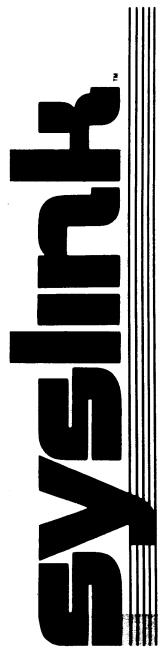


Powerful. Simple. Professional.



A member of the RIBBS network.

#### What is Syslink?

Designed by Software Interphase Inc, Syslink is a very new and exciting means of communication. In general terms, it is a "host" information system which home and business computer users (with modems) can access via the telephone line 24 hours a day.

#### What features does Syslink offer?

- \* USER GROUPS If you want to learn more about your home computer, consider joining one of Syslink's User Groups. Available for the Apple, Radio Shack, IBM, Commodore, and Atari computer owners', these groups serve as an ideal means for members to share and exchange information about their respective computer systems. Sponsored by area computer retailers, each section has its own bulletin boards, voting utility, and download library.
- \* MICROMATCH Tired of the club scene? Want to try something new? Then you should check out Micromatch, Syslink's online dating service. Members fill out questionnaires about themselves and then the computer matches people by compatibility and interests.
- \* TELELINK Now, you can talk to people across the country through you home computer. TeleLink, Syslink's newest feature, allows members to send and receive bulletins, Electronic mail, and files to Syslinks across the United States.

- \* INFOFILES MAGAZINE There's no need to go to the local drug store for that electronics magazine anymore. Now you can get the latest news on computer hardware and software, video and consumer electronics, and more through our InfoFiles Magazine. Articles are updated weekly.
- \* DOWNLOADING Over 300 public domain programs are available for the Radio Shack TRS-80, Apple, IBM, Commodore, and Atari computers. Among these programs are games, utilities, business applications, etc.
- In addition, Syslink features an "Additional BBS Systems Database", "Trivia", "SuperVote", and much, much more.

#### How do I subscribe to Syslink?

To subscribe for one year, complete the enclosed form and send \$25 in check or money order to the address below. For your convenience, VISA and MASTERCARD are also accepted. Included with your subscription is our 48-page user-friendly manual.

Software Interphase, Inc. 5 Bradley Street Providence, RI 02908

Note: Software Interphase Inc. GUARANTEES no hourly fees; however, we reserve the right to enhance Syslink's features and modify subscription rates accordingly.

Burgara Barangan Barangan Barangan

# SYSINK.

USER 10: 29

PASSWORD: 149PCE

PHONE: 272-1138

272-1239

# User Operations Manual

Version 3.0

# NOTICE

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BORDER AND THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE

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the state of

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# Chapter 1 The History of Syslink

"Syslink, like Rome, was not built in a day..."

It all began when Tony bought a modem in April of 1982.

Tony Pelliccio, a good friend of Don Lambert (the author of Syslink), was one of the first 50 or so people in Rhode Island to buy a modem. At that time, Rhode Island had but one bulletin board, Nybblink (at this writing, RI has over 40 boards running). Anyway, back to our story.

In May, much to Tony's dismay, Nybblink was taken down forever. Finding himself with a worthless modem, he decided something had to be done. He promptly persuaded Don to write and run a bulletin board. And lo, Syslink was born!

This original Syslink (called Syslink-80 at the time but now referred to as Syslink-I for clarity) was not quite as powerful as the Syslink-III you are presumably the proud owner of. When it went online in June, 1982, it had electronic mail, feedback, a (single) bulletin section (commands like titles, read and post were main menu commands!), uploading and downloading, a list of other boards, a page feature, and a time & date function. At that time, a separate file was used for each bulletin. The system ran under TRSDOS Basic using USR calls for modem I/O.

In August, the job log was added to the system. As of this writing, there have been over 32,000 calls to various versions of Syslink. Later in 1982, the SICs were added; each bulletin still used a separate file.

In June, 1983, Syslink-II was put up and began with caller 4000 (Syslink-I's last caller was 3999). The new version was a total rewrite, using special Basic commands under a version of TRSDOS Basic that Don had patched unmercifully. All modem I/O was now accomplished through the use of these special commands. All bulletins for each bulletin section were contained in a single file, so there were now no more bulletin files than bulletin sections, greatly increasing system efficiency. The system could at that time handle 1000 bulletins. The additional BBS's section was also upgraded, and a primitive version of the Link feature was added.

In July, 1983, the first Syslink Bash was held. Attended for the most part by only 6 people, all friends of Don, the gathering was nevertheless unanimously dubbed a success.

Chris Arthur entered the picture in October of 1983 when he volunteered to write the documentation for Syslink-II, obviously not realizing what he was getting himself into. As he became familiar with the inner workings of the system, he decided to begin fixing the bugs that had slipped by Don. Thus began the reign of the infamous Mad Patcher. Having fixed all the bugs he could find and written a help file covering the entire system, he began improving the system, adding handy touches here and there. As the improvements became more and more extreme, Syslink 2.0 turned to 2.1 and not much later to 2.2. It was decided that some even more drastic changes would be made in the system (by both Don and Chris) and that the result would be called 2.3 and would be the version that would be sold (rather than 2.0, as was originally intended).

Syslink 2.3 was nearly complete and already online when the decision was made to do a complete rewrite, call it Syslink-III, and market that instead. Brief consideration was given to writing Syslink-III in pure machine language, rather than continue with the modified Basic; however, it was decided to rewrite the Basic from scratch to run under Model III Newdos/80 Version 2.5 (as opposed to further patching the mutilated TRSDOS Basic) and rewrite Syslink from scratch as well, using the new syntax under the new Basic. The TRSDOS to Newdos/80 switch was due to the far greater reliability of Newdos and its ability to support hard disk drives.

Thus were born SIBasic 3.0 and Syslink-III. Shortly after the project was begun, Chris had to resign (due to conflicts between homework and work on Syslink), leaving Don once again on his own to sink or swim. Don, as usual, not only swam but flew. Every main menu command found in Syslink 2.3 gained something in the transition to Syslink-III. The Wait and Sysop modes were greatly enhanced and XMODEM file transmission protocol was added, along with CIGs, a whole flock of new status functions, an all-new help facility, InfoFiles, FileMail, the Catalog Boutique, MicroMatch, and Trivia. Syslink-III began operation amid much fanfare on January 1, 1985. In July, free of high school forever, Chris returned to write the manual you are now reading.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of Syslink or getting more information, you can call the headquarters system at (401) 272-1138 with 300/1200 baud modem or call the business line at (401) 274-LINK.

Or you can mail us at:

Software Interphase, Inc. 5 Bradley Street Providence, RI 02908

#### Chapter 2

# Definition & Application

# 2.1 What is Syslink?

Syslink is an Information Transfer Exchange (ITE), that is, something that information is transferred to, from, and through. A single Syslink can be used as an information base; users can call from anywhere and send and receive information to and from Syslink. Users can also send information to other users by leaving it with Syslink; when the receiving user calls Syslink, the information will be there, ready and waiting. Using two or more Syslinks (referred to as Syslink Information Transfer Exchanges, or SITEs), the process can be extended; information can be transferred from user A to SITE A to SITE B to SITE C to user B, easily spanning great distances.

More is possible than the mere exchange of information, however. The information can be public or private. Users can also vote and fill out surveys on various topics, use the dating service, send entire programs privately to other users, and take tests on trivia. Smaller "Syslinks within Syslinks" are also possible with the optional CIG section; each CIG is like a miniature Syslink complete with a separate member list, downloads, bulletins, voting, and so forth.

# 2.2 What equipment do I need to run Syslink?

You must have a TRS-80 Model III or 4 with at least two disk drives and a Hayes or Hayes-compatible auto-answer modem. A printer is optional but highly recommended. A two-drive system will support only a general bulletin section, some voting, and a very limited amount of electronic mail; therefore, three or four drives or a hard disk are also recommended.

# 2.3 What are some of the uses of Syslink?

Here are just a few of the possibilities:

# 2.3.1 Home Use

Syslink is far more than just a bulletin board, but it serves as one very nicely. Running a bulletin board system for your community is fun and entertaining (users are more fun to watch than gerbils and hamsters, and you don't have to feed them). Also nice are the fame, glory, and power that are all a part of being a sysop.

#### 2.3.2 Small business

Syslink's Catalog Boutique provides a unique advertising and order-taking system for a business. Anyone can call up and get product information, prices, and so forth, and then place an order online. Also, as many small businesses have already discovered, a community service (like Syslink) is one of the best kinds of advertising.

# 2.3.3 Medium-sized or large business

In addition to an online catalog, Syslink can be used as a base which sales agents out in the field can call into. A business with several offices throughout the country could also have a Syslink in each and send interoffice or interdepartmental memos, private mail, and data files using Syslink's TeleLink Network feature to let the Syslinks communicate with each other.

# 2.3.4 Radio and television stations

Radio station disc jockeys can chat with callers through Syslink. A radio station could run voting and surveys on top songs, record sales, etc. Music trivia sections could be set up. Information on top 40 hits, playlists, upcoming concert and ticket information and so forth could all be readily available. Listeners could even call up and post requests and see what songs have already been requested. TV stations could conduct viewer polls on various topics, have information on weather conditions and the like available, and even let viewers post comments about the TV shows.

