

Volume 6 Issue 5

FREE! TAKE ONE!

March 1993

Choosing a PC Emulator

by Marion Deland

by Marion Deland
Publisher
CROSSINGS newsletter for Amiga/PC
compatibility

CROSSINGS is all about Amiga/PC compatibility, with a little Mac information thrown in. It's a monthly newsletter, published regularly since December 1989. Subscriptions costs \$40/year (U.S./Canada). \$50/year air mail elsewhere. For more info, contact:

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Things are looking up for Amiga owners who also want PC compatibility. There are new 386 and 486 boards available, plus inexpensive XT-level software PC emulator. There are even XT and AT emulator for the A500, and promises of more for the A600 and 1200. Commodore and vortex (makers of the Golden Gate) are competing like crazy, and that means lower prices and more options. In fact, Commodore has just dropped the SRP on the 386 Bridgeboard to \$649 (from \$959). Don't you just love free enterprise.

So which do you buy? A low-end cheapie, a medium-price/medium power board, or a speed demon?

The deciding factor is usually Windows. When you've used Windows in a 386-20 or slower, you

really appreciate the Amiga! Windows has to do in software all those things the Amiga does naturally - display everything graphically, multitask, funnel printing through Preferences, all that stuff. And Windows does it slowly. It also takes a lot of memory - you need 2 megs to run Windows at all, 4 megs to run it properly - and it stores a lot of stuff on the disk, taking up precious disk space. And that's just Windows itself. Add programs, and - well, did you ever see "The Blob"? Remember the way the ooze just keeps growing till it smothers the movie theater? That's Windows.

So to run Windows you need a minimum of a 386-25 Bridgeboard or Golden Gate, with VGA capability and at least 2 megs of memory. And preferably a separate hard disk on the PC side - if you use part of your Amiga drive, you'll find it annoyingly slow.

If you just need to be able to run WordPerfect 5.1 so you can take work home from the office, get a low-end Bridgeboard or software emulator and use part of your Amiga hard drive for the PC. You'll never love it, but it will serve the purpose. Caution - software emulators are very slow; in a 68030 Amiga you still get only XT speed.

If you need to run Windows, or other graphics - or math - intensive programs like CAD systems, you have a choice between vortex's Golden Gate and Commodore's Bridgeboards. Both come in 386 and 486 configurations; vortex sells both, Commodore sells a 386 board that a New Jersey dealer called EMC (Elite

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From the Editor

by Brian Ginett

It is the beginning of March, in less than one month, the bus trip to the World of Commodore Amiga show will take place, and in less than two months, the almost annual Amiga Day will occur.

As I write this article (on March 8), there are 5 seats available on the bus. So if you are considering going on the trip, contact Lou Matrazzo or Dan Martin to reserve your place. I know that I'm looking forward to the trip. Remember, if all the seats are sold, someone will get their money back.

The pace of activities related to Amiga Day is beginning to pick up. Volunteers are needed for all aspects of this effort. Remember, we're not looking for super users just person who use there Amiga and don't mind telling or showing others what they do. Please contact Al Muller at the meeting.

This month I've started a new column. The items for sale column is a reprinting of the for sale messages posted by members to the For Sale area on the bbs. I hope that this column will be of service to those members particularly those who donot call the bbs.

Advertising

There is no cost to c.d.A.u.g. members for placing an advertisement in the newsletter for any personal items they want to sell. Ads for software must specify original disks and manuals, as no ads supporting piracy, whether direct or implied, will be accepted. Please include your name and phone number with the request.

Amiga Dealers can advertise in the c.d.A.u.g. newsletter for the following fees:

One time Ad: \$50 - full page Ad
\$30 - half page Ad
Quarter page
recurring Ad: \$180 - 6 months
\$240 - 12 months

Alternate options can be tailored to your needs. Please contact one of the Officers for further details.

Capital District Amiga Users Group

General Meeting

c.d.A.u.g. meets on the third Thursday of every month starting at 6:30 p.m. at Contemporary Computers, 893 New Loudon Rd., Latham, NY. Membership is not required to attend any c.d.A.u.g. functions.

Officers

President: Dan Martin 482-0045
Vice President: Marchel Burke 785-1796
Treasurer: Lou Matrazzo 370-3316
Secretary: Glenn Winters 584-8796
Librarian: Larry Moonan 377-3095
Electric
Newsletter Editor: Mark Slagen 766-4013
Newsletter Editor: Brian Ginett 462-2381

c.d.A.u.g. BBS

The DAUG House BBS (518) 370-5207
1200/2400/9600/14400 F8N1 (24hours/day)
Limited access for non-members.

c.d.A.u.g. Newsletter

The c.d.A.u.g. newsletter is published monthly using an Amiga A3000 (25MHz/50MB/6MB), Soft-Logic's PageStream V2.21, New Horizon's ProWrite & Flow, GoldDisk's ProDraw, AGFA Compugraphic fonts, Adobe Type 1 fonts and printed on a Hewett-Packard LaserJet HP-IIP printer.

c.d.A.u.g. Membership

c.d.A.u.g. members automatically receive the newsletter via US postal mail, have full access to all DAUG House files / message bases, can sign-out books & videos from the c.d.A.u.g. library, and receive a discount on purchases at Contemporary Computers.

