

ar207

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REVISION HISTORY

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%% February 25, 1994 \\\ Issue No. 2.07 %%

Where to find Amiga Report

Click on the button of the BBS nearest you for information on that system.

FREQ the filename "AR.LHA" for the most current issue of Amiga Report!

Non-FidoNet Systems

1.3 Amiga Report Main Menu

Amiga Report International Online Magazine	Issue No. 2.07	February 25, 1994
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%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%% "Your Weekly Source for Amiga Information" %%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
|_____|

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The Editor's Desk	Mail Order Survey	FTP Announcements
Reader Mail	Dealer Directory	Distribution BBS's
Amiga News	In Review	The Clipper Chip

SPECIAL FEATURES

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Emulation Rambler ..... Jason Compton
Amiga in Business ..... Andre Perusse
Video Backup System ..... John Collier
A600 In Use ..... Kieth Foldesi
Slow Machine - Great Display Blues ..... Roy Teale
Inexpensive Computers ..... David Tiberio
Take Another Look ..... Thomas Reamer
Snow ..and the Amiga ..... Sean Graham
Compact Disks ..... David Schofield

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%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
%%                                DELPHI    PORTAL    FIDO    INTERNET                                %%
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1.4 The Editor's Desk

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%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
%% The Editor's Desk ..... By Robert Niles %%
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

```

Welcome back!

Well it was a nice relaxing "vacation", but good to be back!
 We've had a nice response to my plea for more of you to write articles
 for Amiga Report. And here they are! I thank you all!! Keep them coming!

We've had some good news and bad news this week to report.
 Looks like there will be no World of Commodore Amiga in New York this
 year. I have no idea why, I've tried to contact CBM on this, and have
 recieved no response from them.

Also concerning the CD32, it looks like Electronics Boutique will not
 be carrying these machines, but stated that if they get a large request
 for them, they might change their minds. BUT it looks like Software Etc.
 will be. Hopefully we'll get you more on this.

There's been someone on UseNet ...in c.s.a.advocacy in fact, stating that
 the AAA machine is dead. Well my response to this is that it isn't even
 out yet....don't jump the gun. No, he's not out there shouting the death
 of the AAA from fact. This person is well known for ..um, er, shooting
 himself in the foot. I tell you, the stuff I hear from him is getting
 a little old!

Before anyone starts jumping the gun, I would suggest that you don't
 start worrying until the fat lady STOPS singing :)

Until next weekenjoy!

1.5 Delphi

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%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
%%      Delphi Internet Services -- Your Connection to the World!      %%
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

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Amiga Report International Online Magazine is available every week in the Amiga SIG on DELPHI. Amiga Report readers are invited to join DELPHI and become a part of the friendly community of Amiga enthusiasts there.

SIGNING UP WITH DELPHI

=====

Using a personal computer and modem, members worldwide access
DELPHI services via a local phone call

JOIN -- DELPHI

Via modem, dial up DELPHI at 1-800-695-4002
then...

When connected, press RETURN once or twice
and....

At Username: type JOINDELPHI and press RETURN,
At Password: type AMIGAREPORT and press RETURN.

DELPHI's best plan is the 20/20 plan. It gives you 20 hours each month
for the low price of only \$19.95! Additional hours are only \$1.50 each!
This covers 1200, 2400 and even 9600 connections!

For more information, and details on other plans, call
DELPHI Member Services at 1-800-695-4005

SPECIAL FEATURES

Complete Internet connection -- Telnet, FTP, IRC, Gopher, E-Mail and more!
(Internet option is \$3/month extra)

SIGs for all types of computers -- Amiga, IBM, Macintosh, Atari, etc.

Large file databases!

SIGs for hobbies, video games, graphics, and more!

Business and world news, stock reports, etc.

Grolier's Electronic Encyclopedia!

DELPHI - It's getting better all the time!

[illegible]

No Official Amiga Report Distribution Site in your local calling area? Are you tired of waiting for your local BBS or online service to get Amiga Report each week? If so, have we got a deal for you!

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 the list, send Email to rniles@hebron.connected.com. 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.

Please do not send general Email to Amiga-Report-Request, only requests for subscription additions or deletions (or if you are not receiving an intact copy). All other correspondence concerning the mailing list should be directed to Robert Niles at rniles@hebron.connected.com. Also, please do not send subscription list requests or changes to the editor.

Many thanks to PORTAL Communications for setting this service up for us!

P.S.: Please be sure to include your Email address in the text of your request message, it makes adding it to the list much easier. Thanks!

** IMPORTANT NOTICE: PLEASE be certain your host can accept mail over
 ** 100K! We have had a lot of bouncebacks recently from systems with a
 ** 100K size limit for incoming mail. If we get a bounceback with your
 ** address in it, it will be removed from the list. Thanks!

~~~~~

## 1.8 In Review

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%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
%% In Review                                     By Rick Gideon %%
%% PD/SW/FW Reviews                             rgideon@hebron.connected.com %%
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

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Hello fellow Amiga users,

Well, as you know Amiga Report has changed hands from Robert Glover to Robert Niles, so Mr. Niles has formed a new staff, I am the new Assistant editor for AR. To tell you a little about myself; I live in Washington State, I go to Central Kitsap High School in Silverdale, Washington, and I am the Sysop of the Amiga area on (\*\*\*\*WARNING! SHAMELESS PLUG!!!!\*\*\*\*) TSCNet BBS 1-206-692-2388, the Amiga area has not been finished yet, but I am importing new files from Aminet soon, well enough of this psycho-babble =).

I will most likely be grabbing articles off usenet to be published in AR, mostly Amiga, maybe even some other platform news, if it's worthwhile to publish. Robert and I will be discussing the future of AR soon, we are hoping to plan some VERY nice surprises for you, the readers. We are also hoping to grab a few more staff writers, and maybe change the format of AR. I hope my articles on new Public Domain/ Shareware programs will benefit you with helpful information. The reason we are doing this online magazine is for you, the Commodore Amiga consumer. Well down below I'll put the addresses

you can reach me at.

Rick Gideon

rgideon@hebron.connected.com <<--- Preferred address

rick\_gideon@tsynet.eskimo.com

rickg@eskimo.com

or

On IRC "RKM" or "FaLLAcY"

WOW! This week the rumor mill has been producing many interesting things.

First, rumors of the AAA chipset being tabled this has not been confirmed by anyone, although I have heard it from many people. Also rumors of World of Commodore Amiga, New York being cancelled, this has pretty much been verified, by reports on usenet and by people on IRC. Also, it has pretty much been verified that Commodore Austrailia has been closed and is being sold, this has been apparently been caused by debts that C= Austrilia had.

As you can tell I spend a lot of my time on IRC and usenet and cruising AmiNet (probably too much of my time). During Amiga Reports week off I have been busy gathering information from all the helpful people on the Internet.

Well during these past two weeks lots of new Public Domain/ Shareware has been hatched onto Aminet. I have not had time to review a new program yet. But you will find some reviews in this issue of AR, taken from Comp.sys.amiga.reviews. many of the new programs , MUI 2.0, ppsnow 4.0, and many, many more. In the next upcoming weeks I will do a head-to-head comparison of many of the most popular picture format viewers, ViewTek, FastJPEG, FastGIF.

Well, I hope you enjoyed my first article as Assistant Editor for Amiga Report.

Rick Gideon

## 1.9 Amiga News

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%% Amiga News                                     %%
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Scientific Amigan: Call for Authors

Scientific Amigan is in search of writers with experiences in research, development, or design with Amigas. If you have used or written technical software for the Amiga, SA wants your reviews or descriptions. SA publishes Amiga hardware design information, as well. Since our readers often publish papers or other technical material, information on technical publishing is welcome.

Scientific Amigan is the only publication devoted to the technical Amiga user. It is a monthly newsletter, providing access to a disk and reprint library containing information and software related to the newsletter articles. Readers span the spectrum of technology, from chemistry to aerospace engineering, electrical engineering, physics, mathematics, and other fields. Subscribers from Hong Kong to Norway (and mostly in the United States) are eager to find out how to get the most from their Amiga.

Please consider writing for Scientific Amigan now. Start by sending email or mail for an Author's Guide. A sample issue is also available.

Walter Lounsbery, Publisher  
Scientific Amigan  
POB 60685  
Savannah, GA 31420-0685  
waltal@well.sf.ca.us

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Conference on Portal!!

Online Conference with Terra Nova Development  
March 2, 1994 in the Chat Area (go chat;2)  
beginning at 7pm (Pacific), 10pm (Eastern)

On Wednesday, March 2, Terra Nova Development will host a conference with these giveaway prizes:

'The Labyrinth of Time' for CD32, CDTV and Amigas with CD-ROM drives  
'Magic Lantern' 1.5 animation software for Amiga displays, Retina,  
Picasso II, Opalvision, EGS and Spectrum displays  
'Designer Objects Vol. I: Diner' for Imagine  
'Designer Objects Vol. I: Diner' for Lightwave

Bradley W. Schenck and Michal Todorovic of Terra Nova will be on hand to answer questions about all of these products.

'The Labyrinth of Time', published by Electronic Arts in the United Kingdom, is a 270 room ray traced adventure/puzzle solving game which was created on Amiga systems with off-the-shelf Amiga graphics tools like Imagine, Art Department Professional, and Vistapro. It's now available for MS-DOS machines in VGA and SVGA as well as Amigas, CDTV and CD32.

A Macintosh version of the game is near release.

Although the CD32/Amiga/CDTV version was published in December it's still a rare find on this side of the Atlantic. So come to the Terra Nova conference and be the first on your block to own a copy, and this is your chance to ask questions to the guys who created these exciting new Amiga products!

See you there!

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=====  
(Courtesy of Portal's Amiga Zone)

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Upgrade of PEGGER Image Compression Software

Columbia, MO -- February 11, 1994

Heifner Communications Inc. is proud to announce the availability of v1.3 of their product, PEGGER, an automated image compression system for Commodore Amiga computers. PEGGER v1.3 brings drastically improved support for the NewTek Framestore format used in the popular Video Toaster product. "We are pleased to offer the finest support of NewTek's Framestore format found in any 3rd party software currently on the market", said Heifner Communications President, Greg Heifner. "We have become well aware over the past months that many of our customers are Toaster owners and we felt that improving the product's performance for them was an important goal." Not only is PEGGER v1.3 much faster when compressing and decompressing Framestore images but also provides incredible broadcast quality while maintaining high compression levels.

PEGGER v1.3 also provides support for compression of pre-buffered Toaster CG Framestore pages as well as automatic support for compression and decompression of IFF and JPEG images from the Macintosh. In addition, we have listened to our users and implemented some of their suggestions to improve the software.

This upgrade of PEGGER is so important that we have decided to provide a free upgrade to all currently registered owners of the product. If you have already sent in your PEGGER registration card you will automatically receive PEGGER v1.3. In addition, a patch file to upgrade either PEGGER v1.1 or PEGGER v1.2 to v1.3 will be placed on all electronic services, including Internet, for the benefit of those PEGGER owners who have access to these services.

ATTENTION DEALERS/DISTRIBUTORS: We will be providing dealers and distributors a demonstration video tape explaining PEGGER and showing off its capabilities as well as some cool animations that were originally compressed using PEGGER. You can share the video tape with your customers and use it as a point of sale tool for PEGGER. The video tape will be shipping in approximately 2-3 weeks. If you do not receive a video tape, please call Heifner Communications to request one!

Availability: February 15, 1994.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

CHRIS MINSHALL / IVAN MOORE  
HEIFNER COMMUNICATIONS, INC.  
4451 I-70 DRIVE NW

---

COLUMBIA, MO 65202  
 (800) 445-6164 (VOICE)  
 (314) 445-6163 (VOICE)  
 (314) 445-0757 (FAX)

PEGGER is a trademark of Express-Way Software  
 Video Toaster, Framestore, and Toaster Paint are trademarks of NewTek, Inc.  
 Amiga is a trademark of Commodore Business Machines, Inc.

