

W O T, NO SCSI?

Having had a little time to digest the capabilities of the Risc PC, I think Acorn are to be congratulated, if a little belatedly. However, I do have some criticisms, the main one being the lack of a SCSI interface, even on the top-of-the-range machine. With CD-ROMs, removable hard discs etc. being so common these days (and with the Risc PC box being designed to take these), it seems a very strange decision to omit the SCSI interface that they all need.

The use of SIMMs is excellent, but why only two sockets? Most PCs have at least four, often eight.

I suspect the accountants have been having too much say in the design process. I personally believe that accountants are the curse of modern living.

So come on Acorn, give us a real treat this autumn. Bring out a top-of-

the-range machine with a fast ARM700, a high-speed SCSI interface and cached hard disc, more memory sockets and improved ADFS and desktop, and let's blow the socks off the opposition!

Peter Vince

You have a point, but not everyone will want SCSI, so why put the cost up for all when there are SCSI cards readily available? Also, some of the newer CD-ROM drives use IDE. I don't know if you will get all your wishes at Acorn World, but I think there could be a few socks in orbit before very long.

TURBO OR NOT TURBO?

I see from Hints & Tips (RISC User 7:7) that I am not alone in having had problems with Turbo Drivers. In my case, it was the HP PaintJet Turbo Driver which was clobbering my dot-matrix printer (still on the standard !Printers driver). I

did find several solutions to this problem, but they are very likely illegal, so here is my recommendation - for those with a bit of spare disc capacity.

As far as I can see, the Turbo Drivers are only useful now because Impression, ArtWorks et al do not support background printing. If one has the new Acorn Printer Manager, there are a number of new printer definitions available which seem to support the PaintJet perfectly adequately. It seems to me that this, together with the fact that Turbo Driver output to disc is in some non-standard (and therefore non-transportable) format, makes a Turbo Driver more of a liability than an asset.

I have dumped the Turbo Driver, and returned to sending all Style/Impression output to disc in the time-honoured fashion using two instances of the printer driver, one of which



P i n B o a r d

REFERENCES NEEDED

Despite excellent graphics and document processing facilities, Acorn machines lack one essential piece of software for the professional scientist, namely a reference management database such as EndNote for the Macintosh or Papyrus etc. on PC compatibles. For some years now I have used a general purpose database (Flexifile) for this purpose but it cannot provide the specific functions offered by these specialist packages. One possibility is to use one of the DOS packages under the emulator, and though this apparently does work it is rather slow and cumbersome.

Last year, during yet another paper re-write, in frustration I invested in Longman's S-Base in the hope of writing my own reference manager but I have found the learning curve rather too steep for the time available, which brings me to the question... Does anybody know of an existing reference manager for RISC OS, or are there any software houses out there interested in filling this niche? Failing that would anyone with the appropriate expertise with S-Base be interested in a collaborative effort to write such a package?

Dr T P Dawson

Check out our review of Knowledge Organiser II elsewhere in this issue - it might be just what you need.

MAC-IN-DOS

In RISC User 7:8 Gareth Elderkin asked if any readers knew of an alternative source of Mac-in-DOS, the PC Mac disc reader. Alan Gentle has written to say that although HENR no longer lists this program, it does have an alternative in MacSee4b, which is available for download as micros/llmpc/dos/h/h181/macsee4b.zip. It is shareware and the downloaded version has certain limitations - the full version is available for around \$80.

Mac-in-DOS was first mentioned in the PC Emulator Survival Guide in RISC User 7:5. Since then Computer Concepts has released its MacFS

Do drop us a line with your views on Acorn, RISC User or life in general. And if you need help, Pinboard might put you in touch with someone who has the answer.