehive game</td>
<td>Obees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.      Addition and subtraction: bills and checks</td>
<td>Obank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g.      Addition and subtraction: race track</td>
<td>Ozspeedway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h.      Addition and subtraction: signed numbers</td>
<td>Opost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i.      Addition: adding lengths</td>
<td>Ozlengths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j.      Addition: carrying</td>
<td>Ozcarry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k.      Addition: space port game</td>
<td>Oport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l.      Addition: using an easier problem — review</td>
<td>Ohsrev</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m.      Addition: using an easier problem — 1</td>
<td>Ohs1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n.      Addition: using an easier problem — 2</td>
<td>Ohs2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o.      Addition: using an easier problem — 3</td>
<td>Ohs3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Press **RETURN** to advance to the next screen of the list.

Press **START** and **B** simultaneously to go back to the previous screen of the list.

Type the letter of the program title you want to select. The program will appear on the screen.

Press **START** and **H** simultaneously if you need instructions on how to use the program.
Etc.

Etc. is a collection of favorite games and lessons played and developed by PLATO users. Etc. currently contains almost 150 programs, but the collection is continually updated and expanded. Program titles can be displayed in alphabetical order by file name, by usage, or by key words.

To select a program:

- Type 2 to select Etc. from the PLATO Homelink Library menu. Another two-item menu appears on the screen.
- Type A to select Index of Lessons, Games, Notesfiles. You will be given three options for displaying the program titles.
- To display titles in alphabetical order by file name:
  - Type A.
- To display titles by usage:
  - Type B.
- To display titles by key words:
  - Type C.
- Press RETURN to advance to the next screen of the program list.
- Press START and B simultaneously to go back to the previous screen of the program list.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>aids</th>
<th>Complete PLATO programmers reference do</th>
<th>42</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>ainotes</td>
<td>Artificial Intelligence Notes</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>airbase</td>
<td>Animation of a typical airbase.</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>airmotes</td>
<td>AIRFIGHT Player Notesfile</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>alive</td>
<td>Health Issues</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>anim</td>
<td>Animation in notes (fun picture-notes)</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>antic</td>
<td>ANTIC Magazine on PLATO</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>apple</td>
<td>Notesfile for APPLE Users</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>art</td>
<td>Graphics — Samples of PLATO art.</td>
<td>324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>atari</td>
<td>Notesfile for ATARI Users</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>authoring</td>
<td>Index: How to write programs on PLATO</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>camouflage</td>
<td>Stellar War Game</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>cdclib</td>
<td>Control Data Library</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>checkbook</td>
<td>Balance your checkout</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>cinema</td>
<td>That’s Entertainment</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>conquest</td>
<td>Inter-planetary Warfare</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>c64</td>
<td>Notesfile for Commodore Users</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>definesets</td>
<td>Defining your variables</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>designing</td>
<td>Designing Your Own Lesson</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>dreams</td>
<td>Notes about dreams</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>dryguich</td>
<td>Western mining town</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enter an item name or number: >

- Type the number of the program title you want to select. The program will appear on the screen.
- Press [START] and [H] simultaneously if you need instructions on how to use the program.
ELECTRONIC MAIL

PLATO’s Electronic Mail is a special communications system that puts you in touch with other PLATO users throughout the country. Telephone and satellite links enable you to send or receive messages.

Electronic Mail includes two types of communications: Personal Notes—a completely private, one-way communication service; and General Notes—a public bulletin board message service.

Personal Mail

Each PLATO network user has a personal notes file that stores the messages (also called personal notes or pnotes) received from other users. Your personal note file is similar to a mailbox. The file is identified by an address and has a limited capacity. When someone sends a personal note to your electronic address (your PLATO name, PLATO group, and pca system name), the note arrives in your file and is added to the end of the notes already there. Notes are received and added one-by-one to your file and numbered until the file is full.