## 1.10 Amiga in Business

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%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
%% Amiga in Business                                     by Andre Perusse %%
%%                                                     aperusse@fox.nstn.ns.ca %%
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

```

This is a story of my experiences with Emplant and A-Max IV. I hesitate to call this a review as this text is not formatted in a reviewing-type manner. It may give you a little bit of information of how each board performs in a business environment, however.

Both boards were used in the following machine:

- Amiga 3000UX (no Unix installed, however)
- Quantum 210 & 170MB Hard Drives
- 10MB Ram (has since been upgraded to 14MB)
- High Density Floppy Drive
- A2232 Multi-Serial Card
- A2065 Ethernet Card (used in a Novell Environment)
- Retina Card w/2MB (A-Max IV only)
- IC Super Buster Revision K.

As an employee of an Amiga dealer, I sometimes have the opportunity to play with some neat hardware and software. Two of the more interesting pieces of hardware have to be A-Max IV and Emplant. Both of these ingenious devices allow your Amiga to emulate a colour Macintosh while at the same time allowing you to run native Amiga programs. These boards are the perfect solution for people whose main computer is an Amiga, but need to run Macintosh programs from time to time.

The dealer I work for is also a Macintosh dealer. I have therefore had the (perhaps unique) opportunity to test both boards extensively in an AppleTalk (the built-in Macintosh networking protocol) environment. I use the Macintosh board everyday for extended periods of time while at the same time running a BBS on the Amiga! I believe that this should be a good indication of how well each board multitasks.

EMPLANT Deluxe (used version 3.19 of the Emplant software)

The first board that I used was the Emplant from Utilities Unlimited. (This is not exactly true. The first board I really used was A-Max II+, but that is another story :) At first, I had a lot of trouble getting an Emplant Deluxe board. We ordered it through a Canadian distributor. It took quite a while to arrive, which is somewhat understandable considering

UU's production facilities and the demand for the product. While waiting for the board, I e-mailed Jim Drew (CEO and Chief Engineer of UU) and asked him if he knew when I might get my board. He replied in one day, but informed me that providing ETA's of boards was not his job. Oh well, I suppose that's understandable, but who's job is it? As it turned out, I received the board a few days later anyway.

I was eager to try the board out, so I rapidly installed it in my Amiga 3000. Being somewhat cautious with installing hardware, I read the manual from cover to cover and the README file before trying anything. Well, I kind of had to because I had to find out how to grab a Mac II ROM image file from a real Mac. Oddly, there was no mention of how to do this. Through experimentation, I found that the ROMINFO file on the Emplant disk was actually a Macintosh program for saving the Rom image from a Mac II. Due to the Macintosh nature of my dealership, I was able to save a Rom Image file on a PC disk and then used CrossDos to transfer it to the Amiga.

Setting up the preferences in the Emplant startup screen was quite an involved procedure. The Emplant has many settings including memory, serial and parallel, hard drive, etc. The memory preferences require you to set a specific size of memory aside entirely for the Mac emulation. Having only 10MB (only!) and running a BBS at the same often caused a tight situation. I often had to set the Mac memory down to 2.5MB, which is small for a Mac these days. For a hard drive, I had already made an A-Max partition for use with A-Max II+. Emplant recognized it without any problem and I was up and running with System 7.1 in no time.

At this point I'd just like to note that Emplant also has a SCSI interface built into the card. This interface is available to both the Macintosh emulation and the Amiga.

"Tah-dah!" (this is a rough interpretation of the sound a Mac II makes when it boots up). This alone impressed me as my A-Max II+ never did that. "Wow!" I thought, "This really works!" I proceeded to try out a few programs that I use daily. They worked without a hitch. I then tried logging into a co-workers machine to do some file sharing. It worked, too. Everything seemed to be going great until about five minutes after I had started, the machine crashed. "Typical," I thought. If I didn't file-share, the board seemed fairly stable. As soon as I file-shared, kaboom! Major bummer. Appletalk printing was fine, but file-sharing was out of the question. I eventually found out that one of the Macintosh Extensions (or INITs) was causing the problem. However, the extension was Apple's Networking Extension and I thought it was weird that it should cause the Emplant to crash. That was Emplant v3.19 and I'm sure that bug has been worked out by now.

I'm sure you've all read that the Emplant supports colour and stereo sound. It does, and fairly well. It lets you select two, four, or sixteen colours on an ECS machine. I found that 16 colours was far too slow to be usable, but I found the 4 colour mode to be a vast improvement over my two colour A-Max II+. Slower, but still better.

Emplant also allows for the changing of some settings while the emulation program is running. Namely, you can change what machine (Amiga or Emplant) has control over the floppy drives. Kind of handy. Also, if the emulation program happens to crash, you can reset it from the Emplant startup screen. Also rather handy.

---

The BBS software that I use on the same Amiga is DLG Professional. As DLG sysops will probably know, DLG is not the most stable piece of software for the Amiga. It doesn't crash a lot, but it is picky about the software you multitask with it. Emplant and DLG seemed to get along great for the most part. Both peacefully co-existed without causing any major problems. The only problem I could find was that when Emplant was running, users on the BBS would get an awful lot of missing characters in their text. Changing the Emplant's task priority didn't seem to help any. Well, running a Mac emulator and a BBS at the same time is a little much to expect, I suppose.

I used the emulator for about a month and a half and it mostly worked fine. There were a few too many crashes for it to be useable in a business environment (my database was continually corrupted by Emplant crashes). On the plus side, Jim Drew regularly releases updates to the software and is readily available via internet e-mail. On the down side, the board is not a mature product. The new versions of the software are a little too frequent for my liking. A new version comes out - a new feature is added, a bug is squashed, and a new bug is introduced. The newest version of the software doesn't require an MMU, however. I no longer have the Emplant, so in regards to the emplant updates, I'm only speaking from second-hand information read from internet newsgroups.

#### A-Max IV

Being a registered owner of an A-Max II+ board, I received an upgrade notice in the mail. Readysoft was releasing a new upgrade to A-Max. A-Max IV promised to be a multitasking, colour Mac emulator for the Amiga. It also was going to support the A2065 ethernet card that I used. Great! The upgrade cost from A-Max II+ was only \$150.00 CDN, so I took the plunge.

Getting the A-Max IV upgrade took some time, also. It was supposed to have shipped in the middle of December, but only shipped in the middle of January. I assumed that ReadySoft was busy working out bugs, so I wasn't too upset. I was also able to talk to their technical support people on almost every phone call I made. No holding, no excuses, I was always able to speak to someone. They didn't know I was calling from a dealer, so this wasn't the reason for their promptness.

I finally received A-Max IV in the mail. It consisted of a new manual, a new disk, and an iddy-bitty little IC chip that I had to replace on the A-Max II+ board. With my usual enthusiasm, I went right to work installing the upgrade. After reading the entire manual, I double clicked on the A-Max startup icon. Immediate software failure. "Typical," I thought. I spent all afternoon trying to find out what piece of software I had on my machine that was causing this most offending GURU. I didn't find it that afternoon. I took the board home that night and put it in my 3000 Tower. I double-clicked the icon. It worked!! Wow! I changed some settings in the A-Max IV software and rebooted. I tried the startup program again. "Board not found," it said. "Typical," I mumbled. In a later conversation with Readysoft, I found out that the A-Max card does not work properly in German-made 3000 Towers. The reason for this is not known, and a bug fix doesn't appear to be in the immediate future. This wasn't a major problem as the board was going to be used in a desktop, anyway. Providing I could get it to work.

---



The next morning I went into work determined to get the bloody thing to work. I eventually found out the the A-Max board didn't like the A2065 ethernet card. With the card in the machine - software failure. With the 2065 out of the machine, the A-Max was happy. "Rats," I said. A call to Readysoft revealed that they knew there was a problem and a bug fix would be ready in a couple of weeks. Okay, I could live without my ethernet card for a couple of weeks.

Like Emplant, A-Max IV has many preference settings. There are differences, of course. One of the difference that I really like is the fact that you set a certain amount of System Memory (for the OS) and a certain amount of INIT memory (for System extensions). After that, A-Max will allocate memory the itself as required. For example, if you run a program on A-Max, it will take up a certain amount of memory. When you quit the program, that memory is returned to the Amiga! Now with 14MB of RAM, this isn't as important as it was with 10MB, but things still get tight every now and then. Another difference between Emplant and A-Max is their port emulation. Both boards come with two Mac serial ports. While the Emplant's ports are usable by the Amiga side, A-Max's are not. On the other hand, A-Max can redirect Macintosh serial I/O to the Amiga's serial and printer ports while Emplant cannot (or at least not in 3.19).

I set everything else up and started up A-Max. A blank grey screen, but lots of hard drive activity. Something was happening, but I couldn't see it. Remember, I was using a Retina at this point. I unplugged the monitor from the Retina and put in into the Amiga's video port. Aha! There was a Mac screen there. I set the Retina to the main monitor using the Macintosh Monitors Control Panel. I rebooted the Mac and it used the Retina this time. A-Max IV, you see, has the ability to use several monitors, just like a real Mac. Neat.

A-Max deals with floppies a little differently than Emplant. While both boards will read and write Macintosh 1.4MB floppies, neither will read or write 800K Mac floppies. A-Max has a program that transfers the data off of an 800K disk to a virtual file on your hard drive, however. From there, the Mac emulation thinks that it's dealing with a Mac disk. Also, the floppy drive is intelligently shared between the Amiga and the Mac. If an Amiga program is the currently selected screen, then a disk inserted at that point would be read by the Amiga side. If the Mac emulation is the current screen, then a disk inserted would be read by the Macintosh.

When I had the A-Max IV working in the Tower, I had it set in 16 colour mode. On ECS machines, you can only set A-Max IV to use 2 or 16 colours. 16 colour mode was slow. Too slow. 2 colour mode was boring. But using the Retina and 256 colours was awesome! Not blazingly fast, but pretty snappy! All of my software worked, including file-sharing! In fact, the A-Max IV board was remarkably stable. I get the odd crash now and then (mostly while printing with Print Monitor - Apple's background printing program), but I have gone entire days without a crash from A-Max. I never got that kind of performance out of the Emplant. In addition, the BBS experiences no side effects with the Mac running.

Recently, I talked to Readysoft about the A2065 problem. They now have a bug fix and it's due to arrive in the next few days. I can't wait to use the Mac with my Amiga Ethernet Card!

---

## CONCLUSION

As you can probably tell, I prefer A-Max IV. I'd really like to take Emplant for another test drive, though. Version 3.8 of the software is supposed to be really stable and I'd like to see it. Unfortunately, we sold our Emplant board and we probably won't be bringing another one in.

It should be noted that Emplant is not only a Macintosh emulator, however. Supposedly, Emplant will emulate pretty near anything, but as of this writing, it only does Mac.

I have learned something very important from all of this: Although the Macintosh is a more popular computer than Amiga, it comes nowhere near the performance of Workbench 2.1. Long live Amiga!!

Andre Perusse  
 aperusse@fox.nstn.ns.ca  
 Fido!1:251/14.0

## 1.11 Video BackUp System

