

Model 100 TELCOM Alterations
by Terry Kepner

I've found a way to combine several special TELCOM features into only two function keys: F6 and F7. Previously you had to choose two of these three possibilities: a clear screen, a files RAM display, or a free ram count---and without removing any RAM (Random Access read/write Memory) from normal program use.

This little two-line Basic program assigns the "clear screen" command to the TELCOM F6 function key, and combines the files display and free RAM count into one TELCOM function key: F7.

As a plus---instead of leaving the cursor at the end of the free RAM count, as the previous POKEs did---this program's pokes fix TELCOM so the cursor remains on the line below the free RAM count. This makes for a cleaner and more legible display as you continue telecommunicating.

The program works by taking advantage of the fact that each of Basic's function keys is allocated 16 bytes of RAM, no matter how much you actually use. Well, Basic function key F8 is assigned the command MENU. Pressing this while in Basic will return you to the Model 100 main menu. This command uses only five bytes of the sixteen allocated (the fifth byte is a carriage-return that terminates the Menu command), leaving eleven bytes. Which just so happens to be one byte longer than I need for my TELCOM modification. My program defines the Basic F8 key as the command MENU followed by a character string that includes the machine-code for calling the Files function, determining the free RAM and then sending a carriage-return/linefeed to the display. This is followed by the POKE commands that tell TELCOM where to find this code in memory.

The second line of the program sets the TELCOM F6 key to perform a clear screen.

For you techy types, 205 is the machine-code equivalent of a call, and 201 is a machine code return. The other numbers in line 10 are the addresses called (in standard low-byte high-byte order). You'll note that there are three calls. The return, 201, sends control back to TELCOM. Otherwise the program would cause your computer to crash, and possibly force you to cold-start it and lose all your programs.

Naturally, if you cold-start your computer, or use a program that changes the assignments of the BASIC function keys, you will lose the F8 key code-my program put there. If you try to use the TELCOM F7 key after this has happened, you might crash your computer as it tries to execute the non-existent code in BASIC key F8.

I suggest that you type in the program, run it, then save it to cassette so you can easily reload it in the event the Basic F8 key is reassigned.

Program Listing

```
10 KEY8,"Menu"+ CHR$(13)+ CHR$(205)+ CHR$(58)+ CHR$(31)+  
CHR$(205)+ CHR$(172)+ CHR$(126)+ CHR$(205)+ CHR$(34)+ CHR$(66)+  
CHR$(201): POKE 64270,127: POKE 64271,248 :Rem set TELCOM F7 key  
to display files, display free ram, and perform a CR/LF  
30 POKE 64268,49: POKE 64269,66 :rem set the TELCOM F6 key to  
perform a clear-screen command.
```

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-Terry Kepner, Technical Editor, Fido Magazine

CV7 - Press CR to continue



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