# 2.3.5 Newspapers

In addition to reader polls, newpapers could set up the system so that reporters can send their articles to the paper via modem, rather than the more error-prone method of reading them over the phone. The Providence Journal-Bulletin in Rhode Island equipped its reporters with TRS-80 Model 100's for this purpose.

# 2.3.6 School Systems

A school could store student information, grades, transcripts, etc. in Syslink. Public messages about school activities and current events as well as private inter-student mail are good ideas. Printing costs could be saved by having an online school newspaper. Votes, surveys, and online course information are possible as well.

#### 2.3.7 Churches

A church could run a general bulletin board as a community service as well as posting dates for meetings, trips, church events, and so forth.

#### 2.3.8 Police/Fire stations

A police station might want to have online a list of missing children and their descriptions. Police or fire stations could also have community information and dates for parades, field days, the Fireman's Ball, etc.

#### Chapter 3

#### Using Syslink

This chapter explains how to log onto Syslink, using features, and logging off. Syslink is an excellent BBS and to fully utilize it, it is suggested that you read this manual.

#### 3.1 Logging On

To connect with Syslink, you must have a terminal program and a modem with your computer. There are many different types of terminal programs you can use. Most today are "smart"; they have the capability of transferring programs and/or files. Some terminal programs do not. If you wish to transfer programs or files between your computer and Syslink, you must have a terminal program that supports the Ward Christensen XMODEM protocol. Consult your terminal program's manual to make sure that it does support XMODEM. XMODEM is a protocol that allows you to transfer files virtually without error.

First, call the Syslink in your area, wait for the tone and then place the modem in originate mode. If you have a "smart modem", you can dial and connect to Syslink from your keyboard. Next, wait for a message resembling "Press <ENTER> a few times". After this message (or any sign of activity from Syslink), press the <RETURN> key (or <ENTER> key on some computers) a few times until Syslink starts sending. It is necessary to do this because Syslink is trying to figure out what baud rate you are calling in at.

Next, Syslink will prompt you to press RETURN. If you press H and then <ENTER>, Syslink will skip the Opening Heading.

Syslink will now prompt you for your User ID. If you do not have an ID on this Syslink, you may have the option of signing in as a NEW user (an account is created for you by the system) and/or as a GUEST (no permanent account is created). The instructions for signing in as a GUEST or NEW user is self-explanatory on Syslink.

Finally, enter your password at the Password prompt. If you don't remember what your password is (tsk, tsk!) log in as a GUEST or NEW user and inform the SYSOP that you forgot your password. He/she will look it up for you and probably contact you by voice. But this is a hassle for Sysops, so please don't loose your password and ID.

After you have entered the correct user ID and password, Syslink will proceed to tell you how much electronic mail and FileMail (if any) you have waiting, along with the name and logoff time of the last user on the system and other fascinating information. You will then be at Syslink's Main Menu. It is from here where you can access all of Syslink's incredible features.

#### 3.1.1 Logging in as a GUEST

If this feature is enabled you may enter GUEST at the User ID prompt and thereby log into Syslink as a Guest User. Syslink will ask you for your name, city, state, etc. Guest Users cannot use the Email, FileMail, or MicroMatch sections simply because Guests don't have permanent account numbers.

#### 3.1.2 Logging in as a NEW User

If this function is enabled you may enter NEW at the User ID prompt and thereby log into Syslink as a New User. Syslink will ask you for permanent information like your street address, city, state, phone number, terminal linewidth, and so forth. Having gotten this information and verified it to the best of its ability, Syslink will ask you what you want your password to be, then assign you a User ID. Make sure that you DON'T GIVE YOUR PASSWORD TO ANYONE!

Next time you log onto Syslink, you simply type in your user ID and password and you will be granted access to Syslink (unless the Sysop has deleted your account).

#### 3.2 Syslink Commands

This is Syslink's Main Menu, "where it all happens."

# 3.2.1 <A> Additional BBS Systems

The A command lets you browse through a database of Additional Bulletin Board Systems. You may search this list, get listing by state, area code, or keys. Much more versatile than simple text file method on other boards.

# Additional BBS Systems Menu:

- <A> Complete listing of 52 records
- <C> List by area code
- <S> List by state
- <K> List by keys
- <G> Global search
- <X> Show state abbreviations
- <H> Keys explained
- <Q> Quit to main menu
- <E> Enter data into database

# 3.2.1.1 <A> Complete listing

This command displays a portion (or all) of records in the database according to the numerical range which you specify (see section 3.4.3 for more information on ranges).

# 3.2.1.2 <C> List by area code

The C command displays all records in the database within the 3-digit telephone area code you specify. Enter a 0 to abort.

# 3.2.1.3 <S> List by state

This function displays all records in the database within the two-letter state abbreviation you specify. See section 3.2.1.6 below for state abbreviations.

# 3.2.1.4 <K> List by keys

This command displays all records in the database marked with the key symbols you specify. You may type in one key or a group (i.e. \*%+@), and Syslink will display all records which contain any of those keys. See also section 3.2.1.7 below.

# 3.2.1.5 <G> Global Search

The G command displays all records in the database which contain a phrase you specify. For example, entering STOR would display records including "Storytellers" or "Historical". All alphanumeric characters and symbols including spaces may be contained in the search phrase. All fields including name, city and comment lines are searched. To search within a certain portion of the list (such as the first 20 records) specify that portion by a range (see section 3.4.3), followed by a comma, followed by the search phrase; i.e., 1-20,STOR.

#### 3.2.1.6 <X> Show state abbreviations

This function displays a handy list of all 50 states and their respective two-letter Post Office abbreviatons.

# 3.2.1.7 <H> Keys explained

The H command displays a list (created by the sysop) of all the key symbols currently used in the database along with a description of their meaning. Keys can be assigned to any records in database which are particularly significant or noteworthy.

# 3.2.1.8 <E> Enter data into database

This command allows you to add a new record to the database, entering information such as name, address, city, state, zip code, telephone number with area code, comments (up to 15 characters), and key code symbols when prompted. The new record number will be displayed above the name. Assumed value (last value entered) for each field will be shown in brackets during entry and may be used again by just pressing <ENTER>. State and area code listings will not reflect new records until the Sysop has recompiled these lists. The new data will register in the database upon return to the A command from the Main Menu. Depending on your priority, you may not be able to utilize this option.

# 3.2.1.9 <Q> Quit to main menu

The Q command brings you back to Syslink's main menu.

#### 3.2.2 <B> General Bulletin Board

User-posted public notices are displayed under the B command and divided into sections by subject. To read, post, delete, etc, first select a section by entering its number.

General Bulletin Board Menu:

- <C> Create a Bulletin section
- <D> Delete a Bulletin section
- <E> Edit topic name
- <I> Information about Syslink
- <L> List Bulletin sections
- <Q> Quit Bulletins
- or select (a section #)

# 3.2.2.1 <C> Create a Bulletin section

The C command initializes a new bulletin SECTION with a name. It is generally a good idea to post a message in a new section explaining its purpose. Depending on your priority, you may not have access to this command.

# 3.2.2.2 <D> Delete a Bulletin section

This command erases an entire bulletin SECTION permanently and erases all bulletins within that section. This is a sysop function (requires priority 8).

# 3.2.2.3 <E> Edit section name

The E function changes the name of a section. This is a sysop function.

# 3.2.2.4 <I> Information about Syslink

This function displays a file (supplied with Syslink) explaining various things about Syslink, including how to obtain a legitimate copy of it and becoming a Syslink SITE.

# 3.2.2.5 <L> List Bulletin sections

This command displays the names and numbers of all bulletin sections. The number of bulletins within each section is shown in parentheses. All sections with new bulletins (bulletins posted since your last call) are flagged with a \$ after the number of bulletins. You may, if you like, specify a range (see section 3.4.3) of sections to list, i.e. L7-12.

# 3.2.2.6 <Q> Quit Bulletins

The Q command returns you to Syslink's Main Menu.

#### 3.2.2.7 Select a section

To go into a bulletin section, simply enter that section's corresponding number (see section 3.2.2.5 above if you don't know the number of the section you want). You will then be presented with the following menu:

Bulletin Section Menu:

<T>itles

<R>ead

<N>ew message read

<P>ost a message

<D>elete your message

<Q>uit (name of section)

#### 3.2.2.7.1 <T>itles

The T option shows the titles and posting dates of the bulletins in the section you are currently in. Entering T by itself displays the titles of all the bulletins in the current section. Entering T followed by a range (see section 3.4.3) displays only those titles (and dates) you selected. Entering TN displays the titles of all new bulletins (all bulletins whose posting date is later than the date of your last call). Examples: T, T5-, TN.

#### 3.2.2.7.2 <R>ead

This function allows you to read bulletins you select several different ways. To read a single bulletin, enter R followed by the number of the bulletin you wish to read (i.e. R27) or just enter the bulletin number (i.e. 27). To read a certain set of bulletins, such as 3 through 13, enter R followed by the range (see section 3.4.3) you wish to read (i.e. R3-13). To go through the bulletins in sequence, with the option of starting or restarting with any bulletin, reading, replying to, and/or quitting after each one, just enter R. At any time while a bulletin is being displayed, you may skip the rest of just that message by typing a control-C (hold down shift and the down arrow and press C; see section 4.5.1 for details on control codes).

