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Chapter 1

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1.1 Amiga Report Online Magazine #4.10 -- July 24, 1996

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Copyright 1996 FS Publications

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All Rights Reserved

1.2 Amiga Report Main Menu

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Amiga Report 4.10 is sponsored in part by:
             ClickBOOM
            , authors of the upcoming
             Capital Punishment
            , and by
             AmiTrix Development
            , publishers of the upcoming
             AWeb-II
                         Main Menu
______
              Editorial and Opinion
               Featured Articles
                   Reviews
              News & Press Releases
                 Aminet Charts
                  Reader Mail
               About AMIGA REPORT
               Dealer Directory
             Numbers
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== \// | Issue No. 4.10
                          July 24, 1996 | \// ==
======= | "THE Online Source for Amiga Information!" |=======
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 By:

Finally, it's (almost) all over (again).

By the time you read this, a long day of meetings at VIScorp will have ended, meetings between corporate officers and bankers, all working out the terms of the Amiga purchase.

It will soon be time to close the book on another brief chapter in Amiga history and start working to make sure that the next 12 months are entirely unlike the last 12.

In the meantime, life goes on. Katherine Nelson and I will be at Amiga Convention '96 in Montreal next weekend--I hope to see as many of you there. AWeb II has finally been released commercially, and I'm hearing tales of IBrowse's release as well.

Perhaps the best news in a long time is that since the release of the Amiga Developer CD last month, over 2,000 have been sold. To me, that says there

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are at least 2,000 people who are incredibly anxious to develop better software for the Amiga. Laid end to end, those people would stretch over 2 miles. More importantly, their efforts will give us all something new to do for quite a long time to come.

I hope everybody still has their seatbelt on from last year. Things are only going to get more interesting, I think. Sure, things aren't perfect. I wish I had the answers to all of the policy questions we all want to hear addressed. After talking with Don Gilbreath and Raquel Velasco of VIScorp today, a few more things are falling into place.

So sit back and enjoy.

Jason

1.9 Commercial Products

Commercial Products

Capital Punishment
The upcoming action game from ClickBOOM

AWeb-II
The WWW Browser, coming from AmiTrix

Editor's Choice Jason's picks

Portal Information Systems A great place for Amiga users.

News

Opinion

Articles

Reviews

Charts

Adverts

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1.10 Capital Punishment Is Coming...

THEY say: "Amiga games suck"
THEY say: "Developers are gone"
THEY say: "No more good games"
THEY say: "Amiga is dead"

...well, WE say:

F*0% THEM !!!

We are clickBOOM - the angriest team in cyberspace

We have developed an amazing combat epic for Amiga called Capital Punishment

It is what players asked for:

playable
 fluid
 fast
realistic...

And what they hoped for:

violent
 wild
 engrossing
adrenaline-pumping...

And it's coming soon to blow your Amiga away!

You'll engage in battle against warriors, ninjas, aliens, and an assortment of other fearsome opponents in some of the goriest fighting scenes ever seen in a video game. ar410 7 / 79

Amiga Computing - "Capital Punishment could take fighting games into the next millennium"

Amiga Format - "Capital Punishment has been proclaimed as

the ultimate video game".

Amiga Report - "Capital Punishment is a very smooth and engrossing game"

CU Amiga - "Frame rate is higher than any fighting game I've seen"

Visit "clickBOOM" web page for more information; chance to win one of 5 free Capital Punishment games; and to download playable beta demos:

http://www.io.org/~clkboom/amiga/

Internet e-mail: clkboom@io.org

beware...Punishment is coming

1.11 AmiTrix Development, Publishers of AWeb-II

AmiTrix Development, 5312 - 47 Street, Beaumont, Alberta, T4X 1H9 Canada

Phone/Fax:1+403-929-8459 Email:sales@amitrix.com www.networkx.com/amitrix

Direct Mail Order Price List July - 1996

(Prices subject to change without notice.)

Product Description	CAN \$	US \$
AWeb-II (AWeb2.0/HTML-Heaven2.0 WWW Software)	\$ 55.00	\$ 45.00
SCSI-TV HD controller for CDTV with 2.5" Drive Adapter SCSI-TV for CDTV, with-out Adapter SCSI-TV570 HD controller for A570 with 2.5" Adapter SCSI-TV570 for A570 with and Adapter	\$190.00 \$180.00 \$200.00	\$149.00 \$142.00 \$157.00
SCSI-TV570 for A570, with-out Adapter Amiga-Link/Envoy Starter Kit (2-unit),	\$190.00	\$149.00 \$210.00
 the peer-to-peer network for external floppy port. (also available as expander kit with extra cable) Amiga-Link/Envoy Expander Kit (1-unit) Amiga-Link Expansion Kit (1-unit) 	\$175.00 \$135.00	\$135.00 \$105.00
Amiga-Link Accecories:		

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2-way Floppy Port Splitter	\$ 39.00	\$ 31.00
RG58 cable - $1m(3.5ft.)$	\$ 10.00	\$ 8.00
RG58 cable - 5m(16.5ft.)	\$ 13.00	\$ 10.50
RG58 cable - 10m(33ft.)	\$ 17.50	\$ 14.00
- (custom lengths available on request)		
Extra BNC-T connectors	\$ 4.50	\$ 3.50
Special - One Only		
DblScan 4000 Video Card	\$265.00	\$190.00
The P-Net Box, a ParNet Adapter	\$ 15.00	\$ 12.00
AM33C93A-16PC SCSI controller for 3000/2091/HC+8	\$ 26.00	\$ 20.00
A3000 U202/U203 chip ram control PALs - each	\$ 15.00	\$ 12.00
External Active SCSI Terminator - C50 male	\$ 29.75	\$ 23.50
Internal Active SCSI Terminator - IDC50 male	\$ 19.00	\$ 15.00
External Passive SCSI Terminator - C50 male/female External SCSI Drive Box	\$ 12.25	\$ 9.75
- (Mini-Tower e/w: C50/Internal bus/C50 pass-thru)	\$145.00	\$115.00
DIY Cable Kit (Internal) for Mini-T Ext. SCSI Box	\$ 30.00	
DB23 solder-type connector	, 00 . 00	1 20.00
- male, female, or chrome hood - each	\$ 1.65	\$ 1.25
Repair Services:		
- A1200/4000 CIA replacements, General repairs	\$ Call	\$ Call
- SMD equipment fixed charge	\$ 35.00	\$ 28.00
- Labour rate per hour	\$ 35.00	\$ 28.00
Shipping Costs: (most large boxed items)		
First Class Mail: within Canada	\$ 10.00	
within USA		\$ 10.00
International	\$ 15.00	\$ 12.00
Shipping: (for small bubble-packet items)	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00

Orders should include a Bank Draft/Money Order or Postal MO, payable to AmiTrix Development in CAN or US dollars. COD orders inside Canada only. Shipping costs may vary for quantity orders/alternative method of shipment. Canadian customers add 7% GST to all orders.

1.12 Reader Mail

Reader Mail

Date: 08 Jul 96 10:31:40 -500 From: bka@idirect.com (Brad Avery)

Subject: Reader mail

Jason,

After reading a letter, by Nigel Milnes, in issue 4.09 of the 30th of June 1996, I finally broke down & decided it was time to write in.

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In the letter Nigel claimed that he bought a 12MHz 68000 chip & put it in his A500 resulting in faster system performance as well as MMU support. This is simply not possible.

The 12MHz rating on the chip Nigel bought means it is capable of running at 12MHz & the 8MHz rating on the standard C= one means it is capable of running at 8MHz. Just because a cpu is capable of running at a certain speed, does not mean it will run at that speed automatically. A cpu only runs as fast as the crystal clocking it. In the case of the A500 C= used a 7.14MHz cpu clock. They used the 8MHz version cpu because it was rated high enough to handle their 7.14MHz clock. By Nigel putting a 12MHz cpu in his system, it acheives no speed increase (as verified by his SysInfo test) because the cpu is still being clocked at 7.14MHz. The only way to speed up the system would be to alter the clock signal - to a maximum of 12MHz in his current situation. This however, if possible, would throw the systems timing off, since one clock is dependent on another in the A500, and would most likely render the system unusable.

The MMU capability he speaks of, doesn't seem right either. The 68000 had no internal MMU, it used the 68451 external MMU. The 68020 used the 68851 (I believe) & the > 68020 cpu's (non EC version) have one built in. Not being too familiar with ImageFX, I'd have to wonder if it used non MMU based virtual memory like Image Studio does.

I hope nobody ran out & wasted their money buying a 12MHz 68000 chip, because the A500 doesn't use an independent cpu crystal & therefore cannot be changed to properly clock a higher rated cpu.

Brad Avery Toronto,Ontario CANADA

P.S. I love the magazine. Keep up the good work!

___ ___

From: penguin@isns1.shasta.com (Larry Penland)

Date: Sun, 07 Jul 1996 02:59:31 Subject: The Winning EDGE ONLINE

Hello Jason,

I read the letter from Michael Ingleby in AR4.09. It struck me that while a MIDI interface built into the NEXT GENERATION AMIGA is a good idea, it is less than a winning strategy for the future. The great majority of the public "don't know from Midi and could care less". What the Amiga has needed for a long time is built in connectivity (read networking) but that is not a killer either. Most Amigas will live far from one another.

There is a technology coming on line that could be the next killer application, CABLE MODEMs. Motorola (among others) has started producing new modems to connect over cable television. Each manufacturer has his own take on what they are but there seems to be some common specs. Fiber optic cable will carry the information from system to system, and into the Internet, but coax cable will carry television and digital information from the system headend to the home. Coax has a theoretical bandwidth of 30

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megabits per second (30Mbps), but actual throughput will be lower because the bandwidth is shared among the cable subscribers. The Motorola Cybersurfer cable modems have the ability to download from the cable headend at 10 Mbps and to upload from your computer at 768 kilobits per second (768 Kbps). This compares to 33.6 Kbps for the current fastest analog telephone modems, and 128 Kbps for ISDN.

Television cable systems will have to rebuild their systems to allow bi-directional amplification and communication, and many are making plans to do that. Then each system will need to choose the modem technology that they will use. TCI, the largest cable company in the world is getting ready to launch the @HOME network. It seems to be supporting several modems, including the Motorola.

The articles and advertisements that I have seen do not list how these cable modems will connect to the computer. So in search of more info, I got onto the @HOME webpage (www.home.net). The specs listed there call for a minimum system (PEE CEE of course) that includes a 10 base Ethernet networking card. For those who don't know,10 Base is 10 Mbps. Sound familiar? So it appears that the cable modem connection is going to be via ethernet interface. If this is the case, and since the Amiga could use good networking in professional arenas, a built in 10base ethernet on the low end machines would position them for the new high speed connections into the Internet via cable modem and on University and College networks. For the highend machines it would be nice to have the interface easily upgradable to the newer 100 base ethernet.

A MIDI interface would be nice but since the cable modem would allow a permanent connection into the internet it will touch many more needs in the future. Of course both would be even better.

--- --- --- ---

Date: 10 Jul 96 17:18:34 +0500 From: george@aic.net.au (George L)

Subject: ImageFX upgrades

Jason,

I'd like to publicly say thanks to Nova Design Inc for a great product (ImageFX) and even better support.

A few weeks ago, I purchased ImageFX 2.1a from a local Amiga dealer for the full price of \$400AU. After reading AR408, I learned that version 2.6 was available and that ver2.1's price had been reduced.

I wrote a letter to Nova Design enquiring about the upgrade deal, and from $^{\prime}$ outta the blue $^{\prime}$ I promptly received a free upgrade to version 2.6

Its service like this that makes me proud to own an Amiga... Keep up the good work,

Regards, George.

--- --- --- ---

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Date: Wed, 03 Jul 1996 09:21:05 -0700 From: Dean Husby <dhusby@intergate.bc.ca>

Subject: Reader Mail

I just read the article 'EZ135 Follow up' in AR4.09.

I thought Paul's review the first time was based on greed. More speed and megs... But, you have to give someplace for that extra speed. In this case, as poor Paul found out, was quality. It sounds like he's bent his drive head out of alienment. A Syquest repair. He should ship the drive to them demanding it to be repaired... He claims the Zip to be 'Dog Slow' and is too light. (That I agree on. You cannot use it in the upright position because it will fall over. ((I use Both cable ports))) To fix this problem, you can buy a LEAD strip and attach it to the back/side of the drive if you feel it's that needed. But 'Dog Slow'? Not quite!

