

ael0595

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WRITTEN BY		February 12, 2023
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REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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New Products and Exciting News

Advice for Escom in the Educational Market

List of Schools Using Amigas

How to get on the AEL

1.3 Editor's Corner

Editor's Corner by
Lori Vinciguerra

Well, we finally have seen the resolution of the Commodore buyout. For those of you who haven't heard, Escom AG, a large computer retailer in Germany has purchased Commodore's assets for \$10 million. For those of you who are interested in more details of the liquidation proceedings, see Amiga Report Online Magazine Special Auction Issue, April 21, 1995 (<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~mjw/Amiga/News/AR/>). A special thanks to all of the work that Jason Compton has done in covering the liquidation and in providing the Amiga community with Amiga Report.

It is not known how the takeover will affect the Amiga market, however, now is the time to give suggestions to the new owners about the future of the Amiga in education. I would welcome suggestions from educators on additions to my article "Advice for Escom". I intend to include Escom on my distribution list for this newsletter. However, as of this date, there is no known e-mail address contact point.

I haven't received any offers from people willing to write an article for the AEL newsletter. I know that you are all very busy, but I think others that are reading this newsletter would find your stories very interesting. I would encourage people to send in their articles for the August edition by July 15, 1995. You may email them to owl@davinci.reading.ma.us.

1.4 Editor

EDITOR

Lori Vinciguerra

email: owl@davinci.reading.ma.us

1.5 New Products and Exciting News

Analay 1.1 (English Version)
Numerical analysis program

Ensemble Verbes (Version 1.3)
Practice foreign verbs

The products listed in this area have not been tested by OWL Software. They are listed for informational purposes. Reviews of educational products are welcome and can be sent to owl@davinci.reading.ma.us.

1.6 New Products and Exciting News / Analay (English Version)

Product: Analay, version 1.11 (English Version)
Author: Marc Necker
Email: Marc@buster.tynet.sub.org
Price: Available on Aminet in directory /pub/aminet/misc/math.

Shareware fee of 20US-\$/30DM. See the documentation for further information. Some functions are disabled in the unregistered version, e.g. the print-function. The Analay Archive without key file can be distributed freely as long as all files are kept together. You also may place it on PD-collections or CDs.

Analay is a new numerical analysis Program which provides all the standard functions such a program needs. The special feature of this program is the integrated DTP mode which allows you to lay out a page with full WYSIWYG! The program is divided into two independent parts running at the same time as separate tasks.

The Math-Mode contains all functions for plotting and analyzing function graphs. It's no problem to derive functions or to calculate the zeros or the area between functions to name only three of the many facilities. Moreover, the design of the graphs can be changed in many ways. You also can place text, points, etc. in the windows or hatch an area. Tables, lists and legends can be created as well.

The layout Mode contains a small but complete DTP Program with full WYSIWYG and Intellifont support! It allows you to lay out a page with function-graphs, tables, lists, legends, text blocks, etc. Moreover, it knows formulas which no program apart from TeX was able to display or print up to now! The page can be printed in highest printer resolution!

Requirements: AmigaOS 2.0 or higher and at least 1.5MByte RAM. More RAM and a harddisk recommended.

To use all of the program's features AmigaOS 3.0 or higher is required (e.g. color printout).

1.7 New Products and Exciting News / Ensemble Verbes

Product: Ensemble Verbes, Version 1.3 (28/03/95)
Company: Peter Janes
6868 Egremont Road, R.R.#8
Watford, ON, CANADA NOM 2S0
E-mail: pejanes@descartes.uwaterloo.ca
Price: CAN\$25 for Ensemble Verbes shareware registration
CAN\$10 for The French Student's Dictionary & Guide
CAN\$30 for Ensemble Verbes *and* The French Student's
Dictionary & Guide
Add CAN \$3.00 for shipping.
User groups - Contact the author for a group registration fee.

Availability:

All files can be found on any Aminet site.
The unregistered version of Ensemble Verbes may be found at:
ftp://ftp.wustl.edu/pub/aminet/misc/edu/Verbes1_3.lha (67690)
The patch files may be found at:
<ftp://ftp.wustl.edu/pub/aminet/misc/edu/VerbesRegPch12.lha> (21241)
<ftp://ftp.wustl.edu/pub/aminet/misc/edu/VerbesRegPch13.lha> (77599)
All of the files may also be retrieved from:
<http://www.undergrad.math.uwaterloo.ca/~pejanes/Verbes.html>

Distributability:

Shareware. The unregistered version of Ensemble Verbes may be included in the CD-ROM or floppy collections compiled by Fred Fish and the Aminet moderators; all others should contact Peter Janes before including the program. Both registered and unregistered versions are Copyright (C) 1995 by Peter E. Janes.