```

%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
%% Video BackUp System                                     by John Collier %%
%%                                                         John_M_Collier@cup.portal.com %%
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

```

Price: \$99.00 (last I saw)

Available from: MANTA 1-800-477-7706

Review by Eric Heller

I used to back up the two hard drives (85 and 130 mb) on my 1200 with Quarterback and double-density floppies. Sitting in front of my machine for two hours swapping 60 floppy disks during a backup wasn't my idea of a good time, but it was all I had to work with (I was too cheap to buy a SCSI controller and a tape drive). Then one day last spring I visited the World of Commodore Show in Manhattan and happened across Manta's booth where they were demonstrating the Video Backup System. What?!!!

Use a VCR as a tape backup? Yeah right! They were selling it at the show for a \$10 discount at a price of \$89.99. I was VERY skeptical, but being the kind of person that can't leave a computer show without buying SOMETHING, (and I didn't need a new mousepad), I figured what the heck. So I brought it home and tried it. And it worked!

VBS comes with backup software that is as easy to use as my old version of Quarterback, a male-to-male RCA type cable, and an RCA male-to-serial-interface. The manual is clear and well-written. VBS backs up data from any AmigaDOS volume (hard disk, floppy, whatever) by sending the data as a video signal through the composite video output to the VCR's

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video input jack (an adaptor is available for Amiga's that don't have a composite video output, like the 4000). VBS restores and verifies data from tape by pulling the video output from the VCR in through the serial port using the included interface.

When VBS starts a backup, the first thing it records on tape is a video "label" that shows the name and date of the backup, which can make it easier for you to find the beginning of the backup on the tape (but VHS tapes are so cheap anyway, I only put one backup per tape so they always start at the beginning anyway). After the "label", VBS records a directory tree that contains a listing of all the directories and files on the backup. Then it proceeds to back up all the files that were previously selected for backup.

To restore files from tape, the VBS software tells you to press "PLAY" on your VCR at a position on the tape before the backup. After reading the directory tree from the backup, which just takes a few seconds, VBS instructs you to press "PAUSE" on the VCR. You now can take your time selecting the files you wish to restore from the backup. After you've selected what you want, VBS tells you to press "PLAY" again, and now you just sit back and relax while VBS restores your files to the volume you selected.

A "Verify" function is included, which you can use directly after backing up. This feature compares the contents of the backup to the contents of your hard disk (or whatever volume you backed up) and reports any files that have errors. I've used it after every backup because I'm a paranoid schizophrenic but so far every backup has been perfect. And more importantly, I've restored files! Successfully! I've done complete restores, partial restores, no problem! But because VBS doesn't control the VCR (you do) in the way that a program like Amiback directly controls a tape drive, there are some small disadvantages when you compare it to a "real" tape backup unit.

If you want to do a "partial" restore, in other words, restore only certain files from a backup, VBS can't simply fast-forward the tape to the positions of those files. After selecting which files you wish to restore, you simply press "PLAY", and when the VCR get to those files, it gets to them.

If you're lucky, those files might be at the very beginning of the backup, and it won't take long. However, if they're at the end of an hour-long backup, it will take an hour. This doesn't bother me, actually, since I rarely do partial restores. If I ever accidentally delete a file from my hard disks, I can more often than not undelete it with Amiback Tools.

Now, you're probably wondering about how much stuff you can actually fit on a video tape, right? Sorry, I forgot to mention it earlier. The manual says that you can back up 175 megabytes onto a four-hour tape. What's a four-hour tape? I guess they're talking about a T-120 running at LP speed. I run my backups at SP (2 hours on a T-120) 'cause I figured the video image would be better, but I guess if they say you can run at 4-hour speed, you probably can. 87.5 megabytes on a two-hour tape is fine for me though, since my partitions are smaller than that. They do recommend you use high-grade video tapes. I picked up some Maxell HGX-Gold T-120's at a drug store for \$4.99, so it's no big expense (MUCH cheaper than tapes for tape backup units).

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One more note: In order for the VCR (at least in the U.S.) to accept VBS's output, the computer MUST be in NTSC graphics mode with mode promotion disabled. I normally keep my Workbench in DoubleNTSC mode with mode promotion on, so I just reboot my 1200 into ECS mode (which defaults to NTSC) before I run VBS, which I find easier than changing my Prefs. You probably won't have to worry about this if you don't have an AGA machine, though.

I HIGHLY recommend this easy-to-use, reliable product to ANY Amiga owner who's disgusted backing up to floppies and has a VCR readily available. I've only seen VBS advertised by Manta (they have ads in AmigaWorld pretty often). Their phone number is listed at the top of this review. And by the way, I know you've heard this crap before, but I am in no way affiliated with Manta or with Lyppens Software, and take no responsibility for anything I say, do, or think. After all, I'm an American.

John Collier \*\* FAT AGNUS BBS 914-429-7765

## 1.12 Amiga 600 in use

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%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
%% Amiga 600 In Use                                     by Keith Foldesi %%
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

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The Amiga 600 In Use

I owned an Amiga 500 for about a year. I had decided to make some changes to my system by adding some ram and a hard drive. I had to consider future upgrade ability & cost. This all had to fit with my needs: home business, newsletter production, telecommunications, and 'a little' entertainment.

I looked at several hard ware items that offered ram and hard drive capabilities. I was also planning to find a 'clones' power supply to rob. With these options I was looking at about \$200 to get my 500 ready for the upgrade.

I was thinking more along the lines of SCSI because of external future hard ware (CD ROM ect). However, IDE hard ware is lower cost. RAM was going to be the first thing I did. I only had 1M on the 500. So, I started saving and watching the BBS's for a deal.

When considering an upgrade, its important to keep in mind what you use the computer for. My wife uses a spreadsheet on the Amy to keep track of income with her day care. I use her to produce a news letter for a local users group (Commodore Users Richmond Va E). I keep up with the latest news in the Amiga community by calling the local BBS's. Finally, I play a little on the system too. :)

I was in the process of buying some ram from some one in NY over the WWIV net when I read an article on the 600. It had IDE built in, RAM with PCMCIA, and two things I hadn't really considered! WB 2.0 and 2 meg Angus! All this for \$200, yea that's what I was going to pay out to get the 500 in the position the 600 was made for. I cancelled the order I placed to

the seller on the WWIV net.

I sold the 500 2 weeks later for \$150 and bought a 600 for \$200. Since then I've gotten the 1M/clock card for the bottom slot and use 2M chip all the time!

Happy as a Lark!  
Hvy Mtl

## 1.13 Slow Machine, Great Display Blues

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%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
%% Slow-Machine, Great Display Blues                                by Roy Teale %%
%% A sob-story from one who knows...                                tealro@wwc.edu %%
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

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I'm writing this article on a nice 16-color 1152 X 900 Picasso Workbench, using AZ as an editor. I should be really happy about this, since it's got to be the best looking display I've seen on a PC since I was first introduced to computers. But something nags at me. Something sinister and fearsome. Let me go back to November 1st of 1993, when I updated to AmigaDOS 2.1.

My computer system started out as an Amiga 2500. It had most everything I could want, as far as speed went. I had over-clocked my A2630 accelerator board to 28MHz and installed a 33MHz 68882 (of course, installing a 33MHz crystal and setting the jumper accordingly.) I even socketed the two crystals so that I could swap them in and out if needed. Everything worked great! Until I did the thing that everyone told me that I should - upgrade to AmigaDOS 2.1. When I made that fateful jump in technology, I discovered that my A2630 accelerator no longer worked.

A friend on Usenet let me know that I needed to obtain an eprom upgrade for the A2630 in order for it to work with new versions of AmigaDOS. I was relieved to discover that, and promptly ordered a set from a reputable retailer. The eprom set arrived the next week, and after installing them, I discovered that my A2630 not only didn't work, but the way it refused to work was this: it would not boot - period. Just a nice BLACK screen.

I attributed this problem to a bad set of eproms, since I could pop the old set back in, and it would work perfectly with AmigaDOS 1.3. So I obtained an RMA# and sent the set back for a replacement.

This story could go on for a LONG time, and it'd be boring for you, but here's the shortened version...

After 3 sets of eproms from that same company (I also tried out two other sets, one directly from SMG, and one obtained from another computer retailer), I gradually began to feel that it was my A2630 which was defective. So I sent it into

Kasara Microsystems in South Carolina for repair. Well, they just called me this past week and told me what I had already confirmed for myself - that all the eprom sets that they had on hand didn't work with it either...

And Kasara Microsystems also told me one other bit of information: those same sets of eproms that didn't work with my board, didn't work with any of the other A2630 boards they happened to have in their shop.

So why is this happening? One Usenet Amiga person informed me that this same problem happened to about 1 out of 2 A2630 owners who updated to AmigaDOS 2.x when it first came out. Evidently, it had nothing to do with which revision# of board a person had. It just so happens that half of the eproms aren't compatible with the A2630 boards.

So it appears that it has happened again - the supplier of A2630 eproms must have sent out another big batch of defective eproms.

Is it SMG's fault? Is it Commodore's fault? Frankly, I don't really care, and in fact, I understand that there are problems at C= as of late, mostly centered around their money supply. I understand that there is little concern for owners of A2000's and A500's out there in the Amiga community, simply because these are out-dated machines and there are plenty of new machines around which I OUGHT to be looking into.

But that really doesn't make me want to go out and buy one of these new machines. If there isn't support for MY machine now, can I expect there to be support for an A4000 2 years from now? I think not.

What does one need to do? Start a grass-roots A2000 user support group? I'd love to talk to you about it, if you have concerns in this area. You can't tell me that since the A4000 came out, all of the A2000's mysteriously went \*poof\* ! I can name half a dozen TV stations that are using A2000's with accelerators and Toasters to do video rendering. With the price of A2000's suddenly falling to around \$300 for a base system, there are surely people out there who are buying them up, and who find themselves out in the cold, when trying to upgrade.

So for now, I sit, pecking on the keyboard, and watching the cursor stumble along on this nice GREAT-LOOKING Picasso 1152 x 900 Workbench screen. Oh, and its on a machine with a 7MHz 68000 processor... I really like this machine, and I'll REALLY like it when I get my WORKING A2630 board back.

Roy Teale  
Inet: tealro@wwc.edu

BTW, cudos to Robert Niles, who has so graciously taken up the position of editor for Amiga Report. It's quite

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a job, I'm sure. Let's all give him our full support!

## 1.14 Inexpensive Personal Computers

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%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
%% Inexpensive Personal Computers                                by David Tiberio %%
%%                                                                dtiberio@libserv1.ic.sunysb.edu %%
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

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With Commodore's release and acceptance of the CD32, it may be time to re-evaluate the competition in the marketplace to see just exactly how the CD32 is doing. Here I will discuss various other platforms, and their influences on the market.

For example, the consoles include the 3DO, Jaguar, SEGA Genesis, CD-I, and SNES. While each can be grouped into various categories based upon performance and price, we'll have to compare them all as one group, since each serves the same purpose.

3DO, developed by the Newer Technology Group, is the most expensive system. This one boasts texture mapping and a custom chip set, along with licensing of their chips. But where am I leading? Simple. Much of the 3DO software is developed using Amiga computers. After the big release of the REAL system from Panasonic, a news broadcast on CNN showed Amiga 4000 systems running applications for a 3DO software developer. The 3DO was designed by many of the original designers of the Amiga 1000.

Atari has released the Jaguar "64 BIT" system. Although many still speculate that it has 2 32 BIT buses, what matters is what it offers software wise. My local Electronics Boutique claims 2 titles are available. But let's take a deeper look; Atari also released the Lynx system, developed by some of the original developers of the Amiga OCS chip set in the Amiga 1000. Likewise, Atari has been using Amiga computers to develop Lynx games.

The SEGA Genesis is one of the most popular game consoles to date, and is doing very well currently (but not for long). What few people realise is that the original software development systems were Amiga 500's with special expansion cards on the exterior bus. This is because the Amiga had nearly identical specifications with the SEGA Genesis.

Philips, makers of the CD-I interactive system, uses Amigas to create software in its Sidewalk Studio in Santa Monica, California. In fact, as Commodore's CDTV unit matured, some of the support staff "moved on", one to later join a CD-I publishing company. Philips also uses Amigas to perform research on LCD displays in the Netherlands.

IBM has probably done more Amiga based presentations than any other competitor. These mainly focus on Scala multimedia

software, doing presentations for its OS/2 operating system at CEBIT in Hannover, and at some other exhibitions. The Minnesota Mainframe site uses Scala to create multimedia presentations.

The best is always saved for last... Apple Computers used Amiga 2000's to control video sequences at a MacWorld exposition a few years back. And best of all, the machines were spotted by onlookers behind the curtains. The Video Toaster, an Amiga-only product, was titled the best product at the Mac show by a Macintosh magazine.

In a future column I'll list some universities that have Amiga graphics departments, many of whom also offer courses using Amiga computers, such as Amiga Animation 101!

David Tiberio  
dtiberio@libserv1.ic.sunysb.edu

## 1.15 Take Another Look

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%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
%% Take another look!                                     by Thomas Reamer %%
%%                                                         treamer@osp.chi.il %%
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

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Hello once again! It is a pleasure to write for the Amiga Report. I plan to do my part as much as possible to keep the Report alive. Being that there is an obvious shortage of Amiga magazines here in the States, we must all attempt to do our part to keep at least ONE of them alive! Specially when that 'one' just happens to be the mere price of a phone call. I personally did not "pick up" an Amiga Report until I was told to by a buddy of mine. If not for him I probably would not be writing at this time. So in short, pass the word on to each and every Amiga owner! Hell, print it out for even that IBM or Mac friend you have! There is never a dull moment in Amigaland.

I wanted to write more about the CD32 but I figured I would hold off a bit. Wouldn't want to overload you with too much info. Can you ever have enough? I try to think back to the days when I stood proud to say the word Commodore. It seems so far now. Starting out with a 1 meg A500 and 2 floppy drives as most people do, I was so excited to tell everyone I can how awesome Commodore is and how Amiga games blow away their Nintendo or their computer in both graphics and sound. Well, I am past the 500 past the 2000 and now own a A4000/040. I am proud to own the computer but not proud to live under Commodore. Many people have lost their respect for the company. Not because of the products. The products are fantastic but the company that supplies them has left the poor Amiga owner here in the United States rather tongue tied. Out in the cold, left without even 1 television commercial. Not even a radio commercial. Not even a non-Amiga magazine ad. Left to say "I own an Amiga, you probably never heard of one but....". Maybe this isn't so bad? Did we buy our Amiga's to be with the crowd? No...Did we buy our Amiga's because they were just a computer? NO! We bought our Amiga because they are the best. The best there can be. I need not tell you about it's capabilities. It is just that-that keeps us fighting for our honor for our Amiga. Nearly everything it does puts a smile on your



