

TERMS OF ENDEARMENT

By Nathan Beck

Many say that there is a lack of software for our C-128. While that may be true in some cases, it's not the case with telecommunications programs. C-128 users have a wide selection of terminal programs to choose from.

Partly to demonstrate this fact, and partly to help you decide which particular terminal program(s) will serve you best, I'll attempt to describe as many of the contenders as I could find. While there isn't room here for an exhaustive comparison of each program's features, you'll surely find mention of at least one terminal program for any possible use, from connecting to mainframes, to yakking on a local BBS.

BOBSTERM PRO (128 version)

Screen Mode: 80 col. only
ASCII/PETASCII: ASCII only
Terminal Emulation: ADM31, VT52, VT100, USER (programmable emulation)
Modems: CBM 1650-1670, Westridge, Hayes, et. al.
Baud Rate: 300 to 2400
Protocols: XModem (CRC), Punter
Buffer: 60,000 bytes
REU Support: none
Disk Drives: 8-15
Macros: Full featured macro editor
Appearance: custom character sets, windowed menus
Notes: This program is extremely configurable. Besides the built in emulations, you can adapt it for many uses. The buffer is very nearly a full featured word processor in its own right. File type conversions, disk format (CP/M to CBM, and vice versa) conversions are possible. Files can also be split into smaller files. The macro functions, emulation

functions and buffer versatility distinguish this program as one of the best!

Author: Bob Lentini
Cost: depends on availability
Address: Progressive Peripherals & Software 464 Kalamath Street Denver, CO 80204 USA

ULTRATERM III

Screen Mode: 80 col. only
ASCII/PETASCII: ASCII only
Terminal Emulation: none
Modems: most CBM modems, Westridge, Hayes & compatibles
Baud Rate: 300-2400
Protocols: XModem (CRC & 1K), WXModem, Punter
Buffer: 61,440 bytes
REU Support: RAM disk
Disk Drives: 8-11
Macros: 8 definable F Keys of 24 characters each
Appearance: pull-down menus, very easy to use
Notes: This is one of the most versatile C-128 terms around, despite its lack of terminal emulation or color graphics. The REU is supported as a RAM Disk, but the buffer can also be used in the same way. The buffer has a full featured editor, with block move/copy functions, and more. DLE masking and XModem padding stripping are among the many transfer options. The status line contains modem status indicators, an on-line clock, and a time-of-day clock. Very nice general purpose term!
Author: Steve Boerner
Cost: \$25
Address: Post Office Box 364 Brockport, NY 14420 USA

