Amiga Mail News

Double DevCon Needs Session Ideas

The next North American Developers Conference will be held September 4-7, 1991, at the Denver Marriott City Center in Denver, Colorado. That DevCon will be followed by the European DevCon, which will be held September 9-12 at the Grand Hotel Brun in Milan, Italy. In an effort to make these DevCons even better than ever, CATS is asking you, the developer, to suggest topics you would like to see discussed at the next DevCon. If you have a suggestion, you can let CATS know by mailing it to:

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Get your suggestions in quickly; work on the DevCon agenda has already started.

Toaster ‘‘Big Hit’’ at Macintosh Trade Show

NewTek was recently showing the Video Toaster in what some may think an unlikely place -- MacWorld. As usual, however, their booth was crowded throughout the show. They’ve also announced plans to exhibit at PC Expo this year. According to the company’s marketing director, Mark Randall, ‘‘The people attending these shows are looking for a product with the technology of the Video Toaster. It’s not their fault they don’t know they’re at the wrong show; so we’ll meet them there.’’ NewTek also announced plans to continue exhibiting at COMDEX.

Reportedly, some exhibitors were miffed that the company was permitted to exhibit, but according to NewTek, Mac users responded positively to the appearance. The Toaster, which is currently shipping, has a suggested retail price of $1,595. Its output is acceptable for television broadcast applications and rivals that of dedicated machines costing $10,000 -- $50,000, according to NewTek officials.

A3000 Schematics Now Available

An A3000 schematics manual is now available to registered developers. To order, send $35 U.S. (add $2.50 for orders shipped to Canada, $5.00 for overseas orders) to CATS Orders and refer to part number 314677-02.

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CATS Releases TCP/IP Networking Software

CATS has released *TCP/IP Networking Software* for the Amiga. Designed to be used in conjunction with the Commodore A2065 Ethernet card, the TCP/IP software allows you to use the TCP/IP and UDP/IP protocols as well as a number of networking applications that use these protocols. The package also includes NFS client software. This version is based in part on the Berkeley System Distribution (BSD) which provides enhanced internet support. The Commodore part number is AS225.

Addison-Wesley To Publish First Amiga Style Guide

Addison-Wesley Publishing Company plans an early spring printing of the *Amiga User Interface Style Guide* -- a manual for software developers and interface designers which describes how a standard user interface for Amiga applications should look and operate. The 200+ page style guide represents the first general compilation of interface standards by Commodore.

‘‘Release 2 of the operating system gave the Amiga a more professional interface,’’ said Jeff Scherb. ‘‘By introducing standards at the same time as the new operating system, we can give the Amiga a more friendly, intuitive and predictable interface. Those attributes will be crucial to our platform as computers continue to move more into the mainstream of everyday life.’’

The new book details the Amiga’s three built-in interfaces -- the graphic user interface, the Shell and ARexx -- with definitions, descriptions and illustrations. Many of the graphic elements depicted in the book, such as gadgets and windows, are built into Release 2 of the operating system, but the detailed illustrations can also act as guides for designers working with earlier versions of the operating system. Only the behavioral guidelines are presented in the book, so, for the most part, it can be used by any interface designer regardless of his or her technical background. ‘‘The style guide will become an indispensible tool for Amiga application designers,’’ Scherb said.

In its introduction, the book makes the point that the standards apply mainly to the controls and functions of a program and don’t inhibit creativity within the application itself. ‘‘The reasons for those standards go beyond an innate need for order originating from some corporate boardroom,’’ the manual says. ‘‘The reasons set forth here have been set forth honestly in an attempt to provide more power to the user.’’

North American Commercial Developers Can Put It On Plastic

North American developers registered in CATS commercial developer support program can now use VISA and MasterCard to buy hardware, software and technical reference material from CATS. The new service enables commercial developers to fax their orders to CATS and receive the merchandise much more quickly. Generally, orders can be processed the same day they are received and ship the following business day.

‘‘The ones who have used it say they love it,’’ said CATS’ Emma Jean Mungin. ‘‘They just call up, give their order and their credit card number and that’s it. They don’t have to worry about anything else.’’ The new service is only available to commercial developers.