From the Desk of Jeff Scherb

It's DevCon time again, and it is worth taking the time here to reinforce the theme of this year's conference - "Moving Up to 2.0." Release 2.0 is a significant improvement in both the appearance and the performance of the Amiga OS. Many of these new features can directly help you to build better applications. In addition, the new release will advance Commodore's market strategy for the Amiga - multimedia in the corporate environment.

Release 2.0 gives the Amiga a new look. The operating system now contains state-of-the-art imagery and easy-to-use features which make the machine much more appealing to corporate markets. If your products are aimed at this market, you should consider revising them to take advantage of the new features in 2.0.

Commodore realizes the importance of maintaining a consistent look and feel among all applications. This makes each new application easier to use, easier to learn, and therefore easier to sell. It also helps the Amiga gain acceptance in the growing professional market. Release 2.0 can help achieve this goal. By using new features such as the gadtools.library and system-supplied requestors, you can assure consistent operation in your applications. Commodore is also working to help you with an official manual on User Interface Guidelines. Until that document is published, the new OS and AmigaVision can be used as prime examples of the standards we advocate.

Release 2.0 provides more than just an improved appearance, it can also give new functionality to your applications. With the inclusion of ARexx, release 2.0 brings a standard method of simple inter-process communication to every Amiga user. With ARexx, you can easily add scripting capabilities to your programs or provide other custom features to the user that were never before possible.

Developers with professional and productivity applications aren't the only ones who can benefit from release 2.0. The new video modes and resolutions, for example, can provide new functionality for games and entertainment software, reducing the need to resort to creative hardware hacks.

In summary, we at Commodore think that release 2.0 offers new opportunities for improvement in Amiga application software, expanding the market and revenue for you and Commodore alike. Since many of the new features in 2.0 were requested by you at past conferences, it's time to put your great ideas to work! I know you will enjoy and benefit from the 2.0 sessions this year in Atlanta. Now that 2.0 is a reality, let's all work together to make it a success.

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REVISIONS

The following are revised pages from past *Amiga Mail* articles. Simply substitute these pages for the corresponding ones already in your *Amiga Mail* binder. Please take the time to do this now so your binder contains the most up-to-date information available.