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## PLATO, PlatoTerm, IRATA The Learning Phone, Atari Learning System Software

by

Thomas 'Thom' Cherryhomes (tschak909)  
(Atari Educational System Lesson Cassettes)

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*Who is Thomas Cherryhomes?*



<https://atariwiki.org/wiki/Wiki.jsp?page=Dorsett%20Educational%20System%20Lesson%20Cassettes>



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**PLATO** (*Programmed Logic for Automated Teaching Operation*)

**PLATO** (Programmed Logic for Automatic Teaching Operations)<sup>[1][2]</sup> was the first generalized [computer-assisted instruction](#) system. Starting in 1960, it ran on the [University of Illinois' ILLIAC I](#) computer. By the late 1970s, it supported several thousand [graphics terminals](#) distributed worldwide, running on nearly a dozen different networked [mainframe computers](#). Many modern concepts in multi-user computing were originally developed on PLATO, including forums, message boards, online testing, [e-mail](#), chat rooms, [picture languages](#), [instant messaging](#), remote [screen sharing](#), and [multiplayer video games](#).





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**PLATO** (*Programmed Logic for Automated Teaching Operation*) war eines der ersten computerunterstützten Lehr- bzw. Lernsysteme.

In den frühen 1960er Jahren wurde das Projekt an der [Universität von Illinois](#) gestartet und über Jahrzehnte weiterentwickelt und ausgebaut. Das Ziel bestand darin, Studierende unabhängig voneinander und gleichzeitig mit verschiedenen Lehr- und Lernstoffen zu unterrichten.

Im Grunde war PLATO eine [Lernplattform](#), die ihren Nutzern im Laufe der Zeit immer mehr Funktionen zur Verfügung stellte. Zu Beginn verfügte das PLATO-System lediglich über ein [Terminal](#). In den späten 1970er Jahren umfasste PLATO bereits mehrere tausend Grafikterminals, die weltweit verteilt auf fast einem Dutzend verschiedener vernetzter Großrechner liefen. Viele moderne Konzepte des heutigen Multi-User-Computing wurden auf PLATO entwickelt und realisiert, darunter [Foren](#), Message Boards, Onlinetests, [E-Mail](#), [Chaträume](#), Bildsprachen, [Instant Messaging](#), [Remote-Screen-Sharing](#) und [Multiplayer-Spiele](#). Quelle: [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/PLATO\\_\(Computersystem\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/PLATO_(Computersystem))



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<https://www.irata.online/>

PTERM: for Atari 8 Bit and PC, Mac, Linux

<https://cyber1.org/index.asp>

IRATA.Online

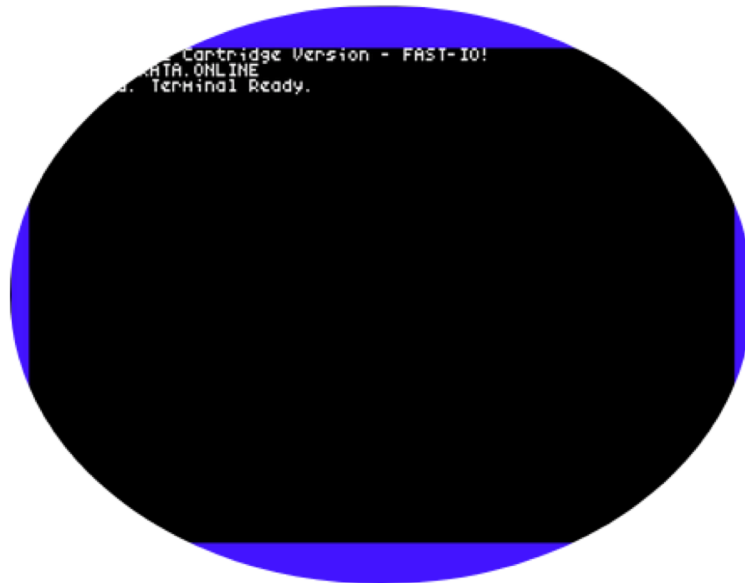
IRATA.ONLINE user Sijmen Schouten (aka Mr. Atari) has taken a development build of the upcoming 1.2 release for Atari computers

<https://atariwiki.org/wiki/Wiki.jsp?page=PLATO%20%28computer%20system%29>

<https://atariage.com/forums/topic/281866-platoterm-for-atari-working-out-tgi-and-ser-issues/>



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## **PLATOTERM for Atari 8-bit Computers - Testing Version 1.2 with FAST-IO!**

IRATA.ONLINE user [Sijmen Schouten \(aka Mr. Atari\)](#) has taken a development build of the upcoming 1.2 release for Atari computers and has patched it to add not only much improved I/O performance, but a built-in R-Verter driver if an R: handler isn't loaded or bootstrapped! Initial testing has been very positive, and I would like any Atari 8-bit users to try it out and report issues!