The Zip drive runs at about 940k on my A3000 (sysinfo) and does have a access time of about 29ms. IF you optimize the disk it runs much quicker since it's the search time that slows down the drive and not the actual Data Transfer rate.

I've owned my Zip: Drive since DEC. '95 and have 7 disks currently. I have it chained to 4 other devices in my external SCSI case. (easy to make!) With No problems in Set up/formating/conflicts.

I have dropped 3 of my Zip: Disks about 4 feet onto tile with NO DATA loss. This proved my choice was the right one.

Spin up and loading/unloading are a dream. 4 seconds until I can use it.

Paul also said that the ZIP was the way to go in the end, I'm glad he's seen the light, but with more and more Amiga users hailing the JAZ drive now, with it's fast speed and 1 gig space... I do hope people listen and not buy the Syquest rip off coming out...

Thanks

Dean (TFM on #amiga)

From: rknop@mop.caltech.edu <Rob Knop>

Subject: Reader Mail

Hi Jason -- this for either the "Reader Mail" or the "Opinion" section of AR, whatever you think best.

These are just some thoughts I had seeing Robert Davis' article on being on the internet in AR409.

I think that many people, Amiga users in particular, underestimate the value of a Unix shell internet account. There are three primary advantages to such an account. (1) It's easy to set up. (2) It's fast. (3) It's available from anywhere you have a computer with a modem and any plotz terminal program. Sure, it's limited, and sure, it doesn't cost that much more to have a PPP account nowadays. However, there is much to be said for it, and you can do _most_ of what you end up really wanting to

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be able to do with an internet account anyway.

As regards the first point. On a local BBS I call, every so often somebody will log on and post how they are having a terrible time getting AmiTCP to work. Invariably, the sysop or somebody else suggests that I might be able to help, since I'm a bit of an AmiTCP junkie. (Not only did I write a few small pieces of Napsaterm, but I've got AmiTCP running both on an A3000 with an ethernet card (tmnwh.caltech.edu) and over a PPP account.) And, invariably, I fail to get the poor chap going. Always, I know going into it, that the only way for me to really help would be to go to his computer, sit down, and futz around until I got things working.

With a shell account, you run your terminal program. Lots of people know how to run terminal programs. It's trivial in comparison to getting AmiTCP running. You log on, and things work. Sure, Unix isn't intuitive, but if you are an Amiga shell user, you won't find Unix that prohibitive. And it has perfectly usable E-mail programs (I recommend Pine) along with a host of other utilities.

The second point, speed. This is the most significant one. When people discuss the internet account they're trying to get, I suggest perhaps a shell account. They always say, oh, no, you can't do the internet without graphics nowadays. Well, sure, there're a lot of graphics out there. But IMHO the most important part of the internet is E-mail -- which is text, text, text. Even cruising the web, sure, the graphics are pretty, but most of the _information_ you're actually after is text based. Now, here's the rub. If you're using a 14.4K modem, or even a 28.8K modem, a web page with big graphics -- the sort of page which inspired you to get a graphical internet connection in the first place -- will take bloody _forever_ to load. When I use AWeb or another Amiga browser from home, I generally turn off automatic image loading and only load a few of the images I think I want to see.

With a Unix shell account, you can run lynx, which is a perfectly effective world wide web browser. No graphics, but all the text. And, it's faster! On two or three fronts. One, you don't wait for the graphics to load. Two, rendering the plain ASCII text is faster for lynx than rendering the fonts is for graphical browsers (this is a minor effect). Three -- and I doubt most people fully appreciate this -- if you visit a long document, the whole document doesn't have to go through the 14.4Kbaud or 28.8Kbaud bottleneck that is your modem. You visit a 100Kbyte text document, being interested in only a small piece of it. If you are running the browser on your computer over a PPP connection, the full 100K has to be sent over the modem to your computer. If you're running Lynx on a Unix shell account, the server you have your shell account on gets the 100K document, and all that gets sent over the modem is the text that's visible on your screen.

The third point, availability. Once you've finally got your Amiga set up to run your PPP account, you can probably fairly easily access it -- from _that_ Amiga. A Unix shell account, you can access from pretty much any terminal. You can even telnet into it, generally, from another account (e.g. a friend's)! If your Amiga has a hard drive crash, you don't have to be disconnected from your E-mail when all you can do is borrow your friend's PC.

So, this has become long and rambling. But, to summarize my point, yes, there are things a PPP account has to offer, and advantages to having your

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Amiga fully "on the internet." On the other hand, for most of what most people do on the internet, a text-based shell account is a perfectly fine solution -- and it's easier, often somewhat cheaper, and faster than a PPP account. If what you want is to be able to cruise the web to look for textual information there, and to receive and send E-mail, don't a priori eschew a Unix shell account because it's not "the hot thing."

-Rob Knop

From: jmason@dynanet.com

Subject: I think I know what the problem is with the EZ135 or AR Mail

Date: Thu, 04 Jul 1996 16:34:17 GMT

I own several computers, and while I haven't encountered any problems using the EZ on my A2000 yet, I expect I will. I hope to make this story as short as possible, but I must say that it is complicated. In fact, reading this from bottom to top may be a good idea...

My troubles all started when I decided to re-tool my substandard 486DX2/66. I bought a SCSI controller, a replacement EIDE controller, and the EZ. I installed the SCSI card, its drivers and the EZ, and its drivers first... Surprisingly, there were no headaches involved in this process. So I thought to myself, "Great, my luck must have changed, usually this requires hours of tinkering because of IRQ conflict this, EMM386 that, and HDD failure 'what?'"

Well, the EIDE controller fix that notion right quick. After installation everything seems fine. Until the SQDRIVER.SYS line in my CONFIG.SYS, then my machine hangs... Well after a long exchange of email with EIDE card's tech support people, we came to the conclusion that it was fault in the motherboard (it's motherboard from hell BTW). I also called Syquest around this time and was told to try using the software supplied with my SCSI card. Things were fine and I was told that there shouldn't be a problem using the SCSI card's software.

Now here's the bit that will be of interest to AMIGA users with $\rm EZ135$ drives.

Recently, cartridges formatted after I began using the generic driver have become grossly unreliable. I became very concerned and started by contacting Syquest. I asked them if it could be electromagnetic interference affecting the drive or the SCSI cable, I asked if it were possible brownouts were the cause, I also asked if it were because I was using generic drivers and disk utility software. All the tech support representative I sent email to could come up with was "You could get the cartridges replaced by calling ourcustomer [sic] service @ 1 800 245-2278."

That didn't tell me if there might be a fault in my EZ Drive, or the cartridges, the SCSI cable, the placement of the drive (relative to other equipment), or the software I was using. So I started to re-evaluate the situation, and I stumbled onto what I think is the answer.

I started trying to recover the data on the cartridges before I reformatted them to see if the problem was consistent. And then I noticed it. A consistency between all the cartridges with errors. They all had roughly

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50MB of space remaining. Then it struck me. When I was using the Syquest software, the drive didn't seem to actually get formatted. Instead it seems as if the software altered the file structure. After all, how can you have IBM software "hidden" on a Macintosh formatted cartridge. When I used the generic software, it too seemed not to physically format the drive, it only partitioned it (I'm assuming that's what it did). This leads me to believe (and reading the little insert that comes with each cartridge supports) is that that portion of the cartridge containing the Mac/DOS/Windows software still exists and this is what causes the problem.

I can't say if a low level format will solve the problem, or if it will simply cause more problems. What I think the AMIGA community needs to do is let the folks at Syquest know they are not amused. And see if whoever developed the Zip tools for the Iomega Zip drive can create similar software for the EZ135 Drive.

I've tried sent email to Syquest and to Adaptec (the makers of my SCSI card) but have yet to receive a reply. So if I find out anything new, I'll let you know.

1.13 Notes From The Frontier

Notes From The Frontier

Frank Salvatini

franksal@xnet.com

NFTF 7/96

So I'm all freeze-frame, snapshot, bound-up in limbo-like nowheresville. I feel like a passenger during a Transporter malfunction. You know, dust all over the place, but going nowhere at the speed of light. This is the emotional condition of Amiganauts everywhere. As I talk to fellow club members and Amiga users around the world via the internet newsgroups, I find a general ennui, a malaise vaguely reminiscent of post-traumatic stress disorder. In fact, I'd probably call it that except the trauma is far from "post", and way the hell past "pre". We're definitely adrift in the middle of a huge sea of trauma, latitude 0, longitude 0 (isn't zero-zero island supposed to be around here somewhere:^).

Anyway, a good number of Amiganauts seem rather despondent at the Viscorp-Escom receedings (as opposed to PROceedings). What with AT and Viscorp both spewing uncertain directions, vague promises, and NDA excuses, and Amigans riding roller-coaster rumors and swinging on vines of hope (what do you think would have happened to Tarzan if his vines were made of hope?), there are a hell of a lot of desertions to the PC and Mac platforms. Desertions by still loyal Amigans who look back with longing at the tombstones of dead girlfriends, knowing full well that they're settling for security and stability and mediocrity, and that the wilder, more passionate ride is over. They're doing a dead man's float in their individual pools of grief and anger and loss. Yup, this is the climate of the Amiga frontier.

And, I say, to hell with it all.

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I'm tired of watching legal, and corporate and technical developments like an entymologist studying his bugs. Bugs disgust me and so do the latest "press releases," the hyper-hopeful-hype, and the killer app vaporware that has been the Amiganaut's steady diet for the last three years! I'm tired of being asked to visualize the large, juicy steak I'll be getting from the bone fragment I'm tossed.

Now don't get me wrong. I've nothing but praise for the likes of the loyal companies that put their money where their mouth is. Hooray and extremely high kudos for Nova Design, and Stylus, Inc., and Wonder, and Safe Harbor and Software Hut, and Paxtron and Pios and Phase 5 and Oregon Research, and Chaocity and Quikpak and Softwood, and Softlogic, and Digita and Cloanto and Almathera and, yes, even NewTek and Scala, Inc., (boy, I'm starting to feel better as I type this list:^). Well done, people. And Because you stuck with us thru thin (was there ever "thick"?), I'm sticking with you.

That's right. I'm not jumping ship. I'm not deserting. Oh, sure, I use Mac's and PC's at work, but that's because I have to. I realize that though the press hype is all about those platforms "catching up" to the Amiga's capabilities, the fact - yes, fact - is that they are not there yet!

Understand? NOT THERE YET!

Win95's interface is still in your face, and Macintosh still makes me feel like I'm in a bicycle race with my training wheels on. No, it's only the Amiga that causes me to choose to be at the computer instead of having to be. With all the above metioned companies, I have software that I'll be using for years to come to produce what I both need and want to produce. But the big difference is that I'll enjoy doing it on the Amiga!

The above lament was simply a plea to Viscorp or AT or Escom or whoever the hell owns our beloved technology, that time is getting to be more and more a commodity we have less and less of. We just don't have the time (or the inclination) to read or listen to your bullshit anymore. What set—top box? The idea of browsing Internet Web Pages on my TV set may give my Optamologist wet dreams, but not me! Who do you think is going to read text on TV's — especially text that's been created for SVGA output? Who do you think is going to RENT pieces of software for their everyday needs at what will no doubt be usurious prices?

Perhaps you believe that marketing (a synonym for hype and lying) will create a demand for these useless products and methods. After all, look how Wild Bill Gates managed to convince the sheep that Wintel is the cat's meow. How Apple convinced the Graphic Arts industry's lambs that their overpriced, overprotective, memory-gluttonous hardware and software should be the industry standard. ("Hey, I'll just pass the cost on to the client, heh..heh.."). Well, I've said this before but it bears repeating:

"Amiga users are not sheep, they're wolves." Remember that as you pick up your shepherd's staff.

Now, Viscorp, or At, or Escom, if my "take" on this is ill-informed, or uninformed, or misinformed then please understand it is because I've been informed by you.

Ciao for now...

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Frank Salvatini

- The Prez
- The Amiga Connection
- Roselle, Illinois.

1.14 Techno-1 Licenceware

Techno-1 Licenceware

Techno-1 licenceware now has 3 titles for sale: Jimmys, Software House & Survivor. All programs come with a printed manual, same day delivery, top quality disks and full support.

Techno-1 needs more good quality programs. If you have anything that you think people might like then send it to the address at the bottom of this text. ALL PROGRAMMERS CHOOSE THEIR OWN ROYALTIES as I feel they deserve to do what they want with their work.

