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RC855 TTY Emulator
Operating Guide

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Abstract:

Operating guide for RC855 TTY Emulator. The manual describes keyboard functions, operating procedures, emulator messages and terminal configuration. It covers the specific aspects of operating the emulator, and is meant to be used in conjunction with the terminal operating, the software installation, the application guidance and the technical reference data documents.
(32 printed pages)

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1. INTRODUCTION 1.

The RC855 TTY Emulator software package is available for use with the RC855 Work Station. The TTY Emulator is loaded from an attached diskette drive under the CP/M® Operating System but the TTY Emulator is a stand alone program and does not run under CP/M when loaded.

Operation of the RC855 Work Station is covered by the RC855 Operating Guide [2].

Installation of the emulator software from diskette is covered by the RC855 TTY Emulator, Installation Guide [1].

This guide covers the general aspects of using the RC855 TTY Emulator and also contains a survey of the TTY Emulator characteristics. Specific technical information is found in the Emulator reference manual [3].

1.1 TTY Emulator Characteristics 1.1

The RC855 TTY Emulator software package is a software system for asynchronous full duplex communication with RC8000 computers and other host computers.

The RC855 TTY Emulator can be used as a console or a terminal in connection with RC8000/RC3600 as well as it can be adapted to most standard computer systems.

The characteristics of the RC855 TTY Emulator are very much like the characteristics of the RC851 Display Terminal [4], [5]. In chapter 2 is given a survey of the TTY Emulator facilities.

1.2 Terminal Configuration 1.2

The functioning of the terminal running the RC855 TTY Emulator is affected by a number of configuration parameters. These parameters may be changed under program control by entering the Terminal Setup Mode. The configuration parameters are initially

read from the terminals non-volatile memory when the TTY Emulator is started. In the Terminal Setup Mode the operator may change these parameter values either temporarily or "permanently" by moving the new values to the non-volatile memory. Chapter 3 gives a detailed description of the Terminal Setup Mode and the parameters.

2. RC855 TTY EMULATOR SPECIFICATION 2.

The RC855 TTY Emulator is a tty-compatible scroll and page mode terminal which uses two serial asynchronous communication interfaces (CCITT V.24) to communicate with a host computer and (optionally) a printer. The communication with the host computer is full duplex.

Basically, keyed in characters are transmitted to the host computer, and characters received from the host computer are displayed, but in addition keyed in characters may be displayed locally, if the host computer is not echoing received characters, and displayed characters may (optionally) be copied to a printer if a printer is available with the system.

The display may be operated in either scroll mode (which is the usual way of operation) or page mode. In scroll mode the display acts as an "endless roll of paper" where all the lines are moved upwards (thereby making the top line invisible) each time a new bottom line is finished.

In page mode the display acts as "one piece of paper". When the bottom line is finished, the emulator provides the top display line as the next available line.

The operational modes are normally determined from the host system. Page mode is entered when one or more protected characters appear on the display (sent from the host system or keyed in with local echo). Protected characters are identified as characters being displayed with increased intensity.

2.1 Function Switches 2.1

The RC855 TTY Emulator operation is controlled by the actual setting of the following function switches.

2.1.1 Local Echo

This function is used to display keyed in characters when the host computer does not transmit an echo of received characters.

2.1.2 Communication Mode

The communication mode is either local or remote. In the remote communication mode (which is the normal mode) keyed in characters are transmitted to the host computer. In the local communication mode keyed in characters are displayed locally, but no communication with the host computer takes place.

2.1.3 Supervisor Mode

In supervisor mode all control codes are displayed with their graphic representation, and the TTY Emulator performs no actions on the control codes.

2.1.4 Print

The print function switch determines if displayed characters should also be sent to the printer. Except for CR, LF and FF codes control codes are not sent to the printer. The print function also works in local communication mode.