Using the Personal Mail service is easy. To access your personal notes file:

- Type B to select Electronic Mail from the Main Menu.
- Type M to select Personal Mail from the submenu.
From your personal notes file, you can read notes sent to you, delete notes, and send notes to other PLATO users.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type a letter:</th>
<th>PLATO Homelink</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*b</td>
<td>Personal Mail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>User Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>Read or Write General Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>Notes File Sequencer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>Discussion Files</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>Talk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j</td>
<td>Help</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k</td>
<td>User Menu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l</td>
<td>Leave</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current Time: 7:40

Connect Time: 0:07
**Reading Notes**

When you sign on to the PLATO network, the Main Menu lets you know if you’ve received any new messages since the last time you signed on. An arrow will point to Electronic Mail in the Main Menu. When you select Electronic Mail, an arrow will point to Personal Mail on the submenu. Select Personal Mail and the new note will be immediately displayed on the screen.

If no new notes have been received, the Personal Notes display will appear on your screen.

![Personal Notes Display](image)

- **Press:** LAB to read your notes
  - DATA for other options
  - HELP for explanation and policy

To whom do you wish to send a note:
- Name
- Group
- System
To read the notes in your file:

- Press [START] and [L] simultaneously. The first note in your file will be displayed.
- Press [RETURN] to view the next note.
- Press [START] and [B] simultaneously to go back to the previous note.
- Hold down [SHIFT] and [START] and press [B] to return to the Personal Notes display.
- Hold down [SHIFT] and [START] and press [S] to return to the Main Menu.

Deleting Notes

Since space is limited in your personal notes file, you’ll want to delete any unneeded notes.

To delete a note:

- Hold down [SHIFT] and [START] and press [H] while your note is displayed on the screen. All subsequent notes move up and are automatically renumbered.

Sending Notes

Before you can send a note to another PLATO user, you need to know the user’s PLATO name, PLATO group, and PLATO system name. The Personal Notes display serves as your envelope for entering the receiver’s electronic address.

To address the envelope:

- Type the receiver’s PLATO name, group, and system name, pressing [RETURN] after each entry. (Use [DELETE/BACKSPACE] to type over any mistakes before pressing [RETURN].)
- When you press [RETURN] after entering the system name, the Notes Editor display appears on the screen.
To write the note:

- Type your message inside the box, using up to 20 lines. (For longer messages, simply send multiple notes.)
- Use these keys for editing your message:
  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Combination</th>
<th>Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RETURN</td>
<td>to move to the next line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>START B</td>
<td>to move up one line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>START E</td>
<td>to erase a line and display the line a word at a time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIFT START L</td>
<td>to insert a line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIFT START H</td>
<td>to delete one or more lines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>START H</td>
<td>to receive help</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DELETE/BACKSPACE</td>
<td>to type over an error</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Personal note to PLATO name / group / system code.
Hello Learning Phone Owners,

This is an example of a personal note you can write or send on the PLATO network. You can ask another user to play a PLATO game with you, such as Chess or Backgammon. Or you can ask for help or advice on using PLATO features. Type your message within the box—up to 20 lines. Use the special Atari function keys to edit your message. When you are ready to send, press [SHIFT] and [RETURN]. Next time you sign on, look for a response in your personal note file.

Your Friends at Atari

HELP is available.

To send your note:
- Press [SHIFT] and [RETURN] simultaneously. You will return to the Personal Notes display screen.

To discard your note:
- Hold down [SHIFT] and [START] and press [B].
- Type in a new note or hold down [SHIFT] and [START] and press [B] to return to the Personal Notes display screen.

To return to the Main Menu:
- Hold down [SHIFT] and [START] and press [S].
After you send a note and return to the Personal Notes display, a new line appears at the top of the screen: “Last note sent to [receiver’s name].”

You now have three options. You can:
- Send a duplicate of your note to another PLATO user or to yourself.
- Send an edited version of your note to another PLATO user.
- Send a new note to any PLATO user.

