BenSpeaks

Ben Vost

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Chapter 1

BenSpeaks

1.1 Welcome to AFCD17

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                AFCD17
September 97

Blimey it's hot! In fact, it's so hot, I can't think of anything to write
this month. All I can think about is swimming pools and frosty glasses of
beer and stuff. But here I am stuck in this sweltering office (which is at a
temperature of around 28\textdegree{}C!). Still, by the end of last month, it was  ←
    soggy
in the extreme with more than 260% of the expected rainfall for the Bath
area. And people wonder why the English are so obsessed with the weather!

Oh well, I wonder what the temperature's like on Mars? Thanks to NASA's
generosity and the wonder of the world wide wait we can get information
that's as up-to-date on the Mars Pathfinder mission as any you get on the TV
or radio news and that's great. I can remember as a gawky teenager sending
off a self-addressed envelope to NASA's public relations department
requesting a few pictures of the (then new) space shuttle. I waited for about
a month and a half, running down to the postbox every morning eager to see if
my pictures had arrived, until I lost heart and gave up. Of course, the very
next day, I received a huge envelope in the post, crammed with all sorts of
data and photographic reprints of the shuttle and earth-seen-from-space
shots. And with the speed of the web these days, it's almost a similar wait
now! :)

See you next month,


        Ben
        HEY!!!! READ THE SUBMISSION ADVICE! THEN YOUR STUFF MIGHT GET ON  ←
            THE CD!!!

PS. OK, you've stopped sending us your modules, but still more than half
of your submissions are not getting onto the AFCD. If you don't
know why yours hasn't appeared then maybe you should check out the

        submissions advice page
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1.2 Submissions advice

1.3 Submissions advice

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                    HOW TO SEND US YOUR SUBMISSIONS
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IMPORTANT! We can no longer accept your music modules as submissions for the
Amiga Format CD owing to copyright problems with sound samples from copyrighted
sources. Thanks for all your music submissions up till now, but please don't
send any more...

We want you to send us your programs, animations, pictures, game tips and
cheats, hacks, hardware projects, basically anything you can think of that you
have done with your Amiga. It must be your own work – no passing off Chris
Achilleos' greatest masterpieces as your own, and we need a variety of things
from you in addition to your submission and we need them on your disk.

    1. We need your name and address so that we know where to send your prize.
  You should also put your name and address on labels on your media.

    2. We need two
              read me
               files accompanying your work; one for us and one
  to go on the CD itself (title them AF_ReadMe and ReadMe). These can be
  as in-depth as you want them to be, but should contain instructions for
  us on getting your work running if it is a complicated procedure,
  including things like necessary libraries and so on. The readme that
  will go on the CD will be the introduction of your work to the whole
  Amiga Format reading world so check your spelling and grammar and show
  people just what is so good about your work.

    3. If your work requires files such as libraries which you cannot send
  us owing to copyright reasons make sure we know about them so that we
  can either arrange to put them on the CD, or warn our readers about
  them (you will probably do this in your CD read me).

    4. Be aware that we won't be as interested in programs that need to
  boot or that require to be in a certain place on the CD, unless, of
  course, that place happens to be in your directory on the CD. Your
  directory will almost certainly have the path:
  "AFCDx:-ReaderStuff-/your_name/" but then no-one will be able to run your
  program except from the CD, limiting its usefulness or appeal.

  If we do put something on the CD that needs to autoboot, it will almost
  certainly only be as a DMS that readers will have to extract to disk
  before they can use it.

    5. Lastly, your submission must include the following text within your

AF_ReadMe file, otherwise your submission will not go on the CD:

In respect of all material which forms my reader contribution to Future
      Publishing's Amiga Format I hereby warrant that:-

(1) the material is original and does not infringe any other material
          or rights;

(2) the material does not contain any material which is defamatory,
          obscene or indecent and is exempt from classification under the Video
          Recordings Act 1984;

      (3) that there are no legal claims against the material
          provided;

(4) that I have full power and authority to provide this material to
          Future Publishing.