2.1.5 Hard Copy Print

The hard copy print is an instant function which, when invoked, produces a copy of the display on the printer. The copy is preceded by a form feed character and consist of 24 or 25 lines of 80 characters. Control codes are printed as spaces.

2.2 Communication Interfaces 2.2

Communication with the host computer and (optionally) the locally connected printer uses two serial asynchronous communication interfaces (CCITT V.24).

Communication speed, parity and character format is determined by the TTY Emulator by the contents of the non-volatile memory when the TTY Emulator is loaded. The values of speed, parity and character format for both the host line and the print line may (independently) be changed by the operator according to the below mentioned possible values.

2.2.1 Line Speed 2.2.1

The line speed may be set to 110, 300, 600, 1200, 2400, 4800 or 9600 baud.

2.2.2 Line Parity 2.2.2

The line parity may be set to even parity, odd parity or no parity.

2.2.3 Line Character Format 2.2.3

The line character format may be set to 7 or 8 data bits, and 1, 1 1/2 or 2 stop bits.

2.3 Conversion Tables 2.3

When the RC855 TTY Emulator is loaded the necessary conversion tables are copied from a built-in PROM. National differences in keyboard layout and alphabets are handled by converting keyboard input to an internal representation, and by converting internal representation to display and printer, thus making the TTY Emulator independent of the actual RC855 version.

The internal character representation is identical with the character repertoire used in the communication with the host computer.

2.4 Display and Cursor 2.4

The display capacity available in normal operation mode (scroll mode or page mode) is 1920 characters arranged in 24 lines, 80 characters each.

In the Terminal Setup Mode the 25th line is used for local operator communication without changing the contents of the top 24 lines.

There is an attribute character associated with each character position in the display. This attribute character is used to show characters in normal light intensity or highlighted (protected characters).

If the display contains protected characters the TTY Emulator is said to be in page mode, otherwise the TTY Emulator is in scroll mode.

The cursor type is user controlled and may be a block or an underscore, either steady or blinking.

The cursor is position addressable i.e. specific sequences of characters received from the host computer may be used to move the cursor to any position within the top 24 lines. Refer to [3] for specification of cursor addressing.

2.5 Control Codes and Display Functions 2.5

The RC855 TTY Emulator has specific reactions to 20 different control codes, such as DELETE LINE, DELETE CHAR, LINE FEED, RETURN, CLEAR and HOME to mention the most commonly known.

An exhaustive list of control codes, their character values and a detailed description of the actions associated with the reception of the control codes may be found in [3].

2.6 Keyboard Usage 2.6

As the RC855 work station is designed to be used with many different application programs the keyboard does not specifically reflect the needs of the RC855 TTY Emulator and consequently only a subset of the keys available are used with the TTY Emulator.

