

OSI BASIC for the KIM-1

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For some time, now, if a KIM-1 user wished to run Microsoft's 8K BASIC on their system, they had their choice of two cassettes. Unfortunately, since both versions seem to use self-modifying code, if the KIM crashes, then the tape must be reloaded. Putting it into ROM would prevent this, but, of course, this cannot be done.

Ohio Scientific Inc. (OSI) makes a line of 6502-based machines that contain their BASIC in four ROMs. If these ROMs could be used on other 6502 systems, the effects of a system crash would be less catastrophic. The problem, however, is to link the ROM BASIC with other machines. The purpose of this article is to present a way to do just that.

The OSI chip set consists of five chips: four 2316 ROMs which contain the 8K BASIC and reside at A000-BFFF, and a 1702 "support PROM" which resides at FF00-FFFF, and contains initialization routines, jumps to I/O routines, and the 6502's NMI, RST, and IRQ vectors. These support routines must be customized for the system the BASIC is to run on.

Some Important Addresses

0000-00FF: Zero Page Pointers and routines (USR vector-\$B, \$C
LL,HJ)
0100-01FF: Stack Area
0200-02FF: Normally used by OSI's I/O routines, otherwise unused
0300-uw : Source file storage
A000-BFFF: BASIC ROMs
FF00-FFFF: OSI Support ROM which contains the following jumps:
FFEB-FFED: (4C) (Console In Low) (Console In High)
FFEE-FFFO: (4C) (Console Out Low) (Console Out High)
FFF1-FFF3: (4C) (Ctl/C Handler Low) (Ctl/C Handler High)
FFF4-FFF6: (4C) (Cassette Load Low) (Cassette Load High)
FFF7-FFF9: (4C) (Cassette Save Low) (Cassette Save High)

Console I/O Routines

The Console In and Out routines must preserve the Y register. The BASIC also assumes the use of a full-duplex system. If your system, like the KIM, is half-duplex, then the echoed character must be suppressed. Both these routines must end with an RTS (60).

The action of the Control-C Handler depends on the action of the Console In routine. If the Console In routine does not halt and wait for a character input, then simply JMP to

\$A633. The BASIC will then input a character and test it. If the Console In routine does wait for input, then some means of polling the input port for a character must be used. Upon detection of a character, it must be passed to the BASIC by a JMP to \$A636.

Cassette Routines

I decided to use the KIM's resident cassette save/load routines due to their accuracy. Unfortunately, both these routines exit to location \$0000. Re-writing these routines to end with an RTS (60) so as to return to the BASIC would take too much space. I therefore decided to set up the save/load routines for two phases each. Phase one gets a file number (01-FE) from the user and saves/loads the BASIC's pointers to the source file. Phase two saves/loads the actual source file.

Since the save/load routines exit to location \$0000, each phase sets up this location to point to the next phase. After each phase exits, one simply enters a "G" to go to the next phase. Phase two sets up a jump to the BASIC's warm-start point.

Source File Storage Relocation

The BASIC assumes uninterrupted memory from \$0000 on up. If the bulk of your RAM is located elsewhere (like \$2000-up), then the BASIC's pointers must be changed to reflect this. For example, if we assume a 4K RAM at \$2000-\$2FFF, then the locations to change are:

```
$79,$7A-Start of RAM + 1 (01,20)
$7B,$7C-Start of RAM + 4 (04,20)
$7D,$7E-   *   *   *   *
$7F,$80-   *   *   *   *
$81,$82-End of RAM + 1 (00,30)
$85,$86-   *   *   *   *
$8F,$90-Start of RAM (00,20)
$C3,$C4-   *   *   *   *
```

In addition, the first three locations in the text area must be set to zero. Initialize, do a warm-start, and type NEW. This resets all the links to the source file.

I have found that the most useful way to use this program is to set the KIM's NMI vector to point to this monitor. All that is then necessary is to press the ST key to activate the monitor.

