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## SUPER HANG-ON



Another great conversion for the Amiga

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## Data protection for soccer ID info

The controversial computer files of soccer fans held in football grounds around the country will come under the Data Protection Act.

All spectators will thus be allowed to see the information on them which is being held. The announcement was made by the sports minister Colin Moynihan in the Commons last week.

The football club's computer will only say whether or not a fan is banned from the ground. It will not give reasons or criminal records. The Police, though, will be able to check the contents of computer.

Moynihan told the Commons: "There was nothing requiring the clubs to be subject to the act, but I firmly believe in the data protection regime."



Moynihan Colin Moynihan

## Ah so! I am a clever computer

A computer has been developed by Massachusetts which can hear a sentence in Japanese and then speak it in English. The prototype has been used together in cooperation with Carnegie Mellon University in the US. It is claimed to be the world's first computer to understand natural phrases that it has not already been pre-programmed to recognise.

# FREE MONITOR FOR AMSTRAD PPC

Amstrad has decided to bundle a free monitor with its portable computers, the PPC.

The offer starts this month and will run through to the end of February. However, it will only affect buyers of the double disk drive version - Amstrad lists that single drive machine as an 'cheap' item in its own literature.

Buyers are being offered a 13 inch, 600x400 monitor worth £100. The price of the £200 and £205 machines will remain at £169 and £169 respectively. The PPC's entry level price is £205.

"We've built up market leadership in the portable market," said Amstrad's Malcolm Miles. "Now we want to expand the market again with a good value proposition." He claimed that consumers had asked for a proper monitor which could be used at home or in the office.

The theory is that portables are only used in only few locations with the machine being kept continuously there. One in the office, if so, Amstrad argues, a monitor is one of those items which would be bought.



• PPC Monitor bundle

Many have criticised Amstrad's recent strategy as being the wrong aspect of the machine.

Amstrad insists that it has

reinstated a 1000 6710 on the portable series since the PPC was launched a year ago. Market research firm Monitor puts its share at 24 per cent. But Amstrad readily admits that the market is not yet a particularly big one.

One drawback for the bundle is that once the PPC is connected to an external monitor a second one becomes necessary. The portable's LCD screen is accessed through a VGA adapter which the 6000 monitor will fit through an ISA adapter which most microcomputers

## Cheap Z88s at Comet

Those users who are looking to pick up a portable but don't fancy Amstrad's offering should consider checking over to Comet.

The electrical store is offering an old model of Cambridge Computer's Z88 and is selling the machine at £180 - £200 lower than the normal price.

Comet admits that many of them will be display machines and claims that "stocks won't last long". Once these have all been sold the new £200 Z88 packs will be released onto the shelves.



• Z88 £180 at

## Offensive US Gold advert hammered

Certain politicians US Gold has been caught by the advertising standards authority for its portrayal of women in a publicity campaign.

The AdB received eight complaints about US Gold's ad in *Playboy* Page 100. When the ad was shown in various computer magazines but caused a negative publicity storm - it has since been pulled.

"It's all depicted in a young man looking at a woman lying on a beach that young woman is seductive pose. She was holding the penis. The ad was supposed to show



which one is rather play with', with a reply 'Yes, but have you seen the version for *Playboy* Page 100?'

The people who complained all considered the ad to be "offensive and repulsive". The ad's content is accompanied by a combination of the unprovoked use of sexist words to sell products. The authority intends advertisements to consider those people who are offended by the "grossness" of the content. It is not intended to be an offensive picture.

US Gold's *Playboy* advert is expected to appear. It was a

heavy ad and the intention was to be provocative. However, we're sure it caused a stir.

However, members suggest that US Gold is surprised by the response and that the AdB decision is in simply about of its own agreement. The AdB probably feels the ad would be considered normal in European computer magazines and that it had simply been in being successful commercial purposes.

Despite the advertisement's suggestion that *Playboy* Page 100 contained good reviews, the game was almost completely passed by computer magazines.

# SIXPACK AMIGA OFFERS BLAST OUT

The system as it usually looks, including the keyboard with the Amiga case in light tan, with accessories of a total of six offers.

Because of the various configurations of the computer made the choice is a rather complicated one. In other normal dealers there is a choice of four basic packs. Any dealer which trades with computer suppliers throughout will have the choice of a further three. These dealers will generally display Microchannel systems on their windows.

Whatever the background, Amiga buyers are being advised to shop around since the bundles differ. Also, what dealers will offer will tend to be competitive or price there are bound to be differences as customers seek to be recommended is being made to dealers to up the price of Amiga through.



—AMIGA (M4.)

## A fistful of offers

**Sports Pack** - value £126  
 Champion Football  
 Champion Football  
 Champion Football  
 Water Olympics  
 Football Manager I

**Business Pack** - value £250  
 Four Computers Plus  
 Football Manager II  
 Manager I  
 Book-Range  
 Calendar  
 Mega-Pack  
 Plotter

**Super Pack** - value £259  
 SoftPaint  
 Advanced II  
 Spelling Image  
 Samwrite  
 Army Tracks  
 Tennis  
 Calculator  
 Wizard  
 International Edition

Formula 1

**Microstar 1** - value £180  
 Strike Force Hammer  
 Jetman II  
 Tunnel B  
 City Chase  
 Bermuda Project  
 Advanced Mail On  
 Power Struggle  
 Tetris

**Microstar 1** - value £220  
 The same as Microstar 1, but also with Photo Paint Plotter

**Highland Park**  
 Microchannel  
 Six Pack  
 Mouse Pad  
 The Math Man  
 Boat Race  
 Chesshit System  
 Keyboard Simulator  
 Royal Palace  
 Sportsch 1,3  
 Chess

## Dixons boosts PS/2

Dixons has given IBM's flagship PS/2 range a shot in the arm by selling IBM's range of high end machines at its own prices.

The Model 50 in this version is shown £349 (was £399 to £399). The high end model is shown £200 to £279 (or £299 with colour monitor).

"Because the IBM's aren't selling as well as we'd like the price down to a level lower to that of Compaq machines," explains a Dixons salesman. "The IBM's are the best value though."



—IBM Model 50 System price cut

Model, this is not being labelled as a Compaq bundle in order to distinguish themselves which come up with an original list of recommended games. Express 16 is more suppliers have needed reasons to justify their prices. To add to the confusion, distributor IBM, listed clearly to retail store. IBM Shop is offering its own bundle of two games.

Consumers don't will be searching an official bundle within the next few months.

## World does not end shock

Reports that the stock listed 182.2 more would have catastrophic effects on PC owners throughout the country appear to have been greatly exaggerated.

The report was due to arise on Friday 12th last. Although 1800s for all computer users had been widely predicted, the market was still intact when Wednesday 14th arrived. View hearing company IBM Enterprise advised that it spent more time on Friday talking to the press than helping distraught computer users. The view about appeared in numerous journals as well as in newspapers.

Two years have gone absolutely pain about to," said IBM's Vice President. "It's an 800 line - but not of about six minutes that we going around on the PC." He estimated that about 14 million

will have been informed throughout the country.

The view has been talking to some machines for months, and into some to the when the market internal stock within a Friday 12th. This is springs into action writing any like 1800s people started to rise. On subsequent days the computer that price took down.

IBM had urged people not to panic saying that the 182.2 was in 'very low' and easily avoided. It contains a 25 program that will look for the virus. Cases were quickly re-estimated their shares on that Friday 12th (some really happened). Despite IBM's assurances, the popular press still went into mad dog mode. Software companies that the Friday 12th might feel some work to get people back into watching.

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**How to Buy Amiga** - covers the price rise. **How to Buy IBM** - covers the price rise. **How to Buy PC** - covers the price rise. **How to Buy Spectrum** - covers the price rise. **How to Buy Commodore** - covers the price rise. **How to Buy BBC** - covers the price rise. **How to Buy SUN** - covers the price rise. **How to Buy PS/2** - covers the price rise.

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### It's Big Money

IBM is so big that it makes £25,000 every minute - at £2.75 a second. This compares with our old Amiga which has a higher rate only manages to make a few every second. IBM's sales profits were up 22 per cent for the last quarter. £21.2 billion.

## COMMENT

## Going a bundle?

Office of Anarchy PC) are it stands for "aggressive personal computers" that do all a computer job of taking you work from the PC at the office to the local area or your study table from out of your chair.

Like a doctor's surgery, the screen is also not big, but seems designed to conceal more than it reveals with its thin proprietary display.

How many Anarchy bundled models could \$200, will carry two dual PCs, but very few like most people only use their PCs in two or three locations, so how you can have your PCs in the lab between your PC at work and your monitor at home.

The fact that the monitor emulates VGA and can't cope with any graphics is being carefully overlooked; the only fact that Anarchy is using a monitor as it would in potential PC's users seems an admission of the inferior quality of the PC display.

Over at the Anarchy 3D matrix, the bundling of games with the Anarchy will be made without quite a few more titles.

Meanwhile there's one thing it is not set out to bridge the gap between the 16-bit and the Anarchy 3D matrix, it is also being aimed firmly at the common end of the market - hence the talk of bundled word processing software with the new machine.

The concept of the Anarchy as a graphics workstation and the 3D as a 16-bit unit, and both as primarily games and leisure machines, is surely due for a change. And the original "Computer Store" was there has significant the relative in the books for the better time.

## Foul play

The new software bundling competition of late over football clubs will surely fill all of many of the smaller outlets. Apart from the fact, many of these clubs depend on seasonal supporters to pad out their gates - supporters who won't get tired of getting equipment and they have been listed in the game's credits.

And, at the end of the day, how much bundling will the actually prevent? What if you push the system outside the grounds, where they're most of their damage done?

Such a deal looks in the range of "unrepresentative" in football and dangerous. It will raise financial concerns for hundreds of thousands of casual fans while doing nothing to deter those responsible for the grounds. Expect clubs like us for as ever from getting back into European competition.

# I SINCLAIR THEREFORE IBM

the Clive Sinclair's Cambridge Computer is marketing an as IBM PC compatible public computer.

The firm is working in the portable market with the PC stand 200. However, that is not PC compatible - users who wish to transfer work done on the screen to their PC must link up using cables. Cambridge itself is not prepared to comment on the matter said to clearly distinguish that the screen has indeed out.

"I'd go further to say our own conduct of what announcements of new products are made," said the firm's Paul Stearns. "New products are always a delicate matter."

He added, "You can find around the industry in the PC world for information - I should have been to stress that any such details would not mean the demise of the 200. "We're definitely not intending to replace the 200. People tend to



Clive Sinclair's IBM compatible public computer.

misinterpret these things." Cambridge is worried that the news will damage sales of the established machine.

Others in manufacturing a 3D look that come for the machine as part of a special deal. That firm, though, refuses to discuss any details of the device.

An yet it is not known when the machine will arrive. Industry pundits, though, are suggesting that Anarchy will see the arrival of Sinclair's PC partner.

## Games console planned by secretive Epyx

A new games console is being secretly developed by US software giant Epyx.

Details of the machine are virtually non-existent but Epyx is refusing to comment on the matter. However, speculation is growing that it will be a low cost, hand-held device.

Epyx president Ed Freeman refused to be drawn on the subject. "I cannot confirm any rumors you may have heard," he said. "We are developing new hardware but it was decided a while ago and it is sure not to be a new generation hardware device going to both parties."

Several trade magazines were apparently given a sneak preview of the machine before it was shown at the recent Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

"The likelihood is that any such console will be launched later this year and could be available later next year."

## Wizball virus worries Ten Star bundle buyers

A virus has appeared on one of the games included in the Anarchy for the game Wizball.

It emerged last week that some copies of Wizball - which is sold as part of the new game pack - had been infected during development. Computer company IBM, which sells the bundle to dealers around the country - accused Epyx that the problem has been largely fixed.

IBM, dealer the the Star Bundle which had been infected, confirmed in Wizball when the dealer was contacted by Clive Sinclair. It was found



Wizball - Ten Star games.

that the Ten Star bundle was "infectiously free" from the virus. IBM, which sells the bundle to dealers around the country - accused Epyx that the problem has been largely fixed.

IBM, dealer the the Star Bundle which had been infected, confirmed in Wizball when the dealer was contacted by Clive Sinclair. It was found

## Mindware loses its way in Labyrinth saga

The development of Dreamworld's upcoming adventure epic Labyrinth and Labyrinth are going to what.

The development team responsible for Mindware has lost interest of the project and, according to the firm's spokesman, "ceased trading" its

decision has yet been made as to what will happen to the game, but it is not behind efforts. It was the one to be identified in the project.

Mindware's agent Marky Stone is clearly furious with the developers' handling of the project. "We know they were

having difficulties and that difficulties were slipping as we got on them," said the firm's James Lyons. "They say they lost their creative's touch. I lost my job because they took it as casually. Cost of the marketing - a waste of money."

Mindware was previously responsible for Proton. Neither of the firm's directors were available for comment last week.

Dreamworld is likely to have forwarded money to Mindware - the firm is yet to decide its course of action.

### In for a pound...

Budgetary Code Builders has finally abandoned selling games at £1.99.

Last November it began selling five budget titles at £2.99 for the first time since it was founded in 1985. However, with sales of £1.99, it was £1.99.

# ATARI PREPARES NEW MEGA ST

Atari is planning to introduce a new model ST line in range for the low-end business user — and a word processing bundle will appear for the new configurations of Xerox.

In effect, the new Mega 1 ST will be a 10MB model a Mega ST costing. The Mega range is generally regarded as more aesthetic and more suitable than the 2000's.

The new machine comes with a more sensitive and will be priced at \$599 including VAT. A 10MB model will also be available for \$599 including VAT. It costs \$499 without Xerox.

Atari is planning this as an emboldening of the range to suit different users. Instead of being a low-end business machine the 2000 is seen regarded as a high-end home model. "It's like the 500's after 800's," explained a spokesman.

"On the bundle for word. We want to make it easy for the first-time computer user to get a full package rather than having to be confused by boxes."

"When we launched the 130 it was seen as a high-end computer for the home. But as time goes on computing becomes cheaper. That's the way the 2000 has gone. In two years time our Xerox range will be a low-end computer for the home."

## The no-touch joystick arrives

One of the most creative offerings of the month's CD-ROMs is American's revolutionary joystick for the Atari.

The no-touch device is operated by sliding your hand back and forth. There is the desired direction without needing to touch the stick. To fire you simply need to shake your hand slightly to a leftward.

The HyperStick 2.0 comes at a cost of \$49.95 but it isn't likely to reach the all-time low price of the market.



• Mega ST. Low-cost 10MB version seen.

It is an attempt to promote its PC2000 range (which started last because the label manufacturer is making IBM's famous advertising campaign based on the saying "Think Outside the Box").

These days of increased are advertising and a related CD-ROM or providing their for machines using the slogan "Think more carefully than ever before." But has already had a go with the message "Think Outside the Box" on its PC order.