Name: Jimmys

Type: Platform Game

Cost: 4.99 (UK) Add another 50p for oversea postage

Jimmys was put together by a 6 strong team of Amiga enthusiasts and was first intended as a commercial release but due to the Amiga scene in Denmark the programmer decided to sell it as a licenceware title. Your mission is to guide Jimmy through 24 stages located at four different places (the house of fun, deepspace melon, the woods and the hectic harbour). Jimmy is a skilled bubblegum shot and can kill the monsters by shooting them with bubbles, furthermore the bubbles can be used as tempory platforms. There are LOADS of secret passages and secret room to discover. The music is kicking and the graphics are brill. I normally don't like platform games but I was hooked on Jimmys for days.

Name: Software House Type: Managerial Game

Cost: 4.99 (UK) Add another 50p for oversea postage

You are the owner of a software house, you must create your game and must choose carefully what type of game you release. You must advertise, deal with piracy, build new offices, hire/fire and then keep your fingers crossed and hope nothing unexpected happens. Please note that you will need 2 megs of chip memory to play Software House.

Name: Survivor

Type: Captive/Dungeon Master type Game

Cost: 3.99 (UK) Add another 50p for oversea postage

You are a scientist aboard a spacestation, you have an accident and render yourself unconcous, when you awaken you find you are the only one still

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alive, well, except for the hundreds of aliens that are now breeding aboard your spacestation! You must choose your character and space station then search and destroy the aliens and more importantly their eggs. You can find weapons, armour and other items whilst expoloring the station to help your task.

Cheques should be payable to TECHNO-1

CONTACT TECHNO-1 AT:

Techno-1 BBS: +44 (0)1793 610632 24 hours 7 days email : graham_osborne@iowight.demon.co.uk

Voice : 0589 559619 (mobile)

Snail : 152 Marlborough Road, Swindon, Wiltshire. SN3 1LU. UK

1.15 The Informer Newsletter

New to the Amiga scene is The Informer Newsletter.

The Informer is a print newsletter devoted to the Amiga user. In this time of uncertainty for the Amiga, it is hard to know what is fact and what is fiction in the Amiga community. Many users have difficulty finding support or getting help for their problems, or just finding infor- mation on the Amiga in general. In some areas, it is even difficult to find an Amiga magazine.

What The Informer does is supply you with information about the Amiga in a concise, capsuled format. We'll help you get in touch with dealers and developers, provide you with info on development projects, and help you come to grips with the internet. You'll read about useful programs and how to get them. We provide Email ad- dress, BBS listings, Web page URL's, phone numbers, and other means to communicate with Amiga companies and people. In addi- tion, you'll get the latest news about the Amiga computer and the Amiga community at large. And to top it off, everything from start to finish is produced using only Amiga computers, proving the versatility of this wonderful machine.

If you would like to receive a free sample issue of The Informer (in the US or Canada), send your postal mailing address to: The In- former, PO Box 21, Newburgh, NY 12551-0021 or Email it to: fletcher.haug@bbs.mhv.net.

Fletcher Haug, user of the UniBoard System @ mhv.net E-Mail: Fletcher.Haug@bbs.mhv.net

1.16 PowerPC News Final Issue

[PowerPC news had been fairly supportive of the Amiga community's slow migration to the PowerPC camp. We at Amiga Report are sad to see them go...-Jason]

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FINAL ISSUEFINAL ISSUE**FINAL ISSUE**FINAL ISSUE*

We have experimented with the free publishing model and so far, despite the massive popularity of PowerPC News, this free publishing model is just another way of going bust. This also a good time to move away from focussing on a single microprocessor. The editor of PowerPC News will be moving to the paid web-based publication Online Reporter, reporting on the technical and business developments on the Internet. We will continue to cover the PowerPC and other RISC and CISC chip technologies in Computergram, our daily news paper. All of these can be found at the ComputerWire site, on http://www.computerwire.com/ - Peter White, Chief Executive peterwhite@computerwire.com

1523) POWERPC AND THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE

As PowerPC News goes to press for the last time, we look at the state of the PowerPC industry today - and the progression from Intel-beater to Just Another RISC chip.

-----Administrivia-----

TO RETRIEVE FULL TEXT OF ITEMS IN POWERPC NEWS

Send an e-mail message to news@aptdata.co.uk

Place in the SUBJECT of your message the item numbers of the items you wish to receive. For example:

To: news@aptdata.co.uk
Subject: 1000 1008 3000

Your e-mail address will be picked up automatically.

MAIL PROBLEMS?: If you are having any problems retrieving stories or removing yourself from the list please:

mail human@aptdata.co.uk

EDITORIAL COMMENTS or questions:

mail chrisr@aptdata.co.uk

TO FIND OUT ABOUT ADVERTISING in PowerPC News

mail julianm@aptdata.co.uk

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1.17 Info Pack On Amiga Convention '96

The Official Info Pack on the Amiga Convention '96 Release 2.1

Please feel free to spread this file around wherver you can, as long as it is not altered. We don't want people to show up at

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the wrong city or during the wrong month!

If you are a magazine, please feel free to put this in your magazine. All that we ask in return is that you e-mail or call us to tell us that you have put the information into the magazine. Also, if you would like to have an article written for your magazine after the convention about what happened at Amiga Convention '96 please e-mail <moogy@generation.net> <af666@freenet.uchsc.edu>

- Dave Haynie (forme C= engineer, Senior H/W engineer at SCALA)
 will address the public.
- Dale Larson (former C= engineer, president of IAM), will be present at Amiga Convention '96 to do some presentation.
- Al Mackey (author of the popular games MegaBalls series), will also be present for doing presentation.
- Our *OFFICIAL* WWW sites is up and running since friday the 17th of May! the url is http://www.acropolis.net/ac96/ (thanks goes to Manos Konstantiniadis aka Guybrush for setting up and managing our WWW pages!).
- We are in discussion with some well known engineers working at VIScorp to attend the show (not confirmed yet).

In August, in Montreal, the fourth annual Amiga Convention will take place! This convention will gather the Amiga community together from all across the world to show its support for the Amiga! We hope to make this show an event in the long fight to make the Amiga a well known computer in North America again.

WHY: We are putting on the Amiga Convention '96 to support our favorite computer, the Amiga! We feel that for too long, the Amiga has been ignored, and now that the Amiga is owned by people who actually will support it well, we want to help them out in any way we can. We also want to get a lot of people together to have a really cool time!

WHERE: The Howard Johnson Hotel in Montreal, large enough to hold over 1,000 people, not including the surrounding rooms.

ADDRESS: Howard Johnson (514)-842-3961 475 Sherbrooke West Street Montreal (Quebec) Canada H3A 2L9

WHEN : 3 & 4 of August 1996

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TIME : 10:00 - 20:00 (8:00 PM) Saturday 9:00 - 18:00 (6:00 PM) Sunday

ENTRANCE COST: 7 Canadian dollars

COMPETITIONS:

Gfx (3d)

1st place : \$300 2nd place : \$200 3rd place : \$100

Music (mod 4 chan.)

1st place : \$300 2nd place : \$200 3rd place : \$100

Demo (2 megs max.)

1st place : \$500 2nd place : \$300

3rd place : \$100

COST FOR RENTING TABLES: \$150 - 1 day, \$250 - 2 days, for one table of 6' by 3' and chairs. These tables are aimed towards dealers and developers.

FREE TABLES: We will also have free tables, for anyone who wishes to BRING THEIR AMIGA, whether to show off something cool, or just to help someone else who might need one at the time. However, at the free tables you get less space than the pay tables, it is first-come first- serve, and you cannot sell products at the tables! That is strictly for the rented tables.

ACCESABILITY: The show is easily accesable by bus and subway, as well as having lots of parking space in the vicinity for cars.

WHY DEALERS SHOULD COME: We offer tables at an incredibly rate, a price which includes electrical outlets and electricity. You also get the chance to show and sell your wares to a crowd of Amiga owners, all of whom have money to spend and are influenced by how big a prescence you have at the show.

WHY PEOPLE SHOULD COME: We will have stands from many major dealers and developers. It will also have a lot of friendly Amiga owners there, plus a booming sound system and TV setup that will show crazy demos and products. It will be a wild good time for all! BRING YOUR AMIGA AND HAVE A BALL

- \star Just 5 minutess walking distance from the Metro Station McGill.
- * We will have Audio/visual equipment setup for presentations of demos, programs, hardware, new products, etc.
- \star The Howard Johnson has a Restaurant, a Bar, and more.

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* For special room rates please contact us or the hotel.

CONTACT:

To get the latest info about the Amiga Convention '96 and get more details about it please check out our WWW sites at url http://www.acropolis.net/ac96/

If you want to buy a table, get more information on the show, or just talk to the organizers, e-mail either $\langle moogy@generation.net \rangle$ or $\langle af666@freenet.uchsc.edu \rangle$, or call (514)-649-9756 (in Canada) and ask for Frederic or (514)-933-8095 (in Canada) and ask for Jeremie. regarding the Amiga Convention '96. You can also mail the organizers at:

Frederic Tessier 922 Deschamps Sainte-Julie (Quebec) J3E 1N9 Canada

1.18 Escom Lays Off Employees

July 8, 1996
Escom Lays Off Employees
As Stock Investigation Begins

A WALL STREET JOURNAL News Roundup

Escom AG, the giant German computer retailer that filed for protection from creditors last week, said it plans to lay off 1,900 of its 4,440 European employees and close an undisclosed number of stores.

Meanwhile, Germany's Securities Trading Supervisory Office confirmed Friday that it is investigating alleged insider trading in Escom shares. The regulator said it had noticed a suspicious surge in the number of Escom shares traded, and a plunge in the stock's price, in the weeks preceding the company's announcement last Wednesday.

"The turnover seen was very suspicious in comparison with previous levels," Anke Reeh-Schild, a spokeswoman for the office, said in response to an inquiry from Reuter News Service.

Volume Jumps Ninefold

She said that in the three weeks before Escom's announcement, volume in its shares had risen eight or ninefold from previous average levels.

"The probe could take a few months," Ms. Reeh-Schild said. "At the moment it is a routine investigation against persons unknown." Escom could not be reached for comment.

Separately, an Escom spokeswoman told the Associated Press that Chairman Helmut Jost is planning on a 1997 payroll of 2,500 European employees, 43% less than current staffing.

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In Germany, as many as a dozen of Escom's 130 stores could be closed, said Marc Ullrich, head of the Escom Computervertriebs-GmbH subsidiary. Escom has more than 450 stores across Europe and earlier this month announced it was closing 65 of its 235 U.K. branches.

The company, Europe's second-largest computer retailer, with an estimated 2.35 billion marks (\$1.55 billion) in sales last year, filed for creditor protection to save it from bankruptcy after a new estimate put its 1995 losses at 180 million marks, up from a March forecast of 125 million marks.

Ms. Reeh-Schild said the insider-trading investigation would first center on electronically analyzing transaction volumes and price movements. Then banks would be asked for the names and addresses of customers on whose behalf the shares had been traded.

Generally Illiquid

Between June 3 and July 2, the day before Escom made its announcement, the company's share price slumped 49% to 4.63 marks from 9.15 marks. It ended trading Friday at 2.85 marks.

A total of 105,128 Escom shares were traded on June 3, and in the following weeks volumes in the generally illiquid share surged, reaching more than one million shares on several days.

Insider dealing was outlawed in Germany in 1994 as part of a drive to make the German financial center more attractive to investors and traders. The maximum punishment is five years in jail, but so far prosecutors have resorted to fines, with four sentences passed to date.

The highest fine was imposed on the son of an owner of beverage machinery manufacturer Krones, who was ordered to pay 600,000 marks last year and risk paying an additional 1.8 million marks if he breaks any laws within the following two years.

1.19 Sysmon V0.13

TITLE

Sysmon V0.13 second public beta release.

AUTHOR

Etienne Vogt (Etienne.Vogt@obspm.fr)

DESCRIPTION

Sysmon is a system monitoring package based on a shared library and Shell based support commands. Main features are :

- Precise CPU usage timing for all tasks with very low overhead.
- System message logging daemon like UNIX syslogd (useful for debugging).
- Safe System shutdown script (useful for BBS's and networked

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machines).

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

AmigaOS 2.04 or higher (V37). Hard disk and Fast RAM recommended.