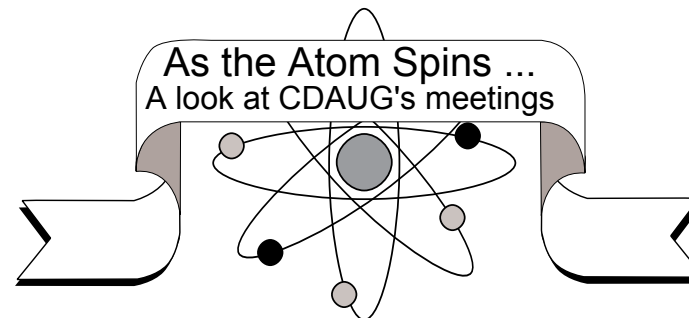
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Article Submissions

Anyone may submit articles for publishing in either the paper or electronic newsletter provided the article does not constitute advertising. Articles received by the monthly General Meeting will appear in the following month's newsletter, depending on space availability. Please submit articles articles in eletronic form (by disk or the DAUG House), stating what program you used to write it.

As the Atom Spins ... A look at CDAUG's meetings



General Meeting (2/18/93) by Glenn Winters

Business

Bus Trip - About half of the 47 available bus seats are sold. Dan Martin and Al Matrazzo asked that those who wish to go get their money in quickly so the trip can reach break even and be certain of going. Al noted that if the bus is sold out, one individual will, at random, be given a refund, in effect, a free trip. Dan noted that this show was expected to be very well attended and to have many vendors present due to all the new Commodore hardware the last few months.

Font Collection - Volume 1 is selling well and has been advertised on the networks via the cdAug BBS. Al noted that Volume 2 may be expected in 2-3 months.

Beginners SIG - Last Thursday was the restart of this popular group. Meets second and fourth Thursdays, at Al Muller's house.

Amiga Day - Al Muller put out a call for demonstrators and/or machines for the May 1 show. There will be a meeting of the Amiga Day Committee immediately after this General Meeting, at the 76 Diner.

BBS Class - Lou Matrazzo noted that he has not forgotten his pledge to run this class, but now that winter has arrived for the first time in three years, he must wait for snow to melt to get parking space in his drive. Al promised to schedule the class soon, and let the interested persons know when the class will be held.

For Sale - Brian Ginett announced that member's who wish to place classified ads in the Newsletter, may post the ad in the BBS For Sale Area. The ad will automatically be placed in the next Newsletter.

Brian requested that members inform him when the item is sold so the ad doesn't appear needlessly. There is no charge to members for this service.

News

The Hacker's Crackdown - This recent book explores a crackdown by civil authorities who suspected computer hackers caused the AT&T phone system crash in 1991. Dan Martin read an excerpt from this recent book and recommended it to anyone interested in the subject.

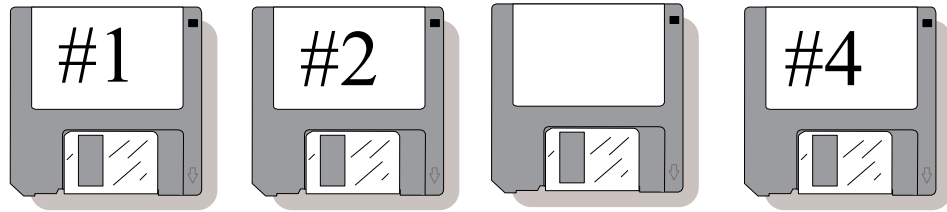
Demonstration

Opalvision and Aladdin 4D - Dan Martin showed a tape of the Saturday morning PBS program Computer Chronicles which featured these two Amiga products recently. The Amiga exposure was unusual for this program which usually only features MS-DOS and Mac compatible hardware and software. Both products were ably displayed in the rapid fire format of Computer Chronicles.

Multimedia - cdAug received a Commodore tape showing some multimedia applications, all done on Amiga computers, of course. The tape was shown at the break, and is in the cdAug Library for anyone interested in borrowing it.