Business users in a low attitude, a related comprehensive, the new standard line is the standard computer. "The right-hand thought that since the hardware manufacturer's name is not offering an alternative to IBM's cost message it came up with a satisfying alternative to IBM's advertising phrase rather than helping anyone to their choice."



## City planning by computer

Some city planners are starting to compare the creation of urban density and priorities.

Super advanced programs are being used to analyze the 25 cities in development of the Chicago Area. Since it is not off to be

many railway tracks there faces the danger of a ghetto appearing and mis-use of space.

"We are using a computer to simulate the environment," said Bill Miller of University College.

"Some of the major problems of the past for us thinking out natural

patterns of movement and having much space empty. It is located nearby places which are dangerous."

The computer has enabled him to analyze how the area will develop under different environments.

This method is called "space syntax".

RANK	GAME/TOP TWENTY	FULL PRICE
1	Operation Wolf	£39.95
2	Police	£39.95
3	Warhammer	£39.95
4	Thunder Blade	£39.95
5	Double Dragon	£39.95
6	Warrior	£39.95
7	Double Dragon	£39.95
8	Lotus 1-2-3	£39.95
9	Vision	£39.95
10	Gene	£39.95
11	Football Manager 2	£39.95
12	Warrior	£39.95
13	Warrior	£39.95
14	21 Days	£39.95
15	Command & Conquer	£39.95
16	Gene	£39.95
17	Warrior	£39.95
18	Warrior	£39.95
19	Gene	£39.95
20	Warrior	£39.95

RANK	GAME/TOP TWENTY	FULL PRICE
1	Warrior	£39.95
2	Warrior	£39.95
3	Warrior	£39.95
4	Warrior	£39.95
5	Warrior	£39.95
6	Warrior	£39.95
7	Warrior	£39.95
8	Warrior	£39.95
9	Warrior	£39.95
10	Warrior	£39.95

Help at hand for baffled PC users



• SuperStick 2.0 is PC software.

PC users will get today their way through the world of business software and being offered a range of help programs. Clipping CD-ROMs the SuperStick comes from Personal Management software (the name of Lotus 1-2-3, WordPerfect, 5.0 and others) is a fully interactive "how-to" program, interactive menu, online and interactive of text and graphics.

More info via 0800 20000.

Schofield wins ball



The editor of The Guardian computer page, **John Schofield**, is a renowned enthusiast of Atari machines, and is keen to get the funds to another 10 to add to the collection that he formed **Three Computers**. Editors: Christine Compston.

Unfortunately, the influential youth failed to walk away with the desired first prize. His old business manager to James **ESB** and who is football signed by the Liverpool team.

Schofield commented: "We going to be able without getting that into the club after a year?"

Other highlights should have to page 24 for a full list of winners.

Labour saves labour

Neil Kinnock's Labour Party has just announced that a further £250,000 will be spent on the development of an on-line computer system for the Labour Party in London.

The opposition is hoping to use the 10 computers to store information on the million or so members it hopes to have for the time the next election takes around.

However, additional union data bases and the use will be at hand.

Anyone thinking about starting up a computerised major political party might be interested to learn that Labour is using McDonald Douglas Military hardware with 32MB memory on each terminal and a 320MB Winchester hard disk.

# BUNGLERS!

## New breed of hacker causes chaos

The danger of banking is spreading from "supercharged white hats" to ordinary computer enthusiasts - and they are the most dangerous.

That is the view of Professor Henry Baker who will make his keynote at next month's Corporate Computer Security Conference that banking is becoming easier with the emergence of more sophisticated programs and computer-linked users.

Baker, who provides security systems to various Government agencies, and advises large companies, says the new breed of hackers is even more dangerous than its predecessors. He claims that criminals can do far more damage than banked hackers.

"This is analogous to the trend in air travel. The professional may get

away with more stress of value but at least he will not destroy your home. A hacker can be destructive in a computer."

He adds: "While data has grown from millions, the increasing complexity of both the user and what it can be attacked and manipulated. The likelihood is that it will be used by you has meant that computer fraud is now reaching epidemic proportions."

Baker will be addressing delegates at the Second, International Bank Security Conference 84-85, the main theme London, which advises companies on ways to beat the hackers.

\*Baker talks out for the new breed



## Magnetic mystery baffles Logotron

Some puzzled Logotron is blaming magnetic interference on loading problems with the PC version of **Shogun**.

Although the game was installed in November the reason for the large number of returns has only just come to light after a thorough

examination of the disks. Logotron says that it is currently following some leads in order to track down the source of the magnetic interference.

Logotron's **Bobby Wright** told *Express* that any games experiencing difficulty should return the

game to Logotron, rather than to any shop. The firm will then send a new version as well as a 30 voucher off any Logotron game. It will qualify through the game mail to be received by February 1985.

"We're presently unable to do return the interference

game back," said Wright. "We just know that large number of the game was in the vicinity of a magnetic field. We're giving away the voucher for way of apology to customers," he said. Logotron's address is: Greyhound House, 38 Greyhound Road, London SW9 6DZ.

## When the chips are down...

American electronics firms are so worried by Japanese domination of the 256-bit chip market that they are planning to form a consortium and fight back.

Manufacturers plan to join forces to increase production of the vital chips. The shortage of these chips has been the cause of computer prices rising in the past. American hardware manufacturers have long felt that their inability to compete in the chip market holds it for their position in all fields of computer development.

US computer manufacturers appear to be willing to share the cost of writing up a consortium and manufacturing the chips. This, they reason, would have them less

vulnerable to the volatility of the Japanese 256-bit market which has swung from cheap chips being "dumped" on the US market, just that forcing US companies to pull out of chip manufacturing to avoid shortages, to raising computer companies to low prices and hold back launches of new machines.

The encouragement of a consortium comes through the American Electronic Association, which has 1500 members, and the Semiconductor Industry Association. Talks of an agreement has been continuing through electronic committees for some time. But neither say the companies are now willing to talk again.

## Kalamazoo: familiarity breeds contentment?



Kalamazoo has come up with an interesting package for the PC which it claims will dispense with all software needs keeping its price.

The 6800 program runs with Kalamazoo's sophisticated monitoring package **Chart II**. The company hopes that because users could businesses are familiar with Kalamazoo's manual bookkeeping system, they will not see disaster at upgrading to a similar replacement system.

Kalamazoo's software firms are over 100,000 businesses in the country which will provide manual bookkeeping systems. It says that **Chart II** and the associated programs "enable business the format of training manual bookkeeping systems."



# The Atari 520STFM.



## Of £450 worth



MARE & MALRICE, £10.95  
Electronic Arts



TUT DRIVE, £24.95  
Electronic Arts



BEHIND THE 13 PALACE, £19.95  
Epic



BUGGY BOY, £19.95  
Epic



DUKE EDWARDS-LOVER, £4.95 (99%)  
Epic



BASH BROTHERS, £4.95  
Epic



CHOPPER G, £19.95  
Mullermeier



ROADWARS, £19.95  
Mullermeier House



RANSOM, £19.95  
Mullermeier House



ARKANOID II, £19.95  
Image



WIZARD, £19.95  
Damon



BLACK STAR, £19.95  
Pony

Here it is! The new Super Pack from Atari. You don't just get the brilliant 520STFM. We're giving you twenty-two great software titles that most people would gladly sell their grannies for.

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So make sure you include yourself in this great offer.\*



# Atari. £399.99 inclusive.



## with 100 titles of software.



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Atari



BARRAMUNDI £19.95  
Atari



THUNDERCATS £19.95  
Atari



JYNX £19.95  
Atari



QUARLES £19.95  
Atari



STARQUAKE £19.95  
Atari



ARCHON II £19.95  
Atari



GENERAL £19.95  
Atari



TOMB RAIDER £19.95  
Atari



SECOND SIGHT £19.95  
Atari



SUMMER OLYMPICS £19.95  
Atari



ORBITER £19.95  
Atari

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SOFTWARE £19.95  
Through Publishing.

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Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Atari Corp (UK) Ltd., Atari House, Railway Terrace, Slough, Berkshire SL1 5SZ

**ATARI**  
**SUPER PACK**

# How a PC1512 changed my life!

**Richard Challis suffers from dyslexia. The handicap was ruining his career prospects and his sense of self-esteem — until he bought an Amstrad PC1512...**

**E**VEN IN 1987 Richard Challis was told he would never be able to sit his A-Level. His ambitions to earn university and gain an electronics engineering degree looked remote. Three months later he bought an Amstrad 1512 — a change for the best. Just to bypass the first problem to take exams with the aid of a computer. That's how he's studying those A-Levels and well on his way to higher education.

Challis suffers from the word-recognition disability syndrome. He is a said to be 100 times less handwriting speed than the 100 of a lot, read 100's. He scores half as quickly as an average for people of his age and intelligence; most years for him's eyes read the writing handed. He can spell in his head but can't get a note paper without, wanting to sit the letters.

He writes in both columns every day with a big hand to allow more time to get his letters. It consists a steady flow of stop-start text blocks and judging the letters as well as a series of computer tests, some features, records. It's both Diggins and a Gateway Computer 1512 machine. The PC1512 stays in touch.

The 1512 completely takes out all the capabilities from there to give us need to make use of the handwriting word. Each lesson the typing area while his eyes are adjusting. The formula is slow, dyslexia + computer + accuracy.

"I began using the 1512 about two weeks after I started at college. Before that I just had to read notes and do as best as I could. But with dyslexia

education, Challis had a great feeling a great for the 1512 but it came to nothing. "Maybe there's a chance at the British Society for Dyslexic Studies for some time, but they're only got limited funds."

## Examining the advantages of a PC

While the other behind students were in a struggle to get their A-Levels, Challis was on his own in front of an Amstrad 1512. Being the first person to take his exams on a computer there was no correct procedure to follow — teachers they observed and noticed at the time.

Without the computer Challis has no doubt that he would have failed. "When the computer first came to read my notes for months I have been very pleased, especially if he was tired. Without a computer you would have given me 10 per cent extra. I would be stuck in that that's not satisfactory because I'm not a super-student."

Students' activities at the time were completely organized by the administration and organizational set up of the new GCSE curriculum. It was in this environment that Challis had his family applied to use the PC in appropriate exams.

"At 1512 there was some lack of communication. We were in the school and they were in the field. It took ages for any decision to be reached. I was like taking one step forward and two steps back. It wasn't. But the school was saying 'Don't worry about this subject'. They just wanted to be fair on everyone. In the end the board of governors gave us a one month respite to be ready for the exams. It was plenty of time to get organized."

Now that the procedure has been set teachers insist that, if they want to use the dyslexia must apply to use a computer at the beginning of their course. If so, they are required to get an educational psychologist who will check speed of handwriting to speed of word processing. Richard's word processing averages out at 25 words per minute — about the same as handwriting. Therefore there was no real advantage in the extra AOs. He was allowed to do the printing outside of exam time, since that would have been an advantage.

## Limited help

Computers will help only some dyslexics. There are some problems reading will find it just as difficult to use the keyboard. There are also read and take in the printed word word will feel word processing a godsend.



Richard Challis, 1512 machine

The disadvantage among us will immediately open, though, that a city otherwise might easily be able to take the PC into a very other advantage.

"I would have taken it in a very serious situation, but everything was already done. Obviously it would have been amazing to me to be the first person who uses a computer and that's what will get a real letter from me. If I had been caught cheating there would have been a right word about it. My friends are all satisfied by a teacher who understood MS-DOS and WordStar 1.0."

**"The computer has made me more confident, because I can deal with the problems I can talk about it and not just stare up."**

Richard was the only software used and the word's allowed to use the typing machine that except for the English. One needs to watch other students can use a dictionary anyway. He didn't use the computer for papers which require short answers or formulae such as Maths. These short-answered long answers such as Geography, History, English made the most of the word's program.

Richard taking the new GCSEs term stopped a software from the main staff with more attention, being paid to computers. Challis used to compare to design groups and get charts for an Economics project. "I didn't use anything like HP Planner though. I'd rather design the graphs than to just using it. I'm sure." All students are allowed to use computers for projects through with more training in the front. Challis took the students.

## What is dyslexia?

Dyslexia is an ongoing disability which impairs short term memory, perception and hand skills so causing interference in the development of language. For just 10% of students suffer from it.

Scientists say it should be diagnosed by the age of six months. Richard Challis was diagnosed at the age of 11. Symptoms in other territories and there is no known cure. Common dyslexia include laws (word), language do lines, Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein and George Washington.

Many's perceptions difficult. People receive the 1512 because of the rubber keyboard but I think it's brilliant because it's silent. It would be a distraction for the other students if I was going slowly check all day. After taking notes Richard got along the 1512 with the Physics Department's printer in for one hour and spent a week in the 1512. The end result of course is a set of notes prepared for normal handwriting class.

"I am computer student and I enjoy working with them," says Challis. He's currently working with Richard's thesis language to produce a program for Dyslexics which will help them progress faster better.

Obviously the computer is essential to the



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### NORTHERN SINCLAIR SHOW

Due to a lack of previous shows in the form for Sinclair machines Sector Software are to be organising a Northern Sinclair show around Preston in Lancashire (just 20 or 20 MB) in about March, anyone who would like to be involved with details or any Spectrum, QL, 286 computers or peripheral suppliers please contact us for details.

We have a range of QL, Spectrum, 286, and Amiga software packs including service manuals, ring for prices on individual items.

**SECTOR SOFTWARE** are always on the lookout for good quality programs for the QL, 286 or Amiga, if you have written ones then please contact us.

### BULLETIN BOARD

We are now running a Bulletin Board based on 375 484.28 (get to learn windows and procedures which is mainly QL, specific but includes a 286 section, which can be used on Amiga section.

We are at the moment writing Amiga to 286 file transfer software and Amiga to QL software. If you are interested in either of these then please contact us for more details. We also for many products to mention in any detail, (see from a regular for help about in QL World email monthly, so please write us a BBS or give us a ring for us for product guide and price list.

A goods listing section is now available on the Bulletin Board, so goods can be ordered by BBS.

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## THEY'VE GOT NO BILLS

Microsoft being good problem solvers. Microsoft and the new installation. Factors for the 3.5. Apparently they do not put out some 27 disc drives. They never did, so we'll track on March 3 as they claimed they were in the process of writing a new program that would work. I kept in contact with them as to the progress of the new disks and wanted updates.

To my house. They say they have never received disks, but on six weeks after I sent them. As I did not send them by recorded delivery, as far as they were concerned that was the end of it. They of course blamed it on the Christmas post, but as they admitted a few others have not been received either. I remain frustrated.

I will sure many of your readers will agree that there are few things more frustrating than buying out £25 for a top quality game which does not load. I think we must not tolerate so much of this in the software market or more care would be taken before the release of the game. I cannot see the logic in spending five years on developing a game when it does not load up at the end of it. An analogy will come—Other commodity, like a pair of shoes would be less matter how far they are, tested they are not a top quality without tests.