2.6.1 Keyboard in Normal Operation Mode 2.6.1

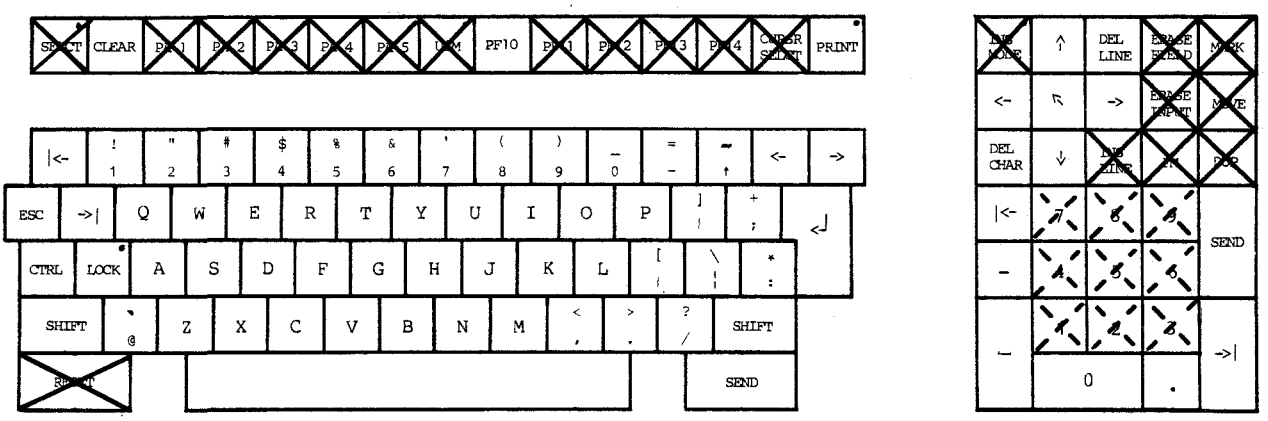

Figure 1: RC855 Keyboard Layout (US English Variant).

In normal operation mode the following keys are blind i.e. ignored by the TTY Emulator as indicated by deletion of keys in fig. 1:

PA1-PA5, USM, PF1-PF9, PF11-PF14,
CURSR SELECT, INS MODE, ERASE FIELD,
MARK, ERASE INPUT, MOVE, INS LINE,
FM, DUP and RESET.

PF1-PF9 are deleted with dotted lines as the numeric keys are available when used without the SHIFT key.

The following special keys are handled in normal operation mode:

CLEAR	is handled as form feed.
PF10	produces a hard copy of the display if a printer is attached (top 24 lines).
PRINT	is the print on/print off function switch. When print on is specified a lamp in the button is lit.
↑	is handled as cursor up.
DEL LINE	is handled as erase line.
←	is handled as backspace.
↖	is handled as HOME.
→	is handled as space.
|←	is handled as erase line.
DEL CHAR	is handled as back space.
↓	is handled as line feed.
→|	is handled as tabulation.
↵	is handled as carriage return.
SEND	is handled as carriage return.
␣	is handled as space.

LOCK	causes following alphabetical characters to be regarded as capitals. When LOCK is "on" a lamp in the key is lit.
SHIFT + any key	causes recognition of the keys upper symbol (when two symbols are engraved) or recognition of a capital (when alphabetical and one symbol engraved).
CTRL + any key	causes recognition of the least significant five bits of the character value.

LOCK, SHIFT, CTRL, PF10 and PRINT keys are recognized as internal state shifts or instant functions and do not cause any transmission to the host computer.

Pressing SHIFT + SELCT causes the terminal to enter the Terminal Set-up Mode (see subsection 2.6.2).

A detailed description of character values transmitted to the host computer in correspondance to keys pressed may be found in [3].

2.6.2 Keyboard in Terminal Setup Mode 2.6.2

In Terminal Setup Mode most keys are blind and no keys cause transmission to host (whereas received characters from host are displayed as in normal operation mode).

The keys ↑ ↓ ↖ ← and → are used for editing of parameter values as described in detail in subsection 3.1.

PF10 produces a hard copy of the display if a printer is attached (total 25 lines).

SEND transfers the currently selected parameter values to the non-volatile memory.

ESC causes the TTY Emulator to return to normal operation mode with parameter values as when the terminal setup mode was entered.

SHIFT + RESET causes the TTY Emulator to reenter the terminal setup mode with parameter values as when the terminal setup mode was entered/reentered previously.

SHIFT + SELCT causes the TTY Emulator to perform reinitializations (such as line speed a o) according to the selected parameter values and enter the normal operation mode.

While in Terminal Setup Mode the cursor is invisible. If characters are received from the host computer normal operation mode is temporarily entered and display and cursor position is properly updated. Upon exit from the Terminal Setup Mode the cursor is restored in its latest normal operation mode position.

3. OPERATING PROCEDURES 3.

Terminal operations prior to the software load is described in the RC855 Operating Guide [2]. The RC855 TTY Emulator is made operational by typing the name of the file containing the TTY Emulator, after the CCP has prompted A>, i.e.

