

ar132

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	<i>TITLE :</i> ar132		
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WRITTEN BY		July 1, 2022	

REVISION HISTORY

<i>NUMBER</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>

Contents

1	ar132	1
1.1	Amiga Report Online Magazine #1.32 -- November 5, 1993	1
1.2	Where to find Amiga Report	1
1.3	From the Editor's Desk	3
1.4	Delphi	4
1.5	AR Staff	5
1.6	CPU Status Report	6
1.7	PR on Sun Systems	8
1.8	AmiTCP/IP v2.1	9
1.9	Online Weekly	13
1.10	Amiga Report Mailing List	16
1.11	CBM Shareholder's Movement	16
1.12	Usenet Review - Picasso II	22
1.13	Features List: Read 3D upgrade	29
1.14	Taking the PC Plunge	33
1.15	Portal	36
1.16	A.M.I.G.A.	39
1.17	New AmigaDOS 3.0 PD/Sharware library	40
1.18	Holonet	47
1.19	The Emulation Examiner	49
1.20	Usenet Review - Shadow of the Beast III	50
1.21	BIX	52
1.22	Dealer Directory	55
1.23	AR Confidential	58
1.24	Humor Department	58
1.25	In Closing	59
1.26	Amiga Report Main Menu	59
1.27	Columns and Features	60
1.28	About Amiga Report	61
1.29	Commercial Online Services	61

1.30 Files Available for FTP	62
1.31 NOVA	62
1.32 In The MeanTime	62
1.33 Cloud's Corner	63
1.34 Biosmatica	63
1.35 Amiga Junction 9	63
1.36 BitStream BBS	64
1.37 Realm of Twilight	64
1.38 Metnet Triangle	64
1.39 Omaha Amiganet	65
1.40 Amiga-Night-System	65
1.41 Ramses Amiga Flying	65
1.42 Gateway BBS	66
1.43 Freeland Mainframe	66
1.44 LAHO	66
1.45 Falling BBS	67
1.46 Command Line BBS	67
1.47 Rendezvous BBS	67
1.48 Leguans Byte Channel	67
1.49 Stingray Database BBS	68

Chapter 1

ar132

1.1 Amiga Report Online Magazine #1.32 -- November 5, 1993

Open Magazine

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International Online Magazine

"Your Weekly Source for Amiga Information."

November 5, 1993

No. 1.32

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////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////
/                               Winners Don't Use Drugs                               /
////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////////

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1.2 Where to find Amiga Report

/// WHERE TO FIND AMIGA REPORT
Distribution Sites!



Click on the button of the BBS nearest you for information on that system.

////////////////////////////////////
/ FidoNet Systems /
////////////////////////////////////
FREQ the filename "AR.LHA" for the most current issue of Amiga Report!

- OMAHA AMIGANET
.....Omaha, Nebraska
- NOVA BBS
.....Cleveland, Tennessee
- CLOUD'S CORNER BBS
.....Bremerton, Washington
- BIOSMATICA BBS
.....Portugal
- AMIGA JUNCTION 9
.....United Kingdom
- BITSTREAM BBS
.....Nelson, New Zealand
- REALM OF TWILIGHT
.....Ontario, Canada
- METNET TRIANGLE
.....Kingston Upon Hull, England
- AMIGA-NIGHT-SYSTEM
.....Helsinki, Finland
- RAMSES THE AMIGA FLYING
.....France
- GATEWAY BBS
.....Biloxi, Mississippi

////////////////////////////////////
/ Non-FidoNet Systems /
////////////////////////////////////

- IN THE MEANTIME
.....Yakima, Washington
- FREELAND MAINFRAME
.....Olympia, Washington

LAHO BBS
Seinajoki, Finland

FALLING BBS
Norway

COMMAND LINE BBS
Toronto, Canada

RENDEZVOUS BBS
New Zealand

LEGUANS BYTE CHANNEL
Germany

STINGRAY DATABASE
Muelheim/Ruhr, Germany

1.3 From the Editor's Desk

/// From the Editor's Desk

"Saying it like it is!"

Before you read this editorial, go take a look at AR Online. Check out the last message in the Amiga International section from FidoNet. There's a message about a recent article in InfoWorld. Go read it and then come back here.

Okay, you've read it? Good. Are you as infuriated as I am? Why a well-known BUSINESS computer magazine would take such a cheap shot at the Amiga is beyond me. I mean, this magazine carries a lot of credibility and weight in the business world. I have to wonder who is responsible for letting a remark like that slip... "We got letters of outrage from every business user with an Amiga on the face of the earth, and both of them were really nasty."

That is really low. I guess these guys seem to think that the only thing a business user uses a computer for is running spreadsheets and databases. WRONG! How many of you out there use your Amiga in a video production business, with or without a Toaster? How many of you use it for MIDI system in a professional environment? If those aren't legitimate business uses, then the world is more screwed up than I thought.

And why do people use their Amigas for those purposes? Because the PC can't do it. Sure, there are MIDI interfaces for the PC, but I can't think of any professional musicians that use a PC as their MIDI system. Everyone uses either a Mac, Amiga or Atari ST.

The 3D rendering wave is just starting to hit the PC platform. Imagine 2.0 is out for the PC, but the version I used is extremely flakey, due to conflicts with EMS or XMS extended memory managers. And the Amiga still has the best 3D rendering software on the planet -- LightWave. Every time we watch seaQuest or Babylon 5, we can feel good at the fact that the PC just isn't going to have software that good for a long time!