Mr. R. H. Johnson, London.

Over the problem of the disc, logic protection often spent by relying on the disc itself to believe in a certain way when you ask it to do something extraordinary - read a sector that can't normally be read

manufacturers change the discs slightly, while still conforming to the general specifications, require that exactly only protection routines should work any more.

This is what may have happened in Falcon's case. It just highlights the problems caused by lack of communication between the software company, which understandably wants copyright protection, the programmers, who understandably advise what they think are the clearest protection routines possible, and the drive manufacturers, who change drives while still sticking to standard specs.

Whether this had your disc - the Royal Mail or Microsoft - doesn't really matter now. Though it's easy to say how, whenever you send discs back, always use registered post. Then if they do go astray you at least know who to tell.

## HELP WANTED

Would like. There is obviously something very wrong with the way I used to be to tell me IBM 128 system and to say to bring for not registered of program, but I'm not a programmer either. I believe in paper matter which computer you have. It's what you do with it that counts, and the fact is that most Amiga 500 users do play games and use software.

Nothing wrong with that. Use it how, but will there is some level cheaper? I'm not saying software that it will remain very much a game machine for many years. But what does it do?



## Dear Reader

Three pages this week, packed with another selection from our postbag. Got something to say? Make your voice heard in competing's bestest letters page! Send your contributions to: Express Mail, 4 Queen Street, Bath, Avon BA1 2LJ/PO. Sorry, NO personal replies, whether you include an SAC or not. We're too busy putting Express together!

Included I read, or if I can get it, or if I will never program. I'm using Superbase, Superbase and MSOS. To make writing my programs in BASIC 1.0 and yes, I'm using playing games too, but I want still a worded system at a fast rate so I can play them in games with 4.000 colours.

## Free love

Your requirements on computer problems is about 1.5m and entirely accurate in the requirements on the Amiga, possibly for you are looking for commercial solutions.

Amiga users are fortunate in having a great deal of excellent public domain software and shareware available which can take any shortcomings. To receive an accidentally deleted file there's the PD program (Amiga) on disk #125, although it does need two disk drives. Disk #104 and 201 or the January 89 issue of Jump Disk for the latest version usually receives deleted files and a much better than DiskBuster for salvaging corrupted disks.

There are a lot of free-to-use PD programs to provide music facilities, as well as commercial products such as English and Notes in the Classics (collection of titles).

ARP (Amiga) Replacement Project) on disk #125 provides an alternative operating system that is smaller and faster than SystemOS and includes a filesystem browser to keep other users concerned in matters. If you prefer to keep such commands in a disk file, the Amiga's structure file Amiga-disk on disk #58 will contain restoring the computer.

Ami Mail, Bath, Avon.

## Amiga virus

Most good news about the 1040 market with the purchase of an Amiga 4000. As a computer user since 1982, I have heard demand of related news like 400 and development of the reading maps like 400 and now consider myself fortunate if it won't be the quality game to the speed of commercial releases, but the critical issue is Limited Edition. I would like to be the proud owner of a complete set of selected discs.

When received by Amiga, complete with the five Amiga games pack, I will be pleased if my drive is a matter of

course I found who was already in Amiga-own (would track for PD software to show its, and admit demonstrating SP2181), a very letter, we discovered the one of the game pack disk) was infected with the Amiga Booter virus.

I have contacted the dealer who sold me the machine and he said they have only just found out about the virus from the distributor of the game pack disk. The virus is an infected file on CD.

I had only one for all the hundreds of computer magazines who bought the Amiga special offer packs at Christmas, who did not have any virus and had their discs, and now everything has been transferred the virus to all their copies. My congratulations to the distributors of the Amiga game packs for doing more to spread the virus than anyone before them.

Mr. P. J. Johnson, Bath, Avon.

## For practical fun

The release of manuals has been generating interest in home computer users. I am considering starting a new newsletter (Amiga) Focus containing articles on the subject. The articles will be about practical programs for generating local images, on specific home computers or on PCs, and also machine code routines for specific microprocessors. In addition to general interest articles will be considered, together with readers' letters. Ideally, articles should be submitted on all issues (Amiga study) for reproduction. However, if the article is to be considered in exceptional circumstances.

An introductory issue and the first edition will be issued free to anyone interested. Anyone who submits articles that are accepted for publication in the first issue will get the next five issues free of cost. If there is sufficient interest for the newsletter to continue, in the form of writing I have already had some high level interest, and if any of the people who have expressed interest send in articles the newsletter should be a good idea.

Ami Mail, Bath, Avon.  
Amiga Focus, Queen Street, Bath, Avon BA1 2LJ.

## A load of love

I'm writing about issue 5 of your magazine, where you cover 26 in your

**Don't waste your money** has already got three out of four and called themselves "the UK's top award-winning" magazine. This means average of 4.5 out of 5. I mean, what do you get for the money?

425 free family photos of you, and a better picture on the first issue, is it £25 or more? Pick up on the video. More money quality and more money.

Send me by £25 for entertainment.

£25 for 425 photos of you and more for £25 for 425 photos of you.

50-year-old, get £25 worth of Christmas presents. For 1994. The only magazine 4.5 out of 5. More money than you can spend. More money than you can spend. More money than you can spend. More money than you can spend. More money than you can spend.

Convenient you can buy local and a lot of local money. More than you can spend. More money than you can spend. More money than you can spend. More money than you can spend. More money than you can spend.

or suitable. This may well be outside the specifications of the drive that the manufacturers have decided on, but if it works in practice than everything is OK. The problem comes when the

Phoenix Flyers' program? That to tell it (and) have not a customer for a moment. How should be. I had the Amiga. The right pack of 4 out of 4. I had the Amiga. The right pack of 4 out of 4. I had the Amiga. The right pack of 4 out of 4.

I had the Amiga. The right pack of 4 out of 4. I had the Amiga. The right pack of 4 out of 4. I had the Amiga. The right pack of 4 out of 4. I had the Amiga. The right pack of 4 out of 4. I had the Amiga. The right pack of 4 out of 4.

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£25 for 425 photos of you and more for £25 for 425 photos of you.

Convenient you can buy local and a lot of local money. More than you can spend. More money than you can spend. More money than you can spend. More money than you can spend. More money than you can spend.

or suitable. This may well be outside the specifications of the drive that the manufacturers have decided on, but if it works in practice than everything is OK. The problem comes when the



price called "working out with Windows" you call the program setting systems a "memory collector of commands by the name of Amiga".

Quoted the Amiga fan to be in the line for the information on the commands that he finally loses the operating system-out of it.

Saying that the Amiga is not a PC on the Mac or XT is in my opinion often nonsense. A program will take time to be installed if it takes up lots of memory and it takes a smaller application window. However, under certain conditions Windows is very effective.

Let me see how fast that Express and I share opinions in many topics but in my opinion you have written nothing on for me from the last. Jon Stoughton, Borewood, Surrey

Well, everyone's entitled to their own opinion of course, but I find the Amiga's operating system sluggish compared just to the Mac's and XT's. Just one of the things that I dislike. I value my money, even if I have to pay more than I like, and I like to see the money I've spent in the bank. I don't like to see it in the bank. I don't like to see it in the bank. I don't like to see it in the bank. I don't like to see it in the bank.

**STOP MAKING CENSORS**  
I'm writing to you on the subject of censorship. Whether it be obscenity or TV, radio, books or computer games - it does not matter which as I believe censorship is bad. As soon as people try to tell others what to see, hear, follow, look or do we have problems. We are saying that young children shouldn't be protected. What I am saying is that young, mature adults should be allowed to play violent computer games if, when and how they want to.

The Amiga's Amiga Database can go and find their own features and it often get on with them. The world does not need heavy software and "only books" as I see to everyone and their families to introduce with other's help "just off your shopping list" as you don't get your own out of my business. I love it!  
Ray McCarroll, Borewood, Surrey



• Is my reproduction (see Stop Making Censors)

I always get suspicious when people say they believe in censorship. More often than not, what they mean is they don't believe what they think should be censored. If you don't have censorship, then you

don't allow anything at all. Or you think it right that people should be allowed to make and sell videos about other people's lives. Or you think it right that people should be allowed to make and sell videos about other people's lives. Or you think it right that people should be allowed to make and sell videos about other people's lives. Or you think it right that people should be allowed to make and sell videos about other people's lives.

### MEMORY MEND

I feel I need to write about the state of things software. In fact, it's not just I am a student. I am 200 a week from a part-time job. I cannot afford to waste my money on bad, expensive software.



• Dungeon Master on the Amiga. Why should it cost £100? (see Memory Mend)

The first reason for me was housing, and housing was the reason for my move. I'm not a student. I am 200 a week from a part-time job. I cannot afford to waste my money on bad, expensive software. I don't like to see it in the bank. I don't like to see it in the bank. I don't like to see it in the bank. I don't like to see it in the bank.

£2.2k is a lot of money. Programmers are getting busy to use the money to spend on their memory just to play a game in a PC. The Amiga is supposed to be a low-cost device in home computing, which means a way to make use of some software custom chips, and 512k of memory.

I don't want to be forced into a job, that will make the situation worse. But I'm not a student. I am 200 a week from a part-time job. I cannot afford to waste my money on bad, expensive software. I don't like to see it in the bank. I don't like to see it in the bank. I don't like to see it in the bank. I don't like to see it in the bank.

And of course you're right: there's no reason why Dungeon Master costs £100. Amiga has been converted for the £1.2k. Amiga -

after that business. Oh, because you'll think that in the end the copies would be sold. But everyone can afford the memory upgrade.

### AMIGA AWAY

I would like to contribute to your tracking party. I have a different perspective. I am an unemployed Amiga 500 owner, who has never bought or been given copies of (great) software, and I would not know where to start looking a piece of software.

Looking through all the computer publications including your excellent magazine (not to be confused with the one owned by all the games of such quality and depth that are released at the time of the year. As these games are £20 - £30 each in some cases, even though the manufacturers extremely expensive.

My goal is that those who are out of work like me, or are low-income, cannot help but be tempted to buy or accept a game from a friend or commercial dealer at a cheap price. I consider myself to be an honest person, but I would feel it very difficult to refuse a cheap priced copy of a game.

Perhaps the law of supply and demand applies here. If those that cannot afford to buy full price software did not exist, then the commercial dealer would not exist, and the hobbyist market could carry on as before without harming anybody.

In conclusion then it seems that the problem is a much more fundamental one that affects our industry as a whole. A friend, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

• There are a few points here. The

first, which is an honest to say, is that getting software is not and not justified under any circumstances. That if you consider it because someone is unemployed that you they will continue reading, etc. etc.

But I don't want your friends who are unemployed and are 'looking' your work producing software that they couldn't afford so they could write you application letters (which is not), you'll be hard pushed to say so. Then you returned it to games store again to write away the long lines in the afternoon, and it becomes difficult to drive the line. Please apologise to me, but also you've unemployed it makes you rather more pathetic.

It seems the real problem isn't the price of software as much as the fact that you're not at it or the moment. It's not an economic fact I suspect the long term solution is not to improve the price of software alone, but to improve everyone's spending power. Two equally good routes to you would be if you can't afford the software, you get a job and if it's your friend who's unemployed, the Government should get you a job. Neither of those would be any practical help to you or anyone else though.

What about a similar scheme for the unemployed - the one for students, whereby you can borrow money from the bank to buy a machine and/or a bundle of software, and pay off just the interest until you get a job when you pay the loan back in instalments?

With suitable software (word processors, programming languages) at £1 you could have considerable skills and make your job applications too, or perhaps use your skills to earn money in some other way. And once you do, you'll be able to afford any game you like. (Unless you're a computer journalist, of course, in which case you won't have any spare time to play them anyway.)

### FOUR LANGUAGE

At last a magazine for everybody. It's great but not perfect. How about a column for 'Pace magazine users'?

• Great! And often and Windows and Office and OpenOffice and PPT and Lotus and... No, you have to try the computers, unfortunately. Otherwise you'll have columns for machines like the IBM.

### PCW FILE: LAST WRITES

I see there was a piece in your last issue about the PCW file. The PCW file is a list of all the names of all the people who have used the PCW file. It is a list of all the names of all the people who have used the PCW file. It is a list of all the names of all the people who have used the PCW file.

I have noticed details about how the group intends to carry on with the file offering from public domain software to people that want it. Chris Davies, Borewood, Surrey

• It's a shame the contributor had to claim it was one of the better features around. PCW owners can

continue to get free PC software as their incentive. For a minimum staying fee of \$2 per issue, a copy of the CD-ROM can be had by sending a check (drawn out by Cashier, 1200 St. Peter's Close, Marston on Logg, Hartford 06148-0000). (This account expires if any outstanding debts will be paid off in time.)  
PCW owners can get a special

There are bound to be some smaller computers remaining games which only a machine specific may know about. Also such may exist to be months, and their collection of reviews may be in the next few weeks or so. (I've never seen one "inspired" at the time of publication). It is in the next week then, thus making their site less

like I am 75, I intend to go on a world cruise first!  
Oli George, Corvallis, West Midlands

**PET AND PET**

You can remember the old Commodore PET the size of which, incidentally, qualified for city animals. PET apparently represented "Personal Electronic Translator" when it was being offered as first prize in a competition by

into 48 different changing numbers. I was therefore amazed to see that the annual Christmas list has produced



• (Yes, but no, for obvious. I just got this boy)

excessive sales of the Spectrum and especially the Commodore 64. The focus is noticeably downgraded for money I had drawn, and the other still retains most of the original Commodore Base, designed for the PET at those years ago. I would like to think that these machines are selling only partly for the others are too expensive, but rarely because an awful lot of people were interested in state-of-the-art product with a machine that fulfills the product's terms of entertainment and value for money.

Well, even after computer games collections come in for unreserved criticism, in "Amiga 800" I've seen/heard back time to go for it. It's only because I've had "revisited" it. It's the computer news, based after the number of its admirers. It is as the people who pay attention to the computer industry and related businesses, and are pleased to know who we are doing with.

Would you try a world from the "Amiga 800" or any other? Don't forget, Commodore.

Comparing a software house that makes your order to a shop who tries to substitute an entire video system is not necessary. I have been of late under computer that have included "Retailer's specialty" who also look after "customers" by giving them additional news of software, by bringing them news about the computer scene, by providing interesting features and so on, all at a reasonable price. The don't price stuff just because the advertisers want to see, and that may also be the responsibility of your own mail. We're not a customer watching, and don't feel we would be doing anything particularly constructive by naming an article-offering specialty companies for specific things, other than satisfying a few people's sense of curiosity.

And yes, I would try a world from the "Amiga 800" either, because it's a national character.

I couldn't wait to imply that you still had a head, as an "I never really" could hardly do that. But in the spirit for excellence both in software and hardware, no-one wants to be left behind the cutting edge of technology, probably prevents the students are to be "disturbed" by the use of age. It is not necessarily obsolete, as I had myself every morning while looking in the mirror.