Art Expression - Larry Moonan

Larry showcased version 1.0 of this long awaited Soft Logic structured drawing program. He noted that it is among the fastest of other structured drawing programs, but is slower than paint programs. Art Expression has all the usual drawing tools. Version 1.0 has some annoying bugs, and a bug fix, version 1.02, is expected shortly. (Makes you wonder who does the beta testing on these products, doesn't it? I wonder if they own a computer?) Art Expression lacks an AREXX port. It does save in several file formats, however, including EPS, DR2D (but incorrectly), Adobe Illustrator and IFF ILBM. Larry reported that there is an AREXX script around which corrects the incorrectly saved DR2D format files.



cdAug Disks of the Month...

c.d.A.u.g. Disks-Of-The-Month
March 1993

Disk #1

Blackjack Lab V1.01 (by Dan Cogliano) [works on OS V1.3, V2.1 & V3.0]

Billed as the most powerful blackjack program on ANY microcomputer today and I agree! Casino rules, strategies for playing, a teaching mode (educates you on strategies for winning) and online help make this a great addition to anyone's Amiga games collection.

AmiBackTools V1.0 Demo [works with OS V2.0+ & V3.0]

Unfortunately somehow the archive being re-distributed has lost two support files called "ASL13.library" and "GadTools13.library" so all OS V1.3x users can not run this demo! Sorry! This is a demo of Moonlighter Software Development, Inc. commercial AmiBackTools program. A partial list of features:

- Optimize disk performance
- Find/fix disk structure problems
- Recover deleted files
- Recover files from crashed filesystem
- Can be scheduled with AmiSched II
- Supports the new OS V3.0 directory caching filesystems
- Allows mapping out bad blocks

Check Manager V1.11 (by Jamie Mueller) [works on OS V2.0+ & V3.0]

A small utility to help manage your bills and checkbook. The program consists of two modules: (1) an accounts payable section complete with distributions and (2) a checkbook program to track checks written. The program can also print out your spending history for each month or current year or totals for the past four years, for each payee and/or category. Currently only supports one checking account. Nice!

c.d.A.u.g. D.O.M.s, Electric
c.d.A.u.g. and c.d.A.u.g.vision
are available at each General
Meeting. See the disk librarian in
the back of the meeting room if
you are interested in subscribing
to c.d.A.u.g.'s D.O.M.s

**Blank disks will now be available
at the General meetings! A box
of 25 disks including labels will
cost only \$15.00!**

Disk #2

Animatrix Modeler Demo (by Jon DuBois) [works with V13.x, 2.x & 3.0]

This is billed as a "breakthrough in affordable stereoscopic virtual reality technology for 3-dimensional object modeling". It allows you to see objects in 3-dimensions through the use of red-blue stereo glasses (or the optional Haitex X-specs glasses)! This makes object work much easier! This modeler loads/saves in six formats: Animatrix, Sculpt-Animate 4D, Turbo-Silver/Imagine, GEO (Videoscape 3D), LightWave and WaveFront. Included with this demo is a hand object, a head object and a dragon object. The save function is disabled in this demo version. Enjoy!

Cybernetix (by Paul & ron of Vision Software) [works with OS 1.3x & 2.0x only!]

A great little action shoot-em-up space game! Something like a super advanced asteriods game. Very nice graphics & action. Just wish it worked on my A4000! :-). Five stars in my book! -Larry M.

Joy2Key V1.0 (by Piero Filipin) [works with OS V1.3x, 2.0x & 3.0]

Is a small utility to convert joystick movements into cursor movements. This is primarily targeted to add joystick support to those games that have only keyboard entry routines (such as some of the Tetris type clones - as in WellTris). Very handy! Includes SAS/C source code.

Disk #3

EconKnow (by George W. Kell) [works with OS V1.3x, 2.0x & 3.0]

EconKnow is a financial program containing the following functions. Results from each function are presented in a window with an option to print window.

Investment Section:

- future value of an investment
- future value of regular deposits (Annuity)
- regular deposits
- regular withdrawals from an investment
- initial investment
- minimum investment for withdrawals

- interest rate on investment

Loan Section:

- loan payment
- original principal of a loan
- original term of a loan
- interest rate on a loan
- remaining balance on a loan

Cost Section:

- equivalent annual cost
- present worth
- equal series present worth

JS-Traces (by James M. Shook) [works with OS V1.3x, 2.0x & 3.0]

This is a collection of 5 HAM ray-traced images each with a text file describing how the image was achieved.

RDBInfo V0.17 (by Gérard Cornu) [works with OS V1.3x, 2.0x & 3.0]

This nifty little program will read the Rigid Disk Blocks associated with a hard drive and displays the "interesting info" as the author puts it. Very handy way to backup your hard drive setup information in case of a rainy day crash...

ScreenTest (by bbarish) [works with OS V1.3x, 2.0x & 3.0]

This is a handy little utility that displays a couple test patterns on screen to check the linearity of your monitor.

Sounds [works with OS V1.3x, 2.0x & 3.0]

This is a set of three sounds in 8SVX format for your use. Included are: Sam Kinison yell, Tim Allen argh, argh and the Wayne's World Hello. Enjoy!