AVAILABILITY

On any aminet site. It was uploaded to: ftp://ftp.cnam.fr/pub/aminet/util/moni/Sysmon013b.lha (74835)

PRICE

Free.

DISTRIBUTABILITY

Freeware (C) Copyright 1995 by Etienne Vogt.

The sysmon.library can be used freely by freeware software, requires a free registration to me for shareware software and a written license agreement from me for commercial software.

OTHER

This is a public BETA release, so I would like people to report any crashes/gurus/incompatibilities or other unexpected behaviour back to me.

CHANGES

Sysmon now works on the 68060. New commands have been added to the Sysmon monitor program.

1.20 The Amiga Locale Homepage

The AMIGA Locale Homepage http://www.intercom.no/~andersb/locale

The aim of this page is to create a center for translations and translators. First of all you will find information about what programs are available in a specific language. As of the 22 May, Norsk and Greek are available, but more is being made. This still means that I need someone to take care of these languages: Dansk, Deutsch, Frangais, Italiano, Espagol, Nederlands, polski, Portugujs, Suomi, Svenska and maybe even more that I can't think of. If you think you can help with one of the languages, contact me at the email mentioned later.

Futhermore, I want to create a network of translators, to help programmers get their programs translated. If you can translate programs which support locale into a language, please contact me, or look on the web-page for more information.

For comments, suggestions or flames, contact:

Email: andersb@intercom.no (Anders Bakkevold)

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url: http://www.intercom.no/~andersb/locale

1.21 DiskProtection V1.2

TITLE

DiskProtection V1.2

AUTHOR

Patrick Ohly Weechstr. 1, WG E0/1 76131 Karlsruhe Germany

Tel.: +49 721 615662

eMail: patrick.ohly@stud.uni-karlsruhe.de

IRC: Irish

DESCRIPTION

DiskProtection encrypts data totally invisible for the user while writing to disk. All blocks are encrypted, so the directories are protected, too. DiskProtection supports all exec devices, i.e. harddrive partititions, floppy disks, but not the RAM-disk. Any filesystem can be used.

It features:

- encryption with IDEA, FEAL, DES, SCRM and custom algorithms
- (XPK-)interface for additional algorithms
- configurable with easy to use preferences program
- encryption can be changed anytime
- resident passwords (for use with mailboxes)
- access protection
- builtin screenblanker
- GUI driven, localized
- German and English documentation (ASCII, DVI, AmigaGuide)
- context sensitive online help
- ...

CHANGES

New Features:

- fast, but unsafe encryption algorithm
- DPInit, a tool to start DiskProtection without mounting anything
- example source code for your own encryption libraries

Bug Fixes:

- "Hide in File" was somehow buggy
- sorting order of XPK libraries was reversed

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

DiskProtection requires OS2.0 and Triton-Library 1.4 A minimum distribution is included in this archive, but you should better look out for the complete archive "util/libs/tri14usr.lha" on AmiNet:

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ftp://ftp.wustl.edu/pub/aminet/util/libs/tril4usr.lha (217107)

AVAILABILITY

NOT available on AmiNet due to USA export restrictions for cryptographic software. Look at the AmiNet site in Paderborn for the file "/pub/aminet/util/crypt/DiskProt11.lha":

ftp://ftp.uni-paderborn.de/pub/aminet/util/crypt/DiskProt11.lha (340258)

You will always find the most current version on my WWW home page: http://www.uni-karlsruhe.de/~un60

PRICE

20,- DM shareware fee

DISTRIBUTABILITY

DiskProtection © 1994,95 Patrick Ohly It's freely distributable as long as all files are distributed unchanged. DiskProtection is shareware, however the public version is not crippled in any way!

1.22 McFiler V4.1

TITLE

McFiler

VERSION

4.1

AUTHOR

Roberto Bizzarri

E-Mail: robiz@mbox.vol.it FidoNet: 2:332/901.31

DESCRIPTION

This program was born to achieve a better way to catalogue and archive files on your floppies, although it can be used as well with files stored on any other media device. It features functions able to quickly trace, view, unpack, rename, discard a file, as well as hide it from your list.

You'll have at your disposal two nice routines, "FitDisk" and "SingleFit", which will allow you to optimize your collection of files to fit in the least possible number of disks.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

