RISC

THE MAGAZINE FOR
USERS OF ACORN RISC

UPDATE ...
Owing to internal
reorganisation, the July issue
of RISC User magazine will be
mailed out during the second
week of July.

LOOKING FORWARD

Like all of the magazines, this editorial
was written many weeks ahead of when
you, the reader, have a chance to see it.
For example, I have recently attended
Acorn s press launch for the exciting
new range of Risc PCs.

Press launches can take a number of
formats, some more successful and
interesting than others. In the recent
past Acorn has gone for relatively
straightforward presentations, with a
series of corporate speakers addressing
a seated audience while relevant slides
of facts and figures are slickly flashed
onto a screen.

This one was different. It was more in
the nature of a celebration of what has
been achieved, and of the promise for
the future. It would be impossible to
describe, and I won t attempt to, apart
from the climax of the show. We saw a
landscape of Risc PCs and other
equipment, in every imaginable
combination and configuration, against a
backdrop of what seemed like hundreds
of stars twinkling in a darkened sky. All
was bathed in a warm glow, yet
highlighted by a complex laser light
extravaganza, and accompanied
by resounding synthesized music.
By hidden means the entire seated
audience was rotated as by an
unseen hand within this vision of
Acorn s future. And vision is really
what it is all about.

Acorn has a superb machine in the Risc
PC. It is all and more that anyone might
have wished (though no doubt some will
quibble with that statement). But the
main challenge for Acorn has yet to
come. I spoke afterwards with Acorn s
Managing Director, Sam Wauchope,
and while full of praise for all that
Acorn s staff have achieved, he was
quick to acknowledge the truth of this. In
his view no one doubts Acorn s
technological capabilities. It has long
championed the RISC processor as the
way ahead, and is a world leader in
innovative low-cost RISC-based
products. The real challenge now is
whether Acorn has the marketing and
business acumen to make the Risc PC
a major success.

There is no doubt that many of Acorn s
friends , those users of all kinds already
committed to the Acorn platform, will be
queuing up in droves for some time to
come to get their own Risc PC. The
challenge is whether the Risc PC will
capture new users and new markets.
Sam is confident of Acorn s capabilities,
and I have to say, as one who has
sometimes been a doubting Thomas in
the past, that I feel more optimistic for
Acorn than I can remember for many a
year. Wait until more of the hardware
and software developers let their
imaginations run riot with the Risc PC s
capabilities, and I feel quite confident in
saying, You ain t seen nothing yet! In
my mind the Risc PC is a genuine world
beater.

AND FAREWELL

My time as co-editor of RISC User is at
an end. I was with the magazine from
the start, and editor of BEEBUG before

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that, so it has been a long stint. I say goodbye particularly to the many friends I have come across in all of these years - thank you for all your support. You will, I hope, continue to see my name from time to time in the magazine as a contributor, and I certainly intend to retain a strong interest in all things Acorn. As for my own future, I just can t wait until I can get my own Risc PC, and explore its capabilities to the full. Schicksal!

Mike Williams

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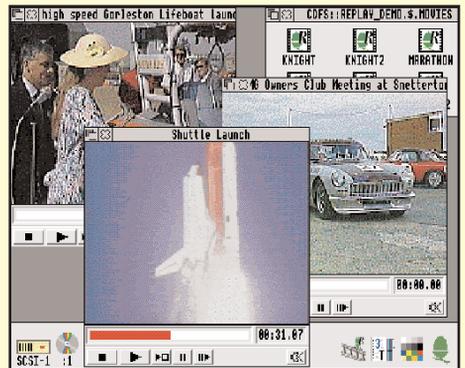
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