Portable PLUS bug list as of 5/85

BIOS bugs (in the machine-specific part of the operating system)

1. The built-in RAM diagnostic will alter one or two bytes of the edisc. This results in "data error reading drive a:" whenever attempting to access the affected file(s).

   Do not use the RAM or drawer diagnostics except on an "empty" machine. This is documented in the manual.

2. When using the modem and logging to an RS-232 printer, once in a while a character which should be sent to the printer goes to the modem instead. This happens with large documents and high bps rates.

3. IBM compatibility issue: On the IBM you can set the real-time clock with INT 1A, then read it with an MS-DOS function call, getting the same time. On the Portable Plus these access two different clocks, so the time returned will not agree with the time set.

4. If a hardware interrupt (eg. character available from serial port) happens while a multi-byte command is being issued to the PPU, there is a small chance the interrupt will be serviced twice. this can result in double characters in TERM or from the keyboard.

5. The escape sequence to disable the numeric keypad does not take you out of keypad mode: instead, it disables any other special keyboard modes such as modifier or keyscan mode.

6. The byte returned to the host after a Primary Terminal Status Request indicates DC2 handshake enabled, which may lead the host to assume it is a block mode terminal. This can cause problems on various block-mode applications when using TERM. The 110 has the same problem.

7. When responding to a status request, AUX does not wait for the DC1 trigger; it sends the reply immediately. This usually results in the loss of one or more characters. The 110 had the same problem.

8. Arabic mode doesn't work with RS-232 printers, but a workaround exists.

9. IBM compatibility issue: On the PC, interrupt 10 will display characters in graphics mode and will replace any characters it previously wrote in the same position. On the Portable PLUS, the pixels of the character are ORed with the existing character in the same position, leaving both characters still displayed.

10. When AUX receives an XOFF followed by several more characters, (and XON/XOFF handshake is enabled) it waits forever for an XON and will not read the keyboard while it is waiting. This is often encountered when someone sends a MemoMaker document file with bold markers (XOFF) in the text. This is less severe than the similar problem on the 110; you can use CTL-Shift-Break to get out of it on

the Portable PLUS.

11. COPY AUX FILENAME does not work. (It does on the 110.) This is
    because AUX returns immediately if no character is available instead
    of waiting for a character to arrive.

12. It is possible to send characters to the modem before it is ready;
    you must wait one character's worth of time before sending anything
    to the modem immediately after turning it on.

13. Fast video function 41 (getfont) hangs the system if you try to read
    more than one character.

MS-DOS Bugs (in the generic part of the operating system)

1. Running Diskcopy with "Disk Write Verify" ON gives a "Data error
   writing Drive ..." With Verify OFF, no error occurs. The error
   did not occur either when backing up the RAM disc. Suspicion
   is that it has to do with the size of the disc you are copying.

   Diskcopy is not officially supported on VGR. The Portable had the
   same problem.

2. Doing a CHKDSK of drive b: results in multiple error messages. This
   is because drive b is expandable and does not therefore conform with
   standard disc formats. CHKDSK is not documented because it does not
   properly test drive b.

3. The TYPE command will display a file with 80-character lines, but
   the MORE command will take lines over 77 characters long and wrap
   the extra characters to the next line.

4. COMMAND does not label its function keys; PAM does this. So if you
   run another program (eg. MemoMeker) from COMMAND, upon return to
   COMMAND you still have MemoMaker key labels.

PAM Bugs

1. Set time zone to zero; hours, minutes, and seconds to 0; month and
   day to 1; year to 1980. Exit to PAM--time zone is reset to -12H.

   The problem is only reproducable with the date set at 1/1/1980
   except when the machine is started up from a reset condition (pull
   out a drawer with the machine on to get this condition since the
   reset key does not clear the time). Set the time, date, and time
   zone to any value where the time zone (+12) is greater than the
   hour. Exiting to PAM sets the time zone to -12H.

2. MS-DOS allows the date to be set anywhere up to 2099; PAM only
   allows a year to be set up through 2039. If the date is set higher
   (in DOS) everything is fine until the user cycles through the PAM
   time and date screen at which point the year is lost and 2039 is
   substituted.

3. When serial is selected as your PRN device in the System Configuration menu, the serial port gets turned on every time you pass through P.A.M. If you go to Datacom Config, it says the serial port is off and will indeed turn it off when you exit Datacom Config. When you go to COMMAND the serial port will turn back on and stay on when you exit to PAM--Datacom Config will indicate that the serial port is on.

   What is happening is that PAM is trying to send the appropriate escape sequences to the printer to set it up. Even if it doesn't have any escape sequences to send, it will send out a CR. This is what causes the serial port to turn on.

4. PAM does not look for escapes in its Time & Date or System Config menu. For example, pressing a "w" causes PAM to think [f8] was pressed. [f8] is supposed to be ESC w.

5. The "bytes free" indicator in PAM does not correctly report the remaining capacity of a disc drive if the number is over six digits; only the lowest six digits are reported.

6. While PAM is localized, the few MS-DOS error messages which may appear in PAM are not.

7. Alarm files cannot accomodate localized time/date formats.