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

The shareware version contains only -er verbs and present, subjunctive past and present participle.

The registered version of Ensemble Verbes features:

- * Over 75 verbs, including -er, -ir, -re, reflexive and irregular conjugations
- * Seven tenses plus present participle (present, compound past, imperfect, future, conditional, subjunctive past 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 (English, French, Norwegian and Spanish catalogs included)

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

This is an update to Ensemble Verbes 1.2. Major changes include localized menus and gadgets, Norwegian and Spanish catalogs, and a reduction in the price of single copies of The French Student's Dictionary & Guide.

Requirements: AmigaDOS 2.04 or greater. AmigaGuide/MultiView and Installer are recommended.

1.8 Advice for Escom in the Educational Market

by Lori and Ralph Vinciguerra

As the new owners of the Amiga technology, Escom AG, attempt to formulate a marketing plan they must consider one of the biggest market areas: education. Schools, universities, and home educators are just beginning to use computers to teach everything from literature and languages to math and science. Many educational institutions are trying to decide on which platform to purchase and what types of software are available. Many educators that we have spoken to believe that the Amiga is a very viable choice for schools. However, certain actions on the part of Escom will help inform the decision-makers that there is another choice besides PC or Mac. The suggestions which follow will help Escom foster the necessary confidence in the Amiga and its new owners.

The first and most important action is to introduce the Amiga technology into schools by providing educational discounts. Loaner or free machines should be placed in schools to expose teachers and children to the Amiga. Apple has made huge inroads into the educational market because they have seen the importance of supporting the school systems. Also, children who use Amigas in school are more likely to purchase them for home use.

Many schools and classrooms are starting to connect to the information highway. Leverage AmiTCP and AMosaic and produce an Amiga-based Internet-in-a-Box. Give it away FREE to schools who buy Amigas on an educational discount (check out IBM's OS/2 Warp which has internet tools bundled for an example). This will provide easy access to the Internet, connecting the user with endless Amiga resources and countless Amiga users.

Along the same vein, start an Escom Amiga World Wide Web site (also gopher, mailserver, and FTP) which is both an AmiNet mirror and a source for new information, system specifications, support, Q&A, suggestions, and pointers to other Amiga resources. Get on the information superhighway! All of the other major players (Sun, Apple, SGI, HP, IBM) are out there. This will give educators an immediate contact point on the Internet and confidence in the Amiga.

Direct market to home educators. A low cost, highly capable machine like the Amiga 1200 would be very effective if co-marketed with a handful of educational software packages and perhaps a magazine devoted to the topic. The Amiga Educator's List Newsletter is published quarterly and is a free resource for people with e-mail or Internet access.

Vision impaired people who could benefit from the built in speech capability should be a very good market. Inform special education departments at schools and universities of the Amiga's strength in this area.

Provide seminars for schools to learn how to integrate computers into their classroom. Not only would Escom benefit from the seminar fees, but the Amiga name would be remembered when the school goes to purchase machines.

Advertise in magazines which target educators. There are large sections of family magazines, such as Family Life, Parents, Parenting, etc, dedicated to software. There are also trade magazines and catalogs designed specifically to sell computers and software to educators. Find out what these are and make sure that the Amiga is visible.

An announcement for AC's Guide to the Amiga should be included with each new machine. Perhaps ESCOM and PiM Publications can negotiate shipping one issue of the Guide with each machine. This would provide the user with a list of a majority of the available software. It would also provide the publisher with a chance to advertise Amazing Computing. Since there is a whole section devoted to education, it would help inform teachers of the amount of available software.

Make the Amiga easy to network. Many schools are networking machines from different classrooms together to avoid to management of large numbers of floppies. Apple has done an excellent job of providing networking support with the MacIntosh. The Amiga should at least come with simple networking software and the means to hook machines together.

We hope that the representatives from Escom consider carefully each of these suggestions. The Amiga is now represented in at least 100 schools or school systems in the United States and Canada alone (see school list). Because it has been successful in these schools, we believe that the educational market is open to the acceptance of Amigas. Escom has the opportunity to enter this market at a critical time. We wish Escom good luck in their newly acquired business.

1.9 School List

Schools are using Amigas

The following is a list of schools with Amiga Labs. If there are more of you out there or if any of these no longer exists please let us know. We will attempt to maintain an updated list and publish it in the AEL newsletter on a regular basis. As you can see from the current list, we are interested in all levels of schooling, from K-12 to college. I have received many inputs for the list this month. I have also included the list from "Famous Amiga Uses" compiled by David Tiberio and available on Aminet.