If you enter R and a range, you will be asked whether or not you want continuous reading. If you enter Y, Syslink will display each of the selected bulletins in sequence without stopping (unless you use control-S; see section 4.4.1). If you enter N or just press <ENTER>, Syslink will run through each of the bulletins you selected, displaying the title and then giving you the option of reading it (R or <ENTER>), skipping it (S), or quitting to the Bulletin Section menu (Q). You may avoid the continuous reading question by appending the answer (Y or N) to your R command, as in RY (read all bulletins in the section, continuously), R5-N (read all bulletins from number 5 to the last in the section, pausing after each title), or R27-38Y (read bulletins 27 through 38 inclusive, continuously).

# 3.2.2.7.3 <N>ew message read

The N command allows you to read all bulletins posted since your last call. Much the same as <R>ead, you can read bulletins three ways, by N, NY, or NN; see section 4.3.2.7.2 above.

# 3.2.2.7.4 <P>ost a message

This command allows you to post a public bulletin in the section you are in. First, enter the title (subject) of your bulletin. Limit yourself to a 36 character summarization of your bulletin's contents. You will then be able to compose your message line by line using Syslink's text editor (see section 3.3). Depending on your priority, you may not be able to access this command.

# 3.2.2.7.5 <D>elete your message

The D command will let you delete messages in the bulletin section that you are in. You must supply a range of bulletins to be deleted if there is more than one. For example, to delete messages 2, 3, and 4, enter D2-4. Those messages and their titles will be erased. You will then see that message 5 will has been renumbered to position 2 in the titles list. If you enter the D command and then decide that you do not want to delete any bulletins, enter a bulletin number of 0 and the deletion process will be aborted. You may only delete bulletins which you wrote.

#### 3.2.2.7.6 <Q>uit (name of section)

If the name of the bulletin section you are in is Classified Ads, then this command would be listed as <Q>uit Classified Ads. However, no matter what name it is currently going by, it will always bring you back to the General Bulletin Board Menu.

#### 3.2.3 <C> Common Interest Groups

The official abbreviation for Common Interest Groups is CIG or CIGs, pronounced sig (or sigs), rhyming with pig (or pigs). This command is not included with the standard Syslink. Documentation for the CIG option is not available in the user's manual. The menus in the CIGs are self-prompting and experienced users do not need a manual.

If you want to see CIGs in action firsthand, call the Syslink HQ at 401-272-1138. The CIG option requires at least 1.5 megabytes of online storage.

You may be wondering what's so great about CIGs that they're worth all that. Each CIG is a miniature Syslink, complete with a CIGop (up to 4 for each CIG, and they don't have to be sysops of the whole system), two bulletin sections, down- and uploading, an opening bulletin, an information bulletin, feedback (to the CIGops), a separate member list, voting, and a complete set of CIGop utilities. These CIGop utilities allow the CIGop(s) to add users to the CIG's member list, delete members from the CIG, control what commands each CIG member can access within the CIG, read and reply to the feedback, set priorities and flags for the CIG, and edit that CIG's opening and information bulletins.

# 3.2.4 <D> Downloading

Downloading is a process by which programs and text files may be directly transferred from Syslink to your computer. Syslink supports ASCII and XMODEM file transfer protocol. It is best to use XMODEM because it downloading can be done virtually without errors within the file. Your terminal program must have XMODEM capability; consult your terminal package's manual.

#### Downloading Menu:

- <H>> Help for downloading
- <L> List classifications
- <S> Select a download class
- <A> All classes selected
- <Q> Quit to Main Menu

or select file

# 3.2.4.1 <H> Help for downloading

The H command displays the section of Syslink's help file devoted to Downloading. If this doesn't help, read "Help with Protocol" after selecting a file to download.

#### 3.2.4.2 <L> List Classifications

This command lists all download classifications and their respective abbreviations. The sysop can edit this list.

# 3.2.4.3 <S> Select a download classification

By using the S option, you can automatically ignore all download files you don't care about (such as those not for your computer). You will be prompted to enter the classification you want; having done so, the list of titles you will then see will not include any outside of the classification you selected.

#### Downloading SubMenu:

- <T> Titles only
- <E> Expanded Titles (length-type)
- <D> Descriptive titles
- <Q> Quit
- or select file

# 3.2.4.3.1 <T> Titles only

This function shows the titles and corresponding file numbers of all files (i.e. programs or text files) available (except any you avoided by selecting a class). Entering just T will list all titles and file numbers (file numbers are needed to download). Entering T followed by a range (see section 3.4.3) will list the titles and file numbers of files within that range.

# 3.2.4.3.2 <E> Expanded Titles

The E function displays the following file attributes: file number, title, size, number of accesses, type and classification. Size is measured in bytes (number of characters). Number of accesses shows how many times a file has been downloaded prior to your call. Type is a 1-letter code (B-BASIC, M-Machine Language, T-Text) describing file format. The format is either E or E followed by a range, the same as the T command (section 4.3.4.3.1 above).

# 3.2.4.3.3 <D> Descriptive titles

The D command lists descriptive titles, which may be up to 56 characters long and are therefore usually more informative than the title of the file. Format is either D or D followed by a range, same as the T command (section 3.2.4.3.1 above).

# 3.2.4.3.4 <Q> Quit

This command returns you to the Downloading Menu.

#### 3.2.4.3.5 Select a file

Having figured out which file you would like to download, enter its file number. You will see a short menu offering the following choices of protocol: ASCII - XON/XOFF (A), XMODEM (X), help with protocol (H), or quit (Q). Selecting quit will return you to the last menu you were at (either the Downloading Menu or the Downloading SubMenu). Selecting help with protocol will display the part of the help file dealing with the different downloading protocols available. After selecting either of ASCII or XMODEM, Syslink will wait until you are ready (i.e. you press <ENTER> or send a NAK as appropriate).

# 3.2.4.4 <A> All classes selected

The A command is the equivalent of performing an S command (see section 3.2.4.3 above) and selecting all available classifications simultaneously. You will then be at the Downloading SubMenu; see section 3.2.4.3 above for details.

# 3.2.4.5 <Q> Quit to Main Menu

The Q command returns you to Syslink's Main Menu.

# 3.2.4.6 Select a file

See section 3.2.4.3.5 above.

# 3.2.5 <E> Electronic Mail

The E function lets you send and receive letters (private text files) with other Syslink users. Electronic mail is composed with Syslink's Text Editor (see section 3.3) and delivered immediately. Letter recipients are notified that they have mail waiting to be read next time they log on.

Electronic Mail Menu:

<R> Read Mail

<S> Send Mail

<L> List Users and IDs

<M> Mail Delivery Status

<Q> Quit to Main Menu

#### 3.2.5.1 <R> Read Mail

The R command allows you to read through all the mail you have waiting. After each letter you have the option of re-reading the letter (A), reading the next letter (N or <ENTER>), or replying to the letter (R) using the text editor. If the letter was from another Syslink and you reply, your reply will be posted for transmission back to that Syslink SITE. Being able to reply depends on your priority.

# 3.2.5.2 <S> Send Mail

This command lets you use the text editor (see section 3.3) to write a letter which can then be sent to one or more users. Once you are through editing the letter (enter editor command S), Syslink will ask you for the user ID or full name of the recipient. The system will then find the user you have selected, display the user's name, and ask if it is the right user. If you respond N, Syslink will go back to the User ID or Full Name prompt; if you respond Y, Syslink will send the letter to that user and ask you whether or not you want to send the same letter to another user. If you answer N, Syslink will return to the Electronic Mail Menu. If you answer Y, you will be asked whether or not you want to edit the letter again before you send it again. A response of Y will send you back into the text editor with your letter intact; a response of N will send you directly to the User ID or Full Name prompt. Depending on your priority, you may not be able to use this command.

#### 3.2.5.3 <L> List Users and IDs

This function allows you to find a user you want to send a letter to when you don't know the user's full name. You can enter L to list all the users or L followed by a range to list just some of the users.

#### 3.2.5.4 <M> Mail Delivery Status

The M function lets you see if someone has gotten a letter you sent them. Syslink will ask you for the user ID of the user you want to check. It will then tell you about any letters that user has waiting that were sent by you; you have the ability to review (read) any letters sent by you.

# 3.2.5.5 <Q> Quit to Main Menu

The Q command returns you to Syslink's Main Menu.

# 3.2.6 <F> Feedback to Sysop

Feedback is a direct communications link between you and the Sysop. Through feedback, you can ask questions about the system, comment about Syslink, etc. Sysops may enter FR from the main menu (instead of just F); this enables them to read feedback from within Syslink.

#### 3.2.7 <G>

The G command is not in use at this time.

# 3.2.8 <H> Help with Syslink

This command allows you to access the help files supplied with Syslink. The help files are split up into 8 major sections, as follows:

- <1> Help with Syslink Features/Commands
- <2> Text Editor help
- <3> Using Range Interpreter
- <4> Control Codes
- <5> LIBrary Commands
- <6> General Help
- <7> Using the Line Editor
- <8> Multiple Command Mode
- <0> Quit to Main Menu (not a help topic)

All help files are supplied with Syslink, and are a shortened form of this chapter. Syslink-III User's Manuals are available from Software Interphase, Inc. or your local Sysop.