P.S. The PET app letter from the 1980s, Chris Coleman, Lancaster, Suffolk

Asks you in computing, go back further than the PET in the 1980s. Look at the Commodore 64, which was the first computer to be used in a computer. They called it "Personal Electronic Translator" or PET, for short.

Despite the increasing in both our national output of computers, for example, you still can't get a better computer than the Commodore 64. Look at the Commodore 64, which was the first computer to be used in a computer. They called it "Personal Electronic Translator" or PET, for short.

**BEYOND OUR KEN**

It will normally qualify according to magazines, but the letters a year 1991-1992. In fact, the Commodore PET, based on the day of purchase, prompted me into action.

Under the Sale of Goods Act 1979 and goods sold in the course of business must be of merchantable quality. This is defined as being fit for the purpose for which they were intended.

Clearly, as Mr. Henderson says to Commodore PET it was not of merchantable quality because you wouldn't expect any product to fit for the day of purchase, provided it was sold in accordance with its intention.

In cases such as this the claim rests with the retailer who should have selected the hardware's correct design area. If normal hardware could have been used, it is not clear if that was the case. I am sure it was only intended for a retailer.

Again, the Sale of Goods Act 1979 states that goods sold by description as all real order goods incidentally are - must conform with that description, or once again, the purchase is voided by a defect.

Your complaint that the retailer may have failed to deliver a computer, is to some extent, reasonable but before customers should have a right to know that they are buying a risk in purchasing an expensive item from the shop. Though hopefully having lost the County Court case they will be wiser a future. A potential customer should not have to resort to such measures to get that to which is legally entitled.

**REPAIR YOUR OWN**

I have had Mr. Henderson's experience with his computer systems and the Commodore PET was just what I needed. It is not clear that details of the case but would like to share my experience with your readers to balance things.

bundle of 14 back issues of PCW for £10.95 - nearly 100 pages of information. Contact: The Computer Store, 2000-2001, 2001, 2001.

**THE HAPPY RELEASE**

Would love to know about something that's not going to be sold. America is a great map and seems like it should have been.

But look at the evidence available - not only in the United States but also in the United Kingdom. The Commodore 64, which was the first computer to be used in a computer. They called it "Personal Electronic Translator" or PET, for short.

in the past have ordered, by mail, many items ranging from a spare printer (Commodore 1000), a PCF 500, a 3.5-inch PC and Panasonic printers. These were returned only a month later as promised. I do think that has been quite a problem with the goods.

Do think they might get off being by mail order for a while now. Last October I saw Lee's advert for the Commodore PET, ordered them from their site with questions, as I did Commodore. Both were very helpful and able to answer my questions quickly and fully.

Using Lee's on the afternoon of October 25th and placed my order. The parcel was in the phone (not 2000) for your order, you should receive the hardware. Put the other one, I thought.

Not morning, just after 10, I thought it arrived. Since then I have been used to be in a state of mind and up to new fears at a time, it works perfectly. I do think the better than that this - £1000. It includes 800 and program for my money. I got the system, a 3.5-inch floppy, keyboard, M0005 3.5-inch floppy, 1000 1000 keyboard/graphics controller, working like a charm. It is worth 1000 and is easy to use.

In the end it was the lack of the drive. This one is the hardware but and - for once - not Mr. Henderson. Thank, Commodore.

**THE THIRD-BORN MAIL ORDER CO.**

Referring to issue 10 "Bring out Selection", I really agree with Lee Henderson's letter and think you should produce an article on dependable computer firms with County Court judgments against them.

You in that as County Court judgments against you, you would find it interesting to get 1000 orders. I think there had been last order causing you five years of misery. Many

agree to prepare to be delayed by letters of complaint from 1000 orders. I think will be pleased to know that the disgruntled software buyer on our cover is Lee's Andy Smith.

**ONLY AS OLD AS THE MACHINE FOR PET**

I received your 1000 orders and was very pleased and even for playing a few games. At the age of twenty-five I have become a convert to computing, having never touched one in my life before. Although I got a 1000 order to buy the time to do this thing I want on my machine.

My next step will be a 1000 machine, and then my eye on the Atari 2600. My great-grandfather is interested in MS-DOS. I hope to learn programming by the

database would hold the information with your creditworthiness, and if they are received your letter type of connecting them with the Data Protection Act ruling you. The state "I'd because a company has had a County Court judgment against it as it is not clear" mean that all its dealings are suspect. (I think that's the way that you should filter most numbers of people don't mean to be not a nice person. He was a great, fearless agent. I was all that one person with control. It is not they will not 10-110 control.)

It is the computer news, based after the number of its admirers. It is as the people who pay attention to the computer industry and related businesses, and are pleased to know who we are doing with.

Would you try a world from the "Amiga 800" or any other? Don't forget, Commodore.

Comparing a software house that makes your order to a shop who tries to substitute an entire video system is not necessary. I have been of late under computer that have included "Retailer's specialty" who also look after "customers" by giving them additional news of software, by bringing them news about the computer scene, by providing interesting features and so on, all at a reasonable price. The don't price stuff just because the advertisers want to see, and that may also be the responsibility of your own mail. We're not a customer watching, and don't feel we would be doing anything particularly constructive by naming an article-offering specialty companies for specific things, other than satisfying a few people's sense of curiosity.

And yes, I would try a world from the "Amiga 800" either, because it's a national character.

I couldn't wait to imply that you still had a head, as an "I never really" could hardly do that. But in the spirit for excellence both in software and hardware, no-one wants to be left behind the cutting edge of technology, probably prevents the students are to be "disturbed" by the use of age. It is not necessarily obsolete, as I had myself every morning while looking in the mirror.

P.S. The PET app letter from the 1980s, Chris Coleman, Lancaster, Suffolk

Asks you in computing, go back further than the PET in the 1980s. Look at the Commodore 64, which was the first computer to be used in a computer. They called it "Personal Electronic Translator" or PET, for short.

Despite the increasing in both our national output of computers, for example, you still can't get a better computer than the Commodore 64. Look at the Commodore 64, which was the first computer to be used in a computer. They called it "Personal Electronic Translator" or PET, for short.

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# How to be a smart consumer

**Buying a computer or software? Everyone wants your money: mail order houses, High Street retailers, street traders, even people selling their Christmas presents in the classified ads...**

**The vast majority of dealers are reliable and professional, but how do you avoid the cowboys? And what do you do when things go wrong? Rik Maynes investigates the dos and don'ts of computer consumerism...**



**B**uying a piece of software should be the easiest of deals in the UK: you pick what you want, put your money out and take your goods home to enjoy. But in practice it's never like that. For a start, you have a choice between sources: should you order straight from a mail order house you can't be sure will be there after three months, or stick with your High Street store, which may not have the first thing about your machine? And what do you do when your deal doesn't work, the program is useless or you don't even know what you ordered? Being a smart computer user isn't enough - you need to be a smart consumer too.

Perhaps the best step is to do a smart consumer as to find out as much as possible about the product before you attempt to purchase it. This means reading all the computer magazines which might review it or perhaps in its "best buy" section. Word of mouth can be a good guide too - maybe some of your friends have heard or seen what you're after.

The idea is to give yourself an informed and unbiased opinion on the product before you're introduced to all the sales hype. The more you know about the product, the better you can judge its value, weaknesses and strengths. And the final decision must be as to whether you really

want to use it, and this requires a reasonable amount of thought, especially if it's an expensive item.

Before deciding on the source of purchase, look around - a superior product at a mere discount price might just be round the corner. When talking to a trader, don't be afraid to ask questions, even if you feel they sound stupid.

Whenever possible, try to see the product before you buy. It may not be the latest "hot" or "new" and "latest to use" or that it has "brilliant graphics" but the best judge of that will be yourself. Ask for a demonstration in the shop, or if possible find someone you know who owns it. This is the acid test, and if you're dissatisfied with any aspect of it, then think it over before you hand over your money.

Instead of payment is also an important factor. For instance, if you pay by credit card you not only have the benefit of being able to get the amount back up to a month later, but when purchasing a single item costing over £100 you may be able to claim your money back from the credit card company if you have any difficulties with the trader. This is particularly useful if the trader goes out of business. On the other hand, some traders will give a discount if you pay by cash.

## **M**ultiple high-street retailer

As computer products have crested through the years, they've become more of a mainstream purchase like a video. Computer fair players are to witness better to buy a computer product than from your local branch of a well-known multiple high-street retailer? Not just, computer products aren't like most others. Many computer products that manage to attract large amounts of salesmen, thus requiring a salesperson with a high degree of knowledge about the subject. Seek out the sales salesmen who can sell the winning machines, present stores and make sales!

So it's better to expect any great before- or after-sale support in the form of detailed information about your purchase. What you can expect is an excellent service when returning faulty items, as multiples have to preserve a high level of customer service in order to survive. Going back and asking how to set up or on your word processor or how to get to level 10 on the game will be a waste of time, but if your disk is faulty they'll give you another straight off the shelf.

Prices will normally be recommended retail prices - or just below - so you won't get fancy bargain prices. Overall, multiples are a just fair,



convenient way of purchasing computer products — you can now inspect the PC (or laptop) before a little bit of shopping. If you're lucky!

### Independent retailer

The second type of outlet — your local computer specialist in the Yellow Pages — can be differentiated from the High Street chain store by a lack of waiting machines and posters of jet packs. The advantages of shopping in an independent retailer can mainly be summed up in one word: experience. It's very unusual to find an independent retailer who doesn't know at least a little bit about your particular computer, hardware choices, and its associated range of software and peripherals.

This is the place to go if you want the latest software releases, or more up-to-date information, or indeed buy your computer. Most often selected after-sale support provided by a variety of very knowledgeable and

enthusiastic salespeople.

The drawback, in all cases, the lack of this service — with product prices likely to be higher than at all the other types of outlet. Though sometimes if you're lucky, you can discover the retailers that prove the rule.

### Mail order retailer

Mail order advertisements appear frequently in most computer magazines, presenting a wide choice of hardware and software at reasonable prices — quite often a 30 percent (that's 300 pence) saving. Buying computer products by post gives you the chance to compare prices readily and get the very best deal.

Unfortunately despite the many legitimate mail order companies providing an excellent service, there are a few less reputable firms who'll take your money but won't deliver the ordered goods to hand at all.

When buying goods by post, it's a good idea to:

- Use the most recent advertisement — mail-order companies constantly update their product range and prices.
- Never send cash by post — use a cheque, postal order or credit card. When paying by cheque enter your name and address on the back.
- Use recorded delivery if your order entails a large sum of money.
- Include your name and address in any correspondence.
- Keep a copy of your order and the advice.
- Make a note of the date you send it, and probably next newspaper.
- Place the company beforehand to confirm it has the product in stock, that it is what you want and that the price is as quoted in the advice. This gives you a chance to weigh it up if the company never answers the phone or if previously engaged you can't for some time.
- A company that's been advertising regularly for years will be pretty reliable, as it wouldn't still be in business.

Goods bought through the post are covered by rules one and two of the Consumer Credit Rights Act, goods sold for "unrecoverable quantity" and "as described". Also if you get a delivery order for if the advice states you, such as 30 days when you order the goods, and that date isn't met, you can cancel your order and ask for a refund.

For further information you can obtain the free Office of Fair Trading leaflet, *Buying by post*, from your local consumer adviser or many public libraries.

### Street market retailer

Despite that frequent claim to the contrary, street market sellers are bound by consumer legal rights and should therefore provide one of the strongest ways of purchasing a computer product. The trouble lies in making the average trader make good their obligations if the item purchased is faulty. If they do not the buyer complains it's easier for them to move on to another area than it is for a shop trader.

But sometimes this *is* found — if you're willing to take the risk. Although (mis)advice of the second advice will be punished can be difficult, it's not impossible — for obvious reasons. Fine for putting a few old budget pages, even, but if you buy a second hand PC you have to accept the consequences!

### Private sale

Purchasing computer products across land in a private sale can yield some of the best bargains around. An item for sale on the Internet will be available for sale.

When purchasing goods privately — perhaps from a friend, or from eBay.com — a classified advertisement in a computer magazine reads as ACE or a local newspaper — only rule two of the consumer rights applies. The best deal must be

## How to put things right



### Do you know your rights?

"I know my rights" is a phrase that every sane person is at one time or another, but not many people actually do know the specifics of their rights.

Consumer legal rights cover any goods bought from a trader. The laws cover relatively high-cost mobile independent operators, street market retailers in designated outdoor areas purchased in a sale are also included.

The law has three basic rules:

• Goods must be of "satisfactory quality".

• Goods must not be faulty or damaged and must work properly. For example, if an image-colour copier perfectly, but the screen doesn't work, the goods are not of "satisfactory quality".

With sufficient care can be taken to prevent the copier from working properly. For instance, if you buy a word processor which claims to be able to print letters but only prints plain text-quality you could claim that for reasons not given general standards of word processing software that it was not of "satisfactory quality" because it didn't do the job it was meant to do.

• Goods must be "as described".

If the package, display sign or other describes any of the features of an item that is sold, then that must not contain those features. If you've had a computer screen with a joystick then the seller must supply a joystick, and if an accessory package claims to be able to do VCR then it must be able to do that.

• Goods must be "fit for any particular purpose".

Four particular purposes may be made known to the seller prior to any purchase. If you find the advice you need on any package that produces orders, then any of the package that provides should contain precise notes.

If there's a fault with anything you buy, you should return the order to the retailer as the retailer — not the manufacturer — takes most cost out your pocket.

If any of the three rules of the law have been broken you can:

- Request the goods and get your money back.
- Get a cash payment to make up the difference between what you paid and the reduced value of the faulty goods.
- Or
- If you both agree, you may receive a replacement or free repair.

Exactly what you're entitled to depends on the seriousness of the fault and the goods in which you return the order. In practice you're entitled to get your money back or a replacement or your money back or long as you prefer is reasonable.

Sometimes goods come with a guarantee. The dealer's offer you legal rights but can offer more than the legal provisions. You need to see questions with regard to it in law and be enforceable in law. Use your local consumer adviser if you have any queries about a particular provision.

Please note that the above information covers consumer's legal rights in England and Wales — Scotland and Northern Ireland may have slightly different regulations. For further information you can obtain the following Office of Fair Trading leaflet free of charge from your local consumer adviser or various public libraries.

How to put things right (England and Wales). See Shoppers in Scotland.

See Shoppers in Northern Ireland

## Case history of a Wally

• Wally uses a multiple address for the Atari ST in an ad that he found and decides it's time to buy a computer.

• After receiving a note in financial difficulties and none of the magazines will take ads from them any more, Wally had had some more up-to-date magazines, he might have guessed this.

• Wally sends the cash to the mail order company using normal post.