Disk #4

WARNING: All of this disk requires Amiga OS 2.0+/3.0!

AssignPrefs V1.01 (by Chris Papademetrious) [works with OS V2.0+ & 3.0]

This is a very handy assignments preference program, will allow you to manage those assignment requests various Amiga programs ask you to do (such as assign DPaintIV: to blah, blah, blah...). Assignments made in this preferences-like editor will still be present after re-boot! A real must have (really much much easier than the shell!). Five stars - LarryM.

BackUP V3.85 (by Felix R. Jeske) [works with OS V2.0+ & 3.0]

This is a fully functional hard drive backup program, has compression, backup logs, include & exclude patterns! Very very nice job well worth the \$15 shareware fee the author wants!

CAW V1.0 (by Roger Larsson) [works with OS V2.0+ & 3.0]

This is a Commodity that lets you close "all" windows on the Workbench screen with a keyboard combination. You can list all windows on the Workbench you don't want CAW to close. Very nice.

ColorSaver (by Dan Fish) [works with OS V2.0+ & 3.0]

This is a Commodity that handles color palettes: Load/Save Palettes, adjust in RGB or HSV, copy/swap/range functions, left/right shifting of entire palette and can patch color tables of executables. CycleToMenu (by Federico Giannici) [works with OS V2.0+ & 3.0]

This is a Commodity that will change the standard CBM gadtools cycle gadgets into popup menus. This way selecting the desired option is faster (you'll see all your choices at once). This program must be run prior to any other programs that use cycle gadgets, so it is recommended that you place it in the WBStartup drawer.

MenuHelper (by Ken Lowther) [works with OS V2.0+ & 3.0]

This is a Commodity that gives you easier keyboard access to the Amiga Menus. By choosing an "Activate" key the Amiga menu will appear and you can move about the menus available using the arrow keys until you highlight the menu item you want, then hitting the "Select" key to select the menu item.

MineField V2.01 (by Michael D. Fischer) [works with OS V2.0+ & 3.0]

This is the latest version of the Minefield program Amiga World picked as one of the top 10 PD games of 1992. Version 2.01 has an important bug fix over version 2.0. Includes support for Custom screen (like old version), Workbench, and public screens. Enjoy!

MSM V1.8 (by Martin Ozolins) [works with OS V2.0+ & 3.0]

MSM stands for Martin's System Monitor. This is a system monitor program similar to XOper and ARTM. Lots of features! If you really want to see what's happening inside your Amiga this is worth checking out.

ProMouse (by Max Favilli) [works with OS V2.0+ & 3.0]

ProMouse is a new commodity like Dmouse, Qmouse and AutoCLI. Features include: window shuffle from keyboard, auto window activate, mouse button combination sends window to the front, mouse button combination sends window to the back, pointer blanks upon key press and screen blanker.

PrintManager V1.1 (by Nicola Salmoria) [works with OS V2.0+ & 3.0]

PrintManager is a print spooler commodity for WB2.0+. It spools anything sent to PRT: or printer.device. Version 1.1 fixes a few minor bugs, and one Enforcer hit (using Hide), and appears to optimize a few operations.

Disk #5

WARNING: All of this disk requires Amiga OS 2.+/3.0!

NewMenu (by Brian Gontowski) [works with OS V3.0 only!]

This program will change the look of menus under V3.0 of the Amiga Operating System. The new "look" is very professional looking (3D effect is very nice!). If you are a lucky A1200/A4000 owner this is worth checking out!

PopCLI IV (by Max Favilli) [works with OS V2.0+ & 3.0]

PopCLI IV is a commodity that provides a simple

Contemporary Computers

893 New Loudon Rd.
Latham, NY 12110
(518) 783-1088

Stop in and get the 2.1 release:

2.1 Software and ROM upgrade: \$95
\$105 with installation

2.1 Software Only: \$59

Hardware and Software discounts to club members apply to these purchases. The ROM upgrade is considered hardware. The software only enhancer package is considered software

way to: (1) start another CLI with a keyboard combination or (2) shuffle CLI window/screens to bring the CLI to the front. Very handy for CLI users!

SuperDark V1.2 (by Thomas Landspurg) [works with OS V2.0+ & 3.0!]

SuperDark is a screen blanker based on the well known "After Dark" on the MacIntosh. But, unlike most other attempts at this type of blanker this one has a number of "blinking modules" supplied with it! All settings windows are configured to the specific blanker's needs and maintain that Amiga OS V2.0+ professional look! Very nice!

TWA V1.0 (by Matthias Scheler) [works with OS V2.0+ & 3.0!]

TWA stands for Tron's Window Activator. This is a commodity which remembers the last active window on any screen. If screens are shuffled these windows are automatically activated. This is very handy!