face. Nearly every time you turn it on you find something new. Nearly everytime you watch something on TV you can stand proud to say "THE AMIGA DID THAT, THE COMPUTER I OWN!!!"

So, although the Amiga is not the most popular name here in the states, although it is not in every store and every TV commercial and every magazine ad, to us it is the best, it is beyond others. To us it is a friend, one to help out, one to have a damn good time playing with. One to be honored for what you own. It is not easy to be an Amiga owner in the United States. One receives allot of slack for even owning one. But a Viper isn't seen on every corner, but it is one of the best. It is not sales that make a fantastic product, it is the name under the plastic plate. Ours happens to be AMIGA.

## 1.16 Snow...And the Amiga

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%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
%% Snow...And the Amiga                                     By Sean M. Graham %%
%%                                                         hoser@ds.gen.nj.us %%
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

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Well winter is sure hitting hard here in Jersey, and I know it is elsewhere too. We are getting record daily snowfalls here and we are not even in the prime snow months (Which usually run from Mid-February to Mid-March). It seems that I will never stop shoveling and salting until the snow actually cools the ground to the point where Hell freezes over, or July, Whichever comes first. The Basements of my home and all my neighbors are collectively flooding and gutters are overflowing with ice. Recycling hasn't been collected in weeks (And garbage isn't far behind either). I am stuck inside the house listening to my friend rambling about all his new software that the UPS guy brought, and getting more and more depressed that I can't make it to his house to play with his Toaster.

One of my neighbors works for the county as a dispatcher for plows, and he hasn't gotten any sleep in 72hrs. This brings me to another point, plowing, while the plowing isn't the best here in Hopatcong, it isn't bad. Now I have a question, how come every time there is a large snowfall, there is some reporter on the news asking people on the street what the streets and driving is like. WHAT DO YOU THINK? You stupid moron! (Please, If you are trying to figure what the hell all of this has to do with the computer we have all come to know and love, please stick with me, it all ties together). And It seems that there is always someone on the News complaining that "The plows banked me in and they have no regard for us, they just don't care!". Shut up you stupid dolt, if they didn't plow at all you would be complaining that they didn't! These people are pushing 16 hour shifts every other day to get your butt out to work safely, the least you could do is be grateful they are doing what they can! (Here comes the Tie-In)

Now to the point, Much like the plows, people are always bashing Commodore for not doing the right thing, then when they try to come up with a good idea (CD^32), Those same people complain that C= is gonna turn the Amiga into a game platform. At least a Game Platform sells and will pump money into software development! I mean with the AAA chipset complete (Alegedly) C= won't drop that technology for games, it would be a waste of R&D. I am not in any way trying to justify C='s actions either way, but I am tired of

people looking for something to complain about. Give them a break, because the CD<sup>32</sup> could grab C= a slice of the dwindling market share left.

Sean Graham

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SeanGraham@aol.com (Secondary)

## 1.17 Compact Disc, How good is it?

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%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
%% Compact Disc, How good is it ?                               by David Schofield %%
%%                                                                schofieldd@newi.ac.uk %%
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

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At the moment, CD's are being touted as anything, and everything, from the next big thing in games playing, to the saviour of home computing. Every major computer, and console, manufacturer has either released, or is currently developing a CD based system. The question is, how useful actually are CD's ?

The History of Compact Disc.

CD's were first launched in the early 1980's by Philips, and over the rest of the decade, they slowly gained a foothold in the music market, where they were sold as vastly superior replacements for the old fashioned vinyl LP's and cassette tapes which were available at the time. The main reason for their success in this market was the promise of better sound quality, and a vastly superior lifetime.

However, from the start CD's have had their detractors. True audiophiles argued that the sound quality on a digital CD could never be superior to an analogue recording because of the quantisation of the sound. Also, CD's were found to have a much shorter lifetime than anticipated, with some CD's snapping on removal from the carrying case, and others reacting with sulphur residues in the cardboard packaging. Admittedly, the use of sulphur-free cardboard record sleeves to store the CD's are becoming more and more common.

It was not until the end of the decade that computer designers and users first started to realise the huge potential of CD's for information storage. In fact, it was the early 1990's when the first CD-based machines hit the streets. The first two of these machines that the man on the street could hope to buy were the Philips CD-I, and the Commodore CD-TV, both of which were relative failures at the time. Although Philips are still engaged in an active advertising campaign, it is rumoured that this is because Philips was relying on CD-I to succeed to secure financial stability.

However, as multimedia caught on in a large way, more and more machines had CD drives released for them, and the software designers started to write software which took advantage of the large storage available. The earliest programs were mostly of an educational bias, with dictionary's and encyclopaedia's highlighting the extraordinary potential of the new medium.

### Software on Compact Disc.

The majority of early, and for that matter modern, CD games always appeared to consist of a slightly re-written version of an early non-CD success, with extra music, and graphics padding out the CD. In fact, it is still difficult to name a single game which takes full advantage of the storage available. However, this can be, at least partially, attributed to the high cost of development.

There are two main game genres which could appear to benefit from the extra storage presented by CD's, simulations, and graphics adventures. With graphic adventures, the possibilities are endless; full stereo soundtrack, digitised location graphics, large numbers of differing locations, and the complexity of the solution are all factors which could be improved with the extra storage. For simulations, the possibilities seem more restricted, but it is entirely possible to have much more complex algorithms, resulting in even more realism than is possible nowadays. Also, the use of digitised pictures in flight simulations, and the ability to store many different weather conditions, would lead to the possibility of full scale flight trainers available at home.

The majority of the best of the current CD software appears to belong to the world of education. The possibilities presented by a multimedia encyclopaedia are beyond anything which was available even five years ago. It should soon be possible to obtain CD's which contain full music scores, along with a full biography of the composer. Already, it is possible to buy, with digitised pictures, multimedia applications explaining how the body works, without having to resort to dissection. This is, without a doubt, the main areas where the use of CD's is without equal in any other storage format.

The possibilities for business software is also endless. It should soon be possible to buy a CD based word processor, which combines the best features of Word for Windows, WordWorth 3, Final Writer and Quark XPress, with a full multilingual dictionary and thesaurus, a CD full of clip art and graphics, and, one or more CD's, full of fonts. This is the kind of program which a large number of people, myself included, would kill for.

One of the most exciting developments in the CD field is the release of Full Motion Video, an amazing little gizmo, which allows the CD to store graphic images using MPEG (Motion pictures something Group) compression. This allows actual film footage to be played through a suitable unit. Although the compression is currently only good enough to display images on a par with a VHS video, it is hoped that within the next few years, broadcast standard images will be possible. Already, the first games are starting to take advantage of this new technique, and several are available with state of the art live action footage forming an integral part of the game. As well as incorporating this feature into games, it is possible to buy CD versions of various successful films, including Top Gun, and various music videos.

### The Problems with Compact Disc.

At first glance, CD appears to be nearly perfect, however, on closer consideration, the reality is slightly different. One of the golden rules of life is that nothing is perfect, and CD is not the exception to this rule.

There are several major disadvantages with the use of CD, but the main problem is with the non-availability of writeable-CD. As CD's can store so much data,

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it is inconcievable that the average user will be able to make backup copies of any program on CD. At first, this does not seem like a major problem, but CD's are relatively easy to break, and how many companies would be willing to replace a CD which was rendered unusable ?

A large number of home computer users buy a computer initially to play games, but, after a while most progress onto others areas of interest. The potential of advancement on a CD only system is very limited, for instance, who would spend their time learning to program on a CD based machine if they were unable to save their programs. The same goes for the amateur musicians, and graphic artists, who are not going to be able to show off their latest works. Also, the market for professional developers will be severely curtailed, which could result in a similar situation to that on the cartidge based games consoles, where, to program software on the format, the majority of the required equipment needs to be licensed from the console manufacturers.

Even those who just use their computers as games machines are going to be limited to the type of game that they can play. How many of the modern games are completable in one session ? Games such as Frontier, The Secret of Monkey Island, and other graphics adventures are especially limited by the lack of a storage option for saved games. It would be theoretically possible to use a password system within the game, but as games get more complex, the length of password to be remembered will increase proportionally. Just imagine how long the codes for Frontier would have to be ? With 1000 different starports, the code would have to be 10 letters long, just for the location, and that is not including other data, such as the current score, type of ship, and the cargo carried.

At the moment, the average game can take anything from six months to two years to write, for a couple of floppies. Even though the basic code would remain the same on a CD conversion, to add the extra graphics and sound required to show the full potential of CD, it would take the skills of graphic designers, musicians, actors, directors, and a full set of scriptwriters. Admittedly, digitising the pictures, and composing the music would take a shorter length of time than writing the code for the program, but it would still take a considerably longer amount of time for development.

It is currently possible to manufacture a program onto CD than it is to make the same program on floppy disk, but the software companies seem determined to make a larger profit with the CD version. This is the same situation as the music industry has been in for several years, and the monopolies commision (in the UK) were, at one point, trying to force the manufacturers to reduce the cost of a CD, but this appears to have had little effect.

Another potential problem with the rise in the popularity of CD's, is the possibility of the death of the shareware and PD scenes. These both rely on the ability of programmers to write software, and then, save it in a form so that other people can access it. This required some form of portable storage media.

The Rivals in the Marketplace.

As a mass-storage medium, CD takes a lot of beating, but, there are other available media which have advantages, and disadvantages, over CD.

The most common form of mass-storage device, is the hard disk, which forms an integral part of the majority of new computers bought today. These come in a

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variety of shapes and sizes, ranging from 20MB, up to 4.5GB, in a variety of IDE, SCSI, 2.5", 3.5", and various other configurations. Hard drives currently have a much faster access time than CD, as well as a far greater data transfer rate, but, the vast majority are not portable.

Another common type of mass-storage device is the tape streamer, which uses a high quality tape, similar to the ones found in DAT's. These also come in a large variety of sizes, with a storage capacity ranging from several hundred MB's up to several GB's. The main advantage of tape streamers over hard disks is that they are transportable, but, accessing data from a tape streamer is almost an arcane ritual, with the tape having to be in the correct position to find the data. It is for this reason that tape streamers are most often used as backup devices for hard drives, and over similar storage systems.

One of the newest rivals to hit the marketplace is the floptical, which works optically, like a CD, and, unlike a CD, it can be written to. The main disadvantage with the floptical discs is cost, with the cost of a basic unit costing up to ten times the cost of a CD drive (Power Computing floptical #800-1000, Silica CDrom drive #99). However, floptical drives can be used to store a large amount of data on a single disk, and, the cost of new disk is not too prohibitive.

Q.E.D.

Compact discs are a truly remarkable form of computer media, but, along with most other things in this life, they are nowhere near as perfect as the salesmen expect you to believe. There are niches which CD could fill better than any other rival computer media, but there are also niches where floppy, and hard, discs will rule supreme for a long time to come, or, at least until the release of writeable CD's.

## 1.18 The Clipper

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%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
%% The Clipper                                     by WIRED magazine %%
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[ Ed's Note: This is a clip from a future article of WIRED. Thanks to ]
[ Jonathan Gapen (jagapen@students.wisc.edu) for sending it to AR    ]
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WIRED 2.04
Electrosphere
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Jackboots on the Infobahn
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Clipper is a last ditch attempt by the United States, the last great power from the old Industrial Era, to establish imperial control over cyberspace.

By John Perry Barlow

[Note: The following article will appear in the April 1994 issue of WIRED. We, the editors of WIRED, are net-casting it now in its pre-published form as a public service. Because of the vital and urgent nature of its message, we believe readers on the Net should hear and take action now. You are free to pass this article on electronically; in fact we urge you to replicate it throughout the net with our blessings. If you do, please keep the copyright statements and this note intact. For a complete listing of Clipper-related resources available through WIRED Online, send email to <infobot@wired.com> with the following message: "send clipper.index". - The Editors of WIRED]

On January 11, I managed to schmooze myself aboard Air Force 2. It was flying out of LA, where its principal passenger had just outlined his vision of the information superhighway to a suited mob of television, show-biz, and cable types who fervently hoped to own it one day - if they could ever figure out what the hell it was.

>From the standpoint of the Electronic Frontier Foundation the speech had been wildly encouraging. The administration's program, as announced by Vice President Al Gore, incorporated many of the concepts of open competition, universal access, and deregulated common carriage that we'd been pushing for the previous year.

But he had said nothing about the future of privacy, except to cite among the bounties of the NII its ability to "help law enforcement agencies thwart criminals and terrorists who might use advanced telecommunications to commit crimes."

On the plane I asked Gore what this implied about administration policy on cryptography. He became as noncommittal as a cigar-store Indian. "We'll be making some announcements.... I can't tell you anything more." He hurried to the front of the plane, leaving me to troubled speculation.

Despite its fundamental role in assuring privacy, transaction security, and reliable identity within the NII, the Clinton administration has not demonstrated an enlightenment about cryptography up to par with the rest of its digital vision.