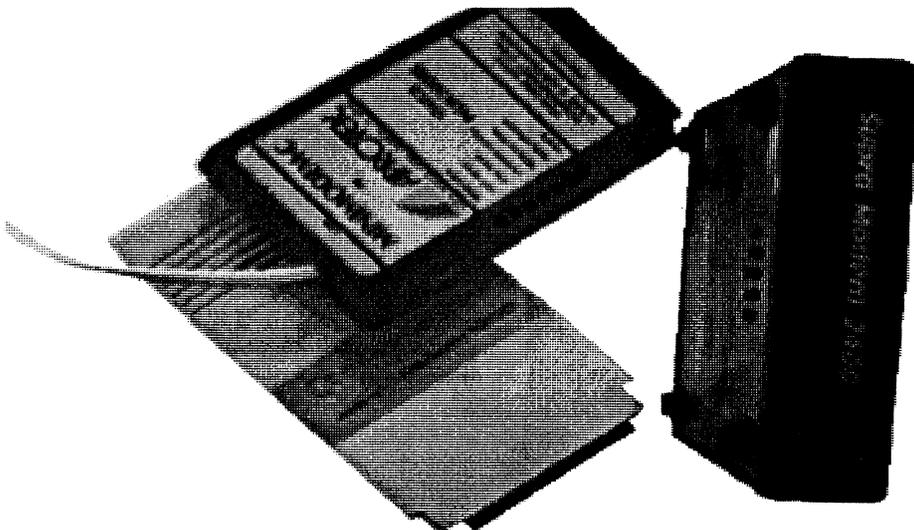
COLOR GRAPHICS TERM 4.2

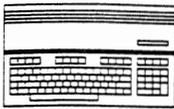
Screen Mode: 40 or 80 col. modes
ASCII/PETASCII: both
Terminal Emulation: none
Modems: most CBMs, Westridge, Hayes & compatibles
Baud Rate: 300-1200 (2400 may be possible)
Protocols: XModem (checksum), Punter (multi)
Buffer: 60,928 bytes
REU Support: via RAMDOS installed in page 14
Disk Drives: 8-9
Macros: ID and password keys, 5 extra macros
Appearance: colorful status line
Notes: I've tried several other versions of this Public Domain term (v3.3, v6.1, and v7.5), but like this best. It's good for use with Commodore Color Graphics BBSs. The buffer contains a simple message editor, but allows color graphics messages to be written. SEQ file reader built-in. The phone book file allows up to 15 entries, and each entry includes ID and password. Unfortunately, editing the phone number file is unreliable (I used a word processor). It's a good term if you generally call only Color Graphics BBSs.
Author: David Bratton & Greg Pfountz
Cost: Free-Public Domain
Address: unknown

PRO-128-TERM V16.1

Screen Mode: 80 col. only
ASCII/PETASCII: either
Terminal Emulation: none
Modems: Hayes & compatibles (like the 1670)
Baud Rate: 300-2400
Protocols: XModem (CRC), Punter (multi), WXModem
Buffer: 53,000 bytes
REU Support: none
Disk Drives: 8-30
Macros: ID and password keys, 8 definable F Keys
Appearance: colorful status line, window menus
Notes: This one disappointed me. The high version number indicates that a lot of work was done, yet bugs remain. The worst one shows up when you connect to a Color Graphic BBS, and the program insists on popping into ASCII mode. Also, the program offers file transfer at 1mhz or 2mhz (which would seem to be faster), yet this is often unreliable. Many BBSs refuse to

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acknowledge the 2mhz mode of any protocol. WXModem is supported for downloading only. Its buffer contains no editor, yet you can "force" text into it by setting local echo, opening the buffer, and typing. Of course, you have to remember to close the buffer when you're done. The menus are laid out well, and clear in their uses. Note that by activating both command summary menus, you can define a virtual 40 column screen, centered on the display. Phone number file contains ID and password keys. If you can stand the aggravation, this might be a good term for Color Graphics BBSs.

Author: Paul Aidukas

Cost: \$20

Address: Post Office Box 131
Readington, NJ 08870 USA

MULTITERM 128 V3.7

Screen Mode: 40 or 80 col.

ASCII/PETASCII: either

Terminal Emulation: none

Modems: all CBM, Volks series, Hayes & compatibles

Baud Rate: 300-2400

Protocols: XModem, Punter (multi), Nibbler

Buffer: 47,104 bytes

REU Support: none

Disk Drives: 8-9

Macros: 8 definable F Keys

Appearance: simple and clear, with windowed menus

Notes: This is an oldie, but a goodie! As with Pro128Term, the buffer has no editor, but it has other features that make it worthwhile. You can read or print SEQ files stored on disk, and even send them to the modem. Along with the multi-file transfers, the term has a "modem nibbler" for whole disk copies, block by block. In fact, you can set the starting and ending tracks for this feature, for exotic copying tricks. While the phone number file cannot hold your ID and passwords, you can easily define F Keys for this purpose. The F Key editor is very powerful, and multiple F Key files are allowed. MultiTerm's best feature is the "mini-BBS", which can be left unattended or "jumped into" while on-line. You can define a password and opening message (8 lines of 39 characters each), and the mini-BBS stores a user log in the buffer along with feedback a user might leave. This feature makes it possible to setup the mini-BBS so that you (or others) can call from a remote location and access any of your files. This feature also makes MultiTerm ideal for

trading files between 2 users. You should get this one!

Author: Steve Thompson

Cost: \$5 (donation)

Address: 12 218th Place SW
Bothell, WA 98021 USA

KERMIT V2.2

Screen Mode: see notes

ASCII/PETASCII: ASCII only

Terminal Emulation: VT52, VT100, VT102, Tektronix 4010

Modems: All except CBM 1660

Baud Rate: 300-2400

Protocols: Kermit

Buffer: none

REU Support: none

Disk Drives: 8 only

Macros: none

Appearance: austere

Notes: Kermit v2.2 is actually a C-64 term program, intended for a very specific use; communication with mainframes. However, if you need to do this, Kermit will not disappoint you! The various supported emulation modes guarantee compatibility with many systems. The most exciting feature of Kermit is the ability to install any one of 5 different screen drivers (the 40 col., simulated 80 col., 2 different drivers for the Batteries Included 80 col card, and the C-128 80 col. screen). Because of this feature, it's a simple matter to place the program on an autoboot disk, with the C-128 80 col. screen driver preset as a default, and have the program boot on your C-128 as if it were a C128 program. Since it's the only C-128 program I've found that supports Kermit file transfer, I suggest you get this one. The program instructions (included on the disk or professionally printed) are concise and complete.