Yactris (by Jonathan Springer) [works with OS V2.0+ & 3.0!]

Yactris = "Yet Another Clone TRIS". Yactris is a bare bones Tetris clone that can be opened on any public screen and uses the pen definitions of the public screen to determine how it draws the shapes. Yactris is entirely system friendly. Very handy little game for those short boring moments...

Yak V1.3 (by Martin W. Scott) [works with OS V2.0+ & 3.0!]

"Yet Another Kommodity" of the likes of Qmouse, Dmouse, etc.. This is an update to the version that appeared on cdAug's January 1993 Disk-Of-the-Month, which fixes bugs in AutoActivate, Window Front/Back/Cycling and Mouse blanking. Added new

support file layout/format, AutoPopToFront function, Date insertion now uses locale.library style format specification and you can now specify which screens AutoActivate and ClickToFront/Back operate on.

Disk #6

Disk #6 is an Amiga bootable disk, if you boot your computer with the disk it will automatically start running the Oxyd game.

Oxyd [works with OS V2.0+ & 3.0!]

An excellent game with very nice graphics! Has very realistic friction/momentum effects & a real entertainer! Five Stars! -Larry M.

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Lou Matrazzo 370-3316
Al Muller



[From] Carmen Artino
[To] All
[Date] Wed 10 Feb 93 17:20
[Subject] For Sale...

I have the following items for sale:

1. A complete Commodore 64 system. This includes the C64 CPU, a 1541 disk drive with device 8/9 switch, a 1701 monitor, a daisy wheel printer (no interface necessary), a 1200 baud modem and plenty of software. This would make a great system for a youngster or as a starter computer. There is still plenty of software available for this system. I'm asking \$350 but I will dicker. If you have another printer, I also have an interface unit, a micrographix MW 350 with a 10 kbyte print buffer.

2. Phasar 4.0 original disk and manual. Never used. 2.04 compatible. This is a great accounting program for home or small business.

If you are interested in any of these items, please leave E-mail for me.

Carmen

[From] Bill Ansel
[To] All
[Date] Thu 11 Feb 93 17:58
[Subject] Supra Ram 500 Rx

For Sale!! Supra Ram 500 Rx 2 megs installed, expandable to 8 megs Has pass through port to add on more devices. Has termination switch.

\$100

Call 479-4074 ask for Bill

Continued on next page . . .

Upcoming

March 9, 1993 LAUG Video Sig

March 12, 1993 cdAug Officers meeting

March 14, 1993 cdAug Business Sig

March 12, 1993 cdAug Beginners Group

March 13 1993 LAUG Games Sig

March 16, 1993 LAUG Monthly Meeting

March 18, 1993 cdAug Monthly Meeting

March 23, 1993 LAUG Video Sig

March 25, 1993 cdAug Beginners Group

April 2, 1993 cdAug Officers meeting

April 3, 1993 BUS TRIP TO WORLD OF

COMMODORE AMIGA SHOW IN NYC

April 6, 1993 LAUG MONTHLY MEETING

CHANGES TO NEW DAY OF MONTH

April 8, 1993 cdAug Beginners Group

April 8, 1993 cdAug Intermediate Group (??)

April 13, 1993 LAUG Video Sig

April 15, 1993 cdAug Monthly Meeting

April 20, 1993 LAUG Executive Board meeting

April 22, 1993 cdAug Beginners Group

April 27, 1993 LAUG Video Sig

[From] Bill Ansel
 [To] All
 [Date] Sat 20 Feb 93 20:04
 [Subject] For Sale

For sale:

Bill's Tomato game \$20
 Directory Opus v3.41 \$20
 Stunt Track Racer \$15
 Oh NO! More Lemmings \$15
 Xenon 2 Megablast \$10
 Dragon's Lair: Escape from Singe's Castle \$15
 Fantastic Voyage \$15
 Raw Copy \$15
 Quartet \$5

Bill Ansel 479-4074

[From] Cliff Hebert
 [To] All
 [Date] Sun 21 Feb 93 20:23
 [Subject] A2000 for sale

I have an Amiga 2000 for sale. This machine has rev. 6.+ mother board, 3 megs of memory, 2 floppy drives and a 20 meg hard drive. The hard drive controller in not auto booting, you boot from a floppy and transfer system control over to the hard drive. The price \$600.00, I will accept any solid offer. Leave E-mail or call 356-0341 and ask for Cliff.

[From] Hayward Mckee
 [To] All
 [Date] Sat 27 Feb 93 2:29
 [Subject] Panasonic 1091 Printer for sale

Good work horse 9 pin printer. In very good condition, never put to heavy use, used little in the last three years (got a DeskJet) and not at all for the past year.