# 3.2.9 <I> InfoFiles

Operation of this command is identical to that of the B command. See section 3.2.2.

#### 3.2.10 <J> Job Control Log

The Job Control Log (JCL) is a detailed record of everything callers do while accessing Syslink. After entering any of the commands below (other than Q), Syslink will tell you the caller numbers of the first and last callers currently in the log, and ask you for a starting caller number. Enter 0 to return to the Job Control Log Menu or enter a starting caller number.

#### Job Control Log Menu:

- <N> Names and Logon/off times only
- <B> Breakdown of log information
- <S> Search log for a phrase
- <Q> Quit to Main Menu
- <C> Complete log with typed characters

# 3.2.10.1 <N> Names and Logon/off times only

The N command displays only the basic information about each caller. For instance, a log entry such as 32253-CHRIS ARTHUR (27) -- 08/26/85 18:46:42-(1200 Baud)-19:02:00 would mean your 32253rd caller was Chris Arthur, user ID 27. He called at 6:46 pm on August 26th, 1985 at 1200 baud and logged off at 7:02 pm. If a caller logs in as a GUEST, the user ID listed will be 0 and the city and state the caller is calling from will be included. If a caller logs in as a NEW user, the user ID will be shown as (342,NEW) (for user 342's first call).

# 3.2.10.2 <B> Breakdown of log information

In addition to the information described in section 3.2.10.1 above, this command displays every major action taken by callers in the log. Actions within each main menu command are contained in parentheses () following the main menu command letter. For example, an entry like [B(L1R 3 4 5 6 11 12Q, 2T10-QQ)E(R 42S 5 7Q)J(BQ)O] means that the user entered the B section, listed the bulletin sections within B, entered section 1, read messages 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, & 12, quit section 1, entered section 2, listed the titles of all bulletins after 9, quit section 2, quit B section, entered E section, read his/her mail and replied to a letter from user 42, sent a letter to users 5 and 7, quit E section, entered J section, used the B command, quit J section, and logged off. Note: if a user replies to a letter from a user at another SITE, the log entry will look like R(5/1), meaning the reply went to user 1 at SITE 5. If a caller uses Control-Q (see section 4.5.1), it will be shown as caret-Q. If an error occurs, it will be shown as \*\* 15 in 4250 \*\*\* (indicating that error 15 occurred in line 4250).

# 3.2.10.3 <S> Search log for a phrase

The S function allows you to search for a specified phrase within the log. For example, to see a list of callers who called in at 1200 baud, enter 1200 when Syslink asks for the search phrase. To see what Steve, user ID 22, has been doing on Syslink, search for STEVE or (22).

# 3.2.10.4 <C> Complete Log w/typed characters

In addition to the information described in section 3.2.10.2 above, Syslink will display, between braces (), everything the user typed at each colon (:) prompt exactly as it was entered. If the Sysop has not enabled the storage of keystrokes in the job log, this command is the equivalent of command B (see section 3.2.10.2 above). The command is usually available only to Sysops or very high priority users.

# 3.2.10.5 <Q> Quit to Main Menu

The Q command returns you to Syslink's Main Menu.

# 3.2.11 <K> Catalog Boutique

In the K section, various merchants can set up multi-page catalogs. Users can read these catalogs and place orders which are automatically sent to the merchant's email file. The K section operates identically to the B section with the following exceptions within a merchant's section:

The S command is used to list catalog pages (equivalent of T command in B section).

The P command is used by users to place an order with the merchant. This order is sent to the merchant's email file. (No equivalent in B section.)

# 3.2.12 <L> TeleLink Networking

The L command lets you send messages (email, bulletins, and FileMail) to other Syslinks. You can post a message for transmission at any time, and accumulated messages will be transmitted in the middle of the night at intervals that the sysop specifies. This is fantastic way to communicate with other users around the country at other Syslinks.

#### TeleLink Menu:

- <L> List Available SITEs
- <S> Search For a SITE
- <H>> SITE Delivery Status
- <E> Send Email to a SITE
- <B> Send Public Message
- <R> Send Private FileMail
- <Q> Quit to Main Menu

# 3.2.12.1 <L> List Available SITEs

The L command will display the SITE ID, name, location, date of next scheduled delivery, and wait status of each SITE in your list. One character is shown for the wait status (to the right of the date); a W indicates that you have files for that SITE which have not been sent and an N indicates that there is currently nothing waiting for that SITE.

# 3.2.12.2 <S> Search For a SITE

The S function will ask you whether you want to search by name (N), city (C), state (S), or quit (Q). After choosing a search type, enter all or part of the name/city/state you are looking for. Syslink will then list all SITEs which match the search key, in the same format as the L command (see section 3.2.12.1 above).

# 3.2.12.3 <H> SITE Delivery Status

This command asks you for the SITE ID of the SITE you want the status of and then either tell you there is nothing waiting for that SITE or (if there are messages waiting for that SITE) give you it's information in the following format:

SITE 2

Bridgewater Syslink Bridgewater, VT

Last Delivery: 07/01/86 Next Delivery: 07/03/86 Type: EMAIL /1/

Message by CHRIS ARTHUR User 27 (Syslink in Providence, RI SITE 1)

Waiting delivery

Type: PUBLIC MESSAGE /Hello 07/02/86-/

Message by CHRIS ARTHUR User 27 (Syslink in Providence, RI SITE 1)

Waiting delivery

Possible values for Type: above are EMAIL (followed by the user ID or name it was sent to, between slashes (//)), PUBLIC MESSAGE (followed by the message title and the date it was posted, between slashes), and FILEMAIL (followed by the user ID or name it was sent to, between slashes). The next line identifies the sender and SITE of origin, and the line following that tells you the file has yet to be delivered.

# 3.2.12.4 <E> Send Email to a SITE

The E command will ask you for the SITE ID of the SITE to which you want the email sent, followed by the full name or user ID of the user at that SITE that you are sending email to. You will then be put into the text editor (see section 4.4), and upon your return the message will be posted for transmission.

# 3.2.12.5 <B> Send Public Message

This command will request the SITE ID of the SITE you want the message posted on, and then the title of the message. You will then enter the text editor (see section 3.3) to compose the bulletin. Upon your return from the text editor, your message will be posted for transmission to the selected SITE's B-1 bulletin section.

#### 3.2.12.6 <R> Send Private FileMail

The R function will ask you for the SITE ID of the SITE you want to send FileMail to, followed by the full name or user ID of the user at that SITE to whom the FileMail is to be sent. You will then be asked for a brief title and description of your file (up to 34 characters), after which you will see a short menu offering the following choices of upload protocol: ASCII - XON/XOFF (A), XMODEM (X), help with protocol (H), or quit (Q).

# 3.2.12.7 <Q> Quit to Main Menu

The Q command returns you to the main menu, as always.

#### 3.2.13 <M> MicroMatch

This command lets you meet other users on Syslink with your interests. All users interested in participating must fill out the compatibility questionnaire.

#### MicroMatch Menu:

- <L> List Participants
- <F> Fill Out Questionnaire
- <R>> Review Questions
- <C> Find others of Similar Interests
- <M> Match by compatibility (both sexes)
- <D> Delete your Questionnaire
- <I> Information on a Matched User
- <Q> Quit

# 3.2.13.1 <L> List participants

The user ID's and names of the users who have filled out the questionnaire will be listed in the order in which they participated followed by the total number of participants.

# 3.2.13.2 <F> Fill out Questionnaire

To initiate yourself, fill out the questionnaire once. Enter Q to abort. You will have the option of making your questionnaire answers invisible to other users.

# 3.2.13.3 <R>> Review Questionnaire

You may preview the questionnaire before taking it. All questions and possible answers are listed.

# 3.2.13.4 <C> Find Others of Similar Interests

One way of matching yourself with other users is the C command. This command lets you go through the questionnaire and answer the question the way you want the other people to have answered them. Any questions you don't answer are not used in the matching process. Entering Q while answering the questionnaire is equivalent to skipping all the other questions.

For example, using Syslink's supplied questionnaire only, let's say you want to be matched with 19-year-old heterosexual females who don't smoke and do like rock & roll; you would answer B to question 1, A to question 2, C to question 3, H to question 4, A to question 5, and answer Q (to Quit) to question 6 (thus skipping all other questions). Syslink would then match you with all users who had answered the questionnaire themselves who met your qualifications.

Note that this command doesn't necessarily match people of the opposite sex. It is for compatibility only.

# 3.2.13.5 <M> Match by Compatibility

The M command compares your answers with other respondents' answers and produces a compatibility percentage ratio according to number of answers you and another user answered similarly; for instance, a heterosexual female is more compatible with a heterosexual male than a homosexual male is with a homosexual female. Note that this command doesn't necessarily match people by sex. The sex question is merely one small part of the whole picture. Yes, men can be matched with men. Remember this is for compatibilty!

# 3.2.13.6 <D> Delete your Questionnaire

This command erases your own answers to the questionnaire. You may re-fill out the questionnaire with new answers if you wish.

# 3.2.13.7 <I> Information on a Matched User

The I function lets you find out how a user you were matched to filled out their questionnaire (unless they requested that their answers remain private). You can also use this command to review your own answers. In any case, enter the user ID of the person whose answers you wish to see when prompted for User ID.