To send a duplicate:
- Type the receiver’s PLATO name, group, and system name, pressing [RETURN] after each entry.
- Press [SHIFT] and [RETURN] simultaneously to send your duplicate note.
To send an edited version:

- Type the receiver’s PLATO name, group, and system name, pressing [RETURN] after each entry.
- Press [START] and [L] simultaneously to display your note.
- Make any changes you want to the note by using the edit keys explained above.
- Press [SHIFT] and [RETURN] simultaneously to send your edited note.

To send a new note:

- Type the receiver’s PLATO name, group, and system name, pressing [RETURN] after each entry.
- Press [START] and [D] simultaneously to return to the blank Notes Editor display.

General Notes Bulletin Boards

The PLATO General Notes files are like bulletin boards where PLATO users can communicate with each other by writing notes. In General Notes, you can read and write notes on many topics.

Notes on a specific topic are grouped together in notes files under a file name, such as Atari (for notes on Atari and its products). All notes that enter a file such as Atari have titles and identifying numbers. These are known as base notes. Responses to a base note are sequenced in the order they are received. You can choose to read only the base notes on a specific topic and skip the responses, or you can read a base note and any or all of the responses to it.
To select a General Notes file:
  - Type \textbf{B} to select Electronic Mail from the Main Menu.

If you know a file name:
  - Type \textbf{N} to select Read or Write General Notes from the submenu. You will be prompted to enter the file name.
  - Type the file name and press \textbf{RETURN}.
If you do not know a specific file name:
- Type \[ P \] to select Discussion Files from the submenu. A list of many notes files and their file names appears on the screen.
- Press \[ RETURN \] to advance to the next screen of the list.
- Press \[ START \] and \[ B \] simultaneously to view the previous screen of the list.
- Type the letter of the notes file you’d like to see.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLATO Homelink Notefiles of Interest</th>
<th>(File Name)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Choose an option</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. PLATO System Announcements</td>
<td>(announce)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. PLATO Homelink Reference Notes</td>
<td>(homeref)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. IBM PC Users</td>
<td>(ibmnotes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. ATARI Users</td>
<td>(atari)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. ANTIC Magazine on PLATO</td>
<td>(antic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Wantads</td>
<td>(wantads)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Sportaline</td>
<td>(sports)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Women's Issues</td>
<td>(womennotes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Games and Gaming Strategies</td>
<td>(gamenotes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. New data, New friends</td>
<td>(datenote)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Press \[ SHIFT-LAB \] for descriptions.

Reading Notes and Responses
When you select a notes file, the titles of the most recent base notes (up to 10) that were entered in the file appear in a box in the upper-left corner of the screen. Each base note has a number. The date the note entered the file and the number of responses it has received so far are also given.
To read a note:

- Type the note’s identifying number and press [RETURN]. The note will appear on the screen.
- Press [RETURN] to read the next base note in the file.
- Press [START] and [B] simultaneously to go back to the previous note.
To read a response to a note:
- Press [START] and [L] simultaneously when a base note is displayed on the screen.
Atari Notes
Response 1 of 2 to #126 (PLATO cart)
2 responses

12/13/84 9:03 pm  m murphy / nicknm

I read a review in "antic" magazine that said
look for it late January or early February, 1985.

**** LAB for response ****

To return to the notes file list:
- Hold down [SHIFT] and [START] and press [B].

To return to the Main Menu:
- Hold down [SHIFT] and [START] and press [S].
Writing Notes

Before you can write a base note, you need to choose an appropriate notes file.

If you don’t know the file name of the notes file:
- Select Electronic Mail from the Main Menu, then Discussion Files from the submenu.
- Type the letter of the notes file where you want the note to be filed and press RETURN.

If you know the file name of the notes file:
- Select Electronic Mail from the Main Menu, then Read or Write General Notes from the submenu. You will be prompted to enter the file name.
- Type the file name and press RETURN.

To type a note after you’ve read the notes file:
- Type the letter of the notes file where you want your note to be filed.
- Hold down SHIFT and START and press L. The Notes Editor display appears on the screen.
Type your message inside the box, using up to 20 lines.