[PLATOTERM 1.2 FAST-IO Version Release Page](#)

[Report Issues](#)



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## PLATOTerm for Atari, C64, C128, and Apple II released.

After many long months of development, which started in June, the first official release of PLATOTerm for all the CC65 targets, that is, Atari 8-bit, Commodore 64, Commodore 128, and Apple II has been released. Thanks to everyone who has helped test and make this program as good as it can be. Much more to come!

[Release Page on Github with documentation](#)

[Apple II Disk Image \(.po\)](#)

[Atari 8-bit Disk Image \(.atr\)](#)

[Commodore 64 Disk Image \(.d64\)](#)

[Commodore 128 Disk Image \(64k VDC Req'd\)](#)



[https://github.com/tschak909/platoterm64/releases/download/PLATOTerm-1.0/PLATOTerm-1\\_0-Atari.atr](https://github.com/tschak909/platoterm64/releases/download/PLATOTerm-1.0/PLATOTerm-1_0-Atari.atr)



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## REQ'S

### **If you have a PC, Mac, or Linux System:**

If you have a PC or Mac that is already internet connected, all you need is the PTERM software, available from [Cyber1.org](http://Cyber1.org)

[Download PTERM 5.0.8 for Windows](#)

[Download PTERM 5.0.9 for MacOS](#)

[Download PTERM 5.0.8 Source Code](#)

[Raspbian Jessie and Stretch APT repo for Raspberry Pi](#)

(Linux binary builds coming soon. Setting up Package Repositories!)

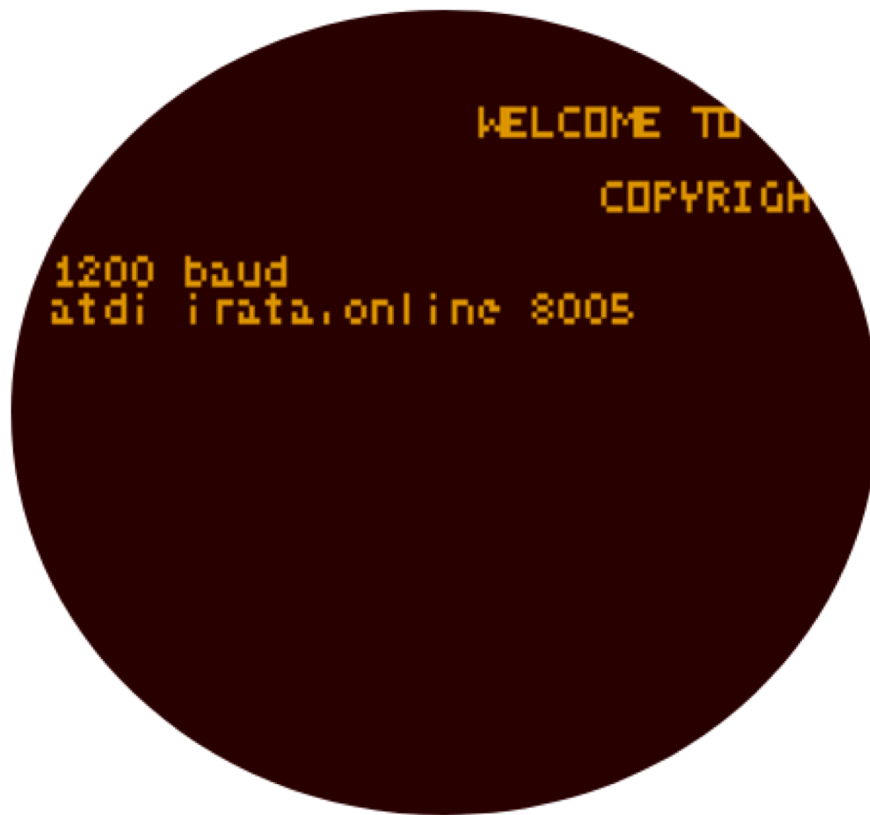
### **If you have a vintage computer**

IRATA.ONLINE provides PLATOTerm, a terminal emulator for PLATO systems such as [IRATA.ONLINE](#), and [CYBER1.ORG](#). PLATOTerm is being ported to dozens of systems, and many targets are already available. The source code is also available for all of these targets, so that the terminal can not only be improved, each target can be used as a concrete example of how to realize a PLATO terminal for a platform currently not covered by PLATOTerm.