# 3.2.13.8 <Q> Quit to Main Menu

The Q command returns you to Syslink's Main Menu.

# 3.2.14 <N> Set System Parameters

The N command lets you and every other user customize certain features of Syslink to your personal tastes. After entering any of the commands below other than Q, if you just press <ENTER> in response to the prompt for the new setting, the setting will remain unchanged. For instance, if you entered A to change your terminal width (see section 3.2.14.1 below), and then decided not to change it after all, you could just press <ENTER> at the prompt for the new terminal width and nothing would be changed. You may display the parameters and their current settings by entering a question mark (?) at the Set System Parameters Menu. Current settings are in brackets [] following each option. Note that these settings can be different for each user.

#### Set System Parameters Menu:

- <A> Terminal Width [64]
- <B> Enable Lowercase [Y]
- <C> Enable Linefeeds [N]
- <D> AutoCommand at login [N]
- <E> Expert Mode at login [Y]
- <F> Quick Login [Y]
- <G> Set Password
- <H> Enable 'Hot' menus [N]
- <I> Connect-time prompt/Main Menu [Y]
- <S> Save change permanently
- <Q> Quit to Main Menu

#### 3.2.14.1 <A> Terminal Width

This function lets you adjust the maximum number of characters that fit onto one horizontal line of your terminal's screen. The minimum width is 20 and the maximum width is 132. The setting in our example is 64; this is what TRS-80 Model I/III users use since a Model III screen is 64 characters wide.

#### 3.2.14.2 <B> Enable Lowercase

This option lets you select whether or not Syslink sends lowercase characters; if you select N, Syslink will convert all lowercase to uppercase before sending. This is useful for certain earlier printers and some computers which cannot properly handle lowercase (such as the TRS-80 Color Computer I & II, which display reverse-video uppercase in place of lowercase).

#### 3.2.14.3 <C> Enable Linefeeds

Some terminals do not automatically drop down a line when they receive a carriage return (ascii 13); in this case, all lines sent by Syslink would appear on the same line on the terminal. These terminals need to be specifically told to drop down a line every time they need to; if you set this option to Y, Syslink will do this by sending a linefeed (ascii 10) every time it sends a carriage return.

# 3.2.14.4 <D> AutoCommand at login

If this option is set to Y, every time you log onto Syslink, your AutoCommand file (see section 3.4.2) will immediately be executed. This eliminates the need to enter AUTO each time you call. This command modifies your logon procedure, and has no effect unless saved permanently with the S command (see section 3.2.14.10 below).

# 3.2.14.5 <E> Expert mode at login

Normally, each time you log onto Syslink, Expert Mode 0 (novice mode) is assumed (see section 3.2.24 for details of each mode); if this option is set to Y, Expert Mode 1 (intermediate mode) is assumed at logon. This command has no effect unless saved permanently with the S command (see section 3.2.14.10 below).

# 3.2.14.6 <F> Quick Login

Quick logon, when enabled, bypasses the system identification screen normally seen after logging on. This command modifies your logon procedure, and has no effect unless saved permanently with the S command (see section 3.2.14.10 below).

# 3.2.14.7 <G> Set Password

The G command allows you to change your password; enter new one when prompted. Lowercase is converted automatically to uppercase. You will be notified if password change is successful. This command modifies your logon procedure, and has no effect unless saved permanently with the S command (see section 3.2.14.10 below).

# 3.2.14.8 <H> Enable 'Hot' menus

When "Hot" menus are enabled, you no longer need to press <ENTER> after entering commands at Syslink menus. On the other hand, you cannot enter any more than one character at colon (:) prompts, thus precluding the use of multiple commands (see section 3.4.4). Setting this option to Y is the equivalent of the LIBrary command HOT (see section 3.4.2). Note that another definition of "Hot Menus" refers to the ability to type a command letter while the menu is printing and have it execute immediately (without printing the rest of the menu); this is always possible in almost all parts of Syslink.

# 3.2.14.9 <I> Connect-time prompt/Main Menu

The I command lets you select whether or not Syslink will tell you how long you have been connected at the main menu. If you set this option to Y, every time you are at Syslink's Main Menu, the amount of time you have been logged on will be displayed in the format MINUTES.SECONDS (for instance, 20.42 means you have been on for 20 minutes and 42 seconds).

# 3.2.14.10 <S> Save changes permanently

If you have modified any of the above settings and wish to make your changes permanent, the S command will store them so that you won't have to change them again on future calls. If you do not save them with the S command, all changes will be lost when you log off.

# 3.2.14.11 <Q> Quit to Main Menu

The Q command returns you to Syslink's Main Menu.

# 3.2.15 <O> Log Off

This command tells Syslink you are done for now; it will hang up the phone and prepare for the next caller. You may also use the LIBrary commands OFF or BYE to log off (see section 3.4.2).

#### 3.2.16 <P> Page Sysop

A suggested alternate name for this command is Pester (or Plague) Sysop. If the Page flag is enabled, the internal cassette relay will go on for about a minute to signal the Sysop. If the Sysop wishes to chat with you, he will break in and chat. When the chat is over, you will be returned from where you left off.

# 3.2.17 <Q> Status Commands

Status commands are useful for maintaining Syslink, obtaining operation and usage statistics, locating problem sources, and finding out what messages are new on the system.

#### Status commands menu:

- <F.> Caller Frequency
- <L> Call Frequency Logbook
- <E> Error Logbook
- <S> System Status
- <M> Membership Status
- <Y> Your Status
- <T> Test phone connection/loopback
- <C> Message Base Count/Status
- <Q> Quit to Main Menu

# 3.2.17.1 <F> Caller Frequency

The Caller Frequency displays the hourly percentage breakdown of calls. It also shows the total number of calls so far this week, and the number of guest calls so far this week.

# 3.2.17.2 <L> Call Frequency Logbook

This command displays a week-by-week summary of the number of callers (logins) each week, and the number of guest calls in each one-week period.

# 3.2.17.3 <E> Error Logbook

Upon invoking this command, the date, time, line number, and program module in which each error listed occurred is displayed. The Error Logbook also shows the ID number of the user who was online when the error occurred. The Logbook dates back to the last erasure. Note that it is possible to trace how and where an error occurred; you can cross reference the time of the error with the time in the Joblog. An error in the Joblog is depicted as \*\* error in line number \*\*.

# 3.2.17.4 <S> System Status

The S command shows the storage space available on Syslink (measured in kilobytes, 1K = 1024 bytes) as well as the additional activity status of Syslink.

#### 3.2.17.5 <M> Membership status

This command displays names, number of email letters, number of FileMails, and last call dates of people whose user ID's you specify. Enter a single user ID or a range (see section 3.4.3) of them.

#### 3.2.17.6 <Y> Your Status

The Y command displays your personal information. If the AutoCommand Record number is greater than zero, you have built an AutoCommand Execution file. Download priority refers to the highest level of programs you may download; download credits refers to the number of files you may download through the D command (not FileMail or CIGs). Note that this command does not show information about anyone else.

# 3.2.17.7 <T> Test Phone Connection/Loopback

This command sends the entire set of printable characters to your screen ten times. You can determine the quality of your telephone line/connection by checking the consistency of each pass. Control-W aborts.

# 3.2.17.8 <C> Message Base Count/Status

The C command displays the header screens of all active message bases on Syslink (including B, C, I, and S). This is the equivalent of using the L command in each of these message bases. You will see the section number, section title, and number of messages in the section for each section of each message base. A dollar sign (\$) follows the number of messages in sections with new messages. After all sections have been displayed, you will be told the total number of messages on the system.

# 3.2.17.9 <Q> Quit to Main Menu

The Q command returns you to Syslink's Main Menu.

#### 3.2.18 <R> FileMail

FileMail lets you send programs or text files too large to send in Electronic Mail to other Syslink users using ASCII or XMODEM file transfer protocol. Recipients are notified of waiting FileMail the next time they log on.

#### FileMail Menu:

<R>> Receive FileMail

<S> Send FileMail

<D> Delivery Status

<L> List Users

<Q> Quit to Main Menu

#### 3.2.18.1 <R> Receive FileMail

This command allows you to download your FileMail using ASCII or XMODEM protocol. If errors occur while you are receiving your file, you will have the option of trying again. Also, you need not download everything in one session.

#### 3.2.18.2 <S> Send FileMail

The S command lets you upload programs or text files to specific users of Syslink. If you are unsure of the user ID's of the user(s) you are sending the file to, use the L command (see section 3.2.18.3 below) before you use the S command. If you wish to send the file to more than one user, enter all the ID's separated by commas, as in 5,42,69,331. Depending on your priority, you may not be able to use this option of FileMail.

#### 3.2.18.3 <L> List Users

This function prompts you for a range (see section 3.4.3) of users to list, then lists their names and user ID's.

# 3.2.18.4 <D> Delivery Status

This command lets you view a list of all undeleted FileMails on Syslink. You will see only files that you've sent. The information listed includes your user ID if you've sent anything, the date it was sent, the length of the file in bytes, the title of the file, and the ID's of all remaining recipients of the file. The file remains on the system after all the recipients have downloaded it; the Sysop must perform the deletion of the file.