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```
McFiler requires OS 2.0+ (v37+) and "reqtools.library" v38+ ((c) by Nico Francois - included in the archive).
```

AVAILABILITY

ftp://ftp.uni-paderborn.de/pub/aminet/biz/dbase/McF41.lha
(157Kb)

...and the bugfix (v4.1a):
ftp://ftp.uni-paderborn.de/pub/aminet/biz/dbase/McF41a.lha
(58Kb)

PRICE

Requested shareware fee is \$10 US. The sole limitation of the unregistered version regards the maximum capacity of archiving: the program won't go farther after having stored 250 files.

DISTRIBUTABILITY

This piece of software is to be distributed "as is" with no warranty of any kind. The author won't be held responsible for any damage occurred by its [mis]use.

If you do not want the Shareware version, take a look to v3.2 ("McFiler3.2.lha" or "McF32.lha" on Aminet).

OTHER

For any question or suggestion please email me!

Roberto Bizzarri

E-Mail: robiz@mbox.vol.it
FidoNet: 2:332/901.31

1.23 Image Engineer 3.0

TITLE

Image Engineer 3.0

AUTHOR

Simon Edwards Email: sbeyallara.cs.rmit.edu.au

DESCRIPTION

Image Engineer is a shareware image processing application. It can be used for tasks varying from converting images between different file formats, rendering 24 bit images down to standard Amiga screen modes, enhancing badly scanned images, applying special effects even up to advanced image composition. What you

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can use it for is basically limited by what you can think of.

- Very fast, coded in 100% 68020 assembler
- Multiple image editing
- Dithered Colour or grey preview images.
- Zoom in preview images.
- Processing done in 8 bit grey or 24 bit colour
- ARexx support
- Thumbnail previews shown for most effects.
- Font sensitive, resizable GUI with keyboard shortcuts, using the BGUI Library.
- User configurable menus.
- Uses the Superview Library for loading and saving. Superview currently supports:-

BMP (Win,OS/2)	IFF-YUVN (misc)	PNM (*nix)	
C64 (Koala, Doodle)	<pre>IMG (GEM/V*nt*ra)</pre>	QRT/POV	
EPS(F)-Header	JPEG (JFIF)	SGI	
FBM (*nix)	MAC (MacPaint)	SunRaster (RAS)	
GIF upto 89a	PCD (PhotoCD)	SVG Graphics	
Icon (W*nd*ws)	PCX upto V3.0	Targa	
IFF-ACBM	PICT-2 (Mac)	TIFF (V5.0)	
IFF-DEEP	Pictor/PCPaint/PIC	Utah RLE	
IFF-ILBM	PNG (Network Gfx)	WPG	
OS3-DataTypes	picture.datatype V43		

- Can display images using Superview Library. Superview Library currently supports ECS, AGA, EGS7, OpalVision, Retina, CyberGraphics, PicassoII, Merlin.
- Supports AGA where available.
- Render images to standard Amiga screen modes including HAM6 and HAM8.
- Dither images using Floyd-Steinberg, Burkes, Stucki, Sierra, Jarvis and Stevenson-Arce error diffusion algorithms.
- Image processing effect implemented as disk based modules.
 Modules exist for:-

Autocrop Hue Brightness Local Contrast Stretch Bulge Lowpass filter Composite (with alpha channel) Maximum filter Contrast Median filter Contrast Stretch Minimum filter Convert To Colour Negative Convert To Grey Posterize Convolve (user defineable) Reflect X Displace (with alpha channel) Reflect Y Histogram Equalisation Remove Feature False Colour Resize Gamma Rotate Halft.one Saturation HighBoost filter Scale Highpass filter Sharpen Histogram Threshold Twirl

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More to be released in the future.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- 68020 or higher processor.
- OS V2.04+
- 2Mb of RAM bare minimum, at least 4Mb recommended.
- Superview Library to be installed. Available by FTP/Internet: AmiNet and mirrors ftp://ftp.wustl.edu/pub/aminet/gfx/show/SView541.lha

AVAILABILITY

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FTP/Internet: AmiNet and mirrors
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ftp://ftp.wustl.edu/pub/aminet/gfx/edit/ImEngV3.0.lha
(773893 Bytes)

Available via WWW on the Image Engineer Support Page:

http://minyos.its.rmit.edu.au/~s9407349/

PRICE

The unregistered version is limited to images of size 400x400. Registration for a keyfile is only 35 US dollars.

DISTRIBUTABILITY

The unregistered version of Image Engineer V3.0 is freely distributable as long as no charge is made for it other than a small fee for the cost of the media.

Copyright 1995-96 Simon Edwards. All rights reserved.

OTHER

Information about the current status of Image Engineer, work in progress and on-line documentation is available on the WWW. (See AVAILABILITY)

1.24 VIScorp Amiga Acquisition

VIScorp News: July 24, 1996

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Chicago, IL
July 24, 1996
Permission Granted to Distribute without Alteration

VIScorp Proceeds with Amiga Acquisition

On Thursday, the 18th of July, 1996, the final contract of purchase was signed between the bankruptcy trustee solicitor, Bernhard Hembach, and the president and CEO of VIScorp, William Buck, with approval of the 'pool of banks' for the entire remaining inventory and intellectural property.

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Until the 18th of August, 1996, VIScorp has time to establish the necessary companies to carry on with its current business. In the meantime, the business will be run with the approval of the bankruptcy trustee Hembach under the name AMICA Technologies GmbH i.K. From the 19th of August, 1996, the business will finally be run under the name, control and ownership of VIScorp.

Contact: Florine Radulovic, Director of Communications, VIScorp

flo@vistv.com

At the Financial Relations Board

Contact: Ted Gage, General Information

tjg@chi.frbd.com
Contact: Bess Gallanis, Media
bag@chi.frbd.com

1.25 Message to Community

VIScorp Message: July 24, 1996

Chicago, IL July 24, 1996

An Open Message to the Amiga Community from Bill Buck, CEO, VIScorp:

- 1. Escom AG and Amiga Technologies GmbH are in bankruptcy and will cease to exist as corporate entities. VIScorp has reached an agreement with the Trustee for the liquidation of these companies and with the creditors of these companies for the purchase of "Amiga." There were at least eleven different banks or companies that had claims to be "owners" of the technology and/or the inventory. Escom had liabilities of over \$250 million. Imagine the confusion...
- 2. The steps that we had to follow through the last three months were painstaking. As the situation at Escom deteriorated, we had to continually re-negotiate our purchase contract. We could not speed-up the process. Many things we wanted to begin immediately we have had to delay. The situation at Amiga and Escom were extremely troubled. This was in part because of the difficult financial and management situations at Amiga and Escom, but also because of how poorly organized the intellectual property had been under Commodore. In the course of the Commodore bankruptcy many problems developed that were never repaired.
- 3. The final (and last of three) purchase contract was signed on Friday, 19 July. It cannot be changed; it has been executed. The intellectual property of the former Commodore and the inventory of the former Amiga Technologies will be owned finally by VIScorp. The final paperwork will be completed in the next 30 days. During this month, VIScorp GmbH will be registered and Amiga Technologies will continue to operate temporarily in bankruptcy for VIScorp.
- 4. Petro Tyschtschenko and his staff will continue to operate from Germany. Raquel Velasco and Petro Tyschtschenko will be the new General Managers of Amiga, to be known as VIScorp GmbH. Al Duncan, a former

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General Manager of Commodore will join VIScorp to manage the sales and distribution of VIScorp and Amiga products in North America. Petro will continue to operate from Germany and manage the existing business. Raquel is looking for someone from the community to manage the re-organization of the sales and distribution in Europe. Please contact Raquel if you are the right person for this job.

- 5. The engineering efforts of the former Amiga Technologies and the on-going engineering of VIScorp will be combined and professionally managed. We intend to begin to implement the plans we outlined in Toulouse very shortly.
- 6. Please excuse our lack of communication with the community over the last months. We were severely restricted from communicating our activities. Please resend your emails to any of the VIScorp staff if they have not been answered by this letter. We simply could not answer all the emails.
- 7. Do not expect miracles from VIScorp, expect slow, but steady progress.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best Regards, Bill Buck

1.26 040-ERC Boards

040-ERC Boards

With the beginning of July 1996, phase 5 digital products will release the Blizzard 1240 T/ERC, a low cost 68040 based accelerator board especially for tower housed Amiga 1200 main boards. Due to the mechanical dimensions and the high power consumption together with the heat emission of the 68040 processor and the therefor needed active cooling cap the board will not fit into standard A1200. The abbreviation ERC stands for EcoReCycling meaning the processors used on this board are recycled and tested 68040 processors operating at 40MHz with MMU/FPU. By using these processors a very competitive pricing of DM549, - for the Blizzard 1240 T/ERC is possible. The board is axpandable to a total amount of 128 MB of RAM by standard 72 pin SIMM. All other specifications are the same as those for the well known BLIZZARD 1260; so later upgrades to the 68060 processor can be easily done. Like it's Big Sister the, Blizzard 1240 T/ERC can be expanded by the SCSI Kit IV.

Also good news for all A2000 users. A Blizzard 2040 ERC will be available equipped with the same recycled and tested 68040 CPU eith MMU/FPU running at 40 MHz clock frequency. All other specifications are exactly the same as for the BLIZZARD 2060. The Blizzard 2040 ERC will be sold for DM 699,-- and like the Blizzard 1240 T/ERC upgradeable to the 68060 processor.

Last not least with release date in September the ERC version of the Cyberstorm MKII board will be available. The Cyberstorm MKII 040/40ERC will have the same specifications as the 68060 version. This turbo board can be used in all A3000, A3000T, A4000 and A4000T and can hold up to 128

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MB local Fast RAM. Off cours this board can also easily upgraded to the 68060. The pricing for the 68040 version with MMU/FPU running at 40 MHz will be DM 749,--.

Additional information: phase 5 digital products In der Au 27, 61440 Oberursel Tel +49 6171 583787 Fax +49 6171 583789

1.27 NTitler Pro V2.0

TITLE

NTitler Pro

VERSION

2.0

AUTHOR

Michiel den Outer

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2925 CP Krimpen a/d Yssel

The Netherlands

DESCRIPTION

With NTitler Pro you can create 3D text animations for use in your multimedia and video presentations.

The features are:
-extremely simple to use graphical interface
-animations are played in realtime!
-5 different 3D vector fonts
-IFF bitmap pictures can be used with the following effects:
-backdrop
-stencil front
-stencil back
-alpha channel
-colour cycling
-resolutions up to hires interlaced overscan
-genlock compatible
-animated 24 bit copper lists
-explosion and implosion effects
-fading effects

New features in this latest version:

-Anim5 export

Now you can use NTitler animations in multimedia presentation

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systems like Scala and import them in paint packages like DPaint and PPaint.

-5 different 3D vector fonts

-lowercase support

-IFF sound samples import: Multimedia!

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Workbench 2.04, 68020 processor, 2MB of RAM.

AVAILABILITY

Aminet sites: gfx/misc/ntpro.lha

PRICING

The requested shareware fee is DM 50, 20 English Pounds or US\$ 30. Upon registration you will receive a keyfile that enables the disabled features.

DISTRIBUTABILITY

Shareware

1.28 CyberVision64/3D

Oberursel, July 96:

With the beginning of August 1996, phase 5 digital products will release a new generation graphics board, the CyberVision64/3D at a very competitive pricing. Designed for use as either a Zorro-II or Zorro-III board it will work in all Amiga 2000, 3000 and 4000(T) series models as well as with tower modifications of Amiga 1200 series models equipped with Zorro-II backplanes. CyberVision64/3D's modular design allow low entry prices at high end perfomance and optimal expandibility.

Core of the new board will be the new graphics chip Virge with 3D capabilities produced by the well known manufacturer S3. The chip is able to do complex 3D functions in hardware, like shaded and textured surfaces with trilinear filtering as well as shading and fogging for very realistic real tome 3D rendering. In conjunction with the new CyberGraphX 3D library CyberVision64/3D is offering a wide range of complex 3D functions for software developers reducing development time and expense for developers supporting the new CGX3D standard.

In addition to those features, a MPEG decoder can be added to the feature connector allowing real time MPEG audio and video decoding at full size custom screens or in workbench windows, allowing high quality display by using the 16 and 24 bit modes of the workbench provided by CyberGraphX. For stereo audio output a dedicated line output jack is provided.

The second optional expansion will be a monitor switcher with integrated scan line doubler designed to fit into the Amiga's slot providing automatic switch over from the Amiga's original Signal to the CyberVision64/3D's output. Mechanical dimensions of the switcher and the CyberVision64/3D

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allow the use of both cards in th lower slot of A3000 / A4000 models keeping 3 Zorro-III slots free for other expansion boards.

With all these features the CyberVision will be available in Germany at suggested retail prices of DM 449,- with 2 MB and DM 599,- with 4 MB video RAM. The MPEG module expected to be released at the same time will be available at DM 349,- and the scan doubler / monitor switcher is will cost DM 149,-. Developers registered in the PowerUP program can purchase the CyberVision64/3D at a special developers price.

A very special offer will be available for users of the CyberVision64. There will be no MPEG modul available for the predecessor, since the add on bus of the Trio64 used on the CyberVision64 is no longer supported by S3 and other manufacturers. Due to the immense development required for the implementation of that add on bus a MPEG module would have to be sold for more than DM 500,-. Because of this, CyberVision64 users who wish to use MPEG can purchase the CyberVision64/3D together with the MPEG module for DM 499,- from phase 5 digital products.

Additional information: phase 5 digital products In der Au 27, 61440 Oberursel Tel +49 6171 583787 Fax +49 6171 583789

1.29 Amigas at Disney

Amigas At Disney By:

Jason Compton

On our (Amiga Report Assistant Editor Katherine Nelson and I) recent vacation to Orlando, Florida and the Disney World theme parks, about the LAST thing I expected to see was an Amiga. I always HOPE to see one, but honestly, I wasn't hoping too hard. After all, it's not every day someone will leave one sitting out as obviously as the 1084S at the Ontario Science Center (last winter) or in the recent movie Brain Candy (also a 1084S)...

But I was wrong. We were watching the Indiana Jones Stunt Show, roughly in the center of the audience area seating, when Katie leaned over to me, pointed at the show control area in the front aisles of the seating and said, "Hey, is that a 1084?" Intrigued, I looked down there. I spotted a 14-inchish monitor, beige in color, but with a blue screen and some sort of white text on it. We couldn't make anything out from the distance, and while at first I thought it might indeed have been a 1084, I decided it was probably just a VGA monitor on a PC. It sorta looked like they were just running a DOS application in a white-on-blue text mode.

But after the show was over, we had to know for sure. So we made our way down close enough...and sure enough, there was a 1084. Under it was a dirty, beat-up, but still functional Amiga 2000 (with a keyboard whose

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spill-guard skin was so old it was brown). In the center of the equipment (lots of switches and knobs, of course) was another 2000. There was a tech still at the first 2000's chair.

"Do you mind me asking what you're using your Amigas for?" I asked him, hoping that our amazing recognizance of the machines would put a smile on his face.

Well, it didn't. It turns out that our new friend wasn't exactly an Amiga person himself, just one of the guys who runs the show. But he was at least familiar with what he was working on. The first machine we spotted, the one with the blue and white display, was running a microphone-monitoring program. Basically, it kept track of the activity and level of all of the cast and crew microphones for the show. The software, so we learned, was designed by Sennheiser. While I didn't press him to let me play with the machine, it looked rather 1.3ish.

The other system, he explained, was using a setup designed by Richmond Sound and was in effect the control center for the entire show, accepting relay triggers from the various cues and touchplates on the stunt show stage and handling them in the proper manner with the rest of the equipment. Quite a job, if you ask me.

We never quite figured out if there was a third system up and running.

Our friend told us that the systems had been in place for a good 7 or 8 years and that the original crew who had them installed were all long gone--which might explain why I had a really tough time getting him to give me the name of a person I could talk to discuss the quite impressive fact that Disney/MGM Studios puts one of their biggest draws in the hands of a computer that far too few people own.

By one of the most interesting coincidences I've seen in quite some time, Richmond Sound of Canada just put a Web site online. In an interesting move, Richmond has chosen the URL http://www.show-control.com/ as their own. (Pretty clever, if you ask me.) The site profiles their three major product lines for show and effect control—all of which are Amiga based, a fact RSD states quite proudly.

The site also lists some of Richmond's clients—quite an impressive resume, for both Richmond and the Amiga. If you need a reason to feel a bit better about the impact Amigas have made on technology in real life, pop by and take a look.

I've gotta tell you, sometimes when I see or hear of an old A2000 at a company, I wonder if it's really in use, if it might be able to find a better home. But the folks at Disney/MGM, courtesy of Richmond Sound, seem to be putting theirs to pretty good use. If you're at Disney/MGM in the future, do me a favor and do as I did, pop down and just mention to the techs there that you noticed their Amigas. Who knows? They just might figure it out.:)

1.30 Bird Talk

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Bird Talk rich924@aol.com

In this day we are changing computers quicker than minds. I donated my C-64 away, since I did not need it to prop open my window because of my new air-conditioner. =) (Please no flames, I really love and miss my C-64). I have a bunch of old computers around, the PC's become outdated so quickly, you can't find uses for them because they will not do anything sophisticated like the Amiga.

For a while I was running my A-500 para-netted to my A-3000. The A-500 had 1 meg internal, a high-density drive internal with an external low-density drive. It has a GVP-A500+ attached to its side with 100 meg scsi hard drive and 4 megs of ram. I could not see abandoning the platform, but the 68030 at 30 mhz with 10 megs was too good. I started using the A-500 less and less.

I then formed the idea of having ARexx controlled software playing iff samples for the birds. I found DeliTacker from Peter Kunath and Frank Riffel. It was very configurable and had ARexx controls! Only my PC had an audio digitizer so I needed SoundZap on the Amiga to convert the .WAV to a .IFF.

The A-500 has been playing 4 iff samples, three times a day, repeating the sample for 4 mintues. This gives the birds a 16 minute lesson 3 times a day. The software actually rotates through a list of 5 iff files, and only plays 4 in one lesson. I have had the A-500 running like this for a year now. Oh yeah, the A-500 was doing all this with out the GVP-A500+ HD! It has been running everything with just 1 meg of ram and 2 floppies!

My birds have a vocabulary of 30+ words, and I keep hearing people talk about how smart they are (birds in general). I now have a box with two buttons on it that they can press and play an iff file. The box has a Basic Stamp2 microcontroller in it, which has a serial port on it. The Basic Stamp2 is a 24 pin SMT dip! It is over-kill, but I had one around. I programmed it to monitor the buttons and send a "1" or a "2" down the serial line at 9600,N,8,1. The serial port on the Amiga is set to the same spec using prefs. ARexx is monitoring the serial port, and will play the respective file associated with the "1" or "2". In my case "1" is Laura (my girlfriend) saying "I love you" and "2" is me saying "Hello". Being that I just rigged the buttons to the cage an hour ago the birds are a little scared of it and have not tested it yet. I will be posting information on my web page about the experiment, the address is http://members.aol.com/rich924, my E-mail address is rich924@aol.com.

Future modifications may be to have more buttons or keep the two and have one select the IFF and the other play the IFF

Sources:

Listings of the ARexx files, startup-sequence, configuration files and stamp program are in bird.lha

Delitracker is from Peter Kunath and Frank Riffel. I found the file on Aminet

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S-mail Frank Riffel, Merkstr. 27, 82405 Wessobrunn, Germany

SoundZap is from Michael Cramer (mrc113@psuvm.psu.edu)

Basic Stamp2 is from Parallax http://www.Parallaxinc.com

1.31 Review: AGA Experience 2 CD

Review: AGA Experience 2 CD
By:

Jason Compton

The AGA Experience is back, with another ton of (almost) entirely AGA software and graphics for Amiga users.

Quite a bit, to my mind, makes this CD even better than its precursor. Of course I'm pleased that they've renewed their Amiga Report license, but that's the least of my concerns.

The much-hyped HTML information pages, with an early version of AWeb, are fine but nothing to get over-excited about. Of more interest to me is the wealth of genuinely good stuff on here for AGA computers.

In order:

Animations--There's actually not much here, but just about everything is of at least "good" quality.

Demos--While not pretending to be a comprehensive collection, there are really an awful lot (well over 100 megs) here, AND Sadeness has taken the trouble to screen them for you for compatibility. When you click on a demo, you'll be told if it works with your machine, if it will exit back to Workbench when it's done, and you're given the final option to run it or not. A necessity, and a very nice touch.

Games--A quite good collection of mostly AGA-only games and a few assorted utilities, HD installers, and cheats. Enough to keep you busy for quite some time unless you've already played everything on Aminet twice.

Pictures--Some really beautiful JPEGs in here. Everything is click and go.

Slideshows--Take them or leave them.

Exclusive--A nice collection in here. Previews of Capital Punishment (almost works on my 4000T/040), Gloom Deluxe, Pinball Prelude, and others.

Utilities——A good starter collection for all occasions. Includes a number of good PD utilities as well as previews and demos of Cinema4D, StormC, and others. Of particular interest——at least to me——is the collection of emulators. They must have been reading my mind.:)

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Diskmags--As I mentioned, a licensed collection of recent Amiga Reports is here. As well, there's quite a few of the best Amiga online and disk magazines, including RAW, AmigaPD, and others.

Sound--A small collection of decent quality mods, ready to run from the disk. As well, there's a few trackers and sound utilities. Not bad.

Icons+--The sort of thing that makes WB-tweakers go wild. Lots and lots and lots of new icons (and Newicons) to make your system look that much better

And yes, these all seem to fit together quite well. As a sampler CD, it's tough to get much better than this. I'd recommend it highly as a part of any "hey, the Amiga really is cool" live demonstration.

The directory takes just about zero time to get up and running. Nice work.

Complaints? Well, the screen mode it tries to put you in (if you take advantage of all of the preference-setup icons offered) is Pal High Res Laced. Need I point out how painful this is to look at, particularly with the color choices they've made? It's just bad news.

The CD is available at a reasonable price and is a great catchall collection. Highly recommended.

Sadeness/NFA 13 Russell Terrace Mundesley Norfolk NR11 8LJ ++ 44 1263 722169 voice

1.32 Review: Amiga CD Sensation: Demos R 4-Ever

Review: Amiga CD Sensation: Demos R 4-Ever

By: Jason Compton

Not to be confused with the "<blank> Sensations CD" line from Epic Marketing, this title comes from Stefan Ossowski's Schatztruhe but the name tells it all. This CD is demos, demos, demos. Over 2,000 of them, in fact, making this a huge collection of the collective wisdom and experience of demo coders on the Amiga.

The organization on the CD is structured but not as helpful as I would have liked. AGA-only demos are separated into their own directory of ready-to-run files and the rest of the ready-to-run demos are alphabetized in "Big Bunch", over 200 megs of demos. Ouch. DMS-compressed demos or those requiring special disk consideration are in the Diskstuff directory, which is further divided up by category, including AGA-only.

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Special types of demos, intros and "minis" (those under 50k, but not necessarily 40k or 4k competition demos because those are elsewhere) are partitioned off as well. Demos entered at party competitions have their own storage space as well.

The CD has three quick setup icons, which configure your assigns (to use the on-disc utilities such as DMS), colors, and workbench screen to what is ostensibly the optimal configuration for viewing demos. What that means, of course, is PAL.

Rounding out the set is a music directory with a few treats, and a handful of slideshows, as well as a collection of Degrader-type tools to make navigating the CD's contents on anything but stock A500 and A1200s possible.

As a collection, I'd have to rate this quite highly. I'm always a sucker for creative work preserved indefinitely for low cost. The actual use of the CD could have been so much better, though. While each demo comes with a readme file to indicate what degrader measures must be taken to get the demo to work, it does not make any effort to do them for you. Having just reviewed AGA Experience 2, which does go that extra mile, I can't speak so glowingly about this collection. Also, while the Diskstuff directory does separate out a few choice demos for those looking for a good demo in a hurry, the rest of the demos are not at all ranked by quality. A few more highlights would have been appreciated.

The packaging is certainly memorable. Rather than coming as a boring jewel box, they've tried to make it look like a covermounted CD on a magazine. Actually, it's just a piece of cardboard that's roughly magazine sized, with the CD's information on the back, but it's the thought that counts. This has the downside that all you get is a sealed plastic sleeve with your CD instead of a full jewel box. Hope you have one handy, or are a big fan of CD wallets.

If you need a demo CD and haven't already picked up Euroscene 2 or the Aminet collections, give this some consideration. It's more comprehensive than AGA Experience 2, but unfortunately not as easy to use.

1.33 Review: Spherical Worlds

Review: Spherical Worlds

By: Jason Compton

I suppose the quickest way to describe Spherical Worlds is as a roughly Alien Breed (I, II, and Tower Assault) genre of game. You control a player, in this case a spherical battle droid, and steer it around in a

While Ken Anderson takes a quick break, it's my turn to review some games again. Enter Spherical Worlds, from the 4Matted development team, produced by NEO of Austria.

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top-down world, shooting bad guys, avoiding traps and collecting money and keys so you can open doors and buy items.

This, in a nutshell, is the game. But if you insist on the plot, I'll fill you in. Basically, it's you against an unknown alien force on a planet which sounds a lot like the planet from Alien. That's about all you need to know.

You'll be going up against the terrain as well as the bad guys, as there are plenty of opportunities to fall down holes and your droid does NOT maneuver very well. It takes a while to get it going, and seemingly even longer to slow it down. As such, you'll take lots of headers off the screen until you get the hang of the game, and even though there is the option to continue, you don't always get to start back on the same level.

You are initially armed with an unlimited-ammo (but limited auto) machine gun of some power and a small supply of homing rockets that can fire over walls and doors to hit individual targets. You can buy more goods as the game progresses.

And the best part is, you can figure all of this out without documentation. I did, because my documentation came only in German. Oops.

Graphically, the game is not a stunning tour-de-force but the action is at least very crisp. Music and sound is acceptable. The game is not AGA-enhanced but at the very least seems to be compatible on just about any configuration you can throw at it (no problems whatsoever installing to hard drive and playing off of 040 machines). It even works on the Cyberstorm 1260, providing you disable the special 060 caches.

One of the standouts of Spherical Worlds is the rather nice rendered intro that accompanies the game, as well as the (Alien Breed inspired, perhaps?) pretty level-transition pictures shown as you await your next challenge in the game.

Spherical Worlds isn't the 3D-pounding intensity that a lot of software developers have been trying to pump out lately. In fact, it's a nice breather. While I wouldn't say the game is a sleeper, you definitely have time, at least early on, to plan out your strategy. When you get sloppy, that's when you start plummeting to your death, or forgetting that the floor panel you're crossing is so unstable you need to speed up or else...

My only complaints are few. The control system may be clumsy for a reason, but it makes getting started very difficult. Having only three lives is pretty harsh considering you can easily lose them all before reaching the third level, just by falling to your death around various corners. But Spherical Worlds is a job well done.

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1.34 Review: Bandits on the Information Superhighway

Review: Bandits On the Information Superhighway by Dan Barrett $$\operatorname{By}:$$ Jason Compton

Ok, we'd better get this out of the way. I know it was my first question about the book and I'm sure a lot of other people feel the same way, so here goes.

No, BLAZEMONGER is not listed in the index of the book, but yes, it is mentioned.

There. Now that's out of the way...

Dan Barrett undertook a fairly major task that any normal mortal would have most likely screwed up. That is, in 200 pages or so, tackle a serious issue of modern society without confusing the novice audience or insulting the experienced audience, explaining enough basics to keep novices in line and, above all else, not turning the book into a reference for those who seek to constrict access on the net.

It all works out. Dan takes readers through the net and the possible pitfalls and scams users can wind up getting caught in—including some of the more exaggerated fallacies of the net. Little time is wasted throwing out just some of the potential sources of trouble for net users, such as the general lack of privacy for most data transmission. Also discussed early on is the distinct possibility that just about anything you read online has a measurable probability of being a complete fabrication done for amusement or for illicit profit. That out of the way, Dan moves into more specific areas of danger, such as how to keep information secure (or at least to understand the potential risks of allowing it to be public), how to (somewhat) safely make purchases on the net, and how to eyeball potential scams and fake messages. (Of particular note is the spoofed Bill Gates announcement of the cancellation of Word.)

A lot of what Dan says here you could easily have learned somewhere else under a different name, or under different circumstances. (Pyramid schemes are bad. Be extremely careful when 1-900 numbers get involved. Don't give away your password to anybody ever never ever.) But Dan gives other valuable information, such as a lengthy discourse on spamming vs. crossposting (and how the latter, while it can be annoying to some, is not a bandwidth or drive-space hog). And, although many of us already realize that you can't get a virus or format your hard drive just by reading a piece of E-mail, Dan states in black and red that no, there is no such thing as a Good Times virus.

When Dan tackles the more personal side of the net--actually meeting, befriending, and possibly even romancing people online--things do get a bit

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dicey, because he's dealing with people who have actually been very hurt and violated through such experiences but at the same time doesn't want to scare anybody away or turn them into paranoid maniacs. You wind up doing a lot of emotional bouncing in that section of the book.

The book gets into methods for users to help themselves if they've been scammed, and wraps up with a (somewhat self-serving, I feel, for the panelists involved) panel discussion section discussing the future of the net and the security and safety of it.

Interspersed through the entire book are both real-life and concocted examples of what to look for (and what to avoid), as well as quotes from various knowledgeable people and actual anecdotal experiences, which all give the book a very nice touch. On the whole, while the book didn't tell me volumes that I hadn't learned from being on the net for a few years, it does have a lot of useful reference material. For beginners, or for those who are misinformed about the real risks of the net (and by that, I mean those who think it's a den of iniquity for nobody but crooks and scam artists all out to steal your soul), I'd say it's a required read.

(Oh, yes. While the book is hardly Amiga-specific, we do get the occasional mention in a friendly, contextual way.)

Bandits On the Information Superhighway-Published by O'Reilly & Associates, Inc.
By Daniel J. Barrett - If you don't YELL when you SAY IT...
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Sebastopol, CA 95472 USA

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1.35 Review: Video Backup System 3.2

Review: Video Backup System 3.2 from LSP By:

Jason Compton

Ask me--or just about anyone else--what the most important thing you can do with your hard drive is, and they'll tell you it's to make frequent backups.

And what's the thing that so few people actually do? Yes, the same. Let's face it...making backups is a pain. You can back up to a big old stack of floppies...but this is very tedious for any sizable amount of data. You can back up to a tape drive or removable media drive like a Zip...which isn't quite as bad, but that's an extra hardware cost for a lot of people.

Enter the concept of Video Backup. Lots of us computer enthusiasts have

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purchased a VCR at SOME point in our lives. And videotapes are significantly less expensive than a Zip cartridge. So, even though they're a bit bulky, why not put them to good use?

The VBS comes as three components. The sole floppy disk contains the VBS software for both 68000 and 68020+ Amigas. A standard double-male RCA cable is included for connecting your Amiga's composite video output (standard on some machines, or requiring an A520 adapter on others) to your VCR, and a special serial port device with two male RCA leads connects to both a video monitor and your VCR's video out. (Neat, huh?)

VBS' interface is easy enough to use on a high res (non-laced) video screen, although the 1702 I was forced to use made it just a tad blurrier than I would have liked. (It was also a bit too low on the screen.) The short of it is that you can select to back up any number of files from the hard drive partition of your choice onto video cassette. The software visually represents the programs (which looks quite interesting on your monitor) and the display is recorded by the VCR. The tape can be stored more or less indefinitely, and can be restored to any other partition or device you choose at a later date.

VBS will help you keep track of your backups by creating log and report files recording the files stored on video. You can use counter references to find the correct area of your tape for each backup (the program puts a short title before the actual program code so you can scan through the tape visually if necessary.

The process of making a backup does take a little getting used to. Since VBS cannot actually control your VCR, you have to hit record on your VCR and then commit to the backup by clicking the mouse, after VBS goes through its preparatory steps for creating backups. With just a bit of practice, you'll be able to use VBS to backup at any time by using its timer feature in conjunction with the one on your VCR. Obviously, this is useful if you can't watch the Amiga all day.

Restoring backups is a bit more confusing. VBS stores the directory tree data at the start of the recording. VBS reads this information off of the tape when you want to restore it, but because of the way the video monitor is set up, VBS can't actually TELL you when it has all of the info it needs. (The documentation leads me to believe that you can, but I'm not clear on it.) So after a few seconds of playback, you need to stop the tape and return to the VBS screen to select the files for recovery. After rewinding the tape a bit (just to be sure, in case you overshot the mark), you can commence the restoration.

Floppy backups are possible--VBS will even store them track-by-track, so presumably you could store your demo collection on VHS. (Of course, you may get better mileage just recording your demos...)

On a 68020, you can compress data and get on average 85 megs per hour of videotape. (While I've heard of using the tapes in LP mode, I chose to go with SP for my review.) This puts a \$2 VHS tape at about 170 megs of storage--better than a ZIP or EZ135 disk that costs several times more and holds less. On the other hand, these drives communicate with your Amiga in hundreds of k per seconds. At 85 megs per hour, the VBS is significantly slower. Cost versus convenience, isn't that always the way?

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In my tests of VBS, involving backing up both binary and text files from one drive and restoring on another, I had absolutely zero hitches, in both Fast and Compressed mode. If anything is going to convince me to do backups, this will.

Speed aside, the only minus to the VBS is the length of the two cables on the serial device. You need to have your computer, monitor, and VCR all VERY close to each other. My Toshiba TIMM was absolutely useless for this package, it was just too big to get the cables around. (They're roughly 3 feet in length) Of course, the same goes for a Zip or EZ135, but they're smaller.

The provided manual is sufficient, but if I ran the world I would have laid it out a bit differently, categorizing by "Backup" and "Restore", rather than by "Disk" (floppy) and "File". It's usable.

LSP's Video Backup System is about the cheapest way I can think of to reliably back up your hard drives—and it really does work. Physically, it's a bit of a pain, and it will require you to have some sort of composite—out capabilities (For 3000 users, a special video board is available) as well as to boot your machine in a video configuration. I strongly recommend you consider this an alternative to removable media if backups are your priority.

Lyppens Software Productions 152 E. 84th St. #2D New York, NY 10028 USA 212-744-0973 voice

1.36 Aminet Charts: 08-Jul-96

Visage.lha
AmiBot.lha

DLDiz17.lha

amigavoy.lha

| Updated weekly. Most popular file on top. Dir Size Age Description |File docs/mags 82K 0+Amiga Report Magazine, June 30, 1996 ar409.lha 0+Picture.datatype V43.751 for AGA/CGr PictDT43.lha util/dtype 259K libg++-WARNING.txt dev/ade 6 Recompile instructions 1K util/cdity 75K 0+Multi Function Commodity mcx255.lha MagiC64.lha misc/emu 284K 0+The fastest C64 emulator for Amiga V NewsAgent14.lha comm/tcp 50K 1+NNTP News header/article browser. comm/mail 103K 0+V1.4b - An integrated E-mail system MiniMail.lha mcxp318.lha util/cdity 72K 0+MUI Preferences for MultiCX

0+Picture viewer for OS 3.0+. V39.9

10K 45+Extracts and shows file_id.diz.

0+IRC bot for use with AmiTCP v3 or la

1+Star Trek Voyager Background-pic for 1+AmiTCP based voice chat program

| The most downloaded files from Aminet during the week until 8-Jul-96

| The highest rated programs during the week until 8-Jul-96 | Updated weekly. Best program on top. Please rate all the programs you | download. To do so, send to aminet-server@wuarchive.wustl.edu : | RATE <path> <num>

98K

40K

gfx/show 168K

comm/tcp

util/arc

pix/back

AmiPhone1.91.lha comm/net 140K

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```
| where <path> is the file you want to judge and <num> is a mark from 0..10
| with 10 being the best. You can rate several programs in one mail, but
| don't rate your own programs. Example: RATE dev/gui/mui23usr.lha 8
|File
                 Dir
                            Size Age Description
ToolManager21b.lha util/boot 490K 164+ToolManager 2.1 (Binaries and Docume
SneechV1_5.lha
                game/2play 390K 16+NEW Vers of *THE BEST* Multi Snake G
voxel087.lha
                           788K 13+Voxel Engine 0.87 by Silicon Motion
                  gfx/aga
                  util/cdity 395K 22+MAJOR UPDATE! The mother of the WB-U
MCP110.lha
Base64Coders.lha
                                  1+Fast base64 (MIME) decoder/encoder.
                 comm/mail
                             10K
                             797K
mui33usr.lha
                  dev/qui
                                  18+MagicUserInterface V3.3, user files
                 game/demo 482K
xtrdem2a.lha
                                  4+XTreme Racing Demo2, including new V
AlgoMusic1_6.lha mus/misc 654K
                                   1+Plays great algorithmic techno tunes
AWeb.lha
                             352K
                                  5+AWeb 1.2 DEMO, limited features
                 biz/demo
Morton.lha
                 game/demo 430K
                                 2+Cute but tricky platformer
amimsx23.1ha
                 misc/emu 266K
                                 2+Great MSX/MSX2 emulator for Amiga Co
                                  1+GMPlay update V1.1 -> V1.2
GMPlay12_Upd.lha mus/midi
                             25K
                 util/dtype 30K
FontDT-1.3.lha
                                   3+DataType for Amiga fonts
Executive.lha
                  util/misc 527K 32+UNIX-like task scheduler (V1.30)
thor23 bbs.lha
                  comm/mail 74K
                                   4+BBS archive for THOR 2.3 (QWK/FIDO/B
AmiPhone1.91.lha comm/net 140K
                                 1+AmiTCP based voice chat program
                 dev/asm 259K
PhxAss432.lha
                                 5+PhxAss V4.32 68xxx Macro Assembler
                                  0+Amiga Report Magazine, June 30, 1996
ar409.lha
                 docs/mags 82K
dgtrainerV1_1.lha game/patch 2K
                                  2+New version (1.1) of trainer for DeL
                                  6+MetaFileViewer-Convert AMF, WMF to CG
metaview.lha
                  gfx/conv
                             35K
GMPlay12.lha
                  mus/midi
                             1.4M
                                   1+Plays MIDI-Files with your Amiga (02
                                   0+APlayer - An allround Amiga music pl
aplay211.lha
                  mus/play
                            589K
                                   2+Incredible 800x600 8-colour WB backd
Esprita4000.lha
                             33K
                 pix/back
Mos8-ami.lha
                 pix/back
                            192K
                                  3+Two MacOS8 (Copland) alike backdrops.
68060inside.lha
                            37K 10+Bootpic and/or backgroundpic 68060 i
                 pix/boot
                 pix/trace
                             97K
                                  3+Cool LW StarTrek based render
Depart.jpg
                             201K
                                  2+This is the AMIGA-Workbench!
DragnetWB.lha
                 pix/wb
```