>A tty↵

This will load the TTY Emulator which after a short while identifies itself on the display with the following text (e.g.)

RC855 TTY Emulator
Version 1.x
Line speed: 4800 bps print speed: 4800 bps RFS: on CARRIER: on

Line speed: <value> bps displays the setup value of the host line transmission speed as determined by the contents of the non-volatile memory.

print speed: <value> bps displays the setup value of the print line transmission speed as determined by the contents of the non-volatile memory.

RFS: <line status> and CARRIER: <line status> display the value of the modem signals Ready For Sending and Carrier on. Both must be on to communicate with the host. If either is displayed as off the TTY Emulator is unable to continue its operation, and you will have to check your transmission facilities in order to carry on.

If the modem signals are both on the TTY Emulator will proceed to normal operation mode (initially scroll mode). You may now enter the Terminal Setup Mode in case you need to check the settings of function switches or host/print line transmission specifications. If you know that parameter settings are as required you may just start operating in the normal operation mode.

3.1 Terminal Setup Mode 3.1

During normal operation mode the Terminal Setup Mode may at any time be entered by pressing the SHIFT + SELCT keys simultaneously.

This causes the opening of the 25th line on the display which during the Terminal Setup Mode functions as the local operator-emulator communication area. While the top 24 lines are left unchanged during the Terminal Setup Mode the 25th line will show the text

setup mode CURSOR TYPE <value>

The first field shows that the TTY Emulator is in Terminal Setup Mode. The second field shows the name of the first parameter in the parameter list, i.e. CURSOR TYPE and the third field shows the currently actual value of the parameter displayed. For this parameter the value may be BLOCK, BLOCK BLINKING, UNDERSCORE or UNDERSCORE BLINKING.

The parameter list consist of 10 parameters which logically fall into three groups: operator convenience parameters, function switches and environment adaption. The parameters are:

operator convenience	CURSOR TYPE
function switches	LOCAL ECHO
	COMMUNICATION
	SUPERVISOR MODE
environment adaptation	HOST LINE SPEED
	HOST LINE PARITY
	HOST LINE CHARACTER
	PRINT LINE SPEED
	PRINT LINE PARITY
	PRINT LINE CHARACTER

The operator can display the next parameter by pressing ↓ or the previous parameter by pressing ↑. To display the first parameter again the operator can press ↖ , or the operator can repeat pressing either ↓ or ↑ until the first parameter is shown.

Whenever a new parameter is displayed the previously displayed parameter assumes the value shown with that parameter name, and the new parameter is shown in line 25 field 2 associated with its current value in field 3.

Within each parameter another value may be chosen by pressing → selecting the next possible value or by pressing ← selecting the previous possible value in the list of values for the actual parameter. Whenever a new value is chosen a text describing the new value is instantly displayed in field 3, line 25.

The organization of the parameter list has two advantages. The operator only has to strike very few keys to select a parameter and change its value, and only legal parameter values can be chosen.

3.1.1 Parameter Values 3.1.1

In the following is described the possible values of the parameters in the parameter list. Parameter names in brackets refer to the parameter name in the utility program CONFI.

3.1.1.1 CURSOR TYPE (CP, Cursor Presentation) 3.1.1.1

The cursor type determines the visual appearance of the cursor on the display and may take any of the following values: BLOCK, BLOCK BLINKING, UNDERSCORE, UNDERSCORE BLINKING.

3.1.1.2 LOCAL ECHO 3.1.1.2

The local echo function switch determines if the TTY Emulator should display keyed in characters or not, and may take the values NO or YES.

3.1.1.3 COMMUNICATION 3.1.1.3

The communication mode switch determines if keyed in characters should be sent to the host or just displayed locally, and may take the values REMOTE or LOCAL. Initial value is REMOTE.

3.1.1.4 SUPERVISOR MODE 3.1.1.4

The supervisor mode switch determines if received control codes should be displayed in a visible fashion or if the control codes should activate special actions, and may take the values NO or YES. Initial value is NO.

