RISC

THE MAGAZINE FOR USERS OF ACORN RISC

As Lee Calcraft mentioned in his editorial last month, I shall be looking after RISC User for a while. It will be my second spell in the magazine s engine room, having been Technical Editor a few years ago, so I m looking forward to renewing old acquaintances and making some new ones.

The future for Acorn, and by implication for RISC User, looks bright at the moment. We intend to capitalise on this fully, and to maintain RISC User s position as the leading subscription magazine in the Acorn market. We have always tried to make RISC User a thoroughly practical magazine - one which builds over the issues into a comprehensive body of knowledge available for reference in the future, rather than one which is simply read for the latest news and then discarded. We keep most back issues in stock, and if you want to find a particular article in a previous issue, the best way is to use ArcScan.

This approach makes RISC User ideal for the committed user, who wants to know how and why things work, to write programs, or to increase productivity by getting the best out of software and having access to useful ideas. But we also recognise that many less experienced users need to know at a very basic level what their computer can do for them, without being confused by the jargon that many of us take for granted. So we will be starting very soon a new section in the magazine for less experienced readers, with clear step-by-step descriptions of the basics, simple hints and tips, and explanations of the terms that are likely to confuse.

This will in no way replace our regular features, which will continue to bring you the kind of in-depth information for which we are renowned. No magazine that caters for diverse interest groups and expertise levels can ever please everyone all the time, but if you feel that your own areas of interest are not getting a fair deal, then do let us know - we compile the magazine to please you, not ourselves.

Interactive multimedia is the big story at the moment - see the article in this issue. Having written the article, I was interested to hear that a House of Commons Select Committee has urged the government to invest £15bn in the information superhighway by constructing a nationwide cable network for the purpose. It s open to question whether this will happen as the result of a nationwide project - it s more likely to be done piecemeal. But the important point is that when an idea is adopted by MPs, it usually indicates that it is already well established in the nation s consciousness. The omens must be good for companies such as Acorn who are ahead of the

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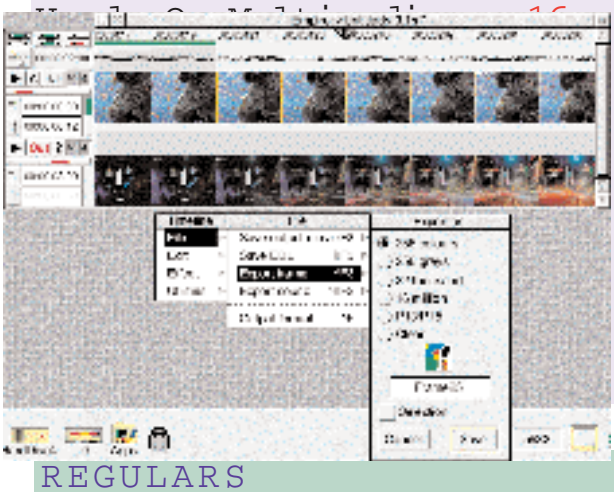

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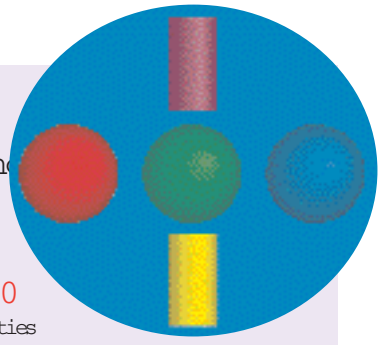

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