1.37 Aminet Charts: 22-Jul-96

```
| Updated weekly. Most popular file on top.
|File
                 Dir
                             Size Age Description
FastIPrefs4028.lha util/boot
                            31K
                                  0+FastIPrefs 40.28 & FastWBPattern 40.
PictDT43.lha
               util/dtype 260K
                                   0+Picture.datatype V43.753 for AGA/CGr
                                   1+A file Viewer/Player for Voyager. V1
VoyView.lha
                  comm/www
                             11K
megafloppy.lha
                  disk/misc
                              18K
                                    0+Save 1120 kb on a floppy !! BETA
                             175K
                                    0+Ver 2.4 MPEG with SOUND (GUI 4 mp &
MPEGIntuition.lha gfx/show
mwm108.lha
                  comm/www
                             122K
                                    0+Magic Web Maker v1.08.
TheHuntIsOn.lzh
                  game/shoot 338K
                                    1+New 3D Maze Game for All Amigas
amicdfs231.lha
                  disk/cdrom 123K
                                   0+AmiCDFS (AmiCDROM) v2.31
                 biz/patch 3K
                                   0+A patch for CED 3.5c & CGraphX
CedFix.lha
CheckMMU.lha
                 util/moni
                              2K
                                    0+Checks if your CPU really has an MMU
FX111.lha
                  util/wb
                             72K
                                    0+Workbench Soundeditor, supports up t
VT2.86.lha
                  util/virus 793K
                                    0+V2.86 of the famous Viruskiller by H
                 util/boot
                             3K
                                   0+A powerful Kickstart loader
Pseudokick.lha
MacWB.lha
                  util/boot
                              66K
                                    0+The successor of WB95 conquers the W
```