# 3.2.18.5 <Q> Quit to Main Menu

The Q command returns you to Syslink's Main Menu.

# 3.2.19 <S> Special Interest Conferences (SICs)

The operation of this command is identical to that of the B command. See section 3.2.2

#### 3.2.20 <T> Trivia

The T command is quite powerful in that it allows up to 20 subject categories, each category containing up to 20 topics. Subjects are general categories like Science. Topics are areas covered under subjects, such as Astronomy, Biology, and Chemistry (all under the general heading of Science). Trivia can be used for fun or in the case of a school system, for education.

Trivia Subject Menu:

<C> Create a trivia subject
<D> Delete a subject
<L> List trivia subjects
<Q> Quit to Main Menu
or select (a subject #)

# 3.2.20.1 <C> Create a trivia subject

This command initializes a new trivia category in which trivia topics (sets of questions) may be typed in. Only a sysop (user with priority 8) may do this.

#### 3.2.20.2 <D> Delete a subject

The D command erases an entire trivia category permanently. All topics within that category are also deleted. Only a sysop may use this command.

#### 3.2.20.3 <L> List trivia subjects

The L command displays the names and numbers of all the trivia categories. The number of topics in each subject (category) is shown in parentheses. You may also list a range (see section 3.4.3) of topics. To go into a subject, enter its corresponding number.

# 3.2.20.4 <Q> Quit to Main Menu

The Q command returns you to Syslink's Main Menu.

# 3.2.20.5 Select a subject

To go into a trivia subject, simply enter that subject's corresponding number (see section (see section 3.2.20.3 above if you don't know the number of the section you want). You will then be presented with the following menu:

Trivia Topic Menu:

<C> Create a trivia topic

<D> Delete a topic

<L> List trivia topics

<Q> Quit to trivia menu
or select (a topic #)

# 3.2.20.5.1 <C> Create a trivia topic

The C command allows you to create topic questions under the trivia subject you selected. First, enter the title of the topic (make sure it is no more than 30 characters long). Compose your questions line by line as prompted. Separate all possible answers with commas, putting a \* to the left of the correct answer. When using the text editor (see section 3.3) to edit the questions, remember that the questions are on odd numbered lines starting with line 1. The answers are on even numbered lines. For example, the first four lines might look like this:

- 1 What was the ship number of the starship Enterprise?
- 2 CVN 65,\*NCC 1701,USS 1168,UFS 8011
- 3 Half-speed is what warp factor?
- 4 \*Warp 3, Warp 4, Warp 5, Warp 6

# 3.2.20.5.2 <D> Delete a topic

This command lets you delete topics from the subject you are in. You can delete a single topic or a range (see section 3.4.3) of them.

## 3.2.20.5.3 <L> List trivia topics

The L command lists the topics available under the subject you are in. Enter L to list all topics or L followed by a range (see section 3.4.3) to list certain topics.

## 3.2.20.5.4 <Q> Quit to Trivia Menu

The Q command returns you to the trivia subject menu (see section 3.2.20 above).

### 3.2.20.5.5 Select a topic

To select a topic, simply enter the number corresponding to that topic (If you do not know the number of the topic you want, see section 3.2.20.5.3 above). You will then see the following menu:

Trivia Within-Topic Menu:

- <R>> Review Trivia Questions
- <T> Take the Challenge
- <S> Trivia Statistics
- <H> Hall of Fame
- <Q> Quit to trivia menu

## 3.2.20.5.5.1 <R> Review Trivia Questions

This function lists the questions and all choices (not just the correct ones) for the answers. The idea is to let you see whether or not you want to try a particular topic without having to commit yourself. To answer the questions, see section 3.2.20.5.5.2 below.

## 3.2.20.5.5.2 <T> Take the Challenge

The T command lets you actually take the trivia quiz. It will go through all the questions one at a time, listing the question and the answer choices and waiting for you to pick one. If you want to quit after you have started without going through the remaining questions, enter Q (for Quit) at any question. When you are done, Syslink will tell you the percentage of the questions that you got right, make a comment based on your score (such as "need practice" if you got 20%), and then ask you if you would like to know which questions you got wrong. If you reply Y, it will list the numbers of the questions you did not answer correctly (like 1 3 4 5 7 10 11; use the R command (see section 3.2.20.5.5.1 above) to see what those questions were); if you reply N, it won't. Either way, Syslink will then add your score to the records for that trivia quiz, and return you to the menu for that topic (see section 3.2.20.5.5 above).

### 3.2.20.5.5.3 <S> Trivia Statistics

This command first displays the total number of people who participated in the quiz and then lists each question followed by the percentage of the participants who answered it correctly.

#### 3.2.20.5.5.4 <H> Hall of fame

The H command displays the user ID's of the first ten people who achieve a score of 70% or better on the guiz you are in.

### 3.2.20.5.5.5 <Q> Quit

The Q command returns you to the Trivia Topic Menu (see section 3.2.20.5 above).

### 3.2.21 <U> User Listing

This command lets you list the users of Syslink.

User Listing Menu:

<N> List names only

<L> List names/locations

<S> Search for user

<Q> Quit

#### 3.2.21.1 <N> Names only

The N command will list only the user ID and full name of the users you select. When prompted for the user ID's you want listed, enter a single ID or a range (see section 3.4.3) of them.

#### 3.2.21.2 <L> Names and locations

This function lists the user ID, full name, city, and state of each user you select. When prompted for the user ID's you wish listed, enter a single ID or a range (see section 3.4.3) of them.

### 3.2.21.3 <S> Search for user

The S command lets you search the entire user list for a particular user. You must enter that person's full name and it must be spelled correctly. Do not worry about uppercase/lowercase; Syslink will automatically convert everything to capitals for the search.

#### 3.2.21.4 <Q> Quit to Main Menu

The Q command returns you to Syslink's Main Menu.

### 3.2.22 <V> SuperVote

Through the V command, you can create and respond to surveys (multiple questions) or votes (single question). Creators of votes/surveys have the option of letting other users see the statistical results.

#### SuperVote Menu:

- <C> Create a survey/vote subject
- <D> Delete a subject
- <E> Edit subject status/title
- <W> Who created subjects
- <L> List survey/vote subjects
- <Q> Quit to main menu
  or select (a subject #)

## 3.2.22.1 <C> Create a survey/vote subject

The C command lets you create a new survey or voting subject. You may or may not have the priority to utilize this option. When you are asked whether the new subject will be a vote (one question) or a survey (more than one question), reply V (if it is to be a vote) or S (for a survey). You will then be prompted for a name for the subject; it must be no more than 28 characters long. Compose your questions line by line as prompted. Separate all possible answers with commas. When using the text editor (see section 3.3) to edit the questions, remember that the questions are on odd numbered lines starting with line 1. The answers are on even numbered lines. For example, the first four lines might look like this:

- 1 Which BBS do you think is the most powerful?
- 2 Syslink-III, TBBS, Forum-80, Bullet-80, other
- 3 Which gives you more for your money?
- 4 Syslink, CompuServe

## 3.2.22.2 <D> Delete a subject

This command allows sysops to erase an entire survey or vote permanently. All answers and statistics of that survey or vote are lost forever.

## 3.2.22.3 <E> Edit subject status/title

The E command lets sysops modify the name of a subject and/or decide whether or not users with priorities less than 8 (other than the creator of the subject) can see the statistics for that subject.

### 3.2.22.4 <W> Who created subjects

This function displays, for each subject, the subject number, user ID of the person who created the subject, the subject title, and date of creation. A Y immediately after the date of creation indicates that all users may view the statistics (see sections 3.2.22.7.4 & 3.2.22.7.5 below) for that subject; an N indicates that only the person who created the subject and sysops (users whose priority is 8) may view the statistics.

### 3.2.22.5 <L> List survey/vote subjects

The L command displays the subject number, title, and number of questions (in parentheses) for each subject. Enter L to list all subjects or L followed by a range (see section 3.4.3) to list certain subjects.

## 3.2.22.6 <Q> Quit to Main Menu

The Q command returns you to Syslink's Main Menu.

#### 3.2.22.7a Survey menu:

<R>> Review Survey Questionnaire

<F> Fill out Survey

<S> Survey Statistics

<Q> Quit Survey

### 3.2.22.7b Voting Menu:

<V> Vote

<B> Ballot totals

<Q> Quit voting

# 3.2.22.7.1 <R> Review Survey

The R command displays the question(s) and the answer choices for each.

## 3.2.22.7.2 <F> Fill out Survey

This command lets you actually answer the survey questions. It will go through all the questions one at a time, listing the question and the answer choices and waiting for you to pick one. If you want to quit after you have started without going through the remaining questions, enter Q (for Quit) at any question. When you are done, your answers will be recorded and you will be returned to the Survey menu. Note: you may fill out the survey only once.

#### 3.2.22.7.3 **V>** Vote

The V command will display the question and the answer choices and wait for you to make your choice. Your answer will then be recorded and you will be returned to the Voting menu. You may only do this once.

## 3.2.22.7.4 <S> Survey Statistics

This function displays the total number of users who answered the questions and the percentage that selected each answer in the survey you are currently in.