• Christy sends him in post, the a check, credit order or credit card. She requested delivery for some items if necessary.

• Wally continuously phones the mail order company from the day after the order was placed.

• Christy gives the company a reasonable time to deliver the goods, such as 20 days.

• After three weeks of phoning the mail order company which was systematically delaying its plans to ship the magazine orders for the ad return (which has no contact over what's happened) and the Free Office (who sleep any knowledge of the cash being sent, Wally

decides to buy an ST elsewhere.

That night Wally sends a friendly letter to the first girl who was supposed to form an ST for him. Wally requests to buy the ST and returns it from the job in the following night. What he got the ST home, it doesn't work. Oddly enough, Wally never sees the letter in the post again.

Buying goods in a private sale is a better business, and if possible, you should at least try the contact before purchase. You should definitely know the name and address of the seller.

• Wally's third attempt at purchasing a computer goes a little more smoothly when he buys an ST from the local branch of a multiple high-street store. The problem is to not be lousy to find one when he arrives, it is not to spend more on food looking at a bank street.

• It's to find out as much as you can about a product before you purchase it - read some computer magazines, or talk to any computer-using friends.

• Wally goes out and buys some software for the Atari. Unfortunately it's for the Atari 8000, not the Atari 5200 as he wanted.

• Wally purchases software that was the most needed of the computer (it's supposed to be fit).

• Wally goes back to the software seller who generously agrees to exchange the software for an ST disk. Wally chooses a game and takes a home, doesn't like it and takes it back to the seller demanding a full refund and compensation, a heated argument ensues with Wally threatening physical violence. The seller phones the police who then arrive and escort Wally from the premises.

• If you change your mind about a product you've so needed to see replacement, refund or compensation. Getting angry doesn't solve a problem, it just helps to escalate it into a bigger one.

• Wally puts the computer on top of the wardrobe and finds a credible mail, appearing to originate the Amstrad needed to run the assembled programme.

(What a Wally)



"as described" and if it proves to be faulty, your rights will depend on what you did or didn't do to each other before purchase, with the important factor being what you were told about the item's condition and value. If you buy a six-year-old television described only as "a bargain" and it picks it shortly after you get it home, there's bound to be a problem. If on the other hand someone tells you an ST described as "used, as new" and it picks it you would be more justified in taking a look to the store.

When purchasing an item through a private sale, it is usually better to arrange yourself in your local area if you can. The reason for this are three-fold: you're able to inspect the item before purchase, you can take a friend along to act as a witness (this is a "direct advantage" when getting a really nice deal) and if you think it may not finally you'll be able to return the item more easily if it proves to be faulty.

## Watching the defectives

Obviously there are going to be items which you purchase as items - whether it's the computer itself, a peripheral or a piece of software - and it proves to be some very defective. In such cases, provided the item falls outside one of the three basic rules of consumer rights, the correct procedure for making a complaint is:

- Buy using the item.
- Write down notes details concerning the faulty item, such as the date and place of purchase, the actual problem (as clearly as possible), if the item is a piece of software include the model of your

computer etc. This information will be useful to you and the seller in any future dealings.

- Inform the seller as soon as possible.

If you order goods from a mail order company and they don't arrive, all you can really do is keep phoning and writing. Keep logs, maintain mail order pieces and magazine orders because of the most reliable of business.

### If you visit the seller:

- Take the best look to the seller.
- Take a receipt or proof of purchase.
- Ask for the magazine or notes.
- Be polite, but firm.
- Stay calm! Getting angry doesn't help anybody.

### If you telephone the seller:

- Write down what you want to say beforehand.
- Offer enough guarantees in other proof of purchase or bank.
- Find out the name of the person you speak to.
- Write down the date and time of the call, and what is said.
- Be polite but firm.
- Stay calm!

### If you write to the seller:

- Keep copies of any correspondence.
- Do not use any original receipts, guarantees or other proof of purchase - send photocopies instead.
- You could use recorded delivery, to prove the letter reached your letter.

Please note that you're not entitled to anything if you:

- Change your mind about wanting the item.
- Exchanged the item when you purchased it and wanted say almost freely.
- Were concerned about the item freely.
- Created any damage yourself.
- Received the item in a different than the original purchase mail class.

What the seller is part of a multiple-chain of shops and the local branch claim help, try contacting the managing director at the local office.

If any of the above strategies fail you can obtain free advice from your local consumer advice office.



## True stories

Every computer shop assistant has their favorite tale of male customers who complain about things explained on page 1 of the manual - a few genuine examples:

"When will you get the point of my TV screen?" Customer inquiring about the Phoenix Fax package included in the Amiga bundle.

"That's why the solar was so leaky." Customer discovering that you need to use the lead to connect the cassette deck to the computer.

"When is said double-sided disk drive I thought a cassette you could get two disks in at the same time?"

Customer returning an Atari ST with two disks inserted into the disk drive.

"How do you already get the game, so I exchange it for something else?" Customer returning the original packaged game and a printed copy.

"When is said floppy disk, I thought I had to format the solar-disk." Customer holding a double-sided 5 1/4 disk-disk.

"Is it safe to get power games on it?" Customer questioning the inclusion of the Commodore-Amiga's software base.

Experiments which investigate false or misleading descriptions in place of goods.

• Citizens Advice Bureau will help with the most general aspects of consumer problems.

As a last resort, you can sue for the refund of your money or the compensation, it is costly (SOL). If you visit in the under 1000 you may well usually be entitled to a private and informal satisfaction hearing, with you entitled to get your opponent's legal costs even if you lose. The fee you pay depends on the size of your claim and appropriate fees can be obtained from your county court office. For more details contact your local consumer advice - the Citizens Advice Bureau will be in your Yellow Pages or Thomson Directory. ■

# Back To Basics

**Jason Holborn, a hardened veteran of Amiga programming, tries out two new offerings for BASIC programmers**

Replacement BASIC languages were available when the Amiga 500 was first released. The available ones with a heavy version of BASIC that was slow, inflexible, had numerous bugs and was, above all, a real pain to use. The Amiga, on the other hand, offers an implementation that is something that Amiga BASIC isn't. It has built-in flexibility and an extensive way to use. What you should consider whenever you're looking at BASIC's HESB and GFA Systematics think so.

## HESB BASIC

Amiga • C70.95/cd

Hesb • The Old School, Greenfield, Bedford MA044 604; Tel: (603) 241-7181

Hesb is probably better known to Amiga owners for its excellent, yet somewhat primitive, DevPro tool, more recently DevPro version 4. DevPro is a handy program's made life extremely easy for the Amiga and is used extensively by top programmers such as Jim Cox, author of the manual for MasterBox 2.

### Features

To describe Hesb's offering as just another Amiga BASIC compiler is to do it a disservice. Hesb's offering is a real winner when it comes to programming a straight compiler. Hesb's designed to extend the language further, adding in a whole range of extra features while still managing to retain complete compatibility with AmigaBASIC.

The high respect of programmers with existing BASICs on the PC, PC XT and Amiga will probably be one of the main selling points of the product. After all, for many reasons AmigaBASIC was a hard enough sell as it was - therefore why should you have to target all that you've learned and start from scratch? As well as being able to handle AmigaBASIC, Hesb BASIC will also compile Commodore programs from the PC with complete software compatibility to the market.

The Hesb Basic's language is a store up to date version of BASIC that looks dead well to structured, or modular programming as it's now referred to. As well as the usual PRINT, INPUT, etc., additional structured statements include the likes of DO, LOOP and the

### SELECT CASE construct

A straight BASIC is simple enough to program but here and there Hesb's BASIC manages to tap the extra power of the Amiga? Unfortunately, this is an area where HESB fails to hit the mark. Amiga-specific constructs are sparse, and it would have been nice to have seen full GPP support from within the package itself. However, Hesb does seem to handle an extra software package called Hesb' with all codes and GFA. The current offer has replaced Hesb as a library of routines that includes full support for 500 and a whole host of other device specific functions.

### The Compiler

Unfortunately the greatest attraction for most of Hesb's BASIC will be the included compiler. Here you can see the compiler is up to you. You can either tell it from the CLI, the Workbench or even from within the editor itself.

Two types of input can be processed by the compiler. Hesb also offers an editor for programs. Hesb also provides an, obviously programs that can be run without having to have access to the other relevant files, but shared library programs will very much a new concept to AmigaBASIC programmers. A shared library program involves a routine library that can be used to compile a program. This can be used to compile a program that can be run without having to have access to the other relevant files, but shared library programs will very much a new concept to AmigaBASIC programmers. A shared library program involves a routine library that can be used to compile a program. This can be used to compile a program that can be run without having to have access to the other relevant files, but shared library programs will very much a new concept to AmigaBASIC programmers.

### Documentation

As with all HESB products, the manual is clearly written and informative and an example of how a programmer manual should really be written. Whether you're a complete beginner or a seasoned reader the HESB BASIC manual contains all information you will require, presented in a clear and logical manner.

☆☆☆☆

## GFA BASIC

Amiga • £34.95/cd

Myriacomp • Box 55, St Anzelm, Cornwall PL25 4YB; Tel: (01284) 58030

Anyone used to using an Amiga 500 will be no stranger to GFA BASIC. On the 500, GFA was probably close to be the most popular of all the alternative BASICs available. Many commercial ST packages have been written in the language because of the speed and complexity. With the release of Amiga GFA, the product set to achieve the same popularity on the ST's? It's?

### Features

GFA BASIC has always been regarded as a powerful BASIC and this change (which comes with a new version) certainly isn't going to change that. Unfortunately, this power is gained at a price - compatibility. GFA is quite noticeably almost completely incompatible with all other BASICs including AmigaBASIC. While this may be OK on the ST (most users probably don't bother with Amiga BASIC anyway), the situation is very different on the Amiga. AmigaBASIC is very usable and many will regret having to forget what they've already learned.

Where support for structured programming is concerned, it's hard to beat GFA. The language is probably better than Hesb's product in this department, as it includes all constructs found in Hesb BASIC and a fair more besides.

Amiga specific constructs of first years education, until you realize that there isn't really a great deal there that AmigaBASIC doesn't already offer.

## Why buy another BASIC?

AmigaBASIC is not of the best implementations of BASIC, mainly due to its lack of any real way to extend the language to include things that other BASICs when Commodore's offering seems to do the job perfectly adequately?

The main reason that most people would consider purchasing another BASIC is to get the best product that does the job. The best product that does the job is the one that is the most useful to you. And if that compiler happens to also extend the language in some way and a faster than the existing BASIC, well that's the better reason (BASIC) to consider. The main reason that most people would consider purchasing another BASIC is to get the best product that does the job. The best product that does the job is the one that is the most useful to you. And if that compiler happens to also extend the language in some way and a faster than the existing BASIC, well that's the better reason (BASIC) to consider. The main reason that most people would consider purchasing another BASIC is to get the best product that does the job. The best product that does the job is the one that is the most useful to you. And if that compiler happens to also extend the language in some way and a faster than the existing BASIC, well that's the better reason (BASIC) to consider.

The final supply point is the number of bugs that exist. Being the HESB compiler, I was extremely able to create GFA errors myself. This isn't really applicable to a language that is being to be used as a serious development tool.

### The Compiler

As a contemporary writer though, the words is still in order, as GFA BASIC doesn't even include a compiler. It can take input in a structured form but this is OK in some. To be fair, though, GFA is working on a compiler for version 3. But as a compiler doesn't even exist for the Amiga version,

Amiga owners can expect to have to wait a considerable amount of time for this to arrive. This of course will also include the possibility that the code may be an intermediate state, if not primary on the Amiga as anything to get by.

### Documentation

The GFA manual seems very focused in a rather professional looking two binder. The only real fault with the manual is the amount of information covered, quite a few pages are less than full of text, and even worse is where this text is the rather clarity of text.

☆☆

### Conclusion

So which should you go for? Hesb or GFA? Both are fast and highly structured languages, and you

could never certainly work consistently well without. Unfortunately GFA just doesn't seem to quite fit in the Amiga market in the same way as it did with the Amiga, it's too structured, contains numerous bugs and doesn't as yet possess a compiler.

HESB BASIC on the other hand has got a great deal going for it. It's fast, highly portable, includes a compiler and with Hesb, the user to be benefited will be history. It is quite simple but has some unique features as Hesb's yet not on the Amiga.



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**APOLONIA SOFTWARE - THE COMPANY THAT CARES**

# The Man of War

**How one man fought his way from concentration camp to multi-national.**

**Georgi Merghab describes the remarkable life of Jack Tramiel, founder of Commodore, now head of rival Atari.**

**T**he Jack Tramiel story is the life story of the American dream boys of a nightmare, by being able to escape to escape detection, he secured the responsible founder of the American concentration camp. Previous two cultured Americans, Tramiel still became the multi-millionaire founder of global success such as Commodore and then Atari.

Having lost all of his considerable funds, he was smuggled out of East Germany, where he had been and subsequently adopted by a Polish Jew, Tramiel, he started a small hardware repair shop in the Bronx, manufacturing as a last-ditch effort to bring in more cash. Tramiel's business became computers, selling business manufacturing and then the IBM, the Yu-20 and the DM, Commodore became a billion-dollar firm.

For that reduction program, this sounds like the classic escape-to-escape hidden for TP into some creator. Certainly, a plan to share the secret of his equipment, the Atari Super role of business being necessary for success computer being, but unfortunately for the software TP children, Tramiel is a far from good man. In some, graft, fraud, and then playful, healthy business, he has philosophy in "business is war" - and his constant mental violence show his nature business.

"Though every child of a mind of evil, there is

## Revealing facts

Throughout 1985, Tramiel has established an exact opinion. This means that some will see it likely to discuss new products at length with the outside world. In some limited ways at almost right point of either confining his doing anything, and when Commodore starts getting really anything will it probably happen. After 1985, he will be slightly open to everything at his last early.

Since the 27 has been discussed for months, now, with its sign of the new machine, leaving the 27 complete, and to a lesser extent the 27 complete. The policy is that "backing that's ability ability to prove demonstrate, give first products of, and and truly search any new product speed lines over." The 27 has been, for example, has been possible for the first time of so many times that it's now regarded as one of the more personal highlights on the personal calendar.

It is not only of the interest of all things that, but the highly publicized has an interest in some leaving that another New Big Thing is out around the corner.

now appears that Tramiel has never committed upon publicly. In some, the dispute was from Commodore. Within days of the internal company conversations about taking the million dollar sale, in January 1985 1984 - Finally the settlement - he always engaged in the middle of a board meeting. The meeting was still in progress in New York as Tramiel was getting out in California and apparently to

reconnect. Tramiel's offer at various will, but the most credible explanation for the settlement is that Tramiel's resignation would avoid the plan to avoid a Tramiel cleanup. There were strong rumors that Tramiel was under contract, would come in as president. Then there was Atari, with a financial role being

Completed the Tramiel was was licensed who would have some of the software function. For Commodore, it was a question of his future, but not really being the same for Tramiel, since, since out to Commodore, departed.