| The most downloaded files from Aminet during the week until 22-Jul-96

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```
0+Shapeshifter-Survey, PLEASE ANSWER
ShShSurvey.lha
                 misc/emu
                             3K
                             31K
qlib-v100.lha
                                  0+Show Ver/Rev of DTypes, Classes, Libs
                 util/wb
                                   0+A animation player in window
AnimInWindow.lha
                 gfx/show
                             38K
IBrowseButtons.lha comm/www
                              3K
                                   O+IBrowse replacement Navigation/Pictu
| The highest rated programs during the week until 22-Jul-96
| Updated weekly. Best program on top. Please rate all the programs you
| download. To do so, send to aminet-server@wuarchive.wustl.edu :
| RATE <path> <num>
| where <path> is the file you want to judge and <num> is a mark from 0...10
| with 10 being the best. You can rate several programs in one mail, but
| don't rate your own programs. Example: RATE dev/gui/mui23usr.lha 8
                 Dir
                            Size Age Description
|File
|-----
                            ____
SneechV1_5.lha
                game/2play 390K 18+NEW Vers of *THE BEST* Multi Snake G
Base64Coders.lha comm/mail 10K
                                 3+Fast base64 (MIME) decoder/encoder.
                misc/emu 284K
                                 2+The fastest C64 emulator for Amiga V
MagiC64.lha
AlgoMusic1_6.lha mus/misc 654K
                                 3+Plays great algorithmic techno tunes
AWeb.lha
                 biz/demo
                           436K
                                 1+AWeb 1.2b DEMO, limited features
Morton.lha
                 game/demo 430K 4+Cute but tricky platformer
                misc/emu 266K 4+Great MSX/MSX2 emulator for Amiga Co
amimsx23.lha
GMPlay12_Upd.lha mus/midi
                            25K 3+GMPlay update V1.1 -> V1.2
Executive.lha util/misc 527K 34+UNIX-like task scheduler (V1.30)
                 docs/mags 82K
ar409.lha
                                 2+Amiga Report Magazine, June 30, 1996
                 game/role 1.0M
                                 2+Official Amiga Nethack 3.2.1 binarie
NH32P1v2.lha
                 gfx/conv
metaview.lha
                            35K
                                  8+MetaFileViewer-Convert AMF, WMF to CG
                                  3+Plays MIDI-Files with your Amiga (02
GMPlay12.lha
                 mus/midi
                            1.4M
                mus/play 589K 2+APlayer - An allround Amiga music pl
aplay211.lha
Esprita4000.lha pix/back 33K 4+Incredible 800x600 8-colour WB backd
Heil95.lha
                 pix/misc
                            18K 7+A new true Win 95 logo. Heil Bill!
                 util/cdity 75K 2+Multi Function Commodity
mcx255.lha
                 util/cdity 72K
                                  2+MUI Preferences for MultiCX
mcxp318.lha
                 comm/mail 135K 18+MUI Internet mailer for AmiTCP
YAM12.lha
AmiFTP-1.607.lha comm/tcp 271K
                                  2+Easy to use GUI FTP client for OS 2.
               game/demo 482K
xtrdem2a.lha
                                  6+XTreme Racing Demo2, including new V
AmFTP153.lha
                 comm/tcp 196K 19+AmFTP - ftp/Archie/ADT/ADT-Find Clie
                game/demo 693K 1+Preview of 3D action game. AGA only.
Testament1.lha
navpro.lha
                 gfx/3d 128K 4+Visualiser of the Navigator VR Rende
MKL Match.lha
                 pix/art
                           108K 3+Great picture of a flaming match by
                 gfx/show 168K
                                 2+Picture viewer for OS 3.0+. V39.9
Visage.lha
                 util/virus 11K
                                 5+Removes the "Happy New Year 96" viru
killhappy.lha
                                  4+Displays hardware config. to remote
shocon12a.lha
                 comm/tcp
                            6K
```

1.38 Amiga Report Mailing List

Amiga Report Mailing List

If you have an internet mailing address, you can receive Amiga Report in

UUENCODED

form each week as soon as the issue is released. To be put on

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the list, send Email to majordomo@amigalib.com

Your subject header will be ignored. In the body of the message, enter subscribe areport

The system will automatically pull your e-mail address from the message header

Your account must be able to handle mail of any size to ensure an intact copy. For example, many systems have a 100K limit on incoming messages.

1.39 uuencode

UUDecoding Amiga Report

If you receive Amiga Report from the direct mailing list, it will arrive in UUEncoded format. This format allows programs and archive files to be sent through mail by converting the binary into combinations of ASCII characters. In the message, it will basically look like a lot of trash surrounded by begin <filename> and end, followed by the size of the file.

To UUDecode Amiga Report, you first need to get a UUDecoding program, such as UUxT by Asher Feldman. This program is available on Aminet in

pub/aminet/arc/

Then you must download the message that it is contained in. Don't worry about message headers, the UUDecoding program will ignore them.

There is a GUI interface for UUxT, which should be explained in the docs. However, the quickest method for UUDecoding the magazine is to type

uuxt x ar.uu

at the command prompt. You will then have to decompress the archive with lha, and you will then have Amiga Report in all of its AmigaGuide glory.

If you have any questions, you can write to Jason Compton ar410 47 / 79

1.40 Aminet

Aminet

To get Amiga Report from Aminet, simply FTP to any Aminet site, CD to docs/mags. All the back issues are located there as well.

Sites: ftp.netnet.net, ftp.wustl.edu, ftp.luth.se, ftp.doc.ic.ac.uk

1.41 World Wide Web

World Wide Web

AR is also available on the WWW! Some of the mirror sites include a mail form, allowing you to mail to Amiga Report from the web site and some also include a search engine allowing you to search recent issues for specific topics and keywords (if your browser has forms capability). Simply tell your browser to open one of the following URLs (pick a location nearest you for the best performance):