#### 3.2.22.7.5 <B> Ballot totals

The B function displays the number of users who voted and the percentage that selected each answer in selected vote. You cannot use this function until after you have voted, and then only if you are a sysop (priority 8) or if the user who created the vote topic decided to allow other users to see the statistics (see section 3.2.22.1 above).

### 3.2.22.7.6 <Q> Quit

The Q command returns you to the SuperVote menu (see section 3.2.22 above).

#### 3.2.23 <W>

This command is not defined at this time.

### 3.2.24 <X> Expert user mode selection

Once you have gotten a feel for Syslink, the X command allows you to use the system faster by reducing the amount of text Syslink prints at each menu. Three modes are available, as follows:

- Novice mode: Every submenu is listed in its entirety.
- 1 Intermediate mode: Only a list of command letters is listed at each menu
- 2 Expert mode: Each menu is identified by name (i.e. Editor command:); no further help is given.

Notes: The effects of the X command last only until you log off Syslink. If you would like to permanently set your mode to 1 (intermediate), see section 3.2.14.5. No matter what mode you are set to, you can always use the ? (question mark) command at any menu to see a detailed list of the command options. Syslink will never list the Main Menu unless you specifically request it with the ? command. The default setting is 0 (novice mode) unless you change this as described above. The equivalent of the X command is available at all colon prompts through the EXP Library Command (see section 3.4.2).

### 3.2.25 <Y> Uploading

The Y command allows access to Syslink's powerful uploading section.

Uploading is a process by which programs and text files may be directly transferred FROM your computer TO Syslink. It takes only a few minutes to upload a medium-sized file to Syslink using any one of the different protocols available (the current version of Syslink supports only ASCII (XON/XOFF) and XMODEM protocols). If you are having problems uploading, consult your terminal manual or you may have a weak phone connection - which could cause many errors.

Titles must be supplied in 26 characters or less, along with a brief description (56 characters or less), classification (4-letter code), and application category (9 characters or less) to categorize upload.

#### Uploading Menu:

- <H>> Help for uploading
- <B> Upload BASIC program
- <M> Upload Machine Language
- <T> Upload Text File
- <Q> Quit to Main Menu
- <R> Review Uploads

# 3.2.25.1 <H> Help with Uploading

The H command will display a special help file on downloading; this file is supplied with Syslink.

## 3.2.25.2 <B> Upload BASIC program

The B command allows users to upload programs written in BASIC. If the user will be uploading the program using ASCII (XON/XOFF) protocol, he or she must convert it to ascii format first; if the user is uploading the program using XMODEM protocol, it may be in either ascii or packed (binary) format. It is suggested that all BASIC programs be in ascii format, as this makes it easier for maintaining portability between different types of computers.

#### 3.2.25.3 <M> Upload Machine Language

This command allows users to upload programs written in Machine Language. Again, if the user intends to use ASCII (XON/XOFF) protocol, the program must be converted to ASCII HEX format before it is uploaded. If the user uploads it using XMODEM, either regular or ASCII HEX format may be used.

### 3.2.25.4 <T> Upload Text file

This function allows users to upload any sort of text file. Neither you nor the user uploading the file need worry about converting the file to ascii format as text files are in ascii format by definition. As with the M & B commands above, either ASCII (XON/XOFF) or XMODEM protocol may be used when uploading.

### 3.2.25.5 <R> Review Uploads

The R command lets the sysop or high priority user view uploads and transfer them into the download section. The following information is given for each file: directory filename, date, length in bytes, title, the contributor's user ID, file classification, file type (B-BASIC, M-Machine Language, T-Text), and a brief description as supplied by the user who uploaded the file. For each file, you have the option of displaying it, skipping it and going on to the next file, transferring it to the download section, or deleting it.

# 3.2.25.6 <Q> Quit to Main Menu

The Q command returns you to Syslink's Main Menu.

### 3.2.26 <Z>

This command is not defined at this time.

#### 3.3 Text Editor

You use the text editor to compose and edit all bulletins, messages, electronic mail, feedback, survey/vote topics, trivia quizzes, and so forth (you get the idea) on Syslink.

#### 3.3.1 Text Entry Mode

You are in Text Entry Mode as soon as you go into the editor. Text is entered on a line by line basis. A maximum of 80 characters per line and 50 lines must be kept in mind. Users can upload their text using the XON/XOFF method, where XON is > (62 decimal, 3E hex) and XOFF is a carriage return (13 decimal, 0D hex).

Once you have typed in all of your text, enter END or end on a line by itself to bring you to the Editor Command menu where you may modify what you have typed before storing it. Warning: text is not stored unless and until you exit the editor using the S command. If you exit using the Q command, all text (except whatever may be in the scratchpad; see section 3.3.14 below) is lost forever.

#### Text Editor Menu:

- <N> Clear text buffer start again
- <A> Add to end of text
- <D> Delete line(s)
- <I> Insert between lines
- <L> List lines
- <E> Edit line
- <C> Global search/replace
- <Q> Quit editor NO SAVE
- <S> Exit and SAVE
- <H>> Help with editor commands
- <G> Get scratchpad
- <K> Kill scratchpad
- <W> Write text buffer to scratchpad

#### 3.3.2 <N> Clear text buffer

The N command erases whatever was in the text buffer and lets you start over with line 1 (goes to the text entry mode).

## 3.3.3 <A> Add to end of text

This command lets you continue text entry from where you left off. The editor goes to the text entry mode and starts with the next new line.

#### 3.3.4 <D> Delete lines

The D function erases the lines of text you specify. Enter D followed by a range (see section 3.4.3). For example, D12-14 deletes lines 12, 13, and 14, and moves up any lines after 14 to fill the empty spots.

## 3.3.5 <I> Insert between lines

The I command lets you insert text starting at the line number you specify. Subsequent lines are automatically renumbered. For example: if you enter I4, enter two lines of text, and then enter END, the two new lines become the new lines 4 and 5, and the old lines 4 and 5 become the new lines 6 and 7 (and 8 becomes 10, and so forth).

#### 3.3.6 <L> List lines

This command lists the text you currently are working with. Enter L to list all text or L followed by a range (see section 3.4.3) to list certain lines. LN instead of just L will list the lines without line numbers, so that you may see what your message will look like after it has been sent/stored. For example: L3-6 will list lines 3, 4, 5, & 6 with their respective line numbers; LN7- will list all lines from 7 through the last line without line numbers.

### 3.3.7 < E > Edit a line

The E command lets you change the contents of a particular line. Enter E followed by a line number followed by a Y or N. A Y allows you to use the line editor (see below); an N lets you simply retype the line.

Built-In Line Editor:

Notes: the line editor is almost identical to the line editor in most Radio Shack/Microsoft BASICs. When using the line editor, be careful to distinguish command mode from insert mode. n is a number from 1 to 255; if it is not supplied, 1 is assumed. c is any alphanumeric character and must be used where mentioned.

Line Editor commands:

```
n SPACEBAR moves the cursor n spaces to the right.
n BACKSPACE moves the cursor n spaces to the left.
               searches forward for nth occurence of c and places cursor there.
nSc
nD
               deletes next n characters starting with current cursor location.
nC
               lets you replace n characters past cursor with n new characters.
               kills (deletes) all characters up the nth occurence of c.
nKc
               lists (displays) the rest of the line you are editing.
L
               abort: editor forgets all changes made to line and restarts.
ENTER key
               saves your changes and returns you to the text editor.
I
               activates insert mode starting at current cursor location.
X
               puts cursor at end of line and activates insert mode.
H
               deletes all characters including and after current cursor position and
               activates insert mode.
ESCAPE*
               deactivates insert mode. inserted text is preserved.
```

<sup>\*</sup> ESCAPE can be generated on TRS-80 Models I, III, 4 and Color Computer by holding down the shift key and pressing the up-arrow.

### 3.3.8 <C> Global search/replace

The C command allows you to change all occurrences of a particular phrase within your text. Enter C to perform the search or replace option on all your text or C followed by a range (see section 3.4.3) to use only certain lines. You will be prompted to enter the string to search for; type the string you want to search for or replace and press <ENTER>. You will then be asked for the string you wish to replace the first string with. If you only want to do a search, just press <ENTER>; otherwise, enter the replacement string. Note: both strings must be of exactly equal length.

For example, to replace all occurences of "drunk" with "drank" in lines 10 through 15 only, enter C10-15, enter drunk, then enter drank.

### 3.3.9 <Q> Quit Text Editor - NO SAVE

This function exits the text editor without storing text and returns you to wherever you were right before you entered the text editor. In some cases, the function requiring use of the text editor will be terminated and you will be returned to the menu before that; for instance, if you Quit while typing feedback, you will end up back at the main menu.

## 3.3.10 <S> Exit and SAVE

The S command stores/saves/sends your finished text; if you are sending electronic mail, it will be sent, if you are posting a bulletin, it will be posted, etc.

## 3.3.11 <H> Help with editor commands

The H function gives you a more detailed description of the use of each editor command you select (or all of them).

### 3.3.12 <G> Get scratchpad

This command gets a copy of the scratchpad (see section 3.3.14 below) from storage and puts it in the text editor. If a previous caller used the scratchpad and didn't erase it, you may <G>et his or her scratchwork.

Enter GA to append the scratchpad to the end of the current text or GR to replace the current text with the scratchpad's contents.