        (There is a version of this text as a file in the -Look_here_1st!-
         drawer on the CD.)

You can send us your work on pretty much any sort of media whether it be floppy
disks (high or double density, but don't send us work on high density disks
unless you yourself have a high density drive. High density disks used in a
double density drive aren't as reliable as using double density disks), a
floppy disk back up using AmiBack, Quarterback or any of the shareware backup
tools, Zip disk, Jaz cartridge, SyQuest 44MB, 88MB or 105MB or EZ Drive, DAT
tape backup from any of the above-mentioned programs (the only thing we're not
very keen on is the Video Backup System that Power Computing sell in the UK,
we've had nothing but trouble with it), FTP upload to ftp2.futurenet.co.uk,
(you'll only be able to put your file in the incoming directory, you won't be
able to see it once you have finished uploading, but don't worry, it'll be
there. Make sure that you name your file with AF at the start so that we know
it's for us) basically anything apart from a listing on paper. We don't want
to have to type in your program too!

We will return any media more expensive than high density floppies via
registered post, so you won't have to worry about losing seventy quid's worth
of Jaz cartridge.

Send your submissions to:

  CD submissions
  Amiga Format
  30 Monmouth Street,
  Bath, BA1 2BW

1.4   How to make a Read me file

If you are unsure about how to make a readme file it really is very simple.
If you have a word processor of some description (Wordworth, Final Writer or

the like) you can create one in that – you must just make sure that you save
the text as ASCII text; there will be an option in the Save As... requester
or program preferences.

If you don't have a word processor, but you have a text editor for a
programming language or for some other reason – we put Gold Ed on our CD
every time the authors release a new version, you can use that, in fact, it
would be ideal for the purpose.

If you don't have a third party text editor, you have two provided by
Commodore with your Amiga. In the tools drawer you should find MEmacs, but
just opening a shell window will get you to ed. To edit a new file in ed,
type the following line at the shell prompt:

ed ram:AF_Readme

This will create a new text file in RAM: called, yes, you guessed it,
AF_Readme. It won't have an icon, but don't worry about that, we can always
add one for you, just make sure you put it in with your submission.

1.5   Thought for the month

Muddy hell

I'm glad I didn't get to Glastonbury this year. Although I would love to have
seen Beck, The Prodigy and the Levellers live, it was the mud I could well do
without. But it did set me thinking what sort of music I really enjoyed while
crafting the world's best Amiga magazine – and that the other people around
me like too.

There's only one thing that we are, for the most part, agreed on and that's
that Nicki Campbell (a DJ on the radio station we usually listen to) just
drives us all to distraction. So at that time of the afternoon, we usually
switch the radio off and bung on a CD. For me, the choice could be anything
from gangsta rap to a bit of Mozart, but this is what the other people round
the office would name as their ideal mid-afternoon listening.

Andrea   Dummy by Portishead. A brilliant album, so I'm with Andrea on
    this one.

Nick   Glen Campbell's twenty golden greats (a CD he recently got
    for his birthday, but not hugely indicative of his general
    musical taste which runs more to Neil Young...)

Andy   He's not here right now, but it's a good bet that he'd want
    to listen to either Ziontrain doing Babylon's Burning or
    possibly Hank Williams. Odd, eh?

Cathy   Cathy's ideal choice of music is usually Radiohead, but
    personally, I find I can only listen to a little at a time
    lest I am forced to go and commit suicide.

Steve Fardy   Urban Hang Suite by Maxwell. Steve's in for us while our art
    ed's on his hols and he reckons this is a right nice funky
    little number.

Vicki   Blue Lines by Massive Attack. Another excellent CD and one
    that would be lovely to listen to right now...

The only trouble is that the only one of us with any of these CDs here is
Nick, so we're all having to sing along with "Rhinestone Cowboy". Again. For
the third time.