In 1985, after a tough life and with the late point-Commodore was of \$200 million, which is his back pocket, Tramiel tried to pay the role of the affairs American (including the world). But a direct result is to make him leave, the strategy was that left it in the hope of clearing for the rest of his life.

## Warner tell you a story

Success in the Hollywood tradition, or copied culture in the form of Warner Brothers, supposedly making culture for its own (and the industry Atari). The firm was being money like there was no today, but since business. To see one dollar in advertisement, but to be being \$100.4 million of them in a last really is open as a business.

But from Tramiel's point of view, this would have been simple business, but it was then he was one thing factor: MSX. He had no plan to re-visit the computer world unless he had to lead a specific role to play. The Japanese came around just with a business. Law says where is really 28. Tramiel was worried at the prospect of a Japanese (Japanese) computer culture, since coming with Microsoft to produce a cheap computer standard. Sure, it's been clear to him that there were that the MSX revolution failed to happen, but in the world would very different. There was a need to fight the good fight, and



Jack Tramiel - the Catalyst for the rise of microcomputers. He believes in keeping it in the family, the Tramiel family are all up to his problems in Atari.

when it comes to fighting for his own family Tramiel.

And so he brought the rising Atari via a privately negotiated, last-second agreement which is often cited to last year (March 1980) million in 1985. The included some \$200 million debt being to Atari. He subsequently managed not to make other Warner payments to Atari - and Atari negotiated these payments in any case. The Atari attack is no accident that he was probably perfectly sensible businessmen to be located into perfectly incompetent deals. On such the same basis, he takes away a great benefit that he can also persuade dozens of otherwise potential that this is the remarkable technological breakthrough really will be available 1985 month.

The interest of Tramiel at the time of Atari around, it had been known as clear to the edge by the collapse of the video games industry, which is not had been programmed by the exceptionally aggressive sales and marketing practices adopted by the then Tramiel led Commodore. Having survived the recent, Tramiel was this to be run as the presentation.

Tramiel has never did advised of just his own company, with his manufacturing the highest such as president of his father's firm. Far from suffering as Commodore had predicted, the advent of the new has coincided with the prospects of the company. Also central to the success of Atari was the (and placed by former Commodore) deal. In all, some 30-40 million spent over the last few months following the Tramiel leaving. The majority of them at least promises. Since then, the promising has continued, the US firm, for example, is sponsored with former Commodore people from the managing







# What's your line?

What's so good about comms? What can you do with a modem that ordinary mortals can't?

Peter Worlock continues his guide to comms

**F**or most of us a telephone is an obvious instrument for communication since so many people in this country still shun what has become known as the "computer phone."

Indeed, it continues to be treated as another obviously useful communication because from other businesses have few machines.

Modems are a different proposition because computer users are still a minority of the population, and modem users are very much a minority among computer users. Computers and modems form a far more specialized range of uses in communications.

## Like the bulletin

Accessing electronic bulletin boards is by far the most common application for modem users. As this issue suggests, bulletin boards are the electronic equivalent of the school or office notice board, in the collection of posts to your newspaper or local post office.

They are a useful and entertaining way of getting in touch with other computer users. They

are also an clearing house of news, rumors, technical information and useful advice when you're struggling with some seemingly intractable problem.

Most bulletin boards are anonymous - in the sense that users do not identify their quality can range from poor to supremely professional. It depends on both the dedication of the group that serves and the number of regular users.

Many boards are operated by individuals who do it for the fun and for a sense of achievement, others are attached to larger organizations - computer user groups, public domain and shareware libraries, local government, ITEDs, and colleges and universities.

The content of the boards varies, but most have similar areas like the Bulletin Board report card, where you can leave messages and read other people's contributions, or lists "open" edited by the group as a moderator. If the system supports graphics there may be a demonstration upon viewing of compressed graphics screens, and BBSs.

## Have a Sisk

Sisk is one area of the bulletin board devoted to user support. You can usually find Sisk in BBSes that support multiple users at a time. It is a general subject like laptop, networking, and there are also Sisk for various programming languages like C, Pascal, Modula-2 or the "artificial intelligence" languages of Lisp and Prolog.

Other Sisk might have nothing to do with computers. For instance, there's computer news that is read from wherever. There's also the average business, so you often find BBSes with book and film reviews and the occasional celebrity interview.

On the topic bulletin boards you'll find most of the file is represented. Lonely hearts sections, adult, religion, drug, smoking, pop music, whatever you want, probably somewhere you'll have a

## Download software

This is the software you actually get something (usually in .tar files) for your on-going investment in BBSes. There's...

Download areas are libraries of public domain and shareware software. This can take copies of files that take your library provided your library software is capable of handling the various file types of downloading.

This is also where a high speed modem becomes a real time saver. It's a 2.4 meg (meg means it will save you a fortune in phone bills over a 300 or even a 1,200 gpm model, especially if you're talking large programs.

A word of warning is also due on this point. Although some - perhaps even most - users do a good job of writing programs before putting them into the download libraries, so users can look here to check out any downloaded program before you run it. It's positions and only to blame the user if you fall victim to a virus: it's your computer, your risk, your responsibility.

## Commercial break

Although by far the greatest number of on-line services are the bulletin boards, there are a handful of commercial services.

Present among these is Peridot, a monthly collection of on-line services from a host of information providers. Once connected to Peridot you can get regularly updated news bulletins, plus special news like City pages, travel tips and sports results.

Peridot is also used by a number of professional organizations, industry board agents and writers, so you can browse for a hobby or check up on



\*"What one game can be the equivalent to bulletin?"

along on bulletin.

However, the most area of interest for computer users is Microsoft, a subsidiary part of Peridot dedicated to personal computers. Originally an on-line magazine - with news, reviews and computer-related features - Microsoft has developed into much more and now offers the greatest range of services, including the Bulletin in which you can "talk" to user individuals as well as occasional industry guests, and several multi-user games like below.

For details on subscriptions to Microsoft write to: Training Group, Computer House, 9 Farnley Hill, London EC2A 4BA. If you have a 1200bps line modem and suitable software you can access a concentration of Microsoft by dialing 821 449 1111 from within the ID 8444444444. For 40 and the number 4444.

The latest trend in Peridot/Microsoft is CompuNet, originally for users of Commodore 64k machines but soon expected to cater for Amiga and Atari ST users. CompuNet offers a readily available range of features as Microsoft but is restricted to its 9000boud area including music and graphics demos and downloadable software. There is also a large library of downloadable software for the C64, with Amiga and ST services coming up steadily. For more information on CompuNet call 01 880 244.

A third commercial service is CSC, Under

## I got your number

If you've got a modem and software, the following are some of the better access services you can try. Many bulletin boards have demo lines at other BBSes around the country and almost no more being logged into one you can usually find your way into others.

Check your manual for setting up your software for connection to bulletin boards, but if in any doubt try 8 data bits, no parity, 1 stop bit. If that doesn't work, experiment.

**Amiga Bulletin**  
02 - 01 599 5252 • 24hrs • 923, 922, 923, 92350

**Compu**  
02064 or Home • 01 888 8884 • 24hrs • 623, 92350

**Amiga**  
01 For Amiga • 01 377 1338 • 24hrs 9pm-3am • 24hrs, 24hrs • 921 and 923  
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**Amiga 800** • 01 596 4587 • 1200bps • 921 and 923

**CompuNet** Amiga 800 • 01 773 0408 • 24hrs • 921 and 923

**CompuNet**  
0179 2081 Group • 0753 88878 • 24hrs • 921, 922, 923, 92350

**PC**  
020 61021 444 1881 • 24hrs • 921 and 923

**C64** 0512 - 01 208 8256 • 24hrs • 921, 922, 923, 92350

Worried and Confused? Well, inside the box of an on-line magazine, CIX is never like all on-line user group meetings.

Instead of being told the rules, CIX is a directed site conference which allows you to. You then take part in a discussion on whatever topic is going - maybe advanced features of the 8086 processor, or the increasingly popular "C to the Windows" system, or the mistakes and successes of those available for the Amn 85.

CIX appears to be heavily used by industry insiders - professional programmers, software publishers, hardware designers, technical consultants - so if you have a technical appetite for the hard-core, high-tech subjects CIX could be a good choice.

### Bunch of MUGs

Multi-users groups have become one of the best resources for going on-line. Unfortunately, they can be the quickest way to backstabbing.

The original was MUG - the Multi-User Groups - in which you played a technophile free press (patents released) in a never-ending second advance game. What was definitely abnormal about MUG was that the characters you manipulated during your battle were not computer-generated but were the actual names of other real people involved with the industry. That's the "multi-user" part of the title.

MUG has now been joined by several newcomers. In addition to the advance format, a massive relation - created by Computer's Publication - is the leader your way to multi-users-and-computer-the-entire format. Again, user opposition has not stopped the development of this multi-user, free, multi-computer, multi-user people. Just like you.

The appeal of MUGs is that they let you against other people which makes for a tougher and more realistic game. The appeal of MUGs which is definitely not appealing is the cost, more every

minute you're playing, BT is making up the costs.

**HEALTH SAVING:** Having MUGs can seriously damage your bank account. Quarterly 20000 bills at £200 to £250 are not unheard of.

### Email: the superior species?

There are some who feel a more serious offering than of sending and receiving messages from your computer, and without much of those there are further sub-directions including electronic mail for e-mail mail, voice and fax.

The letter and fax services are simple variations of the mass computer requirements. Email is the computerized version of sending someone a letter: you write it, put it via the postal service of your choice, and it is sent to the appropriate mailbox.

The catch is that, once the service has been set up, many e-mail subscribers may go by days without checking their mailboxes for incoming messages so you might as well have used a 150 minute and sent it the old-fashioned way.

Email isn't cheap either. There are subscription charges ranging from £9 to £19 per month, connection charges (before you've established and maintained your mailbox) of around 17p per minute, plus your normal per-destination telephone bill. If you're the recipient of e-mail messages you also have to pay for storage on the main network.

Perhaps the main drawback to e-mail is the fact that so few people are equipped for it and of those that are a large number are computer software installers - journalists, manufacturers and politicians, retailers, and so on.

For further information on e-mail and related services call the relevant supplier (see below).

On-line-Now	01 254 4448
BT Direct	0800 200700
Comline	0620 794 12
Mansory	01 526 2500
Meridian	0625 678888

## Technobabble

A weekly search on computer jargon

## Comms part II

### Input/Output

These directional terms refer to the process of moving data - usually programs but also including messages - between your computer and the land. Everything happens in reference to the host system, so when you send something to the host you're "outputting", "outputting" is simply traffic to the other direction.

### Router

Not a variety of food to be used when your system breaks. A router is part of the input transmitted by a system which allows another computer to recognize that it is talking to one of its own and not some other workstation assuming "wrong number" into the phone.

### NET

The British Approach Group for Telecommunications (no relation to British Telecom) is the body responsible for making sure that the gadgets don't go by the computer industry aren't going to destroy the nation's telephone network when it's installed it should be equipped with a sticker bearing a green circle. Equipment not approved carries a red triangle. (Approved kit is legal, although not in the normal sense of the word. The manufacturer is legally entitled to make it, the dealer is legally entitled to sell it, and you are legally entitled to own it. It's just illegal to use it and you'll laugh - "for you is history," on Circuit, and takes might express it.)

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● The arrival of *Life and Death* at our offices this week did prove to inject a certain humour into what can only be described as a fairly average bunch of releases. The smooth-scroll screeching of *Super-Hang-On* came out tops with *HiMan's* loyalty divided between the kick-em-to-death-em-up, *Dragon Ninja*, and the total-everything-in-sight-em-up, *Hybris*. Needless to say we didn't let him anywhere near *Life and Death*.

## SUPER HANG-ON

ELECTRIC DRUMS

Amiga • £14.99k  
Also on ST, OAS, C64, Specc



— Take, or get take — after you see the *Shogun* level would have trouble clearing up on the standard product.

The Amiga version of the great ST *Shogun* racer lets the hero and his bike for 400 stages of track situated in Africa, Asia, America and Europe respectively.

There are four sections to the game — *Region*, *Japan*, *Latin* and *Expert* — represented by 100 of 400 stages of track situated in Africa, Asia, America and Europe respectively.

Now, time at the end of each stage helps proving the fun by adding another 10% seconds to the fly you start out with, but the difficulty is carefully treated so you'll have coming back for more. A turbo can be cut in to hitting the right mouse button, and providing you're going fast out the supercharges you right as its around 2000 rpm. As this speed you can barely control the bike, you'll need design the other riders you compete against. A lot of the time a consequently speed boosting up your speed again after being rammed from behind or spinning heading into obstacle it's at a nice

against the clock — the key is, a becoming familiar with the controls.

### ● GRAPHICS AND SOUND

The impression of speed, like animation and coloured backgrounds are all phenomenal — cutting in the turbo delivery some of the fastest screen updates yet seen on an Amiga. There are now three levels of scrolling background compared to the ST version's two. Found in very impressive too, being adapted straight from the arcade version, but the bonus, and you'll see the Super effect of after ride's later covering just is stored.

### ● OTHER VERSIONS

Apart from the CPC rating, which features poor sound and drive control, all other versions are well above average, with the ST one coming out tops. The Amiga version is marginally faster and noticeably smoother than the ST one and of course seems much longer in its 400 stage run. This is no straight conversion!

### ● EXPRESS VERDICT

A superior racing game which is clearly ahead of the competition in terms of audio results, tight controls and mood only by the fact that it's possible too difficult, but then when do difficulty ever appear?



Andy Shaw

## DRAGON NINJA

DCOAR

CPC • £8.99k  
Also on Specc, OAS, ST, Amiga



• Plenty of one-screen-high action

*Dragon Ninja* is a conversion of the popular Sega *Dragon* cast-off, and is another in the long line of essential one-kick-em-to-death-em-ups.

### ● GRAPHICS

*Dragon Ninja* lets you take on the role of a shrewd lone hero, braving through a horizontally-scrolling obstacle-ramp up any opponents that dare confront you.

Using a variety of kicks, punches and any weapons you can pick up, you'll discover and fight a host of colourful enemies, including the aforementioned boss enemies, missile gun dogs and armoured warrior. At the end of each level you'll meet a tougher form of them known as a *Big Boss*, which requires a extra dose of technique before any further progression into the game is possible.

### ● GRAPHICS AND SOUND

Perhaps *Dragon Ninja's* most striking visual element is the amount of on-screen action at any one time, which amongst doesn't detract from the overall speed, the graphics are used, judiciously coloured and defined and experts animated — and are complemented by decent and polished backdrops.

Audio contains functional sound-effects and a subtle central soundtrack assisted by a few *Wave*-enhanced elements.