The Clipper Chip - which threatens to be either the goofiest waste of federal dollars since President Gerald Ford's great Swine Flu program or, if actually deployed, a surveillance technology of profound malignancy - seemed at first an ugly legacy of the Reagan-Bush modus operandi. "This is going to be our Bay of Pigs," one Clinton White House official told me at the time Clipper was introduced, referring to the disastrous plan to invade Cuba that Kennedy inherited from Eisenhower.

(Clipper, in case you're just tuning in, is an encryption chip that the National Security Agency and FBI hope will someday be in every phone and computer in America. It scrambles your communications, making them unintelligible to all but their intended recipients. All, that is, but the government, which would hold the "key" to your chip. The key would be separated into two pieces, held in escrow, and joined with the appropriate "legal authority.")

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Of course, trusting the government with your privacy is like having a Peeping Tom install your window blinds. And, since the folks I've met in this White House seem like extremely smart, conscious freedom-lovers - hell, a lot of them are Deadheads - I was sure that after they were fully moved in, they'd face down the National Security Agency and the FBI, let Clipper die a natural death, and lower the export embargo on reliable encryption products.

Furthermore, the National Institutes of Standards and Technology and the National Security Council have been studying both Clipper and export embargoes since April. Given that the volumes of expert testimony they had collected overwhelmingly opposed both, I expected the final report would give the administration all the support it needed to do the right thing.

I was wrong. Instead, there would be no report. Apparently, they couldn't draft one that supported, on the evidence, what they had decided to do instead.

#### THE OTHER SHOE DROPS

On Friday, February 4, the other jackboot dropped. A series of announcements from the administration made it clear that cryptography would become their very own "Bosnia of telecommunications" (as one staffer put it). It wasn't just that the old Serbs in the National Security Agency and the FBI were still making the calls. The alarming new reality was that the invertebrates in the White House were only too happy to abide by them. Anything to avoid appearing soft on drugs or terrorism.

So, rather than ditching Clipper, they declared it a Federal Data Processing Standard, backing that up with an immediate government order for 50,000 Clipper devices. They appointed the National Institutes of Standards and Technology and the Department of Treasury as the "trusted" third parties that would hold the Clipper key pairs. (Treasury, by the way, is also home to such trustworthy agencies as the Secret Service and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.)

They reaffirmed the export embargo on robust encryption products, admitting for the first time that its purpose was to stifle competition to Clipper. And they outlined a very porous set of requirements under which the cops might get the keys to your chip. (They would not go into the procedure by which the National Security Agency could get them, though they assured us it was sufficient.)

They even signaled the impending return of the dread Digital Telephony, an FBI legislative initiative requiring fundamental reengineering of the information infrastructure; providing wiretapping ability to the FBI would then become the paramount design priority.

#### INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS

Actually, by the time the announcements thudded down, I wasn't surprised by them. I had spent several days the previous week in and around the White House.

I felt like I was in another remake of *The Invasion of the Body Snatchers*.

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My friends in the administration had been transformed. They'd been subsumed by the vast mindfield on the other side of the security clearance membrane, where dwell the monstrous bureaucratic organisms that feed on fear. They'd been infected by the institutionally paranoid National Security Agency's Weltanschauung.

They used all the telltale phrases. Mike Nelson, the White House point man on the NII, told me, "If only I could tell you what I know, you'd feel the same way I do." I told him I'd been inoculated against that argument during Vietnam. (And it does seem to me that if you're going to initiate a process that might end freedom in America, you probably need an argument that isn't classified.)

Besides, how does he know what he knows? Where does he get his information? Why, the National Security Agency, of course. Which, given its strong interest in the outcome, seems hardly an unimpeachable source.

However they reached it, Clinton and Gore have an astonishingly simple bottom line, to which even the future of American liberty and prosperity is secondary: They believe that it is their responsibility to eliminate, by whatever means, the possibility that some terrorist might get a nuke and use it on, say, the World Trade Center. They have been convinced that such plots are more likely to ripen to hideous fruition behind a shield of encryption.

The staffers I talked to were unmoved by the argument that anyone smart enough to steal a nuclear device is probably smart enough to use PGP or some other uncompromised crypto standard. And never mind that the last people who popped a hooter in the World Trade Center were able to get it there without using any cryptography and while under FBI surveillance.

We are dealing with religion here. Though only ten American lives have been lost to terrorism in the last two years, the primacy of this threat has become as much an article of faith with these guys as the Catholic conviction that human life begins at conception or the Mormon belief that the Lost Tribe of Israel crossed the Atlantic in submarines.

In the spirit of openness and compromise, they invited the Electronic Frontier Foundation to submit other solutions to the "problem" of the nuclear-enabled terrorist than key escrow devices, but they would not admit into discussion the argument that such a threat might, in fact, be some kind of phantasm created by the spooks to ensure their lavish budgets into the post-Cold War era.

As to the possibility that good old-fashioned investigative techniques might be more valuable in preventing their show-case catastrophe (as it was after the fact in finding the alleged perpetrators of the last attack on the World Trade Center), they just hunkered down and said that when wiretaps were necessary, they were damned well necessary.

When I asked about the business that American companies lose because of their inability to export good encryption products, one staffer essentially dismissed the market, saying that total world trade in crypto goods was still less than a billion dollars. (Well, right. Thanks more to the diligent efforts of the National Security Agency than to dim sales potential.)

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I suggested that a more immediate and costly real-world effect of their policies would be to reduce national security by isolating American commerce, owing to a lack of international confidence in the security of our data lines. I said that Bruce Sterling's fictional data-enclaves in places like the Turks and Caicos Islands were starting to look real-world inevitable.

They had a couple of answers to this, one unsatisfying and the other scary. The unsatisfying answer was that the international banking community could just go on using DES, which still seemed robust enough to them. (DES is the old federal Data Encryption Standard, thought by most cryptologists to be nearing the end of its credibility.)

More frightening was their willingness to counter the data-enclave future with one in which no data channels anywhere would be secure from examination by one government or another. Pointing to unnamed other countries that were developing their own mandatory standards and restrictions regarding cryptography, they said words to the effect of, "Hey, it's not like you can't outlaw the stuff. Look at France."

Of course, they have also said repeatedly - and for now I believe them - that they have absolutely no plans to outlaw non-Clipper crypto in the US. But that doesn't mean that such plans wouldn't develop in the presence of some pending "emergency." Then there is that White House briefing document, issued at the time Clipper was first announced, which asserts that no US citizen "as a matter of right, is entitled to an unbreakable commercial encryption product."

Now why, if it's an ability they have no intention of contesting, do they feel compelled to declare that it's not a right? Could it be that they are preparing us for the laws they'll pass after some bearded fanatic has gotten himself a surplus nuke and used something besides Clipper to conceal his plans for it?

If they are thinking about such an eventuality, we should be doing so as well. How will we respond? I believe there is a strong, though currently untested, argument that outlawing unregulated crypto would violate the First Amendment, which surely protects the manner of our speech as clearly as it protects the content.

But of course the First Amendment is, like the rest of the Constitution, only as good as the government's willingness to uphold it. And they are, as I say, in the mood to protect our safety over our liberty.

This is not a mind-frame against which any argument is going to be very effective. And it appeared that they had already heard and rejected every argument I could possibly offer.

In fact, when I drew what I thought was an original comparison between their stand against naturally proliferating crypto and the folly of King Canute (who placed his throne on the beach and commanded the tide to leave him dry), my government opposition looked pained and said he had heard that one almost as often as jokes about roadkill on the information superhighway.

I hate to go to war with them. War is always nastier among friends. Furthermore, unless they've decided to let the National Security Agency

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design the rest of the National Information Infrastructure as well, we need to go on working closely with them on the whole range of issues like access, competition, workplace privacy, common carriage, intellectual property, and such. Besides, the proliferation of strong crypto will probably happen eventually no matter what they do.

But then again, it might not. In which case we could shortly find ourselves under a government that would have the automated ability to log the time, origin and recipient of every call we made, could track our physical whereabouts continuously, could keep better account of our financial transactions than we do, and all without a warrant. Talk about crime prevention!

Worse, under some vaguely defined and surely mutable "legal authority," they also would be able to listen to our calls and read our e-mail without having to do any backyard rewiring. They wouldn't need any permission at all to monitor overseas calls.

If there's going to be a fight, I'd rather it be with this government than the one we'd likely face on that hard day.

Hey, I've never been a paranoid before. It's always seemed to me that most governments are too incompetent to keep a good plot strung together all the way from coffee break to quitting time. But I am now very nervous about the government of the United States of America.

Because Bill 'n' Al, whatever their other new-paradigm virtues, have allowed the very old-paradigm trogs of the Guardian Class to define as their highest duty the defense of America against an enemy that exists primarily in the imagination - and is therefore capable of anything.

To assure absolute safety against such an enemy, there is no limit to the liberties we will eventually be asked to sacrifice. And, with a Clipper Chip in every phone, there will certainly be no technical limit on their ability to enforce those sacrifices.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO

##### GET CONGRESS TO LIFT THE CRYPTO EMBARGO

The administration is trying to impose Clipper on us by manipulating market forces. By purchasing massive numbers of Clipper devices, they intend to induce an economy of scale which will make them cheap while the export embargo renders all competition either expensive or nonexistent.

We have to use the market to fight back. While it's unlikely that they'll back down on Clipper deployment, the Electronic Frontier Foundation believes that with sufficient public involvement, we can get Congress to eliminate the export embargo.

Rep. Maria Cantwell, D-Washington, has a bill (H.R. 3627) before the Economic Policy, Trade, and Environment Subcommittee of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs that would do exactly that. She will need a lot of help from the public. They may not care much about your privacy in DC, but they still care about your vote.

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Please signal your support of H.R. 3627, either by writing her directly or e-mailing her at cantwell@eff.org. Messages sent to that address will be printed out and delivered to her office. In the subject header of your message, please include the words "support HR 3627." In the body of your message, express your reasons for supporting the bill. You may also express your sentiments to Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Indiana, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs chair, by e-mailing hamilton@eff.org.

Furthermore, since there is nothing quite as powerful as a letter from a constituent, you should check the following list of subcommittee and committee members to see if your congressional representative is among them. If so, please copy them your letter to Rep. Cantwell.

> Economic Policy, Trade, and Environment Subcommittee:

Democrats: Sam Gejdenson (Chair), D-Connecticut; James Oberstar, D-Minnesota; Cynthia McKinney, D-Georgia; Maria Cantwell, D-Washington; Eric Fingerhut, D-Ohio; Albert R. Wynn, D-Maryland; Harry Johnston, D-Florida; Eliot Engel, D-New York; Charles Schumer, D-New York.

Republicans: Toby Roth (ranking), R-Wisconsin; Donald Manzullo, R-Illinois; Doug Bereuter, R-Nebraska; Jan Meyers, R-Kansas; Cass Ballenger, R-North Carolina; Dana Rohrabacher, R-California.

> House Committee on Foreign Affairs:

Democrats: Lee Hamilton (Chair), D-Indiana; Tom Lantos, D-California; Robert Torricelli, D-New Jersey; Howard Berman, D-California; Gary Ackerman, D-New York; Eni Faleomavaega, D-Somalia; Matthew Martinez, D-California; Robert Borski, D-Pennsylvania; Donal Payne, D-New Jersey; Robert Andrews, D-New Jersey; Robert Menendez, D-New Jersey; Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio; Alcee Hastings, D-Florida; Peter Deutsch, D-Florida; Don Edwards, D-California; Frank McCloskey, D-Indiana; Thomas Sawyer, D-Ohio; Luis Guterrez, D-Illinois.

Republicans: Benjamin Gilman (ranking), R-New York; William Goodling, R-Pennsylvania; Jim Leach, R-Iowa; Olympia Snowe, R-Maine; Henry Hyde, R-Illinois; Christopher Smith, R-New Jersey; Dan Burton, R-Indiana; Elton Gallegly, R-California; Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Florida; David Levy, R-New York; Lincoln Diaz-Balart, R-Florida; Ed Royce, R-California.

BOYCOTT CLIPPER DEVICES AND THE COMPANIES WHICH MAKE THEM.

Don't buy anything with a Clipper Chip in it. Don't buy any product from a company that manufactures devices with Big Brother inside. It is likely that the government will ask you to use Clipper for communications with the IRS or when doing business with federal agencies. They cannot, as yet, require you to do so. Just say no.

LEARN ABOUT ENCRYPTION AND EXPLAIN THE ISSUES TO YOUR UNWIRED FRIENDS

The administration is banking on the likelihood that this stuff is too technically obscure to agitate anyone but nerds like us. Prove them wrong by patiently explaining what's going on to all the people you know who have never touched a computer and glaze over at the mention of words like

"cryptography."

Maybe you glaze over yourself. Don't. It's not that hard. For some hands-on experience, download a copy of PGP - Pretty Good Privacy - a shareware encryption engine which uses the robust RSA encryption algorithm. And learn to use it.

GET YOUR COMPANY TO THINK ABOUT EMBEDDING REAL CRYPTOGRAPHY IN ITS PRODUCTS

If you work for a company that makes software, computer hardware, or any kind of communications device, work from within to get them to incorporate RSA or some other strong encryption scheme into their products. If they say that they are afraid to violate the export embargo, ask them to consider manufacturing such products overseas and importing them back into the United States. There appears to be no law against that. Yet.

You might also lobby your company to join the Digital Privacy and Security Working Group, a coalition of companies and public interest groups - including IBM, Apple, Sun, Microsoft, and, interestingly, Clipper phone manufacturer AT&T - that is working to get the embargo lifted.

ENLIST!

Self-serving as it sounds coming from me, you can do a lot to help by becoming a member of one of these organizations. In addition to giving you access to the latest information on this subject, every additional member strengthens our credibility with Congress.

> Join the Electronic Frontier Foundation by writing [membership@eff.org](mailto:membership@eff.org).

> Join Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility by e-mailing [cpsr.info@cpsr](mailto:cpsr.info@cpsr.org)

.org. CPSR is also organizing a protest, to which you can lend your support by sending e-mail to [clipper.petition@cpsr.org](mailto:clipper.petition@cpsr.org) with "I oppose Clipper" in the message body. Ftp/gopher/WAIS to [cpsr.org](http://cpsr.org) /[cpsr/privacy/](http://cpsr.org/privacy/)

[crypto/clipper](http://crypto/clipper) for more info.

In his LA speech, Gore called the development of the NII "a revolution." And it is a revolutionary war we are engaged in here. Clipper is a last ditch attempt by the United States, the last great power from the old Industrial Era, to establish imperial control over cyberspace. If they win, the most liberating development in the history of humankind could become, instead, the surveillance system which will monitor our grandchildren's morality. We can be better ancestors than that.