3.1.1.5 HOST LINE SPEED (LS, Line Speed) 3.1.1.5

This parameter determines the transmission speed on the line to the host computer, and may take any of the values 110, 300, 600, 1200, 2400, 4800 or 9600 baud.

3.1.1.6 HOST LINE PARITY (LCF, Line Character Format) 3.1.1.6

This parameter determines the parity on characters transmitted to the host computer and the parity expected on characters received from the host computer, and may take the values EVEN PARITY, ODD PARITY or NONE.

3.1.1.7 HOST LINE CHARACTER (LCF, Line Character Format) 3.1.1.7

This parameter determines the number of data bits and the number of stop bits in the communication with the host computer and may take the values 7 DATA BITS 1 STOP BIT, 7 DATA BITS 1 1/2 STOP BIT, 7 DATA BITS, 2 STOP BITS, 8 DATA BITS 1 STOP BIT, 8 DATA BITS 1 1/2 STOP BIT or 8 DATA BITS 2 STOP BITS.

3.1.1.8 PRINT LINE SPEED (PLS, Printer Line Speed) 3.1.1.8

This parameter determines the transmission speed on the line to the printer (optional) and may take any of the values, 110, 300, 600, 1200, 2400, 4800 or 9600 baud.

3.1.1.9 PRINT LINE PARITY (CF, Character Format) 3.1.1.9

This parameter determines the parity on characters transmitted to the printer (optional) and may take the values EVEN PARITY, ODD PARITY or NONE.

3.1.1.10 PRINT LINE CHARACTER (CF, Character Format) 3.1.1.10

This parameter determines the number of data bits and the number of stop bits in the communication with the printer and may take the values 7 DATA BITS 1 STOP BIT, 7 DATA BITS 1 1/2 STOP BIT, 7 DATA BITS 2 STOP BITS, 8 DATA BITS 1 STOP BIT, 8 DATA BITS 1 1/2 STOP BIT or 8 DATA BITS 2 STOP BITS.

3.1.2 Updating of Parameters 3.1.2

When the RC855 TTY Emulator is loaded the necessary parameter information is moved from the non-volatile memory to the Emulators internal work area, and parameter updating in Terminal Setup Mode is performed on this copy.

Changing of parameter values does not have immediate effect, i.e. the TTY Emulator does not check the effect of changed parameter values until the TTY Emulator is brought back into normal operation mode. At this time, then, the TTY Emulator will perform necessary reinitializations (e.g. setting the print line speed) according to new parameter values.

While most keys are blind during Terminal Setup Mode some keys or key combinations are used for special actions. A survey of keys used in Terminal Setup Mode is shown in fig. 2 and in the following subsections is a description of the actions associated with each key or key combination.