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## CONNECT

To connect to IRATA.ONLINE, use the following connection information:

- Host: IRATA.ONLINE
- Port: 8005 (ASCII Protocol)

### Guest Sign-On

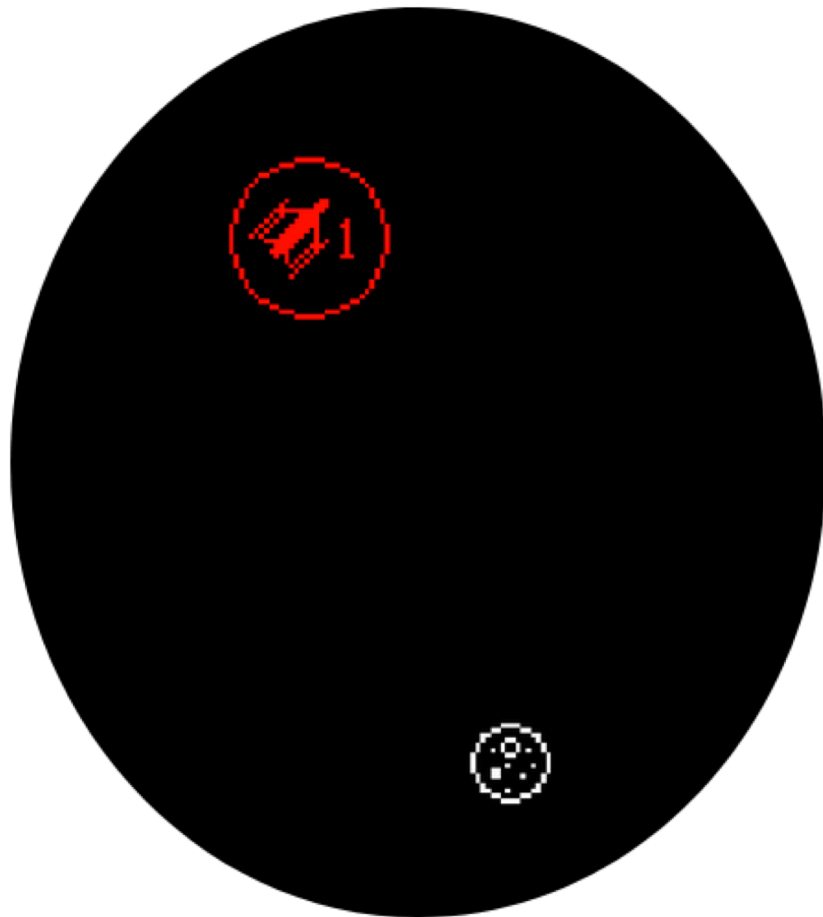
If you want to try the system, before your account is approved, you can log in with the following sign-on:

**user name:** guest

**group:** guest

While this won't give you access to every part of the system (you will not be able to see users, or to use term-talk, for example), it will allow you to see the system, before your account is approved.

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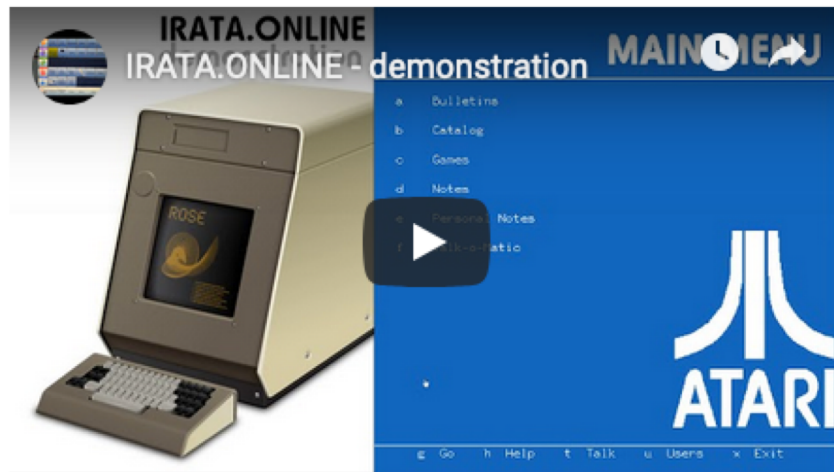
## FEATURES