San Francisco, California

Wednesday, February 9, 1994

\* \* \*

John Perry Barlow ([barlow@eff.org](mailto:barlow@eff.org)) is co-founder and Vice-Chairman of the

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Electronic Frontier Foundation, a group which defends liberty, both in Cyberspace and the Physical World. He has three daughters.

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## 1.19 Survey of Amiga Mail Ordering

%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%  
 %% Survey of Amiga Mail Ordering by S.DEMPSEY %%  
 %% s.dempsey@genie.geis.com %%  
 %%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

There are many mail order homes supporting the Amiga computer. For some of us, this is a blessing as local Amiga dealers have been disappearing year after year. Having quite a few mail order homes around, one does not really know where to do their shopping.

For this reason, I have decided to do a survey of mail order homes that customers have had direct experiences with.

I would like to know your experiences that you have had with a particular mail order company. Were they courteous when you placed an order? Were they adequately furnished with enough products in stock? Did they provided good technical support if you needed it? Were you even able to get technical support? If you had to return a product, what happened; was the company rude or obnoxious? When you received your product, was it well packed and shipped? Did you really get the best price/deal? Do not limit yourself to these questions!

Please respond to me in any format you wish but please try to include the following below:

|                    |           |                     |
|--------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Inventory          | 1 2 3 4 5 | \                   |
| Tech support       | 1 2 3 4 5 | \ 1 being poor      |
| Employees attitude | 1 2 3 4 5 | / 5 being excellent |
| Overall impression | 1 2 3 4 5 | /                   |

[ Suggestions on comments would be: The mail order home I have ]  
[ ordered from before is \_\_\_\_\_. My dealings with them have been ]  
[ \_\_\_\_\_. ]

All responses will be kept anonymous. In no way will your name will be revealed to anyone.

Try not to just say things like "I tried to inquire on some software from brand-x company and they were no help the entire time." -- This really tells me very little. Be more specific, like, were they ignorant of the product or what?

PLEASE make sure you only write about YOUR OWN experiences and NOT rehash "stuff you read from a BBS" or "my friend told me this" kinda stuff.  
Thanks!

I will compile together all the responses I receive and post my results in a future issue of Amiga Report. Because I happen to be an American, and am aware there are European readers out there, I am limiting my survey to American/Canadian based companies for now. However, I certainly welcome European responses and will compile a separate list in a future edition of Amiga Report if there are sufficient European responses!

Please respond to this brief questionnaire by [INPUT DATE] and send it to me at: [s.dempsey@genie.geis.com](mailto:s.dempsey@genie.geis.com)

SOME MAIL ORDER HOMES OUT THERE

- 1) Creative Computers
- 2) Computability
- 3) Amiga Man
- 4) Safe Harbor
- 5) Anti Gravity
- 6) Select Solutions
- 7) Grapevine
- 8) Tri State Computers
- 9) Software Hut
- 10) De Vine
- 11) Computer Answers (Canada)
- 12) Tenex

These are some of the more popular mail order homes around but I am sure there are many more that I have not listed.

Once again, Respond to: [s.dempsey@genie.geis.com](mailto:s.dempsey@genie.geis.com)

Thanks!

## 1.20 Reader Mail

%%
 Reader Mail
 %%

From: Philip Orr <PHILIP@griffith.dwr.csiro.au>  
Subject: Amiga Review

Dear Rob,

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Philip Orr and I am a new user of Internet. Australia is connected to the net via AARNET (Australian Academic Research Network) and it is only available to government type organisations. I hope this will change in the future as the communications possibilities we are experiencing will benefit other Aussies as well. AARNET was set up by the Australian Universities Vice-Chancellors committee in 1991 and the organisation for which I work, CSIRO, is connected.

I have been reading AR for several weeks now. I downloaded AR130 through AR203 in one hit and have been downloading them weekly since. I want to let you know how much I enjoy reading the magazine as it gives the kind of immediate information unavailable in print media. It also serves to bring together a diverse group of people with a common cause.

We are out in the sticks here (the boonies for you Yanks) and it is very difficult to get info/help etc and your mag offers the possibility of contact with like minded people with whom we can communicate.

I wish you all the best in your new role as editor of Amiga Review. I just hope the rest of the Amiga community appreciates the effort as much as I do. I will continue to read and your magazine and support where possible.

Amigaly yours

Philip Orr

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From: [Asked not to be included]  
Subject: World leaders using InterNet.

Hello Robert, I have some info from Sweden... use it if you like.

===

Primeminister Carl Bildt of Sweden has found a "penpal", as the first foreign leader he's writing emails to the US President Bill Clinton over the Internet. Mr. Bildt congratulated Clinton of lifting the tradeblock against Vietnam, and did rapidly get a reply from the US President where he among other things wrote how important electronical mail is for the construction of a global information superhighway.

The fairly young leaders have been very good friends ever since they first met in Washington D.C last year, apparently Carl Bildt got impressed how they had opened up the US Government for the public with emails, because from the first of March -94 the same thing will happen to the Swedish Government.

On the 7 of Februari he was demonstrated InterNet with Mosaic, Videoconferances (over ISDN) and Virtual Reality by a few companies and institutions such as Ericsson Telecommunication and Telia.

(Note: Telia is a "AT&T" type of company.)

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He recieved a InterNet membership pin and the official address to the Primeminister will be : Statsministern@sb.gov.se

AR is getting better, the European section is very good since C= is doing most of there business here, and it's a bit tiring reading about "Americans neglected by C= and they will never buy Amiga again". Commodore are in Europe to make money that they later will put in to the US, just wait and you'll see...

Have a good one Robert !

## 1.21 Emulation Rambler

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%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
%% Emulation Rambler                                     By Jason Compton %%
%%                                                         (jcompton@tcity.com) %%
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

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All right! I'll start off by jumping into the third part of the ongoing Emplant saga...

Still Dead By Serial Murder

My Emplant serial ports are still dead. Joe Fenton from UU has faxed me asking about the part number on the chip, but it's not the one he was looking for (apparently, ones with ST on them need replacing). I'll have to let him know and see what happens...

Half of Jim Drew's Latest Promise Fulfilled! World Shocked!

Actually, I'm not much of a Jim Drew pessimist, but I know some people never believe what he says. He told the Emplant community that serial and parallel (Amiga side) support was the top priority, and half of that has been realized in Emplant Mac V3.91, allowing you to print through the Amiga parallel port. You DO need the relevant driver on the Mac side (my Epson FX driver is apparently too old, since it kept bus erroring any program that wanted to do a Page Setup. System 7.1 drivers don't crash the machine, but they also don't do much for my Star NX-1000II, since I only have the Image and StyleWriter ones on there.), but new drivers don't crash the Mac. Serial is promised for V4.0, so it'll be a matter of time.

Scummy...er, SCSI peripherals...

Nobody has been really excited about the prospect of letting me rip out their hard drive to connect it to the Emplant, but I've done what I think is the next best thing: I hooked up a Logitech ScanMan greyscale hand scanner and put it through some paces. It performed like any greyscale hand scanner without a scanner guide and a user with an unsteady hand would: decent, some of the time. In all seriousness, the scanner was completely accurately recognized and



worked flawlessly. SCSIProbe correctly acknowledged it, and the scanning went as well as my hand was moving at that particular moment. I considered scanning the Emplant logo from the box, but the box had gotten dirty in the shipping, so I didn't think it would be the best of ideas. (Thanks to Dave Alexander, my esteemed friend, for trusting me with this piece of hardware).

Boy, does this red herring taste good!

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What can I say? In a fit of boredom, I got the idea to hex-scan through the Mac II executable. It's filled with neat stuff. Here's a partial list of the red herrings, hints, and other sundry items...

"This video driver requires AAA ChipSet!" Well, that's very nice, considering I can't imagine any video drivers anywhere that would need them, unless CATS and/or C= marketing has been working overtime...

"This video driver requires PCMCIA Emplant!" This red herring I find very difficult to swallow. What sort of video driver would need a PCMCIA card in a 1200 to function correctly?

Taken from the Emplant shipping box: checkmarks for "Emplant model for:" A500 and A1000. What, just in case? I can understand planning ahead, but...

Finally, either Joe or Jim loves Chauna...at least, the Mac II program proclaims "I love you Chauna!"

Benchmarks Revisited!

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I know, I know, you're probably sick to death of these damn benchmarks already, but my good friend Mauricio has come up with a new set based on updated Emplant software in which the FPU routines are apparently much improved...unfortunately, I've lost them and his net address: I'd like to get both of them again. Sorry, but I once again have to blame my Usenet site.

ResEdit: The PREMIER (read: only) Mac HACKER TOOL!

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It works. Unfortunately, since I don't want to sit down and learn the setup of the program and Mac programs in great depth, I basically play around with it a little and get LOTS of opportunities to edit icons.

RAM Doubler!

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I'm trying to get this sucker to work. The latest Emplant update file seems to say that "virtual memory has been patched out of the emulation" for the time being, but RAM Doubler was not mentioned. I need to get my hands on the disk and I'll see if I'm in business.

Feeling Guilty at 16 Colors...

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## Portal Communications' Amiga Zone

The AFFORDABLE alternative for online Amiga information

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The Portal Online System is the home of acclaimed Amiga Zone, which was formerly on the People/Link System. Plink went out of business in May, 1991 and The Amiga Zone's staff moved to Portal the next day. The Zone has just celebrated its second anniversary on Portal. The Amiga press raves about The Amiga Zone, when compared to its competition.

If you live in the San Jose, CA area, then you can dial Portal directly. If you live elsewhere, you can reach Portal through any SprintNet (formerly Telenet) indial anywhere in the USA. If you have an account on another Internet-connected system, you can connect to Portal using the UNIX Telnet programs, from anywhere in the industrialized world. Delphi and BIX users can now Telnet into Portal for a flat \$19.95 a month, with \*unlimited\* use.

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

Over 1.5 GIGabytes of Amiga-specific files

The \*entire\* Fred Fish collection of freely distributable software, online.

Fast, Batch Zmodem file transfer protocol. Download up to 100 files at once, of any size, with one command.

Twenty Amiga vendor areas with participants like AmigaWorld, ASDG, Soft-Logik, Black Belt, Apex Publishing, Stylus, Prolific, NES.

35 "regular" Amiga libraries with thousands of 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. Famous Amiga folks aren't the exception on Portal, they're the norm.

Vast Message bases where you can ask questions about \*anything\* Amiga related and get quick replies from the experts.

Amiga Internet mailing lists for Imagine, DCTV, LightWave, HyperAmi, Director and Landscapes are fed right into the Zone message bases. Read months worth of postings. They don't scroll off, ever! No need to clutter your mailbox with them.

FREE unlimited Internet Email. Your Portal account gets you a mailbox that's connected to the world. Send letters of any length to computer users in the entire industrialized world. No limits. No extra charges. No kidding!

Portal has the Usenet. Thousands of "newsgroups" in which you can read and post articles about virtually any subject you can possibly imagine.

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Other Portal SIGs (Special Interest Groups) online for Mac, IBM, Sun, NeXT, UNIX, Science Fiction, Writers, amateur radio, and a graphics SIG with thousands of GIF files to name just a few. ALL Portal SIGs are accessible to ALL Portal customers with NO surcharges ever.

The entire UPI/Clarinet/Newsbytes news hierarchy (\$4/month extra)  
An entire general interest newspaper and computer news magazine.

Portal features an exciting package of Internet features: IRC, FTP, TELNET, MUDDS, LIBS. Free to all Portal customers with your account. Internet Services is a menu driven version of the same kinds of utilities you can also use from your Portal UNIX shell account.

All the files you can FTP. All the chatting you can stand on the IRC. And on IRC (Internet Relay Chat) you can talk live, in real time with Amiga users in the U.K., Europe, Australia, the Far East, 24 hours a day.

Our exclusive PortalX by Steve Tibbett, the graphical "front end" for 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)

And 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.

How does all that sound? Probably too good to be true. Well, it IS true.

Portal Signup or for more information:

408-973-9111 (voice) 9a.m.-5p.m. Mon-Fri, Pacific Time  
408-725-0561 (modem 3/12/2400) 24 hours every day  
408-973-8091 (modem 9600/14400) 24 hours every day

or enter "C PORTAL" from any Sprintnet dial-in in the USA,  
or telnet to "portal.com" from anywhere.

#### PORTAL'S CURRENT RATES:

All prices shown are in U.S. Dollars

|                                    |                |                | Fee         | Total<br>Cost         | Total<br>Cost          | Total<br>Cost           | Total<br>Cost           |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|                                    | Startup<br>Fee | Monthly<br>Fee | Per<br>Hour | 1 hr.<br>Per<br>month | 5 hrs.<br>per<br>month | 10 hrs.<br>per<br>month | 30 hrs.<br>per<br>month |
|                                    | \$             | \$             | \$          | \$                    | \$                     | \$                      | \$                      |
| Portal                             | 19.95          | 19.95          |             |                       |                        |                         |                         |
| 2400/9600/14.4Kbps, *direct 24 hrs |                |                | 0.00        | 19.95                 | 19.95                  | 19.95                   | 19.95                   |
| 2400/9600bps nonprime Sprint       |                |                | 2.50        | 22.95                 | 32.45                  | 44.95                   | 94.95                   |
| 2400/9600bps prime Sprint +%       |                |                | 5.50-10     | 29.95                 | 69.95                  | 119.95                  | varies                  |
| 2400/9600bps non prime # PCPursuit |                |                | 1.00        | 20.95                 | 24.95                  | 29.95                   | 49.95                   |

\* plus cost of phone call if out of Portal's local dialing area

Direct rates also apply to connections made to Portal using the UNIX "telnet" program from an account you may already have on an Internet-connected system.

% 9600 bps Sprintnet in over 300 cities areas

+ \$10 rate prevails at smaller US Cities

# PCPursuit is a service of US Sprint. Portal is a PCPursuit "Direct Access Facility" thus connection to Portal with a PCP account is simply a matter of entering C PORTAL,PCP-ID,PCP-PASSWORD at the SprintNet login prompt instead of C PORTAL.

**Note:**

Portal Direct 9600/14400 bps service is available for both USR HST modems, and any V32/V32.bis modems. There are dozens of direct-dial high speed lines into Portal. No busy signals!

SprintNet 9600bps service is V.32 modem protocol only.  
Again, Portal does NOT surcharge high speed modem users!

Portal subscribers who already have an account on an Internet-capable system elsewhere, can use that system's "telnet" program to connect to Portal for \$0.00 an hour. That's right ZERO. From anywhere in the world. If you're in this category, be sure to ask the Portal reps, when you signup, how to login to Portal from your existing Internet account.

Call and join today. Tell the friendly Portal Customer Service representative, "The Amiga Zone and Amiga Report sent me!"

[Editor's Note: Be sure to tell them that you are an Amiga user, so they can notify the AmigaZone sysops to send their Welcome Letter and other information!]

That number again: 408-973-9111.

Portal Communications accepts MasterCard, Visa, or you can pre-pay any amount by personal check or money order. The Portal Online System is a trademark of Portal Communications.

## 1.23 Dealer Directory