## 3.3.13 <K> Kill scratchpad

The K command kills the scratchpad (see section 3.3.14 below) to ensure that future callers do not read it. Do not worry; this command does not affect text currently in the grasp of the editor.

## 3.3.14 <W> Write text buffer to scratchpad

This function stores all of the current text in a preallocated area of Syslink's disk for later recall. Anything which was in the scratchpad before is lost. The scratchpad is kept in a file called TEMP/TXT.

Some handy uses of the scratchpad include the following situations:

You are writing electronic mail to another user and decide you also want to post all or part of that message in a bulletin section. No problem for Syslink; finish writing your letter, use the W command (3.3.14) to save it to the scratchpad, use the S command (3.3.10) to send it, exit Electronic Mail, enter the bulletin section you want to post it in, use the P command (3.2.2.7.4) to post a message, then (once in the text editor again) use the G command (3.3.12) to retrieve the message, edit it so it looks like a bulletin instead of a letter, use the S command again to save it, and voila! You are done.

You have been singled out by Ma Bell and "dirty" phone lines (or call waiting) keep prematurely terminating your connections to Syslink. Frequently, this happens just as you are about to save a 50-line bulletin. To counteract this problem and save a lot of re-re-retyping, you could frequently use the W command to save your message while you are typing it (say every 5 lines). That way, if you should lose your connection, all you need do is log back on while loudly cursing the Telephone Company, get back into the editor, use the G command (3.3.12) to retrieve your message as of the last save, and retype only the last few lines. Much better. (Obviously, this example does not apply to you unless you frequently access your Syslink by phone, but it may save a few of your users a lot of anguish).

You just thought of eleven things you need to do on Syslink before you log off and you don't have a pencil and paper handy; no problem, just use the nearest way into the text editor (i.e. bulletins, email, whatever is handy), list the things you need to remember, and use the W command to save the list. You can view your reminders later by just entering the text editor and using the G command (3.3.12) to retrieve them.

### 3.4.1 Control codes

Control codes are characters, like letters and numbers, except that rather than representing letters and numbers, they have special functions. The backspace, carriage return, linefeed, and cursor-homing characters are all good examples of control codes. You can generate control codes directly from your keyboard by holding down the shift and down-arrow keys and pressing a letter from A-Z (if you own a Model 4 or 4P, you can use the CTRL key instead of shift and down-arrow). In this way, a control-G (this signifies holding the shift and down-arrow and pressing G) generates a character 7, which will make many computers beep. Syslink uses several of the otherwise-undefined control codes to allow you to perform special functions within Syslink, like get its attention while it is in the middle of something. These codes are as follows:

Control-Q Aborts your current activity on Syslink and returns you to Syslink's Main Menu (or the CIG Main Menu if you're in the CIG area).

Control-S Temporarily halts text output. Press any key to continue output.

Control-W Aborts your current activity on Syslink and returns you to the sub-command prompt of the command you are currently using.

Control-C Skips over bulletin or message you are currently reading. Only works in commands B, C, H, I, K, S, Feedback Read, Upload Review, and FileMail review.

### 3.4.2 LIBrary commands

The following built-in library utilities are conveniently accessible from all menu colon (:) prompts throughout Syslink:

FREE displays the number of bytes remaining on the system's mass storage (ie floppy drives or hard disk).

TIME or DATE displays current time and date.

BYE or OFF logs you off Syslink. This is equivalent to O at the Main Menu.

HOT enables hot menus for the rest of your call. When hot menus are activated, single keystrokes are all that's necessary to select a menu option -- no need to press <ENTER>. Note: in bulletin sections (B, I, & S), only single digit section numbers will be accepted (i.e. you cannot choose section 12). This option may also be selected permanently; see section 3.2.14.8.

\$ turns off the hot menu option and allows multiple character input again.

EXPO, EXP1, EXP2 change the expert mode level (0-novice, 1-intermediate, 2-expert; see section 3.2.24 for more information). Note: EXP1 may also be selected permanently; see section 3.2.14.5.

BUILD initializes an AutoCommand file. After typing BUILD, all commands which you type at colon (:) prompts are "recorded" into a buffer. You may SAVE these keystrokes for later "playback" with the AUTO command. By BUILDing an autocommand file containing all the things you usually do on the system (the sections you look at, etc.), you can log on, enter AUTO, and have it all done automatically.

SAVE the buffer contents that were created with the BUILD command (see above). Once you have SAVEd, no further keystrokes are recorded (BUILD is terminated).

AUTO executes your AutoCommand file that was previously SAVEd. The AutoCommand can be automatically executed at login; see section 3.2.14.4.

QUIT terminates BUILDing of an AutoCommand file without SAVEing it.

KILL erases your AutoCommand file.

LIB displays a handy list of these library commands.

HELP displays various Help files. At most colon prompts in Syslink, you can type HELP to read specific help about section you're in. From the Main Menu, you may type HELP \* where \* is a one-letter command you want help with.

WIDTH adjusts the character width of your screen like the N command's "<A> Terminal Width" command (see section 3.2.14.1). Syslink uses this setting when centering headings and to make sure words don't get broken up at the end of a screen line in the bulletin sections. For example: WIDTH80, WIDTH 64.

NULLS sets the delay after each line of display. This command is useful for slow terminals or printers. For example: NULLS10 sets a 1 second delay after each line.

#### 3.4.3 Ranges

Syslink's range system lets you easily refer to groups of line and message numbers rather than just one number at a time. There are a large number of formats which come under the general heading of range. The following examples assume you are reading bulletins in one of the bulletin sections:

R Read bulletins selectively
R12 Read bulletin number 12
R57-60 Read bulletins 57, 58, 59, & 60
R20-17 Read bulletins 20, 19, 18, & 17
R1- Read all bulletins
R30- Read all bulletins 30 and higher
R-10 Read first ten bulletins

R10,3-5 Read bulletins 10, 3, 4, 5 (only works in B, I, K, & S commands)

A "range" in general refers to any of the above formats (without the R in front).

## 3.4.4 Multiple Commands

You can use multiple commands to bypass Syslink's lengthy menus and long questions by responding to them in advance. You may enter a multiple command string at any menu colon prompt that normally accepts alphabetic input. Multiple commands work well with ranges and AutoCommand mode (see sections 3.4.3 and 3.4.2.BUILD respectively), but are incompatible with hot menus (see section 3.4.2.HOT). There are two restrictions to the use of multiple commands. First, multiple command strings which use more than one Main Menu command must be entered at the Main Menu and must have a colon between each Main Menu command letter. Second, when using multiple commands to read (R) or delete (D) in B, I, S, and K commands, any alphabetic input following the last digit in the string will be ignored. Also, unpredictable results may occur.

Examples (it is assumed that these examples were entered at Syslink's Main Menu): B2NYQQ

Enters Bulletin section 2, reads all NEW messages, answers yes to "Continuous Reading (Y/N)?" question, quits section 2, quits B command.

Note that no colon is necessary between sub-commands within a command (B, in this case).

#### FREE:P:X1:ES

Performs LIBrary command FREE, Pages Sysop, sets expert mode to 1, then enters Electronic mail sending. Note the colons being used to separate Main Menu commands.

### TIME:B1T37-Q2TQQ:TIME:ERQ:TIME:QS:BYE

Displays current time and date, enters the first bulletin section, lists the titles of all bulletins from 37 on, quits first bulletin section, enters second bulletin section, lists all titles, quits second bulletin section, quits B command, gets time and date again, reads email, quits email, gets time and date again, checks system status, then logs off.

### 3.4.5 Miscellaneous Information

### **PROMPTS**

A colon (:) at the end of a prompt ("Editor command:", for example) generally indicates you are at the Main Menu or a submenu. LIBrary commands, AutoCommands, and multiple commands are only supported at colon prompts. A question mark (?) indicates situation-dependent question. LIB, multiple, and AutoCommands are not supported at these prompts. A > signifies text editor entry, ASCII uploading, or Sysop chat mode.

#### CHANGING PROMPTS

From the main menu you may add a prompt of your own after the: prompt. Type C-followed by an ASCII code (0-255) for the desired character, and that character will appear after the colon (e.g. C-7 will produce a bell at all: prompts). Or type C-followed by a string of characters to create your own prompt string. To return to the original prompt, enter C-32.

#### **FLAGS**

\$ next to a bulletin section title signifies that messages have been posted in that section since a user's last logon. A carrier lost condition also signifies a logoff, so all flags will be erased if the user calls right back.

\* next to a menu option signifies that that option is only available to sysops (users whose priority is 8).

#### USER NAMES/NICKNAMES

For a temporary pseudonym, enter N- followed by your desired name at the Main Menu. This nickname will appear atop all bulletins and electronic mail you send for the duration of your call. Complete anonymity is not possible, however, since your user ID will also appear.

# Software Problem Report

Use copies of this form to report software bugs, documentation errors, or suggested enhancements. Mail to:

Software Interphase, Inc. Software Support Division 5 Bradley Street Providence, RI 02908

C. Documentation Error	B. Suggested D. Other	Enhancement
Software Interphase Product:		
Version:	SITE number:	
Your name:		User ID:
Street Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Computer type:		
Other peripherals:		
Describe the problem and how to repro- and suggested correction (if any). Atta	ich hardcopy i	f available.