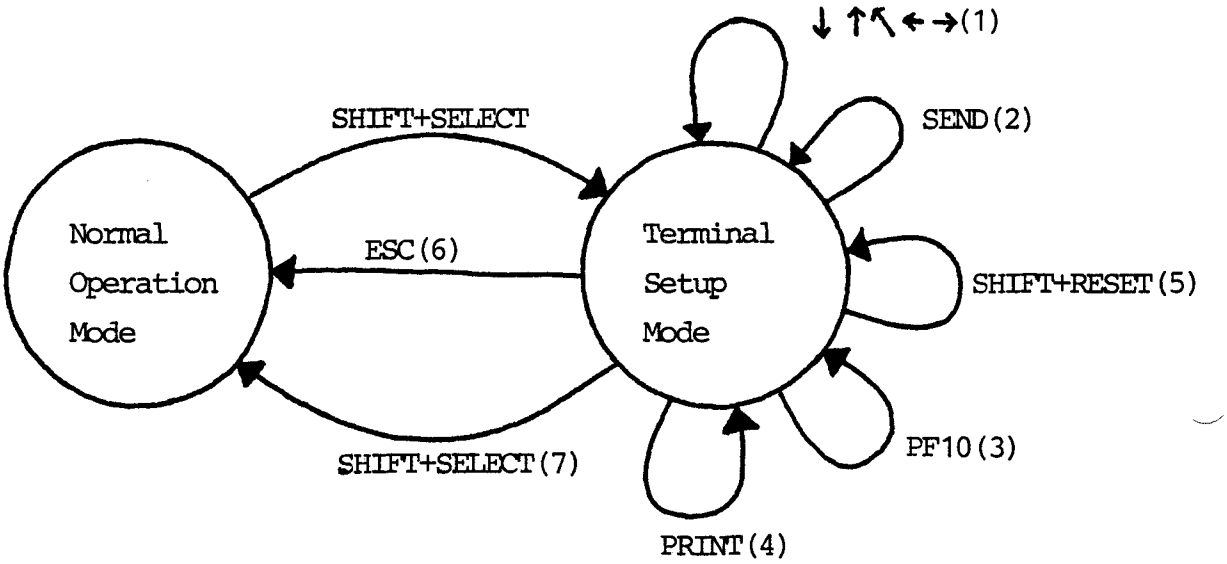

Figure 2: Actions in Terminal Setup Mode.

The figure shows the TTY Emulator modes and the keys causing mode shifts. Associated with the keys is a reference to a description of the action.

1) ↑ ↓ ↖ → ← These keys select parameters and parameter values.

3.1.2.1 Updating Non-Volatile Memory 3.1.2.1

2) SEND The SEND key causes the current parameter values to be transferred to the non-volatile memory. The TTY Emulator remains in Terminal Setup Mode.

While the parameters are moved the TTY Emulator will show the text "values moved to NVM" in line 25, field 1.

3.1.2.2 Print on/off and Hard Copy 3.1.2.2

3) PF10 — The PF10 key causes production of a 25 line hard copy of the display if a printer is attached (see subsection 2.1.5).

4) PRINT — The PRINT key causes inversion of the print function switch (see subsection 2.1.4).

3.1.2.3 Regret Parameter Changes 3.1.2.3

5) SHIFT + RESET — The SHIFT + RESET keys will cause all parameter values to be reset to the values they had when Terminal Setup Mode was entered. The TTY Emulator remains in Terminal Setup Mode and displays the first parameter.

6) ESC — The ESC key will cause all parameter values to be reset to the values they had when Terminal Setup Mode was entered, and the TTY Emulator returns to normal operation mode.

3.1.2.4 Accept Parameter Changes 3.1.2.4

7) SHIFT + SELECT — The SHIFT + SELECT keys will cause accept of the currently selected parameter values. The TTY Emulator will perform the necessary reinitializations according to the new parameter values and return to normal operation mode.

When the TTY Emulator is returning to normal operation mode line 25 in the display is closed and the cursor is restored in its latest normal operation mode position.

3.2 Normal Operation Mode 3.2

When the RC855 TTY Emulator is loaded it will be in normal operation mode provided the modem signals Ready For Sending and Carrier are both "on".

By setting the TTY Emulator in Terminal Setup Mode the operator may change operator convenience parameters, function switches and environment adaption parameters as described in detail in sections 2.1 Function Switches and 3.1 Terminal Setup Mode.

The function of the keyboard and the display is covered in section 2.6 Keyboard Usage and 2.4 Display and Cursor. Further, the actual functioning of the TTY Emulator depends on the setting of the function switches and the host computers response to characters transmitted to it. Therefore, the operator must refer to the appropriate host computer system operating guides.

Below is given a survey of how the setting of the function switches influence data flows on the single character level in the TTY Emulator.