Author: Various people

Cost: Public Domain (but \$5 gets a printed manual)

Address: Dr. Evil Laboratories Post Office Box 3432 Redmond, WA 98073-3432 USA

LOBSTER TERM

Screen Mode: 80 col. only

ASCII/PETASCII: ASCII only

Terminal Emulation: VT100, ADM3A, IBM3101, TVI925

Modems: CBM 1660 & 1670, Hayes & compatibles

Baud Rate: 300-2400

Protocols: Xmodem (checksum)

Buffer: 56,320 bytes

REU Support: none

Disk Drives: 8-9

Macros: 8 programmable F Keys

Appearance: unusual, but nice-windowed menus

Notes: The name says it all... This is not a typical term program. Aside from its striking appearance, this term also has the unusual ability to display Doodle! pictures, display RLE pictures, and print RLE pictures. The phone number file (maximum of 20 numbers) holds ID and password info for each entry. The buffer has no editor function, but that lack can be overcome as mentioned elsewhere. If you have any need for the various terminal emulations supported, you really should get this one. This program has been superceded by Crab's Terminal, but because of its, ahem, unique features it's still worthy of your attention.

Author: Stephane Laroche

Cost: \$10

Address: 3654 Henri-Julien
Montreal, Quebec H2X 3H5 Canada

CRAB'S TERMINAL V3.1

Screen Mode: 80 col. only

ASCII/PETASCII: ASCII only

Terminal Emulation: TTY, VT100, ADM3A, IBM3101, TVI925, ANSI

Modems: CBM 1660 & 1670, Hayes and compatibles

Baud Rate: 300-2400

Protocols: Xmodem and YModem

Buffer: 56,064 bytes

REU Support: none

Disk Drives: 8-9

Macros: unknown

Appearance: like Lobster Term

Notes: I haven't purchased the fully functional version of this term, so my review here is based on the shareware version that was released without working transfer abilities. At first glance, the program appears to be a simple upgrade of Lobster, with added features. However, this version does not support the graphics display/printing, though it adds two terminal emulations. Therefore, I suggest that if you try Lobster Term (it's widely available) and you like it, send in \$25 and get this one too. The most precious new feature (to me) is the addition of ANSI terminal emulation used by many non-Commodore BBSs. This enables you to see the color graphics displays used by the ubiquitous IBM PC and its clones. Isn't it amazing that the C-128 can emulate the IBM, but not the reverse?

Author: Stepane Laroche

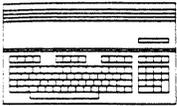
Cost: \$25

Address: same as for Lobster Term

DESTERM 128

Screen Mode: 40 or 80 col. (via software)

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ASCII/PETASCII: ASCII only
Terminal Emulation: VT52, VT100, ANSI
Modems CBM 1670, Hayes and compatibles
Baud Rate: 300-9600!
Protocols: XModem (CRC & 1K), YModem (batch), Punter
Buffer: 51,200 bytes
REU Support: none (but planned)
Disk Drives: 8-15
Macros: 8 programmable F Keys of 32 characters each
Appearance: custom character set, but otherwise typical
Notes: This is a relatively new program, with a promising future. Although the program allows most Color Graphics characters, the few exceptions prevent satisfactory use with CG BBSs. The author swears that its performance at 9600 baud is better than the Amiga. Password and ID data is not saved with the phone numbers file, but since you can have as many F Key definition files as you like, that's a minor problem. One of the program's most unique features is the interlace display mode, where you can have as many as 52 lines on the screen at once. Another display trick is the 40 column screen-it uses the 80 col. screen in double wide mode, so it's a very sharp display. (Further evidence that the C-128 has a superb 80 column display chip!) There is no buffer editor, but the program can translate between ASCII and PETSCII when loading or saving the buffer. It's well conceived and powerful as it stands, and the author promises to improve it if support for the program warrants his time and effort.
Author: Matthew E. Desmond
Cost: \$25
Address: 265 Beechlawn Drive Waterloo, Ontario N21 5W8 Canada

EBBS TERM V4.51

Screen Mode: 80 col. only
ASCII/PETASCII: both
Terminal Emulation: none
Modems CBM 1670, Hayes and compatibles
Baud Rate: 300-2400
Protocols: XModem (CRC & 1K), YModem (batch), Punter
Buffer: none
REU Support: none
Disk Drives: 8 only
Macros: 8 Fkeys defined in BASIC boot program
Appearance: stark
Notes: At a meager 61 blocks (ARced), this term is the smallest of the bunch. The author (well known

for his work on telecommunications programs for both the CBM 8-bit machines and MS/DOS systems) provides this simple term for use with his C-128 BBS system, EBBS. The term offers no frills, but does function flawlessly in ASCII or Color Graphics modes. It is intended for quick use, and it excels! The BASIC boot program is well documented, and you can easily configure it to your tastes and requirements. When you're in a hurry, this one won't let you down!