```

%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%
%%                               Dealer Directory                               %%
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

```

Almathera Systems Ltd  
Challenge House  
618 Mitcham Rd  
Croydon, Surrey  
CR9 3AU England  
VOICE: (UK) 081 683 6418  
Internet: (Sales) almathera@cix.compulink.co.uk

(Technical) jralph@cix.compulink.co.uk

Amigability Computers  
P.O. Box 572  
Plantsville, CT 06479  
VOICE: 203-276-8175  
Internet: amiga@phantm.UUCP  
BIX: jbasile  
(Send E-mail to subscribe to our mailing list)

Apogee Technologies  
1851 University Parkway  
Sarasota, FL 34243  
VOICE: 813-355-6121  
Portal: Apogee  
Internet: Apogee@cup.portal.com

Armadillo Brothers  
753 East 3300 South  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
VOICE: 801-484-2791  
Internet: B.GRAY@genie.geis.com

Atlantis Kobetek Inc.  
1496 Lower Water St.  
Halifax, NS, Canada, B3J 1R9  
Phone: (902)-422-6556  
Fax: (902)-423-9339  
BBS: (902)-492-1544  
Internet: aperusse@fox.nstn.ns.ca

Brian Fowler Computers Ltd  
11 North St  
Exeter  
Devon  
EX4 3QS  
United Kingdom  
Voice: (0392) 499 755  
Fax: (0392) 423 480  
Internet: brian\_fowler@cix.compulink.co.uk

CLICK! Amiga Specialists N.V.  
Boomsesteenweg 468  
B-2610 Wilrijk - Antwerpen  
Belgium - Europe  
VOICE: 03 / 828.18.15  
FAX: 03 / 828.67.36  
USENET: vanhoutv@click.augfl.be  
FIDO: 2:292/603.9  
AmigaNet: 39:120/102.9

---

Comspec Communications Inc  
Serving your computing needs since 1976  
74 Wingold Ave  
Toronto, Ontario  
Canada M6B 1P5  
Computer Centre: (416) 785-8348  
Service, Corporate & Educational Sales: (416) 785-3553  
Fax: 416-785-3668  
Internet: bryanf@comcorp.comspec.com  
bryanf@accesspt.north.net

Computers International, Inc.  
5415 Hixson Pike  
Chattanooga, TN 37343  
VOICE: 615-843-0630

DataKompaniet ANS  
Pb 3187 Munkvoll  
N-7002 Trondheim  
Norway - Europe  
VOICE/FAX: 72 555 149  
Internet: torrunes@idt.unit.no

Digital Arts  
122 West 6th Street  
Bloomington, IN 47404  
VOICE: (812) 330-0124  
FAX: (812) 330-0126  
BIX: msears

Finetastic Computers  
721 Washington Street  
Norwood, MA 02062  
VOICE: 617-762-4166  
BBS: 617-769-3172  
Fido: 1:101/322  
Portal: FinetasticComputers  
Internet: FinetasticComputers@cup.portal.com

HT Electronics  
275 North Mathilda Avenue  
Sunnyvale, CA 94086  
VOICE: 408-737-0900  
FAX: 408-245-3109  
Portal: HT Electronics  
Internet: HT Electronics@cup.portal.com

Industrial Video, Inc.  
1601 North Ridge Rd.  
Lorain, OH 44055

---

VOICE: 800-362-6150  
216-233-4000  
Internet: af741@cleveland.freenet.edu  
Contact: John Gray

MicroSearch  
9000 US 59 South, Suite 330  
Houston, Texas  
VOICE: 713-988-2818  
FAX: 713-995-4994

Mr. Hardware Computers  
P.O. Box 148  
59 Storey Ave.  
Central Islip, NY 11722  
VOICE: 516-234-8110  
FAX: 516-234-8110  
A.M.U.G. BBS: 516-234-6046

MusicMart: Media Sound & Vision  
71 Wellington Road  
London, Ontario, Canada  
VOICE: 519-434-4162  
FAX: 519-663-8074  
BBS: 519-457-2986  
FIDO: 1:221/125  
AmigaNet: 40:550/1  
MaxNet: 90:204/1  
iNET: koops@gaul.csd.uwo.ca

PSI Animations  
17924 SW Pilkington Road  
Lake Oswego, OR 97035  
VOICE: 503-624-8185  
Internet: PSIANIM@agora.rain.com

Software Plus Chicago  
3100 W Peterson Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois  
VOICE: 312-338-6100

Wonder Computers Inc.  
1315 Richmond Rd.  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2B 8J7  
Voice: 613-596-2542  
Fax: 613-596-9349  
BBS: 613-829-0909

CYNOSTIC  
Office 01,

---



Little Heath Industrial Estate,  
Old Church Road,  
Coventry.  
CV6 7NB  
UNITED KINGDOM  
Tel: +44 (0)203 681687  
Fax: +44 (0)203 638508  
David Cassidy email: bsupa@csv.warwick.ac.uk

(Dealers: To have your name added, please send Email!)

## 1.24 PowerSnap v2.2a

### TITLE

PowerSnap

### RELEASE

2.2a

### AUTHOR

Nico Francois  
nico@augfl.be

### SHORT

Snap and paste anywhere using the mouse.

### DESCRIPTION

PowerSnap is a utility that allows you to use the mouse to mark characters anywhere on the screen and paste them somewhere else, like in the CLI or in a string gadget.

PowerSnap will check what font is used in the window you snap from and will look for the position of the characters automatically. It recognizes all non proportional fonts of up to 24 pixels wide and of any height so this should cover most fonts used. Snapping and pasting text is done using the mouse, making PowerSnap fast and easy to use.

Special note for graphics card owners: this release has been succesfully tested on Piccolo, EGS Spectrum and Picasso II (both normal and CHUNKY mode). Some cards may require you to set the new RTG switch/tooltype.

### NEW FEATURES

- o Fixed problem with RTG detection code and added an RTG switch and tooltype to force RTG mode on. If PowerSnap doesn't work on your graphics card try using the RTG switch.

- o The clipboard is now opened when PowerSnap is installed and closed when it is removed and no longer on every clipboard read/write. This avoids the overuse of CLIPS:.
- o The handler will no longer look for PowerSnap in the command path. It will now simply execute PowerSnap from 'PROGDIR:'.
- o Bug fix: there was a small amount of memory loss when PowerSnap was quit. Oops :)
- o Bug fix: error reporting routine (from Workbench) would hang when ReqTools was not installed.
- o Bug fix: on systems without locale.library the hex pattern gadgets contained a capital X instead of the correct hex number.
- o Fixed harmless mungwall hit that occurred when 'All Fonts' was switched on and PowerSnap couldn't find a character under the mouse pointer (allocation of 0 bytes).
- o Swedish catalog included, translation by Roger Nordin.
- o French catalog included, translation by Benoit Mortier.

#### SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

AmigaOS Release 2.04 (V37+) or higher.

#### HOST NAME

wuarchive.wustl.edu (128.252.135.4) [AmiNet]

#### DIRECTORY

/pub/aminet/os20/cdity

#### FILENAME

PowerSnap22a.lha

#### DISTRIBUTABILITY

Freeware, Copyright (c) 1991-1994 Nico Francois

## 1.25 Ensemble Verbes v1.1

#### TITLE

Ensemble Verbes

#### VERSION

Version 1.1

---

## AUTHOR

Peter E. Janes

## DESCRIPTION

Ensemble Verbes is a program to help students practise and master French verbs in the most common tenses of the language. It is designed to support classroom work, not to replace it.

The registered version of Ensemble Verbes features:

- \* Over 75 verbs, including -er, -ir, -re, reflexive and irregular conjugations
- \* Seven tenses: present, compound past, imperfect, future, conditional, subjunctive present and present participle
- \* Full online, context-sensitive help via AmigaGuide tm
- \* Close adherence to Amiga User Interface Style Guide
- \* Sound support
- \* Support for international keyboards
- \* Locale support

Registered users can also obtain The French Student's Dictionary & Guide, a 150-page book featuring:

- \* French/English and English/French sections
- \* Most commonly used vocabulary, in context
- \* Many easy-to-understand examples to help in selection of vocabulary
- \* Many idiomatic expressions
- \* Regular and irregular verb charts
- \* Reference grammar guide
- \* Over 5500 entries

## SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Any Amiga running V37 or above

## PRICE

|                                                                   |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Ensemble Verbes:                                                  | CAN \$25.00 |
| The French Student's Dictionary & Guide:                          | CAN \$12.00 |
| Ensemble Verbes *and* The French Student's<br>Dictionary & Guide: | CAN \$30.00 |

Add CAN \$3.00 for shipping.

#### DISTRIBUTABILITY

A freely distributable demonstration version of Ensemble Verbes has been uploaded to Aminet sites, and may be found in directory misc/edu as Verbes1\_1.lha. It should also appear in Fred Fish's collection of Amiga software soon.

The shareware version is fully functional, but contains only -er verbs and present, subjunctive present and present participle.

#### CONTACT

Peter E. Janes  
R. R. #8,  
Watford, Ontario, Canada  
N0M 2S0

The author may also be contacted electronically on  
Usenet/Internet as:

pejanes@descartes.uwaterloo.ca  
pejanes@io.org

## 1.26 TitleClock v3 r3

#### TITLE

TitleClock

#### VERSION

3 revision 3, of 12-Feb-94.

#### AUTHOR

Anders Hammarquist <f92anha@dd.chalmers.se>  
2:203/123.16@fidonet.org

#### DESCRIPTION

TitleClock is a small commodity that displays a clock in the top right corner of any screen. Unlike other clocks, TitleClock does not open a window on the screens on which it displays the clock. Thus it will seamlessly appear and

dissapear from screens as they open and close.

#### NEW FEATURES

This version adds support for user-specified formatting of the time display via `locale.library`. Some minor bugs were fixed, and due to popular demand, it now comes with source.

#### SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Requires AmigaOS 2.04 (2.1 if you wish to use the new time formatting option), and a screen with a titlebar to display the clock in.

#### FIDO FREQ

Cyberstation Assimilate 2:203/123 (+46-31-694077)

#### HOST NAME

Aminet - `ftp.luth.se` (130.240.18.2) and others.

#### DIRECTORY

`/pub/aminet/os20/cdity`

#### FILE NAME

`TitleClock3.lha`

#### PRICE

Free.

#### DISTRIBUTABILITY

Freeware.

## 1.27 Window Daemon v1.6

#### TITLE

Window Daemon - Control Intuition Windows and Screens

#### VERSION

Distribution version 1.6

#### AUTHORS

David Swasbrook

E-mail address: `swaz@iconz.co.nz`

---

## DESCRIPTION

Window Daemon gives extended control to intuition windows and screens through HotKeys and Arexx. In addition there is better workbench drawer manipulation, you can close the current drawer window when opening another drawer, and when closing a drawer can open its parent automatically. Using a hotkey you can manage the task priority owning the current window and even suspend the task. Also the active window can be brought to the front or pushed to the back by simply holding down both mouse buttons.

## FEATURES

1. Arexx, Commodities and Locale Support.
2. HotKey and Arexx support to manipulate the currently active window and screen. Standard window controls are available such as Zip, Close, Size, ToFront, ToBack, NextScreen, etc... Also can suspend tasks and modify priorities.
3. Able to close the parent window of a drawer when opened on "Workbench" if CONTROL is held down. (Only available under kickstart V39 or higher)
4. Can open parent window of a "Workbench" drawer when the drawer closed if CONTROL is held down.
5. Closes all "Workbench" drawers when a drawer is closed if either of the ALT keys are held down.
6. Specialized options to forcefully close windows and screens, and also to remove tasks that own the active window.
7. Font sensitive interface.

## SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

OS release 2.04 or newer is required.

"matrix.library" version 23.1770 required. (included in archive)

Hypertext compatable document. (ie. MultiView/AmigaGuide)

Commodore installer.

Distribution is archived with lha so program to un-archive them is needed.

## UPDATE

This archive is an update of the WindowDaemon10.lha archive.

New features:

- \* Locale support
-

- \* User interface added to configure hotkeys
- \* Several bugs fixed.

## HOST NAME

Software has been uploaded to the Aminet Site:

```
wuarchive.wustl.edu      128.252.135.4    pub/aminet/
```

and will be readily available on other Aminet sites.

## DIRECTORY

```
/pub/aminet/util/misc
```

## FILE NAMES

WindowDaemon16.lha - Window Daemon binaries and documentation

## PRICE

Shareware. Contributions are gratefully accepted.

## DISTRIBUTABILITY

Freely distributable as long as the contents of the archive are kept in tact. Window Daemon is shareware, and may not be included in any other distribution or used for commercial use without my express permission.

## OTHER

E-mail address for bug reports and fixes:  
swaz@iconz.co.nz or msd@iconz.co.nz

## 1.28 In Closing

[illegible]

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A horizontal row consisting of 60 small, light gray circles arranged side-by-side.

## 1.29 Columns and Features

|                         |                               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| From the Editor's Desk  | Saying it like it is!         |
| In Review               | Intro to PD/SW Reviews        |
| Amiga News              | Happenings in the Amiga world |
| Amiga in Business       | Emplant & Amax                |
| Video Backup System     | Back up HDs to the VCR!       |
| Amiga 600 in use!       | Why to get one                |
| Machine - Display Blues | Looking at RTG                |
| Inexpensive Computers   | A look at the market          |
| Take another Look       | CBM and the Amiga             |
| Snow...and the Amiga    | Selling the Amiga             |
| Compact Disks           | How good are they?            |
| The CLIPPER Chip        | An article from WIRED         |
| Mail Order Survey       | Tell your story!              |
| Reader Mail             | The readers speak!            |
| Emulation Rambler       | Feeling the need for speed    |

### 1.30 About Amiga Report

|              |                               |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| For Starters | Where to get AMIGA REPORT     |
| AR Staff     | The Editors, and Contributors |
| In Closing   | Copyright Information         |

### 1.31 Commercial Online Services



Delphi        Getting better all the time!  
 Portal       A great place for Amiga users...  
 InterNet     Subscribe to the AR Mailing List  
 BIX          For Serious Programmers and Developers

## 1.32 Files Available for FTP

PowerSnap v2.2a      Snap and Paste anywhere w/ mouse  
 Ensemble Verbes v1.1 Master French verbs  
 TitleClock v3 r3     Clock commodity  
 Window Daemon v1.6   Extends control to wondows

~~~~~  
 The most downloaded files from wustl.edu during the week until 21-Feb-94

File	Dir	Size Description
-----	---	----
ar206.lha	text/mags	54K+Amiga Report #2.06 - 2/11/94
ARTM2_0.lha	util/moni	77K+System Monitor for OS 2.04 or newer
unzip51x.lha	util/arc	88K+UnZip 5.1, Info-Zip Portable Un-zipper
ScorchedTanks.lha	game/shoot	365K Tank warfare game for 1-4 players. Scorche
DiskSpareDevic16.lha	disk/misc	15K+Use 984kB or 1.968MB floppy disks!
XSize30.lha	util/wb	10K+X style window sizing (now a Commodity)
mui20usr.lha	dev/gui	635K+MagicUserInterface V2.0, user files
WindowDaemon16.lha	util/misc	45K+Extended control to intuition windows
BootScreen21.lha	util/wb	74K+Display picture during boot! V2.1
TolleUhr.lha	os20/wb	29K+A nice looking Workbench clock

1.33 NOVA

* NOVA BBS *
 Official Amiga Report Distribution Site
 * Running Starnet BBS *
 Wayne Stonecipher, Sysop
 FidoNet 1:362/508
 An Amiga Software Distribution Site (ADS)
 615-472-9748 USR DS 16.8 24hrs - 7 days
 Cleveland, Tennessee

1.34 In The MeanTime

* IN THE MEANTIME BBS *
 Official Amiga Report Distribution Site
 * Running AXShell *
 Robert Niles, Sysop
 rniles@imtired.itm.com

509-966-3828 Supra V.32bis 24hrs - 7 days
Yakima, Washington

***** Notice *****

After 13 September 1993, In The MeanTime will no longer be on FidoNet, thus we will no longer be accepting File REQuests (FREQs). We WILL be still accepting calls and will have the latest edition of Amiga Report online. Downloads to first time callers are still accepted. For the west coast call Cloud's Corner to FREQ the latest edition of Amiga Report.