```
Australia
     http://ArtWorks.apana.org.au/AmigaReport.html
     http://www.bengala.saccii.net.au/ar/main.html
     http://www.livewire.com.au/amiga/cucug/ar/ar.html (w/search and mail)
     http://www.phys.unsw.edu.au/~pec/amiga.html
Germany
     http://www.fhi-berlin.mpg.de/amiga/ar/
Greece
     http://www.acropolis.net/clubs/amiga/amigareport/
Hungary
     http://mm.iit.uni-miskolc.hu/Data/AR
Italy
    http://www.vol.it/mirror/amiga/ar/ar.html
Poland
     http://www.pwr.wroc.pl/AMIGA/AR/
Sweden
     http://www.lysator.liu.se/amiga/ar/
United Kingdom
     http://ppewww.ph.gla.ac.uk/~gowdy/Amiga/AmigaReport/
     http://www.iprom.com/amigaweb/amiga.html/ar/ar.html (w/search and mail)
     http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Users/kcci1
USA
     http://www.cucug.org/ar/ar.html (w/search and mail)
     http://www.omnipresence.com/Amiga/News/AR/
```

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Additional Amiga information can also be accessed at this URL: http://www.cucug.org/amiga.html

Mosaic for the Amiga can be found on Aminet in directory comm/net, or (using anonymous ftp) on max.physics.sunysb.edu

1.42 Copyright Information

Amiga Report International Online Magazine
July 24, 1996 Issue No. 4.10
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1.43 Amiga Report Writing Guidelines

Amiga Report Writing Guidelines

The three most important requirements for submissions to Amiga Report are:

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- 1. Please use English.
- 2. Please use paragraphs. It's hard on the eyes to have solid screens of text. If you don't know where to make a paragraph break, guess.
- 3. Please put a blank line in between paragraphs. It makes formatting the magazine much much easier.
- 4. Please send us your article in ASCII format.

Note: If you want to check ahead of time to make sure we'll print your article, please write to the

Editor

Please stipulate as well if you wish to retain copyright or hand it over to the editor.

1.44 Editor's Choice

Editor's Choice

These are selected products, reviewed by myself, that I've liked. So, I've landed them and decided to sell them.

All prices are in \$US.

John McDonough's The Music Maker, a Contemporary New Age CD composed on the Amiga, is available through Amiga Report.

The crisp, clean sounds and calm melodies present a welcome alternative to many pounding alternatives.

Available for US\$12.00 plus \$3 shipping in the US. Non-US orders, please contact before ordering. Check or money order accepted addressed to

Jason Compton

, shipments made by the artist.

 Product	Issue Reviewed		Amiga Report Reader Price
GPFax Amiga Fax Software	2.30	\$100.00	\$60.00
(Class 1 and 2)	I		1
Micro R+D CD-ROM Volume 1	2.25	\$69.00	\$30.00
(Includes early Transition			
graphics converter and loads	I		1

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of artwork)				-		
		1				
Micro R+D CD-ROM Volume 2	2.26	1	\$99.95		\$46.75	
(Includes entire Nature's		1				
Backdrop series)						

Orders may be placed via check, money order, or postal cheque, made out to Jason Compton. Visa/Mastercard accepted via post or E-Mail. No CODs.

Mail all orders to

Jason Compton

. Orders will be processed by

Amiga Report and drop-shipped from Micro R+D.

In the US, add \$5/\$10/\$20 for UPS shipping, ground/blue/red label, respectively. Overseas: It is recommended that you consider \$20 to be the minimum cost for shipping. If you plan to order more than one item, E-mail for shipping cost.

Sidewinder's Future Shock II CD is now available through Amiga Report. Featuring 15 Amiga-generated tunes totalling 71 minutes, Eric Gieseke's work is captured on an Amiga-independent media.

Available for US\$12.00. Please add \$5 for shipping.

Make check or money order payable to

Jason Compton

. Orders will be

drop-shipped from Sidewinder Productions.

For overseas orders, please contact through E-Mail before ordering.

1.45 Portal

Portal: A Great Place For Amiga Users

The Portal Information Network's Amiga Zone

The AFFORDABLE alternative for online Amiga information "Not just another UNIX Shell account!"

Portal is the home of acclaimed Amiga Zone, a full-service online SIG (Special Interest Group) for Amiga owners and users. We promise, and WE DELIVER ongoing & aggressive Amiga support! Now, more than ever, with so many Amiga magazines gone or shrunken, you need a viable, professionally-maintained resource for information, software, and a link to the world-wide Amiga community.

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You can dial into Portal to access the Amiga Zone in many ways: direct dial to our San Jose, CA high-speed modems (you pay for the phone call if it's not local), or though any SprintNet or Compuserve indial anywhere (with a small hourly fee) or via the World-wide Internet "telnet" program to portal.com (no hourly fee).

Even Delphi and BIX users can Telnet into Portal for a flat \$19.95 a month, with *unlimited* use.

Portal is NOT just another shell service! Its Online system is fully menu-driven with on-screen commands and help, and you can easily customize it for your favorite terminal program and screen size.

Some of Portal/Amiga Zone's amazing features include:

- * 2.5 GIGabytes of Amiga-specific file space we have so much Amiga Stuff online, we've lost count!
- * The *entire* Fred Fish collection of freely distributable software, online. ALL 1100 disks!
- \star Fast, Batch Zmodem file transfer protocol. Download up to 100 files or 100 email letters at once, of any size, with one command.
- * Amiga vendor areas with many companies participating.
- * So many incoming lines you'll probably NEVER get a busy signal
- * 40 "regular" Amiga libraries with over 12,000 files. Hot new stuff arrives daily.
- * No upload/download "ratios" EVER. Download as much as you want, as often as you want, and never feel pressured doing it.
- * Live, interactive nightly chats with Amiga folks whose names you will recognize. Special conferences. Random chance prize contests. We have given away thousands of bucks worth of Amiga prizes more than any other online service.
- * Message bases where you can ask questions about *anything* Amiga related and get quick replies from the experts.
- * Amiga Internet mailing lists for Imagine, AMosaic, LightWave, ImageFX, Picasso II & others feed right into the Zone message bases. Read months worth of postings. No need to clutter your mailbox with them.
- * FREE unlimited Internet Email with 5 meg of free storage.

 Your email is private, secure, and never censored or monitored.
- * A FREE UNIX Shell account with another 5 meg of free storage.
 You can run AMosaic and other Browses via your shell and explore the
 vast World Wide Web! Intermediate to advanced users can use
 any standard UNIX mail and news utilities, compilers, and other
 tools. Ask for your free UNIX book when you sign up.
- * A home for your own Web page! Your UNIX Shell on Portal is linked to Portal's Web Server. Create your own WWW pages for the whole world to access. No extra charges!
- * Portal has the Usenet. Thousands of "newsgroups" in which you can read and post articles about virtually any subject you can possibly imagine. Newsgroups are not censored!
- * Other Portal SIGs (Special Interest Groups) online for Mac, IBM, Sun, UNIX, Science Fiction, Disney, and dozens more. ALL Portal SIGs are accessible to ALL Portal customers with NO surcharges ever. You never worry "Ooops... Am I paying more for this area?" again!
- * Portal was THE FIRST online service to offer a full package of Internet features: IRC, FTP, TELNET, MUDS, LIBS wrapped into user-friendly menus. And you get FREE unlimited usage of all of them.
- \star Our exclusive PortalX by Steve Tibbett, the graphical "front end" for

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Portal which will let you automatically click'n'download your waiting email, messages, Usenet groups and binary files! Reply to mail and messages offline using your favorite editor and your replies are sent automatically the next time you log into Portal. (PortalX requires Workbench 2.04 or higher)

 \star Portal does NOT stick it to high speed modem users. Whether you log in at 1200 or 2400 or 9600 or 14.4K you pay the same low price.

To join Portal or for more information call:

```
1-800-433-6444 (voice) 9a.m.-5p.m. Mon-Fri, Pacific Time 1-408-973-9111 (voice) 9a.m.-5p.m. Mon-Fri, Pacific Time
```

1-408-725-0561 (modem 3/12/2400) 24 hours every day 1-408-725-0560 (modem 96/14400) 24 hours every day

or enter "C PORTAL" from any Sprintnet dial-in, or "portal" at any CI\$ network dialin, or telnet to "portal.com" from anywhere, and then enter "online" and then "info"

or send email to "sales@portal.com"

Visit the Amiga Zone Web page at http://www.portal.com/~harv

Call and join today. Tell the friendly Portal Customer Service representative, "The Amiga Zone sent me." Ask for the "Interactive" account to get the Amiga Zone, the Online System and a UNIX Shell for only \$19.95 a month.

The Portal Information Network accepts MasterCard, Visa, or you can pre-pay any amount by personal check or money order. The Portal Online System is a trademark of The Portal Information Network. SLIP, UUCP, custom domain and corporate accounts are also available.

1.46 Distribution BBSes - Asia

Distribution BBSes - Asia

-=JAPAN=-

* GIGA SONIC FACTOR *
Email: kfr01002@niftyserve.or.jp
+81-(0)564-55-4864

1.47 Distribution BBSes - Australasia

Distribution BBSes - Australasia

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-=NEW ZEALAND=-

* BITSTREAM BBS *
FidoNET 3:771/850.0 AmigaNET 41:644/850.0 +64-(0)3-548-5321

-=VICTORIA=-

* NORTH WEST AMIGA BBS *
EMail: mozza@nwamiga.apana.org.au Fido: 3:633/265.0
BBS Phone/Fax: +61 3 9331 2831 USR Courier V.Everything

1.48 Distribution BBSes - Europe

Distribution BBSes - Europe

-=FINLAND=-

* HANG UP BBS * Email: helpdesk@hangup.nullnet.fi

+358 - 0 - 278 8054

* LAHO BBS *
+358-64-414 1516 +358-64-414 0400
+358-64-414 6800 +358-64-423 1300

* KINDERGARTEN *
Email: matthias.bartosik@hut.fi
+358-0-881 32 36

-=FRANCE=-

* DYNAMIX BBS * Email: erlsoft@mcom.mcom.fr +33.1.48.89.96.66 Minitel to Modem

-=GERMANY=-

* DOOM OF DARKNESS *
Email: marc_doerre@doom.ping.de
+49 (0)4223 8355 19200
AR-Infoservice, contact Kai Szymanski kai@doom.gun.de

* IMAGINE BBS *
Email: Sysop@imagine.commo.mcnet.de +49-69-4304948

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Login: GAST (Download area: "Amiga-Report")

* LEGUANS BYTE CHANNEL *

Usenet: andreas@lbcmbx.in-berlin.de 49-30-8110060 49-30-8122442

Login as User: "amiga", Passwd: "report"

* REDEYE BBS *

* STINGRAY DATABASE *
EMail: sysop@sting-db.zer.sub.org.dbp.de
+49 208 496807

* VISION THING BBS * ++49(0)345 663914
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