Author: Ed Parry
Cost: \$5
Address: 8711 Langdon Avenue #8 Sepulveda, CA 91343 USA

NOVATERM V2.0

Screen Mode: 40 or 80 col. (via software)
ASCII/PETASCII both
Terminal Emulation: none
Modems CBM 1670, Hayes and compatibles
Baud Rate: 300-2400
Protocols: XModem (CRC), Punter
Buffer: 45,000
REU Support: none
Disk Drives: 8-9
Macros: 10 macros of 250 characters each
Appearance: typical, status line on bottom

Notes: This gem evokes mixed feelings. While it is easily the best term yet for Color Graphics use, it will never improve! The author feels that Commodore 128 users simply haven't supported it properly. Nevertheless, the current version performs flawlessly. NovaTerm simulates the 40 column screen by using the wide mode of the 80 col. screen (like DESTERM). The phone numbers file also contains the ID and password data for each of its 45 possible entries, all of which can be auto-dialed in any order you choose. A neat feature of auto-dialing is the "carrier detect alarm". Set the volume of the alarm very loud, turn the modem speaker off, and go enjoy a ball game on TV while the term dials all your favorite BBSs: When it connects, it will call you! Another unique feature is called "date tracking", as it keeps track of the last date that you called a particular BBS. For people (like me!) who call lots of BBSs, this is a handy extra. The buffer can be printed to either an ASCII or PETSCII printer.

Author: Bruce Franklin
Cost: freeware (send a SASE with any questions)

Address: 8653 Brae Brooke Drive Lanham, MD 20706 USA

AUTOTERM 128 v1.1

Screen Mode: 40 or 80 col. mode
ASCII/PETASCII: ASCII only
Terminal Emulation: none
Modems CBM 1670
Baud Rate: 300-1200
Protocols: XModem, Punter, Midwest
Buffer: unknown size
REU Support: none
Disk Drives: 8
Macros: 10 keys (from numeric keypad)

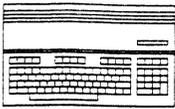
Appearance: unreadable status line
Notes: This is an older term, and hardly special, except for a couple of things. First, it has four built-in custom character sets that can be changed at will. It also uses a file transfer protocol called "Midwest". Apparently, a protocol that never caught on. The term is difficult to use because the status line is unreadable, and instructions aren't included. The program must be configured to autoboot (with an included autoboot maker). Though the program has an unlimited phone number file, there are better terms.

Author: Steve Lewis
Cost: \$15
Address: Post Office Box30441 Phoenix, AZ 85046 USA

SHERMTERM 128 V3

Screen Mode: 40 or 80 col. mode
ASCII/PETASCII: ASCII only
Terminal Emulation: none
Modems: CBM 1670
Baud Rate: 300-2400
Protocols: Punter (multi)
Buffer: none
REU Support: none
Disk Drives: 8-9
Macros: none
Appearance: typical (3 line status/menu)

Notes: Another "could've been"... This term does nothing special, except display text in any of 8 included custom character sets. It is written in BASIC, and the author admits that it could use compiling. You should know that, though the option appears to exist, I could not get the term to go into 40 col. mode. Nice character sets, though!
Author: Donald Sherman
Cost: Public Domain (donations)
Address: c/o River's Edge Computer Sales Post Office Box 219 Seymour, CT 06483 USA



NEZTERM V9.3

Screen Mode: 80 col. only
ASCII/PETASCII: ASCII only (see note)
Terminal Emulation: none
Modems: CBM 1670, Hayes and compatibles
Baud Rate: 300-2400 (see note)
Protocols: Xmodem, Punter
Buffer: 56,320 bytes
REU Support: none
Disk Drives: 8-9
Macros: none
Appearance: typical, separate screen menus
Notes: Originally written by Bill Nesbitt, this term has been modified by several people over the years. Limited color graphics support is available, but unreliable (see DESTERM). The latest contributor acknowledges baud rates only up to 1200, but 2400 may be possible. The buffer has a full featured editor with block functions and ASCII to PETSCII conversions. The disk drive support includes the ability to access either side of a 1571 disk (when it's formatted in 1541 mode on both sides). The phone number file allows 40 entries, and 3 ID or password settings for each entry. You can also auto-dial up to 20 consecutive entries in any order. The nicest feature of NezTerm v9.3 is the on-line Help, available in most of the program's various sections.
Author: Mike Saiter
Cost: Free-Public Domain
Address: unknown