Use these keys for editing your base note:

- **RETURN** to move to the next line
- **START B** to move up one line
- **START E** to erase a line and then display the line a word at a time
- **SHIFT START L** to insert a line
- **SHIFT START H** to delete one or more lines
- **START H** to receive help
- **DELETE/BACKSPACE** to type over an error

Press **SHIFT** and **RETURN** simultaneously when your note is complete.

Type a title for your note to answer the prompt and press **RETURN**. Your note will be added to the end of your chosen notes file and automatically numbered.
Writing Responses

Before you can write a response, you need to display the base note you are responding to. See the section on Reading Notes and Responses.

To write a response:
- Hold down $\text{SHIFT}$ and $\text{START}$ and press $\text{L}$. The Notes Response Editor display appears on your screen.
- Type your response in the box, using up to 20 lines.
- Use these keys for editing your response:
  - $\text{RETURN}$ to move to the next line
  - $\text{START B}$ to move up one line
  - $\text{START E}$ to edit a line and redisplay the line a word at a time
  - $\text{SHIFT START L}$ to insert a line
  - $\text{SHIFT START H}$ to delete one or more lines
  - $\text{START H}$ to receive help
  - $\text{DELETE/BACKSPACE}$ to type over an error

- Press $\text{SHIFT}$ and $\text{RETURN}$ simultaneously when your response is complete. Your response will be added to the end of the existing list of responses.
THE TALK FEATURE

Talk is a two-way communication feature of PLATO that lets you carry on a conversation with another PLATO user. Talk simulates a telephone conversation in which you interact with another person and get immediate feedback. You talk by typing messages on the screen to another PLATO user.

To initiate a conversation, you’ll need to access the User List to see who is currently using the network and then page that person. You’ll also need to know how to answer a page to fully use PLATO’s Talk feature.

The User List

The User List includes the PLATO name and PLATO group of all the users currently on the PLATO network. You will need this information to page someone.

To access the User List:

- Type H to select Other Features from the Main Menu.
- Type **N** to select User List from the submenu. A list of on-line PLATO users and their groups appears on the screen.
- Press **RETURN** to advance to the next screen of the list.
- Press **START** and **B** simultaneously to go back to the previous screen of the list.
### Users on pca

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>User</th>
<th>Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>barry streets</td>
<td>xyz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bob patterson</td>
<td>elhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pam marshallton</td>
<td>hdgra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b holden</td>
<td>natco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deb hudson</td>
<td>natco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jenberger</td>
<td>rzxdev</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dave wagner</td>
<td>sevpub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>steve simmons</td>
<td>educ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jan cusick</td>
<td>p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roe wood</td>
<td>ace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nancy gordon</td>
<td>fedco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dan radner</td>
<td>atc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>peabody</td>
<td>pedko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e ferguson</td>
<td>airl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smitty</td>
<td>juniper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r paleski</td>
<td>eddiv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sue howard</td>
<td>arno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>violet chen</td>
<td>arno</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Total Users = 463)

---

**Paging Another User**

Once you know the PLATO name and PLATO group of an on-line user, you can page the user:
- From the Main Menu.
- From the User List.
- From any screen display in PLATO.

**To page from the Main Menu:**
- Type 1 to select Talk from the Main Menu. You will be prompted to enter the user’s name and group.
- Type the user’s PLATO name and group, pressing **RETURN** after each entry. A beep and a message will flash on the user’s screen indicating that he or she is being paged.
To page from the User List:
- Press [START] and [D]. You will be prompted to enter the user’s name and group.
- Type the user’s PLATO name and group, pressing [RETURN] after each entry. A beep and a message will flash on the user’s screen indicating that he or she is being paged.

To page from any screen display in PLATO:
- Press [START] and [T] simultaneously. You will be prompted, “‘What term?’”
- Type the word “talk” to answer the prompt and press [RETURN]. You will be prompted to enter the user’s name and group.
- Type the user’s PLATO name and group, pressing [RETURN] after each entry. A message will flash on the user’s screen that he or she is being paged.
If the user doesn’t answer your page after a minute or two, you can assume that the person is busy. Cancel the page by holding down [SHIFT] and [START] and pressing [S].

