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RISC

THE MAGAZINE FOR
USERS OF ACORN RISC

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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

CONTENTS

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

FEATURES

What's Cooking at Eidos	12
Exploring Replay	16
Risc PC: First Impressions	20
Using Colour on the Risc PC	27
Risc PC Hints and Tips	38
Education: Face the Music!	40
DTP: Getting the best from Ovation	46
Wimp Topics - Useful SWI Calls	48
The PC Emulator Survival Guide	51
Into the Arc:	

System Variables - The Hidden Resource

54

UTILITIES AND APPLICATIONS

AutoStereograms	31
The RISC User Address Book	65
NoiseBox	69

REVIEWS

Impression Publisher	8
Expert Witness	22
Acorn Access	24
CDFast	34
Longman Logotron's Advantage Spreadsheet	44

REGULARS

News	4
RISC User Disc Contents	36
Hints and Tips	58



Impression Publisher page 8



What's Cooking at Eidos page 12



Acorn Replay page 16



Risc PC: First Impressions page 20