Includes original manuals and carton. Also a few ribbons. \$100

[From] Larry Lowell
 [To] All
 [Date] Thu 4 Mar 93 11:08
 [Subject] Lots of Stuff

F O R S A L E

Item	Paid	Asking
MBX1200 W/68881	\$169	\$100
2 meg SIMM (512k x 32)	\$129	\$90
A1000 (Not Working for parts)	\$50	
drive is good, so is power supply and keyboard.		
Star NX1000 Rainbow Color Printer	\$75	

Mac Disk Drive (Cutting Edge) \$70 For Amax or Mac-to-Dos

City Desk 2.0 Desktop Publishing \$15
 Deluxe Paint III \$15
 AMOS \$20
 AMOS Compiler \$20
 Digi View 4.0 \$35
 The Graphics Studio \$10

Also have other Commodore Stuff

C=64.....\$40

2 1541 II Disk Drives.....\$50 each Both for \$80

If interested Leave Message or call
 (518) 235-6235

[From] Andrew Kinnie
 [To] Mega Midget Racer 33mhz Brand Ne
 [Date] Thu 4 Mar 93 19:08
 [Subject] BRAND NEW Accelerator FOR SALE

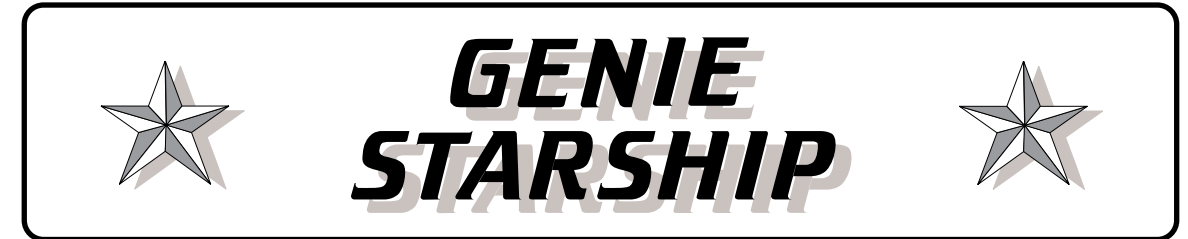
A brand new, 33 Mhz 68030 accelerator, with MMU, AND 68882 FPU for Amiga 500 and 2000 is FOR SALE. It has a 32 bit RAM Board with 2 Megs RAM, expandable to 8 Megs. It's user-upgradeable to 50 Mhz. Also, it has 512 k SRAM for mapping kickstart. It's a Mega-Midget Racer from CSA/Krueger Co., purchased in Feb., but never used. asking \$600 for entire thing, or best offer. CALL ANDY at (518) 436-7031, or if no answer at (315) 782-5303.

[From] Andrew Kinnie
 [To] A 500 Hard Drive For Sale
 [Date] Thu 4 Mar 93 19:17
 [Subject] TRUMP CARD PRO with 4 Megs RAM

A Trumpcard Pro, high speed (fastest SCSI for the 500) SCSI hard drive controller (with case for the A500), with 4 megs (expandable to 8 with SIMMS), with or without 105 Meg Quantum drive is FOR SALE. Make an offer, may be willing to sell it with out the drive. CALL ANDY at (518) 436-7031, or at (315) 782-5303.

[From] Andrew Kinnie
 [To] New 040 Accelerators
 [Date] Thu 4 Mar 93 19:23
 [Subject] Progressive Peripherals 040 for 500, 2000, 3000

BRAND NEW Progressive Peripherals 68040 Accelerators for the A500, A2000, and A3000 at unbelievably low prices!!!! For example, A500 040 28Mhz with 4 Megs (expandable to 8) at \$650 with full warranty from Progressive, etc. This even comes with 2.04 ROM. Similar prices on others. CALL ANDY at (518) 436-7031, or (315) 782-5303.



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Commodore Sponsored Developers Conference a Success

1992 Developers' Choice Awards Announced

February 8, 1993 -- West Chester, PA

Commodore Applications and Technical Support Group (CATS) sponsored a Developers Conference in Orlando, Florida, from January 26-30. A record number of four hundred developers from thirteen countries attended the conference to learn more about Commodore's plans and new developments for the Amiga(R) line of personal computers.

Representatives from CATS, Commodore's Engineering staff and Commodore's sales divisions were on hand to conduct seminars and meet with developers. More than forty sessions were held during the five-day conference. Among the presenters were representatives from Motorola and the American Management Association. Over 700 pages of documentation and four disks were prepared for distribution to developers in attendance.

"The Developers Conference offers us the opportunity to share with developers our corporate direction and implementation strategy, as well as receive feedback from from developers on our plans," said John Campbell, CATS director. "The success of this year's conference was apparent through the many comments we received from the record number of quality developers present at the conference."

Amiga software and peripheral developers selected top products released in 1992 in six categories. The developers of the selected products were presented with awards at a luncheon held at the conference. The names of the selected products, as well as the latest product to be inducted into the "Amiga Hall of Fame" are listed below.