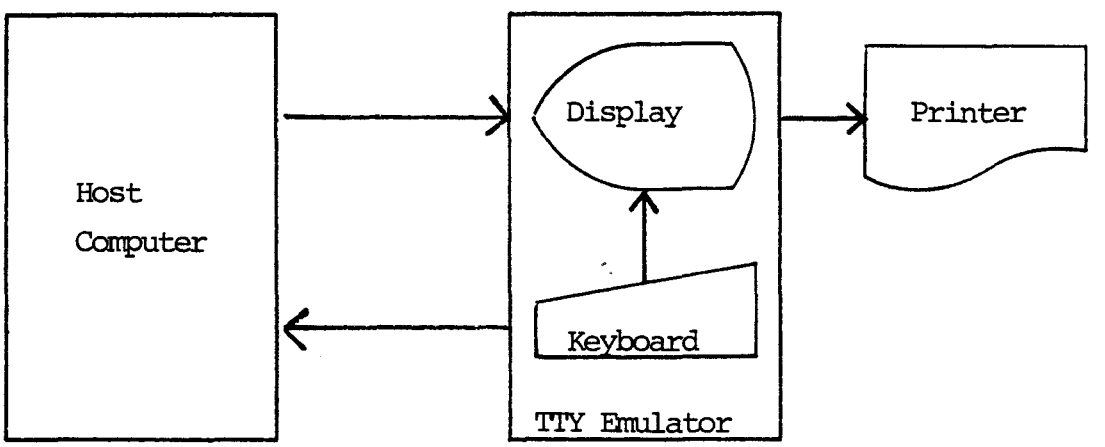

Figure 3: Data flow in the TTY Emulator.

3.2.1 Keyboard to Host Computer 3.2.1

Keyed in character values are transmitted to the host computer provided the TTY Emulator is in normal operation mode and the communication switch is set to "remote".

3.2.2 Host Computer to Display 3.2.2

Characters received from the host computer are handled by the TTY Emulator in both normal operation mode and terminal setup mode provided the communication switch is set to "remote".

The processing of the characters depend on the character values. Normal character values representing graphical characters are sent to the display. Control character values will cause action corresponding to the actual character values (see RC855 TTY Emulator, Reference Manual [3] for character values and associated actions) if the supervisor mode switch is set to "no". Otherwise control character values are displayed by their graphical representation and no specific actions take place.

3.2.3 Keyboard to Display 3.2.3

Keyed in character values are sent to the display if the TTY Emulator is in normal operation mode and one of the following conditions are satisfied: The local echo switch is set to "yes" or the communication switch is set to "local".

As for characters received from the host computer the processing of the characters depend on the character values and the setting of the supervisor mode switch (see subsection 3.2.2 Host Computer to Display).

3.2.4 Display to Printer 3.2.4

The operator may produce a hard copy of the display on an (optionally) attached printer by pressing the PF10 key. The hard copy will be 24 or 25 lines depending on whether the TTY Emulator is in normal operation mode or in terminal setup mode, and will be printed on top of a new page. Control codes in the display are printed as spaces.

When using the TTY Emulator in normal operation mode, scroll mode, the operator may obtain a copy of each new line entered in the display by setting the print function switch to "on". However, the editing of the display image caused by actions according to received control codes can not be reproduced on the printer, i.e. except for CR, LF and FF codes control codes are not sent to the printer.

3.3 Return to CP/M 3.3

When the operator wishes to terminate the running of the TTY Emulator a "cold boot" of the CP/M Operating System may be performed by pressing the CTRL + CLEAR keys.

This will cause reloading of the complete CP/M Operating System from the attached diskette drive which then, at this moment, must be operational. (While operating the TTY Emulator the diskette drive may be switched off in order to reduce noise).

4. PROBLEM DETERMINATION 4.

This chapter is intended as a short guide to overcome the most likely seen difficulties when using the TTY Emulator.

It is assumed that your workstation is able to load and run the CP/M Operating System and that the operating system is able to load and start/execute some programs. With these conditions satisfied the following specific problems may be overcome by means of this guide.

Q1 : Does the display show the TTY Emulator start-up picture as shown on page 11?