Those who call for the latest edition of Amiga Report, and who do not wish to establish an account, log in as guest with the password of "guest". At the prompt type "ARMAG" (without the quotes).

1.35 Cloud's Corner

* CLOUD'S CORNER BBS *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site
MebbsNet/Starnet Support/Distribution Site West Coast USA
* Running MEBBSNet BBS *
Larry Cloud, Sysop
FidoNet: 1:350/30
MaxNet: 90:180/10
Internet: larryc@hebron.connected.com
206-377-4290 USR HST DS 24hrs - 7 days
Bremerton, Washington

New users can call and get ANY copy of Amiga Report. These are considered "free" downloads, they do not count against any file ratio. The latest issue of Amiga Reports can be Freq'ed (FileREQuoted) from here as "AR.LHA", as "AR" or as ARxxx.LHA where xxx is the issue number. Freq's are valid at ANY time.

For users interested in reading AR, but who do not have access to AmigaGuide, you can freq ARBUL and get the AR in bulletin form. This service is provided for persons who do not have Amigaguide (such as IBM users). Please note that any pictures distributed with the "regular" Amiga Reports archive will NOT be sent with this freq. This file is not available for dial-in users, but you can read bulletin #5 with your capture buffer open and get the same file.

NOTE: This system is currently down.

1.36 Biosmatica

* BIOSMATICA BBS *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site -- Portugal
* Running Excelsior/Trapdoor/UUCP *
Celso Martinho, Sysop
FidoNet 2:361/9
+351-34-382320 V.32bis 24hrs - 7 days

1.37 Amiga Junction 9

```
      * AMIGA JUNCTION 9 *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site -- United Kingdom
      * Running DLG Professional *
      Stephen Anderson, Sysop
      Sysop Email:  sysadmin@junct9.royle.org

Line 1  +44 (0)372 271000  14400  V.32bis/HST   FidoNet 2:440/20
Line 2  +44 (0)372 278000  14400  V.32bis only  FidoNet 2:440/21
Line 3  +44 (0)372 279000   2400   V.42bis/MNP

      Internet:  user_name@junct9.royle.org
```

1.38 BitStream BBS

```
      * BITSTREAM BBS *
The BBS of the Nelson (NZ) Amiga Users Group
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site
      * Running Xenolink 1.0 Z.3 *
      Glen Roberts, Sysop
      FidoNet 3:771/850
+64 3 5485321  Supra V.32bis  24hrs - 7 days
      Nelson, New Zealand
```

1.39 Realm of Twilight

```
      * REALM OF TWILIGHT BBS *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site -- Canada
      * Running Excelsior! BBS *
      Thorsten Schiller, Sysop
Usenet: realm.tdkcs.waterloo.on.ca
UUCP:  ...!uunet.ca!tdkcs!realm
      FIDO: 1:221/302
      Fish: 33:33/8
      24hrs - 7 days
      519-748-9365  (2400 baud)
      519-748-9026  (v.32bis)
      Ontario, Canada
```

Hardware: Amiga 3000, 105 Meg Quantum, 213 Meg Maxtor, 5 megs RAM

1.40 Metnet Triangle

```
METNET TRIANGLE SYSTEM
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site
UK Support for Mebbsnet
```

* Running Mebbsnet and Starnet 1.02a *

Jon Witty, Sysop
 FIDO: 2:252/129.0
 24 hrs - 7 days

Line 1: 44-482-473871 16.8 DS HST
 Lines 2-7: 44-482-442251 2400 (6 lines)
 Line 8: 44-482-491744 2400
 Line 9: 44-482-449028 2400
 Voice helpline 44-482-491752 (anytime)

Fully animated menus + normal menu sets.
 500 megs HD - Usual software/messages
 Most doors online - Many Sigs - AMIGA AND PC SUPPORT
 Very active userbase and busy conference
 Precious days and MUD online. AMUL support site.

1.41 Omaha Amiganet

* OMAHA AMIGANET *

Official Amiga Report Distribution Site

* Running DLG Professional *

Andy Wasserman, Sysop
 24 hrs - 7 days
 FidoNet: 1:285/11
 AmigaNet: 40:200/10

Line 1: 402-333-5110 V.32bis
 Line 2: 402-691-0104 USR DS
 Omaha, Nebraska

1.42 Amiga-Night-System

* AMIGA-NIGHT-SYSTEM *

Official Amiga Report Distribution Site - Finland

* Running DLG Professional *

Janne Saarme, Sysop
 24 hrs - 7 days
 InterNet: luumu@fenix.fipnet.fi
 FidoNet: 2:220/550.0
 +358-0-675840 V.32bis
 Helsinki, Finland

1.43 Ramses Amiga Flying

* RAMSES THE AMIGA FLYING *

Official Amiga Report Distribution Site -- France

* Running DLG Professional *

Eric Delord, Sysop
 Philippe Brand, Co-Sysop
 Stephane Legrand, Co-Sysop
 Internet: user.name@ramses.gna.org

FidoNet: 2:320/104
+33-1-60037015 USR DS 16.8
+33-1-60037713 V.32bis
+33-1-60037716 1200-2400

Ramses The Amiga Flying BBS is an Amiga-dedicated BBS running DLG-Pro on a Amiga 3000, 16MB RAM, 2GB Disk space, 3 lines.

We keep a dayly Aminet site mirroring, NetBSD-Amiga complete mirror site from ftp.eunet.ch (main site), Amiga Report, GNU Amiga, Ramses is the SAN/ADS/Amiganet French coordinator.

1.44 Gateway BBS

* THE GATEWAY BBS *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site
* Running Excelsior! BBS *
Stace Cunningham, Sysop
Dan Butler, CoSysop
24 hrs - 7 days
InterNet: stace@tecnet1.jcte.jcs.mil
FidoNet: 1:3604/60.0
601-374-2697 Hayes Optina 28.8 V.FC
Biloxi, Mississippi

1.45 Talk City

* TALK CITY *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site
708-372-0190 - 2400bps 708-372-0268 - V32 14.4K 708-372-0283 USR DS 14.4K
Fido Net 1:115/372,0 Phantom Net 11:2115/2.0 Clink Net 911:6080/4.0
UUCP tcity.com

Over 3 Gig of Files Online | More and More things everyday.

With Three IBM CD-ROMs online, 10 lines, support for all platforms, and a REALLY dedicated sysop (The Mayor).

1.46 Amiga BBS

* Amiga BBS *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site
* Running Excelsior! BBS *
Alejandro Kurczyn, Sysop
FidoNet 4:975/7

First Amiga BBS in Mexico
 (5) 887-3080 9600 V32,MNP
 Estado de Mexico, Mexico

1.47 The Stygian Abyss

* THE STYGIAN ABYSS BBS *
 312-384-0616 14.4 USR Courier HST
 312-384-6250 14.4 Supra V.32 bis (FREQ line)
 312-384-0716 2400 USR Courier

FIDONet-1:115/384.0 CLink-911:6200/2.0 NWNNet-206:310/0.0--206:310/1.0
 PhantomNet Central States Cooridinator-11:2115/0.0--11:2115/1.0
 FaithNet Central States Cooridinator-700:6000/0.0--700:6000/1.0
 AMINet Chicagoland HUB-559:2/5.0
 Chicago, Illinois

Over 4 GIGS of files I Over 3700 MODS I Over 120 On-Line Games
 Tons of digitized sounds I Over 15,000 GIFS
 Supporting: Amiga I IBM I Macintosh I C=64/128
 SIR SAMMY-SysOp Enter.....If you dare!!

1.48 Amiga Do PC BBS

* AMIGA DO PC BBS *
 Official Amiga Report Distribution Site - Brazil
 * Running Excelsior! v 1.18 *

+55-192-33-2260
 Weekdays: 19-07 (-3 GMT)
 Weekends: 24 hours
 Fidonet: 4:801/44
 RBT: 12:1212/1
 Virinet: 70:101/17

Internet: fimoraes@dcc.unicamp.br
 Francisco Moraes, sysop
 Campinas, SP

Freq AREPORT for the newest issue avaiable.

1.49 Comm-Link BBS

* COMM-LINK BBS *
 Official Amiga Report Distribution Site
 * Running Excelsior Pro *
 604-945-6192 USR DS 16.8
 24 hrs - 7 days
 Fido: 1:153/210.0

AmigaNet 40:800/9100.0
InterSports: 102:540/305.0
PussNet: 169:1000/305.0
InterNet: steve_hooper@comm.tfbbs.wimsey.com
Steve Hooper, Sysop
Port Coquitlam, B.C. Canada

1.50 Phantom's Lair

* PHANTOM'S LAIR *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site
* Running CNET 3.0 *
FidoNet: 1:115/469.0
Phantom Net Coordinator: 11:1115/0.0-11:1115/1.0
708-469-9510
708-469-9520
CD ROMS, Over 15511 Files Online @ 2586 meg
Peter Gawron, Sysop
Glendale Heights, Illinois

1.51 Tierra-Miga BBS

Tierra-Miga BBS
Software: CNet
Gib Gilbertson
24 hours - 7 days
FidoNet: 1:202/638.0
AmigaNet: 40:406/3.0
Internet: torment.cts.com
Line #1: 619.292.0754 V32.bis
City: San Diego, CA.

1.52 Freeland Mainframe

* FREELAND MAINFRAME *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site
* Running DLG Progeessional *
John Freeland, SysOp
206-438-1670 Supra 2400zi
206-438-2273 Telebit WorldBlazer (v.32bis)
206-456-6013 Supra v.32bis
24hrs - 7 days
Internet - freemf.eskimo.com
Olympia, Washington

1.53 LAHO

```
      * LAHO BBS *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site -- Finland
      * Running MBBS *
      Lenni Uitti, SysOp
      Tero Manninen, SysOp (PC-areas)
      Juha Makinen, SysOp (Amiga-areas)
      +358-64-414 1516, V.32bis/HST
      +358-64-414 0400, V.32bis/HST
      +358-64-414 6800, V.32/HST
      +358-64-423 1300, V.32 MNP
      Seinajoki, Finland
```

Our machine is a 386/33 with 20MB of memory, 1GB harddisk and a CD-ROM drive. The BBS software is a Norwegian origin MBBS running in a DesqView windows.

We have over 7000 files online (both for the Amiga and PC) + 650MB stuff on the Aminet CD-ROM disk.

Every user has an access to download filelist (LAHOFIL.ZIP), list of Finnish 24-hour BBS's (BBSLIST.ZIP or BBSLIST.LHA) and every issue of the Amiga Report Magazine (AR101.LHA-AR1???.LHA) even on their first call.

The system has been running since 1989 and is sponsored by the local telephone company, Vaasan Ladnin Puhelin Oy.

1.54 Falling BBS

```
      * FALLING BBS *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site -- Norway
      * Running ABBS *
      Christopher Naas, Sysop
      +47 69 256117 V.32bis 24hrs - 7 days
      EMail:      naasc@cnaas.adsp.sub.org
```

1.55 Command Line BBS

```
      * COMMAND LINE BBS *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site -- Canada
      Canada's Amiga Graphics & Animation Source
      * Running AmiExpress BBS *
      Nick Poliwko, Sysop
      416-533-8321 V.32 24hrs - 7 days
      Toronto, Canada
```


1.56 Rendezvous BBS

* RENDEZVOUS BBS *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site - New Zealand
New Zealand Excelsior! BBS Support Site
* Running Excelsior! Professional BBS *
David Dustin, Sysop
Internet: postmaster@eclipse.acme.gen.nz
+64 6 3566375 Supra V.32bis 24hrs - 7 days
Palmerston North, New Zealand

1.57 Leguans Byte Channel

* LEGUANS BYTE CHANNEL *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site -- Germany
* Running EazyBBS V2.11 *
Andreas Geist, Sysop
Usenet: andreas@lbcmbx.in-berlin.de
24 hrs - 7 days
Line 1: 49-30-8110060 USR DS 16.8
Line 2: 49-30-8122442 USR DS 16.8

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

1.58 Stingray Database BBS

* STINGRAY DATABASE *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site -- Germany
* Running FastCall *
Bernd Mienert, Sysop
Email: sysop@sting-db.zer.sub.org.dbp.de
+49 208 496807 HST-Dual 24hrs - 7 days
Muelheim/Ruhr, Germany

1.59 T.B.P. Video Slate

* T.B.P. VIDEO SLATE *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site
An Amiga dedicated BBS for All
* Running Skyline 1.3.2 *
Mark E Davidson, Sysop
24 hrs - 7 days
201-586-3623 USR 14.4 HST
Rockaway, New Jersey

Full Skypix menus + normal and ansi menu sets.
Instant Access to all. Download on the first call.

Hardware: Amiga 500 Tower custom at 14 MHz, 350 Meg maxtor,
125 Meg SCSI Maxtor, 125 Meg IDE Maxtor, Double Speed CD rom,
9 meg RAM

1.60 Amiga Central

* AMIGA CENTRAL! *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site
CNet Amiga Support Site
* Running CNet Amiga BBS *
Carl Tashian, Sysop
Internet mail: root@amicent.raider.net
615-383-9679 1200-14.4Kbps V.32bis
24 hours - 7 days
Nashville, Tennessee

Hardware: Amiga 3000 Tower 68030+882@25MHz, 105 meg Quantum, 225 meg Seagate,
Zoom 14.4k modem

1.61 Continental Drift

* CONTINENTAL DRIFT BBS *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site
* Running MAXsBBS software (DLG Pro is being delivered!) *
Murray Chaffer & Andre Lackmann, Sysops
+612 949-4256
24 hours - 7 days
Sydney, Australia

1.62 Guru Meditation:

* GURU MEDITATION *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site -- Spain
* Running Remote Access *
Javier Frias, SysOp
+34-1-383-1317 V.32bis
24 hours - 7days
Spain