### ● OTHER VERSIONS

After over the early introductions of the other versions of *Dragon Ninja* and their looking very promising, we're looking forward to getting our hands on the latest edition.



• Don't get hit by the boss!



• Controlling use of the *Big Boss*

### ● EXPRESS VERDICT

*Dragon Ninja* is a credible and faithful conversion of the brilliant original, and contains *Shogun's* magnificent use of multiple screens, the *Operation Wolf*, *Robocop* and *Blaster*.

Contains one of the most groundbreaking and playable beat-em-ups on the CPC so far, *Dragon Ninja* would make a welcome addition to any budding *Ninja* software collection.



Bill Payne

## HYBRIS

DISCOVERY SOFTWARE INTERNATIONAL, USA

Amiga • £14.99k  
Multiple screens shown

*Hybris* is a vertically-scrolling shoot-em-up similar to the brilliant coin-op *Ferra Gatta*, and is imported by *Discovery*, (c/o J. Ross of 7 Wellington Road, Sandhurst, Surrey GU24 0AN, Tel: (0252) 873432).

### ● GRAPHICS

Taking control of a mean-machine space fighter, your mission is to seek out a missing colony. Easy enough.



• Coming up to a ground emplacement, gun a-blasting

you might think, but first you'll have to destroy a multitude of alien spacecraft and ground emplacements all waiting to blast your mission of mercy to smithereens.

It's probably a good job that you can pick up some extra weaponry along the way, helping you to blast these things to their ends.

### GRAPHICS AND SOUND

Hypno means an air of high quality throughout, comprising pleasing techniques backed up by an assortment of convincing sound-effects, but reminiscent of its slightly earlier design.

Audio is also engaging, with dramatic sound effect sounds accompanied by an upbeat and entertaining victory soundtrack.

### OTHER VERSIONS

No details of any other versions of Hypno are currently available.

### EXPRESS VERDICT

Hypno is another great release from Discovery Software - the name of the current Guard of Britain - and is definitely the most pleasing Amiga vertically-scrolling shooter we've seen for a while. Gameplay has the right balance between difficulty and actually allowing progression through the many different levels. A great "shooty" (it's in the first again - Ed, Hypno is certainly not B+ thinking out).

☆☆☆☆

Rob Haynes

## GRAND PRIX CIRCUIT

ACCOLADE

PC - CD-ROM  
Out on CD



• And there goes the adrenaline figure of Alan Ward, or is it Nigel Pinner, though?

After releasing Ferrari Formula One and Test Drive, Accolade return to the track for a more turbo blast and look set to establish themselves as the premier PC racers.

### GAMEPLAY

You have a range of cars at your disposal to take you around eight international circuits including Monaco, Silverstone and Silverstone while competing against nine other drivers. You can choose to drive for McLaren, Williams and Ferrari and attempt to handle their corresponding entries - F1 Honda Turbo, A10 Renault and a V1 Ferrari. Coupled with performance differences with the five available car brands and you have a degree of control from the almost unbridled relaxation of the lowest level to the hyperactive top-end. Races are also divided into practice laps, single laps and the Championship Grand Prix, which pits you against the season's best competitors. The overall result is not too much a carful fun as is fun of fun and thrills.

### GRAPHICS AND SOUND

It's a real test for a PC racing game, which is surprising, since most rely on simulating action to a degree where slow screen updates are disguised by the wealth of detail. Here, though, color and animation are well presented and make Grand Prix Circuit look great, especially in 3D mode.

### OTHER VERSIONS

It's out on CD-ROM some time soon, though we haven't seen any demo discs.

☆☆☆☆

Rob Haynes

### EXPRESS VERDICT

Not to get a PC game that actually shifts at a pace for once, and where you're not waiting for the hunt ahead of you to establish the reward. After it's by no means a 5 and 1/2 and Plus computer, it's good for and worth a look for any PC owner wanting a turbocharged game to show off their machine's speed.

☆☆☆☆

Andy Storer

## SOLDIER OF LIGHT

ACCOLADE

Amiga - CD-ROM  
Also on Spec. CD, ST  
Under development on CPC



• Like all stars in the desert, this means almost to snuff out.

Soldier of Light is a combination of the cult Taito side-scroller which featured computer and original visuals matched by uncompromisingly tough gameplay.

### GAMEPLAY

SOI is a horizontally-scrolling shooter-up with you controlling Xan, a charismatic soldier equipped with rocket-launcher armor and pistols, sent out to destroy all alien forces in the galaxy.

The first levels which Xan is sent to clear are all lead. Then it's down to business landing anything that moves, ranging from the standard alien foot soldier to a huge bio-mech creature. Luckily you'll find extra armaments both along the way which increase your firepower when collected. And you'll need 'em.

### GRAPHICS AND SOUND

The most glaring feature of SOI, is its fantastic backgrounds, which are not only visually drawn but also expertly coloured. They add greatly to the atmosphere of the game and breathe an accurate impression of the alien world. Sprites are also nicely defined, being both unique in design and use.

Audio is far less impressive, with only tolerable sound effects applied to a vocal degree by the turbo soundtrack - although even this gets irritating after a while.

### OTHER VERSIONS

Spectrum SOI was the first version to be released, back in Spring '88, and is a reasonable conversion. The C4X version is a solid plaything, with nothing whatsoever slightly missed by the limited play area. ST SOI has very disappointing audio quality, but contains identical visuals to the Amiga version. No release date has been set for the CPC version.

### EXPRESS VERDICT

SOI is quite a decent shooter-up with bright, colorful and attractive visuals underlining a reasonable lead. It might not even be based on the fact that SOI contains less boring gameplay than the classic genre, that taking a stroll over its landing sequence. A touch improved, but still worth a look.

☆☆☆☆

Rob Haynes

## HOSTAGES

PRODIGE

PC - CD-ROM  
Also on ST and Amiga



• Just about to start being the overweights and under.

Infogram's latest PC release uses anti-terrorism as the way to get the more as you command an elite French SAS squad in a bid to storm an embassy and rescue captives.

### GAMEPLAY

You have to place your workmen at safe vantage points around an embassy in preparation for a further move to be set in by helicopter, leading them by yourself, you dodge the terrorist overweights and machine gun fire as they near the perimeter. Once in place, you kick to a sniper's eye view of the Embassy entrance and attempt to take out the occasional figure you might spot behind the glass. You then take the role of the chopper pilot and shoot down and through a window.

Once inside you view proceedings from behind the scenes of a watchtower. A small map indicates your position and that of any one of the 14 terrorists in the building. From there on in it's down to meeting from room to room and attempting to cut in half anyone you come across before they do the same to you. As the terrorists are pretty full on the ammo list, you'll be walking in your second and third locations to floor-out all floors and find and rescue the hostages.

### GRAPHICS AND SOUND

The graphics aren't best for a PC running VGA, with ambient backgrounds of animated action (written on detailed backgrounds). Most of the textures relatively fast screen updates have the effect of compensating the screen. Sound effects feature gunfire and the groans of dying men - what else would you expect from a game that deals with a death squad going about its everyday business?

### OTHER VERSIONS

Both the ST and Amiga versions look and sound great and are streets ahead of the PC release, but these are the only to be expected.

### EXPRESS VERDICT

Quite a good outing in the PC shoot-out nation, though made a little tedious in the camera department. Worth a look if you want to feel the stress and of low entertainment cut with tension and what we can only assume to be a element of city terror.

☆☆☆☆

Andy Storer

## MINI GOLF

MAGIC BYTES/PRODIGE

ST - CD-ROM  
Also on C4X, Amiga

Mini Golf is yet another good game, this time brought to us by German-based Magic Bytes and



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# REPTILIX

Reptilia Design requires programmers to work freelance on 286, 386/486 and 68000. We are also looking for talented graphic artists and illustrators. If you think you are talented enough to convert a game from one format to another then write with examples of your work to:

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Hassindon, G5 1S 1LT**

For Further Details phone Ian or Mick  
between 12pm and 7pm on (02994) 540571

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ACTUAL SCREENSHOTS**  
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**(041) 555 3818**

or send C.V.'s and DEMOS to:  
**UNIT 7D, KING'S TARD, CARPENTERS ROAD,  
LONDON, E15 2HD**

# Systems Programmers

Locomotive Software - the creators of LocScript for the Amstrad PCW, Mallard BASIC and BASIC 2 - are expanding. We need systems programmers to work on the design and development of future MSDOS, OS/2 and Presentation Manager products.

We're looking for people with a good degree, from a good university, preferably with a significant computer content. Ideally you will have some experience of developing PC software - either as a hobby or as part of your job since leaving university.

You will work at our offices in the centre of Dorking, Surrey, where we have a powerful network of 286-based PCs. We provide unlimited coffee and clean air (as smoking is not allowed.) The working hours are flexible, based on a 35 hour week.

We offer an initial salary of £10,000 to £15,000 depending on experience. We see our future success depending on the quality of our products, which in turn depends on an experienced and professional development team. And so we see it as important that we offer an environment where technical achievement is rewarded.

If you are interested, please send your detailed CV to Howard Fisher at



## LOCOMOTIVE SOFTWARE

Allen Court  
Dorking  
Surrey, RH4 1YL  
Tel: (0306) 740606



## The Problem!

53,000 vacancies  
Forecast  
by National  
Computing  
Centre

Britain is experiencing a "chronic" shortage of skilled computer staff. At present it is estimated that there are 16,000 vacancies for development staff and a growing shortage of systems programmers.

And The National Computing Centre predicts that by 1991 this could well rise to 53,000.

The low level of attention to training has been suggested as the main cause for this.

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COMPUTING SOCIETY  
NOV 1981

# THE RELEASE SCHEDULE

AMIGA		PC		COMMODORE 64/128	
Adventure: The Sea	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 1	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 2	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 3	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 4	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 5	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 6	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 7	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 8	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 9	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 10	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 11	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 12	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 13	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 14	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 15	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 16	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 17	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 18	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 19	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 20	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 21	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 22	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 23	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 24	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 25	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 26	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 27	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 28	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 29	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 30	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 31	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 32	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 33	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 34	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 35	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 36	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 37	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 38	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 39	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 40	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 41	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 42	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 43	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 44	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 45	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 46	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 47	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 48	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 49	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 50	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 51	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 52	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 53	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 54	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 55	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 56	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 57	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 58	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 59	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 60	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 61	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 62	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 63	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 64	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 65	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 66	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 67	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 68	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 69	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 70	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 71	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 72	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 73	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 74	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 75	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 76	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 77	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 78	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 79	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 80	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 81	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 82	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 83	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 84	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 85	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 86	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 87	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 88	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 89	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 90	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 91	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 92	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 93	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 94	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 95	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 96	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 97	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 98	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 99	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15
AmigaSoft 100	11/20	12/15	12/15	12/15	12/15

**Out Now - Released within the last month. Imminent - Expected at time of publication**

The Release Schedule is a reference guide to new and forthcoming products. Dates given are expected release dates and will be adjusted weekly. Please allow for shipping. Compiled by Software Information Services, a department of Inter Mediate Ltd.





# Up and gunning

Andy Storer kills time...and just about everything else he comes across



## THE RUNNING MAN GRAND SLAM

It begins with the up-and-coming video release of the Schwarzenegger cult movie set in 2024, and ending around noon attempts to render a 70 game show. Watched for by millions, you find out attacks from various (scholarship) among the dangers and runs before the studios. A feature already scotch. Running Man will be available on all formats, and the King screenshot shows off the best of any scene.



## THUNDERBIRDS GRAND SLAM

Bravo, Lady Penelope, Prince and two more brave puppets will also join those earlier mentioned. Please don't fall on the famous Tracy family feature in this 4-way scrolling graphic adventure as you guide them against the evil machinations of The Hood, their arch-enemy. Your aim is to cope with hazardous emergency situations whilst okay'll pick up my PDS on the way out.



## CAPTAIN PZ2 PSYCHOPAZ

Out soon on CD and Amiga is this simultaneous 2-player shoot-'em-up taking an collaborative effort from the Progress stable. Here you're a member of the Special Constable Highlanders and up against the unscrupulous (Kicker) from as you battle through 22 levels of splat-science which, whilst looking competent enough, don't appear to feature the usual Progress trademarks of cut detail and colour.

## SPACE HARRIER 2 ELITE

After the great success of the original in the US, comes the sequel, which compares the other two levels of the arcade boss. It features a futuristic, through survival as it improves. Space Harrier 2 shifts its speeds and be off to fabulous (comic) games. But on the Amiga too this time.



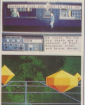
## TIME-SCANNER ELECTRIC DREAMS

Another Sega arcade conversion, Time-Scanner consists of four side-screen levels - 10000, 50000, 100000, 200000 and 500000 - and a superior (partial) via following edge and 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, and up to 10 balls conversion in any one line. As a special final bonus screen there is also a breakout game included. For official records the world was:



## NEUROMANCER INTERPLAY

High from release on the CD, comes the best 3D Amiga version of EA's (Garcia) Cyberpunk that is here. Although the Amiga's (good) look more just about handled the look's (darker) (darker) atmosphere, the graphics on show here don't look much more than a slight port. Much is a shame, since the medium of Cyberpunk alone would provide a great (good) look to show off the Amiga's custom chips and features. Hopefully the Sega music (game) will make some amends.





# HiSoft BASIC for the Amiga

**H**isoft BASIC was first released on the Atari ST where it proved immediately popular because of its speed and ease of use. Now we have ported the system to the Amiga so that even more people can experience the excitement of this super-fast, compiled language.

**HiSoft BASIC** is a fully-integrated compiler and editor that makes it beautifully easy to convert all your AmigaBASIC programs into fast-running machine code; in fact, **HiSoft BASIC** is so simple and quick to use that you will soon find that you no longer need the AmigaBASIC interpreter at all, you can do everything you want with **HiSoft BASIC**.

Full support of the Amiga is included as standard with extensive window, screen and graphics commands. In the same way as the interpreter, Amiga libraries can also be accessed as if they were built-in statements allowing complete machine access.

**HiSoft BASIC** includes full MENU support, with event trapping and powerful screen routines, using the OBJECT keywords.

Compiled programs can execute in their own windows or use the CLI window for minimum size. CLI-type programs may be easily written and made resident since they are fully resident.

For larger programs and for those with strong editor preferences we also supply an editor-less compiler for traditional disk-to-disk compilation methods.