Commodore International Limited, through its subsidiaries around the world, is a manufacturer

and marketer of a wide range of computer-based products for professionals and consumers. The company's worldwide installed user base of Amiga computers is presently almost four million.

1992 Amiga Hall of Fame Inductee

The Video Toaster(TM) -- NewTek, Inc.
 A broadcast-quality video production and editing system.

1992 Developers' Choice Awards

Best Professional Productivity Software

SAS/C6.0 -- SAS Institute Inc.
 A controllable C compiler with options for customizing and increasing the speed of programming.

Best Consumer Productivity Software

DeluxePaintIV(TM) -- Electronic Arts
 A full featured paint and animation program.

Best Education Software

The Miracle Piano Teaching System(TM) -- Software Toolworks
 A piano keyboard with computer software that teaches the user how to play the piano.

Best Entertainment Software

Pinball Fantasies - 21st Century Entertainment
 An exciting animated pinball game.

Best User Interface

AmigaDOS(TM) Release 3 -- Commodore International Limited
 The newest version of Commodore's multitasking operating system.

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Microcomputers - 908-541-4214) will upgrade to a 486 for a price.

What's the difference between them, I hear you asking. (I do, truly!) Essentially, the Commodore Bridgeboard is tried and tested, especially with add-in hardware, but is a little more difficult to set up and use. According to the manual, you're supposed to have a service technician set it up. The Golden Gate is easier to set up, has more options (it can use the Amiga's memory and vise versa), but vortex is still shaking out the bugs. If you need the ultimate in speed, EMC's 486 upgrade to the Commodore board leaves everything else standing still, but it costs. (Prices change all the time, so I'm not quoting them here, but as I write this, the upgrade costs more than the original board. It's not a rip-off, it's a difficult upgrade with an expensive chip, but you really have to need - or want - the speed for it to be worth it.)

If you have an A3000 or A4000, you may be inclined towards the Golden Gate because you have fewer slots available for add-in hardware, and the Golden Gate includes options like an IDE hard drive interface and monochrome VGA graphics. Be cautious, however. The Golden Gate is entirely controlled by software, and that software is being constantly revised. One revision was found not to work with the A3000, though it will certainly be fixed quickly. Software upgrades are available free from vortex worldwide in Staten Island, NY, if you send them the disk and a pre-stamped mailer, so this is not as serious as it sounds.

You can get most of those extra features with a Commodore Bridgeboard too, by buying an all-in-one combo card. This adds to the price, of course, and takes up a slot, but you have the advantage of VGA in color, plus extra ports and sometimes an extra mouse, depending on which card you get. EMC sells one, configured for the Bridgeboard. I've seen a cheaper one advertised by Dalco, but I don't know if it works.

There's another difference that's harder to explain - the philosophy of the board. The Bridgeboard is really a separate computer under the same roof, linked to the Amiga through a sort of " pseudo network". The Golden Gate is more closely meshed with the Amiga, and this has pluses and minuses. With the Golden Gate, the two sides can use each other's memory and disk drives, a real advantage. On the other hand, when I start it up with my fax modem already running on the Amiga side, it hangs up. I have a separate PC serial port, so the board isn't set up to emulate the Amiga serial port at all, and shouldn't be affected, but it is. And my screen blanker freezes when Golden Gate is running, just as it does when I print from the Amiga

side.

That " pseudo network" linking the Amiga and the Bridgeboard also has its flaws. With Workbench 2.04, there is some kind of timing problem that often prevents the "cross-over" from working properly the first time you boot up. You may have to re-boot the Bridgeboard and re-run Binddrivers to get the data transfer programs (including the mouse driver and the Amiga pseudo drive) to work.

One more thing - the Commodore 386 Bridgeboard comes with DOS 5 and some of its own small utility programs. The Golden Gate does not include DOS; you have to get it separately.

Only you can choose which emulator would suit you best. (Yes. I'm passing the buck!) You need to compare power, features, price, service/support and your needs, and pick the one that has the best combination for you.

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cdAug is sponsoring a trip to NYC to the World of Commodore Amiga on April 3rd.

The cost of the trip is **\$45.00** per person and includes;

**Bus trip to NYC and return.
Ticket to the show (\$15.00 at the door).
Refreshments on the Bus.**

We will be leaving at 6:30 am from in front of Duane's Toyland at Westgate Plaza in Albany.

Send \$45 per person to along with Name Address and Phone number to:

CDAUG
PO Box 14353
Albany NY, 12212

Don't be shut out by waiting like some unfortunate people in the past.

