

**** NOTICE ****

This release of geoFAX is missing some printer drivers. They are missing because they are not yet finished. Most of the common drivers are finished and included on the disk, though. If you do not see a driver on the disk that will work with your printer, please feel free to write to me about the details of your printer. The only stipulation is that in order to print a fax document, your printer must support a resolution that is greater than the resolution of a fax document. The fax document is 204 dpi horizontally and 196 dpi vertically. Many 8/9 pin printers can handle this if they can do 240 x 216 dpi.

As soon as the rest of the printer drivers are finished, a disk will be mailed out to those that send in their registration form. If there are any updates to the main program, geoFAX, it will also be included on the disk. Again, I will only send this free disk to those that send me their registration form.

For help in using geoFAX, I can be reached via your modem at any of the following sources:

Delphi - ARCA93

GENie - M.RANDALL2

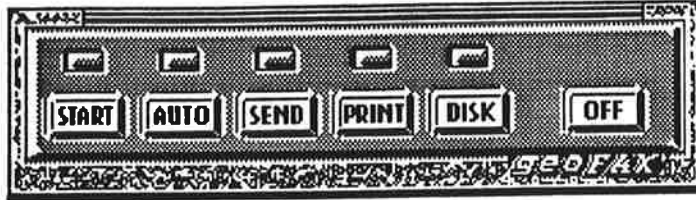
Internet - arca93@delphi.com

or on my own BBS at 517-322-2386, The Speed Zone BBS, 24 hours up to 14.4 baud.

-Maurice



Click Here Software
presents...



geoFAX

by Maurice Randall

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The FCC requires that all facsimile documents that are transmitted over the telephone lines be accompanied by the sender's or sending company's name and telephone number at the top or bottom margin of the document.

geoFAX is produced entirely in the United States of America

AN INTRODUCTION TO GEOFAX

geoFAX is the first program of its kind ever developed for the Commodore 64 or 128. You now have the capability to exchange a fax document over the telephone lines with a facsimile machine or even another computer running its own version of fax software.

The GEOS operating system makes this program very useful in many ways. Since many GEOS applications have some sort of compatibility with GeoPaint, either directly or through a Photo Scrap, it was felt that geoFAX should provide compatibility with GeoPaint also.

With geoFAX, you can send a GeoPaint file to a remote fax machine. Now you must be thinking that the machine at the other end would also have to have compatibility with GeoPaint files, but not so. As far as you, the user of this program is concerned, a GeoPaint file is being sent. But at the other end, a real fax document is being received. geoFAX takes care of the conversion for you. When you select a GeoPaint file to send, geoFAX will convert it into a fax document as it is being transmitted to the other machine.

An incoming fax must be saved as a geoFAX document, and then if desired, converted to GeoPaint after the transmission is complete. The reason is due to the fact that it takes longer to convert from a fax to a GeoPaint than it does to convert from a GeoPaint to a fax. When sending and receiving faxes, timing is very critical. It is actually best this way, because a geoFAX document retains the full resolution of the incoming fax, while as a GeoPaint, you will lose some detail due to GeoPaint's much lower resolution. But you will have the benefit of having both formats if you choose.

geoFAX can print a fax document for you as long as your printer supports a higher resolution than the fax document. The fax document will have a resolution of 204 dots per inch horizontally and 196 dots per inch vertically. Most printers today can print with a higher resolution than this. Some special printer drivers are supplied with geoFAX for this purpose. Your regular printer driver will not work in this case, because it expects the standard GEOS

resolution of 80 x 72 dpi.

GeoPaint files are naturally the easiest and most logical files to work with, however you are not limited to just GeoPaint files. Almost any application that allows printing can also create a GeoPaint file. You would do this through the use of the paint drivers that are supplied with GEOS. A paint driver can be installed in place of your regular printer driver. Then, using GeoWrite as an example, you could create a document, and instead of printing it, the document would get converted to a GeoPaint file. Then, when you send the file to another fax machine, it will look just like it would have looked, had you printed it on your own printer.

With your incoming faxes, a text document with small, fine print will not convert very well to a GeoPaint file. Some of the characters will lose some detail. A hand-written document, however would probably convert quite nicely. A document with graphics should also look ok depending on how great the detail is. (refer to Chapter 8, 'CONVERTING TO/FROM GEOPAINT')

Most of the time, the incoming fax will be of a moderate size, although still larger than an equivalent GeoPaint file. Like GeoPaint, it is in a compressed format. However, for certain patterns of pixels, the compression format is not as good as the GeoPaint method. This is not the fault of geoFAX, rather it is the method that is used throughout the industry. Some grayscale patterns actually increase the size of the file, rather than decrease it, using these compression methods. The worst case would be if the file was one large grayscale pattern consisting of alternating black and white pixels. The chance of this happening is slim. Nobody would have any reason to send you a solid gray page with nothing else on it. Most fax documents will have a lot of white space, and this keeps the size of the file down. In addition to solid white areas, solid black areas also compress nicely.

When you wish to send a fax to someone else, your GeoPaint files will come out on the other machine just like you see it in GeoPaint. Many other computers allow their own incoming faxes to also be imported into a paint program. Because of this, you now have a very handy method for exchanging graphics between your computer and another computer of a different type. You might also realize that by faxing a document into your computer, geoFAX can be utilized as a method for digitizing

images into GeoPaint, or as a full-page scanner. You will discover that geoFAX can be a very useful tool for purposes other than just sending and receiving faxes.