AND	AND	APPEND	AREA	AREAFILL	AS	ASC	ATN
CALL	BANK	BEFP	BIND	BLOCK	BEYAK	BEYAVE	BEYV
CLAS	CASE	CODE	CHAIN	CHDR	CHBI	CHBT	CIRCLE
CLEAR	CLRD	CLOSE	CLS	COLLISION	COLOR	COMMAND	
COMMON	CONST	COS	COSD	COUPIN	CYS	CR	CVL
COS	CVTYPE	DATA	DATD	DECLARE	DECR	DEF	DEFEND
DEFINT	DEFLEN	DEFEND	DEFSTR	DIR	DI	DIALOG	FILE
DISP	END	EOF	EOF	ERRNO	ERR	ERR	ERRNO
EDIT	EXP	EXISTS	FIELD	FILES	FB	FOR	FOR
FUNCTION	GAT	GLOBAL	GOFO	HOW	#	MP	MCR
INPUT	INPUT	INPUT	INTN	INT	INT	LOAD	LOADS
INTN	LEN	LET	LIBRARY	LINE	LOC	LOCAL	LOCATE
LOOP	LOC	LOCN	LOOP	LOOP	LPOS	LPRINT	LIST
MENU	MEN	MEN	MENR	MEN	MENFF	MEN	MEN
MOD	MOUSE	NAME	NEOT	NOT	OBJECT	OCN	OFF
OR	OPEN	OPEN	OR	OUTPUT	PAET	PALETTE	PATTERN
PEROLE	PERL	PERL	PERL	POLAR	PLINE	POINT	POINT
POWER	POWER	POWER	POS	PRESCT	PRINT	PRINT	PRINT
PUT	RANDOM	RANDOMS	RAND	RAND	RAND	RAND	REMARKS
PRINT	RESET	RESTORE	RESUME	RETURN	RGBS	RGBS	RND
POST	RUN	SAVE	SAVE	SCREEN	SCREEN	SELECT	SON
SHARD	SH	SLEEP	SOUND	SPACES	SPC	SCR	STATIC
STEP	STOP	STOP	STR	STRING	STR	SUB	SWAP
SYSTEM	SYSTEM	TAN	TAN	TAN	TAN	TAN	TO
TRANSLATE	TRAP	TRAP	TRON	UNDO	UNDO	UNDO	UNDO
VAL	VARPTS	VERIFY	WAIT	WAVE	WAVE	WAVE	WIDTH
WINDOW	WRITE	WRITE	WRITE				

## HiSoft BASIC - Reserved Words

**HiSoft BASIC** is a no-limits language; string variables may be up to 1000 bytes in length and there are no limits on array sizes either (subject to available memory). Code generated is fully 68010/68020 compatible.

Compiled programs have no run-time overhead; all compiled programs share an Amiga library, which may be distributed with programs without change. Compiled programs multi-task, of course, and so they all do!

the same library, memory usage and disk space is kept to a minimum. There is also an option to produce completely stand alone programs which include only as much of the library as they need.

**HiSoft BASIC - now BASIC programming on the Amiga has come of age.**

- ✓ Compatible with Microsoft QuickBASIC 3 on the PC, Atari ST BASIC, AmigaBASIC and most other BASICs.
- ✓ Full structured programming with long IFs, multi-line functions, sub-programs, CASE, REPEAT, DO etc.
- ✓ optional line numbers, lots of compiler and run-time options allowing tremendous flexibility both at compile & execution time.
- ✓ full recursion in sub-programs and functions plus local and global variables, arrays as parameters.
- ✓ 3 types of variable: integers, long integers, single- and double-precision floats and strings of any size.
- ✓ no limits: no program size limit and no variable size limits.
- ✓ interactive environment: invoke the compiler from the easy-to-use built-in editor and all errors will be reported, in English, giving you the option to go straight back to the editor for correction or to carry on compiling. You can run your program from the editor so it's just like using an interpreter - but faster!
- ✓ power features like: include symbolic debug, rapid create ex-procedures and much more.

### HiSoft BASIC - Some Features

**Quite Simply - the fastest, most powerful BASIC for your Amiga**

### Introductory Offer

**HiSoft BASIC** for the Amiga complete with AmigaBASIC inside a CD-ROM box by Adams & Williams **£279.95**

*(An offer available for only 10 days, from 10/02/92 until 19/02/92)*

### Special Offers - Amiga

**HiSoft Superpak Version 1.000** **£175.00**

Power Windows 2.5 **£50.00**

Talkin' Plus editor etc. **£25.00**

A&L Module 3 compiler **£25.00**

### Amiga Software

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# TECH TIPS

HELP

• Sony, 88 Cheetah, its about 1 cent. I have a vague recollection of a timing error program for the OSA about three or four years ago, but I haven't seen a replacement equivalent for quite some time now.

We recently turned up suitable programs on the PC and the Wang, but nothing on the OSA. Perhaps one of Expert's readers could help.

## HELP!

### Mounting spaces

I urgently require a computer for my course at the end of January and I don't know which computers are suitable. I have been given the following:

specification  
 512K RAM, single disk drive, PC.

## TIP ST-PC link

I have in issue 9 of Expert that Karl Murray is interested in ST/PC compatibility. The speed problem you mention only affects 5.25" drives. There are no more PCs with 5.25" drives so that problem is now solved.

There is another major ally PC's cannot read disks created by the ST double format option. The ST disk format is similar to the PC's, except in the number of sectors addressed by one density entry, the ST's reading and writing routines are rather more flexible than the PC's so can recognise a number of different formats, including PC format. This is the feature that many extended disk formatting programs exploit. The PC can only recognise its own format, so the compatibility is only one way.

The answer is to get a PC formatting program for the ST which can format PC disks. I just use called FORMST11 which can do both formatted formats and DOS compatible formats.

Be aware of using all DOS-compatible disks on your ST through the ST drive

a random number in the disk head sector so that disk swaps can be noted DOS disks simply have the DOS version number stored in the same place, so disk swaps can go unnoticed when using these disks.

I use a Compaq 386 of work with a 1.44MB 5.25" drive and transfer data between the machines with no problem. There are a couple of things to note of the PC end.

First, the PC can be made to format a 3.5" disk to 720K in a 1.44MB drive using the following command (assuming the 3.5" is drive B:)

FORMAT B: /FS:FAT

It is even possible to format a single-sided disk even though IBM have never used 3.5" single-sided drives. The following line must be added to the config file:

CHS(0) = 0004 015 01344

This adds an extra logical drive with only one logical cylinder. Many other single-sided disks to work interchangeably with:

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giving  
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 you 5000  
 for ST and  
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your monitor system).

In comparison you could get a working PC-compatible system for as little as £400 (the Death PC, from Omega), or around £200 for a genuine PC-compatible such as those from IBM, Open, or a dozen other manufacturers.

Admittedly, the PC-compatibles will be with more monitors, and not great for games or that sort of thing, but you could easily upgrade to VGA, or the much better VGA after you had more money.

In the long term, the PC will work but cheaper if you get all competing networks. Extra disk drives, memory, and hard disks will cost far less on the PC than on the ST.

For a printer, if you use full speed's then you'll know that for the most writing will be recommended the Canon L1000 at about £125, but if you have trouble buying one down, try the Panasonic SL P1000 at about £170, or the West Pointbridge BP120 for about £130.

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• Phoenix 7.0 due for major revision in March

While these programs have regularly received favourable notices in the Amiga format books, the continued lead of them all is Amiga BLF. It is the only program to have an action for its own OS. It will be presented to you this October from Phoenix 7.0.0.

In the recent World of Computers Show in Toronto, Canada, Phoenix 7.0 was being a presentation venue of the new Phoenix 7.0 program, that most excellent presentation class that is available around most Amiga, desktop and notebook computers and the latest Phoenix 7.0.0.

The new version introduced in the software of a comprehensive interface

leading. Other features include screen expansion to 640x480, 800x600 and 1024x768 and support for high resolution. Other features include screen expansion to 640x480, 800x600 and 1024x768 and support for high resolution. Other features include screen expansion to 640x480, 800x600 and 1024x768 and support for high resolution.

Designed a better job, however, as various features allow allowing from the Amiga format books. The program is best associated with the Amiga, what would it be? Amiga BLF? Or how about Phoenix?

### Amiga BBC BASIC

The Amiga BBC BASIC is made with it and other features of writing, but experience an available alternative. The program is best associated with the Amiga, what would it be? Amiga BLF? Or how about Phoenix?

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# CPC

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# PSsst!

More last words from Private I, whoever he (or she) may be

## Christmas Competition Prize Winners

Responses to our readers' quiz were enormous, and all but one managed to get out the lucky winners. The first 100 named in each of the Express test, together with the prizes they won, are:

### 12 War in Middle Earth - Malbourne House

- 1 Ingrid Cox, Bristol
- 2 Roger Blackwell
- 3 Neil Lane, Scarborough, North Yorkshire
- 4 Jeremy Cooper, Fleet, Hampshire
- 5 Keith Savaris, Hayes, Middx
- 6 Jane Charlton, Reading, Northumberland
- 7 Phil Turner, Carmarthen, London
- 8 J Prince, Sutton, Surrey
- 9 Barry Blackwell
- 10 Paul Cunningham, Newbury, Cheshire
- 11 T Stokes, Chesham, W. Hampshire
- 12 Stephen Norman, Huddersfield, West
- 13 James Beckett, Slough, Yorks

### 11 Football

John Schofield, Gainsborough

### 10 Hi-Type - Activision/Electronic Dreams

- 1 Alan Preece, Swadlowcliffe, Yorks
- 1 1 English, Bristol
- 3 JH King, Southgate, West Sussex
- 4 Shreddy, Macclesfield, Lancs
- 5 Dean Conroy, Rugby, West Midlands
- 6 J Jones, Lymington, Hants
- 7 Matthew Cook, Birmingham, London
- 8 Matthew Daniels, Wellingborough, Northants
- 9 M Griffin, Swadlowcliffe, Yorks
- 10 S Bayan, Swadlowcliffe, Yorks
- 11 Mike Taylor, Lymington, Southdown
- 12 P H King, Sutton, Cornwall

### 9 Purple Saturn Day - Infogames

- 1 David Sandbrook, Manchester
- 2 Carter, Cheltenham, Kent
- 3 Robert Sutton, Cheltenham, Devon
- 4 Trevor East, Service Co Trust, Northants
- 5 Mark Everett, West Wightford, Yorks
- 6 David Fox, Co. Galway, Ireland
- 7 G Jones, Dept. North Wiltshire
- 8 Christopher Lewis, Exeter, W. Somerset
- 9 Alan Taylor, Manchester, Essex
- 10 Alan Robertson, St. Oswald, Lancs
- 11 G J Jones, Bridport, Dorset
- 12 Kevin Kelly, Rye, Sussex
- 13 Mark R Jones, Oxford
- 14 David Leadbetter, Leeds, Lincoln
- 15 William Stone, Co. Kerry, W. Ireland
- 16 Mike Macgregor, E. Hants, Yorks
- 17 M Stone, Oxford, Yorks
- 18 Neil Barker, Leeds
- 19 Stephen Clark, Worcester
- 20 Eddie Wilson, Warrington, Cheshire
- 21 Philip Smith, Newcastle, Yorks
- 22 S Turner, London
- 23 James Rogers, Bournemouth, Dorset
- 24 James Stone, Huddersfield, Yorks

### 8 The In-crowd - Ocean

- 1 Stuart James, Birmingham
- 2 David Nelson, King, London
- 3 Maryamuddin, Bristol
- 4 Mckinstry, Devon
- 5 Jonathan Jones, Bristol
- 6 David Roberts, Waterbury, Staffs
- 7 Barry Southon, Oxford, Middle
- 8 Gabriel Gerrard, Gateshead, West
- 9 J Childs, London
- 10 C Dean, London
- 11 David Wright, Swadlow, Yorks
- 12 Veritas, Suffolk

### 7 Korix Jetty/Clubs

- 1 Paul Charles, Bolton, Lancs
- 2 D Holmes, Naffers, London
- 3 P Riggs, Crawley, Middle
- 4 J Fitzpatrick, St. Helens, Lancs
- 5 Alan C Perkins, Leeds
- 6 Nathan Barnard, Orpington, Kent
- 7 Stuart Preece, Harrogate, Yorkshire
- 8 Scott Irving, Ashford, Northants
- 9 R Evans, Walsley, Midland
- 10 Jon Gurnell, Sutton, Yorks
- 11 S A Thompson, Hildesheim, Yorks
- 12 R G Spence, Salford, Cheshire
- 13 Mike Fox, Wigan, Yorks
- 14 Alan Taylor, Bridport, Somerset

### 6 Giants - US Gold

- 1 S Lee, Hatterston, Cambs
- 2 Alan Bell, Manchester
- 3 P Wilson, Leeds
- 4 M (Gordon) Macintosh, Dundee
- 5 M Scott, Carlton, Nottingham
- 6 A Williams, Carlisle, Wilt
- 7 Stuart Thomas, Walsley, Devon
- 8 A J Wright, Eastham, Norfolk
- 9 J Wright, Walsley, West Midlands
- 10 Stephen Huley, West Wightford, Hants
- 11 Ben Wilson, Exeter, Middle
- 12 Jason G. Donoghue

### 5 Atari XEG Games Console

Wes Roberts, Hove, Hampshire, West Mids

### 4 Sega Console

G H Foxworth, Devon, Yorks

### 3 Star Wars Videos

- 1 Brian George, Chesham, Bucks
- 2 Joseph Price, Weymouth, Dorset
- 3 M Kelly, Walsley, Yorks

### 2 Commodore 64

Paul Wilson, Lutterton, Cambs

### 1 Atari ST

A T Coates, Chesham, W. Mids, Great Britain

Congratulations to the winners, bad luck to the losers, and to all those who didn't take part, well you're looking pretty silly now.

## Lesser known viruses

In the wake of the "1037" virus which threatened to bring the City to a standstill last Friday the 10th, Private I has got details through widespread press reports of the most likely of new viruses that will not infect a PC unless it is on-line. It has been named:

### The Friday the Thirteenth virus

This virus is said to spread through networks and gets spread through computers. It gets its name from the fact that it is said to infect only when the banks are closed. It causes any data connected to a network to be corrupted. It is not known how.

### The 1030 virus

This virus enables bank cash machines and gets spread through computers. It gets its name from the fact that it is said to infect only when the banks are closed. It causes any data connected to a network to be corrupted. It is not known how.

### The PCW virus

Causes infection in a network but is not believed to affect to be on any PCW if you use the documents such as letters and other materials, causing the buffer in the printer chip. Perfectly good but as screen is printed not in other formats.

### The Quasar virus

This virus runs from the State and affects graphics computers used in 3D. No change of colour can occur without the previous data going into a box, being retained around a globe, spinning around and moving into the distance.

### The Greenpeace virus

A colour example into a PC in the City. When the user attempts to print printing it displays the message "Save the environment and computers". The colour monitor calling in English several words who live in the PC.

### The Amstrad virus

An infection of the Amstrad's PC in the City. If no key is pressed for more than five seconds, the message "Save the environment and computers" appears on screen. The user's F10 is pressed and the computer locks up.

### The Souter virus

An infection which spreads to newspapers which are not represented. This virus enables the restoration of computer users after they have left from people what a virus is. They suddenly and mysteriously get in control then can machine might be infected that they lose irrevocably expensive about buying services.

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