For questions of information contact:

**Lou Matrazzo 370-3316 or
Dan Martin 482-0045**

Join the fun and scarf up those bargains (yes Commodore will be there)



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EAGLE TREE SOFTWARE INTRODUCES NEW AUTHORING SYSTEM FOR THE AMIGA

Eagle Tree Software has released Helm, a new authoring system for the Amiga computer. It combines draw, paint, and image processing tools with a scripting language, a hypermedia database manager, and a rich assortment of user interface objects.

In Helm, you create objects directly on the pages of electronic books. You program the behavior of an object by adding a list of preprogrammed actions or a script that is written in an English-like language. You can immediately test your application as you work out the design. You focus on your application and not on the intricacies of the authoring system. And with Helm's paint and draw tools, you do not have to switch to outside programs to create or modify your artwork.

Helm's objects include buttons, charts, imagefields, shapes, textfields, radio boxes, check boxes, sliders, scrolling lists, clocks, pop-up menus, and file selectors. The textfields support multiple font, color, and style changes; hypertext; color fonts; proportional fonts; and mouse scrolling. You can paint directly on the imagefields with custom brushes and using paint types that include gradients, dithering, edge detection, tinting, and custom convolution. You can cut, copy, paste, load, save, or group sets of objects. Helm also includes a grid for positioning objects, alignment and duplication tools, and complete control of object depth.

Helm can import sound (8SVX), music (SMUS), images (IFF-ILBM), animations (ANIM-5), and fonts directly into a book. It features support for the Amiga clipboard, visual effects, MIDI output, PostScript printing, compatibility with the Enhanced Chip Set (ECS) display modes, and automatic browsing with a joystick or timer. With Helm, you can create custom image editors, personal information managers, presentations, kiosks, free form databases, or educational courseware.

OBJECT FEATURES

* PAGES - Place objects on the pages of an interactive book. Each page can have several CAD-style layers of objects that you can hide or show as you browse through the book.

* FORMS - You can use a form to create a common

background for a group of pages. The form also defines the resolution and number of colors for a set of pages.

* BUTTONS - Customize buttons with different borders, colors, patterns, fonts, and shadows.

* CHARTS - Choose from bar, column, line, area, and pie charts.

* IMAGEFIELDS - Imagefields are like miniature paint programs. They support animations, scrolling, and transparent backgrounds. If you lock an imagefield, you can use it as a button that the user can highlight or animate with a click of a mouse button. If you unlock an imagefield, you can use Helm's extensive paint tools to edit the image.

* SHAPES - Boxes, ellipses, lines, curves, arrows, regular polygons, and irregular polygons. Save memory and increase speed by using shapes instead of bitmap images.

* TEXTFIELDS - Change font, color, or style any number of times within a textfield. Textfields support color fonts, transparent backgrounds, scrolling, proportional fonts, and hypertext.

* SELECTORS - Selectors are self-contained control panels that Helm can create and manage. To use a selector, you only have to decide where to put it and what choices it should give the user. Helm handles the rest.

* ACTIONS - You can program a book with just the mouse by attaching lists of actions to objects. The user triggers these actions by selecting the object with the mouse or keyboard.

* SCRIPTS - For more advanced applications, there is a full-featured scripting language with an English-like syntax. You can modify the attributes or contents of any object with the scripting language.

IMAGE EDITING FEATURES

* PAINT TOOLS - Ellipses, irregular polygons, stars, rays, curves, and an adjustable air brush.

* CUSTOM BRUSHES - Create brushes with a rectangle or any paint tool. Rotate, shear, flip, remap, and size brushes.

* PAINT TYPES - Matte, Color, Replace, Tint, Smooth,

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Best Hardware

Amiga 4000 -- Commodore International Limited

Commodore's most advanced computer featuring the AGA chip set with 16.8 million displayable colors.

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March Meeting Demos

Lou Matrazzo will introduce the use of FidoNet Point software and the bbs

Larry Moonan will demonstrate PageSetter III from Gold Disk - a revised version of their low end DTP program

Continued from page

Dissolve, Smudge, Gradient, Chaos, Sample, Edge, Custom, and more.

* IMAGE PROCESSING - Edge detection, custom convolution filters, mosaics halftoning, and histograms.

OTHER FEATURES

- * PRINTING -
- * IMPORTING
- * VISUAL EFFECTS
- * AUTOBROWSING -
- * COMPATIBILITY
- * EXTRAS - The Helm package includes a 340 page manual (8.5" x 11.0") and five disks of books and clip art. The books include World Flags, Chinese Signs, French Flash Cards, Conversions, Atlas, Calendar, Periodic Table, Classic Cars, Latin Phrases, Animated Buttons, Storyboard, Baby Paint, Bear Book, and Phonebook.

Helm has a suggested retail price of \$189.00.

For more information about Helm, contact Jerrell Nickerson (jnickerson) at Eagle Tree Software, P.O. Box 164, Hopewell, VA 23860 or call (804) 452-0623.

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