THE COMMUNICATOR

Screen Mode: 40 or 80 col. mode
ASCII/PETASCII: both
Terminal Emulation: none
Modems: CBM 1650-1670
Baud Rate: 300-1200
Protocols: Punter
Buffer: 55,808 bytes
REU Support: none
Disk Drives: 8-11
Macros: 8 programmable F Keys
Appearance: ugly main menu
Notes: This ancient program can claim only one unique feature: it can be setup to autodial phone numbers when it's booted. The Communicator's lineage is well documented, and harkens back to the "Terminal.C1" term (for the C-64) written by Steve Punter. On-line help is available, but the program is clunky and moving between terminal mode and the command menus is unreliable.
Author: Gary Patricks
Cost: Free-Public Domain

Address: unknown

VT100 EMULATOR-128 V2.1

Screen Mode: 80 col. only
ASCII/PETASCII: ASCII
Terminal Emulation: VT100
Modems: CBM 1660-1670, Hayes and compatibles
Baud Rate: 300 to 2400 (see note)
Protocols: XModem
Buffer: 61,440 bytes
REU Support: via RAMDOS installed in page 8
Disk Drives: 8
Macros: none
Appearance: standard, status line on top line
Notes: This program is only available with the "new" 1670 modem package. Originally written by Joe O'Hara, it has been updated and enhanced by Fred Bowen (also responsible for RAMDOS and other wonders). Fred reports that speeds up to 4800 baud are possible. If you purchased a newer 1670 modem, this program will serve your VT100 needs, at least until you can get any of several others available.
Author: Joe O'Hara/Fred Bowen
Cost: see note
Address: 1200 Wilson Drive West Chester, PA 19380 USA

GEOTERM 128 V2.1

Screen Mode: 40 or 80 col.
ASCII/PETASCII: ASCII only
Terminal Emulation: none (GEOS)
Modems: CBM 1670, Hayes and compatibles
Baud Rate: 300-1200
Protocols: XModem (CRC & 1K), Punter, Nibbler
Buffer: 30,720 bytes
REU Support: as a RAM Disk (GEOS style)
Disk Drives: A, B, C (see note)
Macros: 8 programmable F Keys
Appearance: GEOS
Notes: This is the best term available for use in the GEOS environment. The original version of GeoTerm was a nifty hack, but was hard to use, as it relied on the user do all the work. This version of GeoTerm has been improved immensely, and is certainly a worthy addition to your Geos library. Some of its more noteworthy features are the inclusion of the Convert utility, definable function keys, phone number files, ASCII to PETSCII (and vice versa) conversion in the buffer, and the addition of several newer transfer protocols. Now you can download a program, convert it to GEOS format, and go (almost)

directly to it, while remaining in the Geos environment all the while. Master Blaster has done this one up right!
Author: William Coleman
Cost: \$19.97
Address: Geos Power Pak II Run Magazine 80 Elm Street Peterborough, NH 03458 USA

The 17 programs detailed above are presented in no special order. If you don't see a particular program mentioned here, it simply means that I haven't seen it--it doesn't necessarily mean that I don't like it! Note that the majority of these programs have never been sold in a store, and are either in the public domain or offered as shareware. At first I was puzzled by this. With so many quality programs out there, why aren't they being marketed? Then I heard about Bob Lentini (author of BobsTerm Pro). Software piracy is so widespread among Commodore users that Mr. Lentini simply quit developing programs for us! It simply didn't make sense to him to work hard on a product, only to see it given away as casually as an old newspaper.

In spite of the piracy, many others have written terminal programs. And, by freely releasing their programs so that you can test them first, many of these authors hope to save the money normally spent on advertising and packaging. We users do all the advertising for them, by word of mouth (and by telecommunication). This is a good system, when it works. Unfortunately, there is evidence that some users won't even pay the small prices usually asked for these extraordinarily high quality programs.

Obviously, an enormous effort has been made to supply C-128 users with quality term programs. It would be a terrible waste if the authors of these programs weren't rewarded for their labor, and could signal the end of software development for this machine. On the other hand, if we support the people who are so willing to devote their energies to our cause, perhaps we won't be remembered as "pirates". Rather, when C-128 programmers mention us, they might use terms of endearment.