When the user answers your page, two arrows appear at the bottom of your screen. Type your message on the top line. A response will appear on the second line.

To end your conversation, say good-bye to the user and hold down [SHIFT] and [START] and press [B].

**Answering a Page**

You may be paged at any time when you’re signed on to the PLATO network. When this happens, you will hear a beep and see the message “TERM-talk” flash on the bottom of your screen. The message includes the PLATO name and group of the person paging you.

**To answer the page:**

- Press [START] and [T] simultaneously. You will be prompted, “‘What term?’”
- Type the word “‘talk’” to answer the prompt and press [RETURN]. Two arrows will appear at the bottom of your screen. The pager’s message will appear on the top line.
- Respond by typing a message on the second line.

To end your conversation, say good-bye and hold down [SHIFT] and [START] and press [B].
Refusing a Page

Participation in Talk is strictly voluntary. If you are busy with a PLATO program, you may not want to answer a page.

To refuse a page:
- Press [START] and [T] simultaneously. You will be prompted, "What term?"
- Type the word "busy" to answer the prompt and press [RETURN]. The pager will receive a message that you are unavailable for conversation.
GETTING HELP

There are many sources of help available to you when you use PLATO. You can get immediate on-line help, or you can write or phone Control Data Corporation to solve a special problem.

On Line

When you are in a PLATO program and are not sure how to proceed, press [START] and [H] simultaneously. In most programs, instructions will be instantly displayed on your screen.

When you need reference aids for using the Text Processing, Graphics Design, or Programming features of PLATO, type [G] to select Reference Aids from the Main Menu. Then type the letter of the PLATO feature you want more information on.

When you want to exchange information with other users on a particular PLATO feature, type [B] to select Electronic Mail from the Main Menu. Then type [P] to select Discussion Files from the submenu. You will see a list of notes files. Select the file User Information Exchange (Homelink) and read or write notes relating to the PLATO Homelink services. See section on Writing Notes in the Electronic Mail chapter for instructions on writing notes and responses to notes.

When you want immediate help from another PLATO user, use the PLATO Talk feature. See the chapter, The Talk Feature, for detailed instructions on using this two-way communication service.
By Letter

When you have questions, comments, or ideas on PLATO, Control Data would like to hear from you. Write to:

Plato Homelink Customer Service
P.O. Box 1305
McLean, Virginia 22102

By Phone

When you need help on a special problem relating to the PLATO system, call the PLATO HOTLINE between 7 A.M. and 7 P.M. (CST) Monday through Friday:
(703) 821-6888 (in Virginia, Alaska, and Hawaii)
(800) 328-7104 (in all other states)
HELPFUL HINTS

Response times—from your input to the computer’s output—vary considerably depending on your type of modem and the system load on the PLATO network. Generally, 1200 baud modems are four times faster than 300 baud modems. Regardless of your type of modem, you should allow time for the computer to respond to a given command before issuing any additional commands.

On some ATARI Computers, \text{ OPTION } is positioned close to \text{ RESET } on the keyboard. When using \text{ OPTION } to select modem baud rates or special screen displays, be careful not to accidently press \text{ RESET }. This will disconnect you from the PLATO network.

The zoom feature for displaying close-ups of the screens is not available on ATARI 400, 800 with less than 48K, or 600XL Computers. When \text{ OPTION } and \text{ Z } are pressed or when the fire button on a joystick is pressed on these machines, the screen’s background color will change to blue but the image will not be enlarged.

Do not attempt to print a screen display while text is being written on the screen. Wait until all the text is displayed and then press \text{ OPTION } and \text{ P } to print.
Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the product documentation in this manual. However, because we are constantly improving and updating our computer software and hardware, Atari Corp. is unable to guarantee the accuracy of the printed material after the date of publication and disclaims liability for changes, errors, or omissions.