

**Your**

Alan Gibson

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# Chapter 1

## Your

### 1.1 Your Sinclair Simulator v1.0

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YOUR SINCLAIR SIMULATOR v1.0
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© 1995 Alan Gibson. This program is FREeware.
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BACKGROUND
DISCLAIMER
INSTALLATION
STARTUP
EVERYDAY USE
FUTURE PLANS
```

### 1.2 Alan Gibson

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WHO IS ALAN?
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Well, I'm a second year Computer Science student at Heriot-Watt University, and YSsim is the first piece of software I've released on a wide scale. I'd really love to get some responses to YSsim via electronic mail. My address is [ceeagl@cee.hw.ac.uk](mailto:ceeagl@cee.hw.ac.uk) and you can be certain that I'll give you a reply (for what it's worth).

If you actually do want to find out more about me or my interests or any of my other programming projects, have a look at my World Wide Web pages, which can be found at <http://www.cee.hw.ac.uk/~ceeagl/>

### 1.3 Background

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BACKGROUND
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Having grown up and begun to use computers in the late 1980s, the era of the ZX Spectrum, I fell under the influence of the witty and off-beat computer magazine, Your Sinclair. As well as being the definitive Spectrum magazine (anybody who disagrees will be beaten up with the aid of a very large plank

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of wood sporting some rather pointy rusty nails at the business end), the mid-to-late-80's Your Sinclairs gave birth to some of my all-time favourite linguistic expressions. You can't beat a strategically-placed wahay, oo-er or wagga wagga to lend that inimitable YS quality to a piece of writing.

The Your Sinclair Simulator gives you the power to use these wonderful words at your fingertips. With the touch of a few keys, you too can have a random Your Sinclair expression inserted in whatever you are currently typing.

## 1.4 Disclaimer

### DISCLAIMER

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The author (Alan Gibson) is happy that YSsim is stable in everyday use and will accept no responsibility for any damage or loss of data which arises due to use of YSsim. In other words, you use YSsim AT YOUR OWN RISK!

This program is FREEWARE, and as such can be distributed freely provided that none of the files supplied are altered (with the exception of archiving) and that no money is charged for it, other than a small fee for distribution media and postage.

## 1.5 Installation

### INSTALLATION

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Even a Sinclair User reader could suss this one out, so I'm not going to say any more, except that you shouldn't rename YSsim (as it will hereforth be referred to) if you want it to be able to read its tooltypes.

### COMPATABILITY

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Unfortunately, those of you who do not possess OS2.x or above won't be able to enjoy the delights of YSsim, as it's a system commodity. However, it has to be said that YSsim has undergone absolutely no testing, and there probably are other system set-ups under which YSsim won't work. Let me know if this is the case.

## 1.6 Startup

### STARTUP

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YSsim can be started up from CLI or Workbench. It is intended as a Workbench application, however, and supports several tooltypes. CLI users won't experience the benefit of these, and I couldn't be bothered supporting CLI arguments in this version. The supported tooltypes are ...

CX\_POPKEY=<hotkey combination>

When the hotkey combination is pressed, the YSsim interface will pop up.

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This is equivalent to selecting the Show Interface button on Exchange.

CX\_POPUP=YES|NO

When set to YES, YSsim's interface will pop up automatically when it is started.

INSERTKEY=<hotkey combination>

This allows you to define the hotkey combination which will trigger YSsim into action.

BACKSPACE=YES|NO

In certain circumstances hotkey combinations will generate unwanted characters in a text editor. Setting the backspace option to YES will make YSsim delete this character before typing up a message.

## 1.7 How To Use YSsim

### HOW TO USE IT

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YSsim is extremely easy to use. Simply press its hotkey combination (which can be defined either by a tooltype or from the YSsim interface) and it will "type" a bracketed expression into the current position of your document. See the section Startup for fuller details on the operation of YSsim.

As YSsim is a commodity, it can be fully controlled by the Commodities Exchange utility. It has an interface which can be used to define its hotkeys and can be terminated either by the quit option from the YSsim interface or the Remove option from the Exchange window. YSsim can similarly be activated or deactivated from the Exchange window.

If you're wondering how you can change the expressions which YSsim inserts, you can't. This was a conscious decision in order to ensure it retains that YS authenticity. Oh ... don't think about using a utility such as NewZap to alter the words directly, as I've put a checksum in it.

## 1.8 Future Plans and Limitations

### FUTURE PLANS AND LIMITATIONS

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YSsim was programmed in Acid Software's wonderful Blitz Basic 2 and uses its BRexx commands to produce its output. This is fairly slow, but that aside it does the job competently enough. At the moment, although I would like to speed it up (so that it operates as quickly as PowerSnap) an improvement isn't on the cards.

The "backspace" facility (see Startup) is a bit of a workaround. I have seen commodities which don't have these problems when their hotkeys are pressed, but I have no idea how this is achieved. However, it's not a major problem (is it?).

Here's what I am planning to do in future versions of YSsim ...

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- Add support for CLI arguments
- Add a "save config" option to the interface
- Include more expressions in the YSsim database
- Include random bracket selection from () and [] brackets.