THE SCREEN IMAGE

Some thought was put into the screen appearance as you can see when you are running geoFAX. Everything is controlled either on the front of the simulated fax machine that appears on the screen or from within dialogue boxes that pop up as though they were a piece of paper coming out of the top of the fax machine.

At times, you will notice a fax document scrolling up out of the machine. You will see this only when a GeoPaint file is involved in one way or another. If you are sending a GeoPaint file, you will see an image of it as it is being sent. Or if you are converting a fax document to GeoPaint format or vice-versa, you will see this feature. If a GeoPaint document is not involved, you won't have a simulated fax document scrolling out of the machine. The reason is simple. geoFAX is optimized when it is working entirely with a fax document. It has little time to do anything else, hence the need to avoid this little feature.

WHAT THE BUTTONS MEAN

The simulated fax machine that you will see on the screen, has buttons that you can push by clicking on them with your mouse. This is the method you will use to make geoFAX do what you want it to do. This is just like pushing a button on a real fax machine. Here is a brief description of each button in the order that they appear from left to right:

The START Button

This button is used to initiate a fax transmission manually. If your intentions are to send a fax, you will click on the START button after you have set up geoFAX to send a fax, via the SEND button. (refer to Chapter 3, 'SENDING A FAX DOCUMENT') You will know that geoFAX is in send mode if the LED above the SEND button is lit. When the LED is not lit, then geoFAX is in receive mode. Pressing the

START button will then tell geoFAX to answer the line and receive a fax document, or to send a document, depending on the mode it is in. (refer to Chapter 4, 'RECEIVING A FAX DOCUMENT' and Chapter 3, 'SENDING A FAX DOCUMENT')

The AUTO Button

If you wish to have geoFAX automatically answer your incoming fax calls, just click on this button to turn on the auto-answer mode. Click it again to turn off the auto-answer mode. The LED above the button will be lit if geoFAX is in auto-answer mode. From this point on, geoFAX will operate entirely on it's own. It will answer the line when it rings and handle the entire incoming fax transmission automatically. (refer to Chapter 4, 'RECEIVING A FAX DOCUMENT')

The SEND Button

When you wish to send a fax document, you begin by clicking on the SEND button. You will then be allowed to select the file you want to send from the disk directory. Once you have completed your selection, and chosen your method of dialing, geoFAX will be ready to send it. You will notice that the LED above the SEND button will be lit. This indicates that you are in send mode. If you are ready to proceed with the fax transmission, just click on the START button. (refer to Chapter 3, 'SENDING A FAX DOCUMENT')

The PRINT Button

Most of the printer functions are accessed by clicking on the PRINT button. One of the functions allows you to print an already existing file. You can also change your standard GEOS and geoFAX printer drivers by clicking on this button. (refer to Chapter 5, 'PRINTING A FAX DOCUMENT')

The DISK Button

Most of the disk functions are accessed by clicking on this button. You can also access desk accessories here.

Other functions that are available from the DISK button are the conversion utilities. These allow you to convert your GeoPaint files into geoFAX files and

vice-versa. (refer to Chapter 8, 'CONVERTING TO/FROM GEOPAINT')

The OFF Button

The easiest button to describe is the 'OFF' button. Think of this as your ON-OFF switch. The machine is already on, so by clicking on this button, you will end the program and exit back to the Desktop, geoSHELL, or whatever alternative desktop that you are using. When doing so, geoFAX will first reset your modem and it will also make sure that the modem's auto-answer mode is disabled. Then the screen will clear and you are done.

THE STOP KEY

There is one more button that deserves mentioning, except that this button does not appear on your screen, instead it is located on your keyboard. It is common for a 'real' fax machine to have a STOP button that can be pressed to stop most of it's ongoing functions. With geoFAX your STOP key has this function. The reason a STOP button does not appear on your screen is because

while geoFAX is sending or receiving a fax document, the mouse must be disabled. geoFAX needs every bit of processing time it can get and can't afford to have the mouse hogging some of it. So instead of GEOS watching for a mouse press on a STOP button, geoFAX manually monitors the STOP key at selected intervals. The STOP key will get you out of most operations including the printing functions. If you press the STOP key while a fax is being sent, geoFAX will promptly stop and hang up the phone line.

CONTINUING ON

Be sure to read Chapter #?, 'A QUICK TUTORIAL', and then before getting too deeply involved with geoFAX, study the remainder of the manual. Most operations that geoFAX allows you to do are quite simple to understand. Much thought was put into the program to make it as easy as possible to use, yet still retain it's unique screen appearance and perform well.

The full manual can be found on the original disk that is supplied with geoFAX. It is in GeoWrite format and ready for printing. As an alternative, you may rearrange the files and import them into GeoPublish to suit your taste.

The screen font that is used throughout the manual is LW_Cal so that those with PostScript printers may be able to access the Helvetica font that is built into their printer.

Be sure to at least read Chapters

1 and 2 before using geoFAX, and by all means, make a backup copy first. Do not run geoFAX from your original disk.

I hope that you thoroughly enjoy the software that I have created for you.

Many thanks,



Maurice Randall