School Name	Departments
Alberni School District 70/Vancouver,BC	Art, Media
Arizona State University	Education, Multimedia
Atlanta College of Art/Georgia	Graphics
Ball State University/Indiana	Video Information
Banting Memorial High School/Ontario	Video Toaster
Bishop P.F. Reding Secondary School	Video
Bridgerland Literacy Program	Reading
California Institute of the Arts	Animation, Video
California State University at Fresno	Media
Cameron University	Physics, Communications
Carleton University/Ontario	---
Centralia Community College	TV production
Charles Sturt University/Australia	Image analysis, Art
Colgate University	Art & Art History
College of St. Rose	Physics, Math
Capilano College/Vancouver	Computer Graphics
Costano School/ E. Palo Alto, CA	---
Drake University/Iowa	TV
Emily Carr Inst. of Art & Design/Vancouver	Film & Video
Ferris State University/Michigan	TV
Fresno Community College/CA	Video Information
Graphic School/Belgrade, Yugoslavia	Animation, Image processing
Grossmont College	Multimedia
Institute for Biochemistry/ Austria	---
Intermedia Arts/Minneapolis, Minnesota	Animation, video
Kent State	Telecommunications
Kentucky Educational Television	Physics, Satellite TV
Logan Middle School/Utah	---
Logan High School/Utah	Industrial Arts
Loyalist College/Ontario	TV
Maarstricht University Hospital/Netherlands	---
Marine Institute of Technology/Newfoundland	Multimedia, Video Information
Massachusetts College of Art	Art
Massasoit Community College/Brockton,MA	Cable TV
Middleton High School/Wisconsin	Video Toasters
Minneapolis Community College (MCC)	Film & Video
Modesto Junior College/California	Art, Animation
NY Institute of Technology	Art, Animation
Nicholson Catholic College/Ontario	Media, Art
N Adelaide School of Art Edu./Australia	Art
Ohio State University	Art
Olympia High School/WA	Video
Orange Coast College/Costa Mesa, CA	Art, Multimedia
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine	---
Reg. School #7/ Winsted, CT	Math
Remsen Central School/New York	Word Processing
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Electronic Arts
Rhode Island School of Design	---
Saint Francis de Sales School for the Deaf/NY	Media
Sherwood Secondary School/Hamilton, ONT	---
Southwest Research Institute/Texas	---
Space Telescope Science Institute/Maryland	Video information
SUNY Albany	Math
SUNY Oswego	Graphics

SUNY Stony Brook	TV
Stephen Leacock Collegiate/Scarborough,ONT	Multimedia, TV Studio
Stevenson-Britannia School/Manitoba	Elementary school
Toronto K-12 School System	Art, Wordprocessing
Tulane University	Video & Television
Tulsa Junior College of Oklahoma	Video
University of Bergen, Norway	---
University of California/Santa Barbara	Video
University of California/Santa Cruz	---
University of Florida	---
University of Georgia	Fine Arts
University of Maryland	Film & Video
University of Massachusetts/Lowell	Computer Science
University of Minnesota/Twin Cities	Video
University of North Texas	Video Information, TV
University of Oulu/Finland	Chem., Computing, Geophysics, Math
University of South Florida	Graphics
University of Tampa	Animation
University of Toronto	
University of Utah	Video
University of Wisconsin Hospital	Medical Research
University of Wyoming	TV
Utah State University	Instructional Tech, Vieo, TV
Valencia Community College	Physics
Walton High School/Georgia	---
Western Illinois University	Broadcast, Weather
Western State College/Colorado	Art, TV
Westford Academy (MA)	Math

1.10 Getting on the Amiga Educator's List

To get on the Amiga Educator's List send e-mail to owl@davinci.reading.ma.us. Please specify whether you will be reading the newsletter on Aminet or whether you would prefer to have it emailed to you. We are encouraging people to receive the AEL newsletter digitally to keep our duplication and mailing costs down. If you received this copy via US mail and have an email address or the capability to download it please send e-mail to OWL software at the above address. The version on Aminet (found in the directory /docs/mags) runs with AmigaGuide or Multiview which provides a spiffy hypertext presentation. When requesting additions to the email list, please specify the uuencoded or text version. When no specification is made, we will assume that you want the uuencoded lha file, which will allow you to view the hypertext version. A limited number of paper copies will be mailed upon request.