If no, turn to 4.1 Load Problems, otherwise proceed.

Q2 : Are the RFS and Carrier signals indicated as "on"?

If no, turn to 4.2 Transmission Facility Problems, otherwise proceed.

Q3 : Do you get a response from the host computer displayed when you follow the signon instructions (e.g. keying ESC or CTRL + G or whatever).

If no, turn to 4.3 Host Communication Problems, otherwise proceed.

Q4 : Does the host computer response look correct in the sense of spelling and character repertoire?

If no, turn to 4.3 Host Communication Problems, otherwise proceed.

Q5 : If you have a printer attached to your RC855 Work Station, then, does pressing the PF10 key produce a correct copy of the display on the printer (in accordance with the description in subsection 3.2.4)?

If no, turn to 4.4 Printer Communication Problems. Otherwise it is concluded that the TTY Emulator functions properly.

4.1 Load Problems 4.1

Your RC855 Work Station has failed to load the TTY Emulator. Check that file tty.com is installed on your CP/M diskette. If not, or if you suspect the file to hold another program but the TTY Emulator, you may turn to [1] to see how to install.

4.2 Transmission Facility Problems 4.2

The TTY Emulator has been loaded but the transmission facilities are not in proper order as indicated by RFS and Carrier modem signals being displayed as "off" and keyboard lamps remaining lit.

Check that the RC855 Work Station line I is connected to your asynchronous modem and that power is switched on. If the Carrier modem signal is still being displayed as "off" you should check modem and connections in the host computer end.

4.3 Host Communication Problems 4.3

The TTY Emulator has been loaded and the transmission facilities are all right as indicated by RFS and Carrier modem signals being displayed as "on" and keyboard lamps are switched off. But the host computer does not respond to the signon instructions.

Check that the communication function switch is set to "remote". Also check that baud rate, parity and character format is properly specified.

If keyed in information is not displayed your host computer does not provide an echo of received characters and you should set the local echo function switch to "yes". If keyed in informationis displayed twice you should set the local echo function switch to "no".

Set the supervisor mode function switch to "no" in order to make the TTY Emulator react properly to control codes instead of displaying control codes.

4.4 Printer Communication Problems 4.4

If the printer fails to produce a correct copy of the display when the PF10 key is pressed you should check cable connections and power on the printer. You should also check the print line baud rate, parity and character format.

A. REFERENCES A.

[1] RCSL No 42-i2112:
RC855 TTY Emulator, Installation Guide
Claus Terp, August 1982
Abstract: This manual describes the installation of the RC855 TTY Emulator under the RC855 CP/M Operating System.

[2] RCSL No 42-i1686:
RC855 Operating Guide
Henning Christensen, April 1982
Abstract: Operating guide for RC855 Display Terminal. Describes: connections and operator controls; keyboard features; start-up procedures. Covers the general aspects and is meant to be used in conjunction with the specific software and the technical reference data documents.

[3] RCSL No 42-i2114:
RC855 TTY Emulator, Reference Manual
Claus Terp, September 1982
Abstract: Reference manual for the RC855 TTY Emulator. Describes emulator functions, including the character code transmitted by the emulator and the reactions of the emulator to received character codes. Also describes emulator interfaces. Does not describe communication with specific host computers.

[4] RCSL No 42-i1611:
RC851 Display Terminal, Operating Guide
Henning Christensen, October 1981
Abstract: This manual describes the operator controls, the keyboard and the operating procedures. The manual is intended as a guide for terminal operators in everyday work and it does not explain the terminal features in technical details.

[5] RCSL No 42-i1696:

RC851 Display Terminal, Reference Manual

Pierce C. Hazelton, October 1981

Abstract: Reference manual for the RC851 Display Terminal. Describes terminal functions, including the character code transmitted by the RC851 and the reactions of the RC851 to received character codes. Also describes terminal interfaces. Does not describe communication with specific host computers.

RETURN LETTER

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