IRATA.ONLINE is a PLATO based system, which has the following pervasive features:

- Multi-User
- Graphical, with combinations of text, line graphics, and custom character sets, as well as 24-bit color (on supported terminals)
- Touch screen support
- Terminals available for PC, Mac, Linux, Atari 8-bit, and soon Android and iOS.
- Multi-Player Games
- Notes files for social posting on a growing variety of topics
- Talk with other users, anywhere in the system, even in games!
- Help with tutorials to introduce you to the system.
- Development environment to make new programs for the system.
- Lots of existing educational content, because it's a PLATO system.
- Screen sharing facilities, even with multiple participants!
- and more!



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## VIDEOS

Shown here is a video providing an overview of IRATA.ONLINE, and its most basic and pervasive features. We log onto the system using both the PTERM and Atari clients, and walk through the various menus, showing quickly how notes (and personal notes) work, as well as show a quick glance of the games available, and a quick introduction to the unique programming environment available on PLATO systems.

[More Videos...](#)



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## How do I write software for this service?

IRATA.ONLINE like all PLATO systems, utilizes the TUTOR language for the majority of its programs and lessons. It is a very simple language to learn, and is designed to leverage the unique aspects of the service. The editor, debugger, and visual editors needed to make excellent programs for this service, are all built in, and available to users that ask for an Author sign-on.

### TUTOR- Language

There is also the `=Ointrotut=` lesson available from the Help menu and in author mode, as well as the `=aids=` lesson, which serves as a reference guide.

In addition, the fine folks at [bitsavers.org](http://bitsavers.org) and [control-data.info](http://control-data.info) provided a copy of *The Tutor Language* in PDF format, so you can teach yourself TUTOR quickly!

[The Tutor Language \(PDF Format\)](#)

[Introduction to Tutor \(PDF Format\)](#)

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Turn your ATARI® Personal Computer System into a telecommunications device. This cartridge allows you to access PLATO information services such as IRATA.ONLINE and CYBERT.ORG.

CONTAINS ONE PROGRAM CARTRIDGE WITH INSTRUCTION MANUAL

This Cartridge is used with the ATARI® 400™ or the ATARI® 800™ System. Insert in LEFT CARTRIDGE SLOT on the ATARI 800 System.



CARTRIDGE

ATARI 400 SYSTEM

ATARI 800 SYSTEM

ACCESSORIES REQUIRED FOR THIS CARTRIDGE

- Atari® 400™ or Atari 800™ Personal Computer System.
- Atari 850™ Interface Module
- RS-232 Wi-Fi Modem

PLATOTERM UPGRADE POLICY

Since this software is distributed on cartridge, and since PLATOTERM is upgraded regularly, you can upgrade the cartridge by sending in your cartridge, paying for any shipping charges, to the following address:

IRATA.ONLINE  
8401 Swan Park Dr., Denton, TX 76210

ATTN: PLATOTERM Upgrade

You will receive an upgraded cartridge with the latest version of the software. Thank you for supporting community driven software.

ATARI 400/800™

PLATOTERM

ATARI®

ATARI 400/800™

COMPUTER PROGRAM CARTRIDGE

PLATOTERM



CONTAINS ONE CARTRIDGE CXL4030  
USE WITH ATARI® 400™ or ATARI 800™ PERSONAL COMPUTER SYSTEMS

OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES  
Any compatible joystick, touch tablet, TRAK-Ball™, or mouse (Amiga or Atari ST) can be used as a pointing device.  
Minimum RAM Requirement: 16K

ATARI®

ATARI®  
A Warner Communications Company

ATARI 400/800™

PLATOTERM

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**PLATOTERM**

COMPUTER  
COMMUNICATIONS

USE WITH CONSOLE KEYBOARD

ATARI CXL6502



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