BTW, I saw a commercial on FOX last night. Babylon 5 (the movie) will be rerun sometime this Saturday. If I remember correctly, it's supposed to be at 3 pm Eastern time. So if you didn't tape it the first time, now's your chance.

And since we're off-topic anyway, I might as well say that the Sci-Fi channel is running a 24-hour Battlestar Galactica-Thon starting at 7 am Eastern time on Saturday morning, until 7 am again on Sunday morning. Twenty-four episodes! Wow, I wonder how many were actually made...

On another subject, I was looking at the calendar, and noticed that there will be only seven or eight issues of Amiga Report issues left in 1993. I'm not sure if we'll be taking another week off or not, that's why I said seven or eight.

If all goes well, I hope to release an index of articles after the first of the year, covering all of 1993. And we're planning a Year In Review for sometime in March, marking our first anniversary.

That's it for now.

Rob @ AR

1.4 Delphi

/// Delphi: It's Getting Better All The Time!

 Amiga Report International Online Magazine is available every week in the Amiga SIG on DELPHI. Amiga Report readers are invited to join DELPHI and become a part of the friendly community of Amiga enthusiasts there.

SIGNING UP WITH DELPHI

=====

Using a personal computer and modem, members worldwide access DELPHI services via a local phone call

JOIN -- DELPHI

Via modem, dial up DELPHI at 1-800-695-4002
 then...
 When connected, press RETURN once or twice
 and....
 At Password: type AMIGAREPORT and press RETURN.

DELPHI's best plan is the 20/20 plan. It gives you 20 hours each month for the low price of only \$19.95! Additional hours are only \$1.50 each!
 This covers 1200, 2400 and even 9600 connections!

For more information, and details on other plans, call

DELPHI Member Services at 1-800-544-4005

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Complete Internet connection -- Telnet, FTP, IRC, Gopher, E-Mail and more!
(Internet option is \$3/month extra)
- SIGs for all types of computers -- Amiga, IBM, Macintosh, Atari, etc.
- Large file databases!
- SIGs for hobbies, video games, graphics, and more!
- Business and world news, stock reports, etc.
- Grolier's Electronic Encyclopedia!

DELPHI - It's getting better all the time!

1.5 AR Staff

/// The Amiga Report Staff

Dedicated to serving you!

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=====

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1.6 CPU Status Report

/// CPU Status Report

Late Breaking Industry-Wide News

» NASA Loans Russia Hardware To Complete Internet Link «

WASHINGTON, DC, U.S.A., 1993 NOV 2 (NB) -- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, has announced that after several year's work the agency is now proceeding with the loan of hardware and software to the Russian Space Agency that will allow a direct high-speed link between Moscow scientists and the Internet.

Charles Redmond of NASA told Newsbytes on Tuesday that the system now in the process of being installed is basically an upgrade to computer facilities at the Soviet Space Agency offices. The deal began with an agreement between President Bush and Premier Gorbachev which is only now being implemented with the current Russian Space Agency because of delays having to do with obtaining permits to ship high-tech equipment to the former Soviet Union.

This constitutes the first direct hard-wired link between the Russian scientific community and the worldwide Internet scientific, and academic communications network. Mr. Redmond told Newsbytes that an indirect link has existed for years but that it was made through a gateway located in West Germany and therefore only operated at a relatively slow 9600 bits per second rate.

The new linkage between the Space Agency facilities just north of Moscow, Russia, NASA, and everyone else on the Internet is a high-speed 56-kilobit link using a combination of land lines and a satellite linkage.

According to NASA, the new network link will provide a means for the two major space agencies to carry on much more intensive liaison activities which just wasn't possible using the much slower gateway.

To provide a high-speed Internet link, NASA had to receive Department of Commerce permission to ship about \$480 thousand worth of routers and front-end computers, including a MiniVAX, to the Russians on loan from NASA.

The equipment will be in operation by the beginning of 1994 and should

eventually link a number of Moscow-based and outlying scientific stations' networked computers with the Internet although those outlying locations will still be linked only through relatively slow dial-up modem lines to the high-speed Moscow center.

Shipment of the hardware and necessary software has already begun, but not everything is yet in place, according to the NASA spokesperson in Washington, DC.

» 3DO Int'l Assn, 3DO Club Started «

REDWOOD CITY, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A., 1993 NOV 2 (NB) -- 3DO has started two support groups, one for people in businesses related to 3DO technology, the 3DO International Association (3DOIA), and the 3DO Club for consumers. The compact disc read-only memory (CD-ROM)-based 3DO hardware was shipped into retail outlets by Panasonic in September.

Panasonic, the only hardware manufacturer currently offering the 3DO player, says sales of the Real 3DO are going very well, despite the fact that there are only three software titles for the player to date. The 3DO boasts a reduced instruction set computing (RISC) chip, is specially designed to offer fast graphics rendering, and connects to a television set. The unit will also play audio CDs and Kodak Photo CDs.

Twenty more entertainment titles are expected by Christmas and in excess of 300 developers have signed up to either move existing software titles or create new ones for the 3DO market.

The 3DOIA is \$95 per year and is aimed at developers, publishers, producers, dealers, distributors, and manufacturers of 3DO products. The group has been formed to offer a forum and information about 3DO as well as information exchange between members and will offer a newsletter, special interest groups (SIGS), and conferences.

The 3DO Club is the source for fun information aimed at consumers or would-be consumers who are willing to spend \$19.95 per year to learn more about 3DO. Members can expect a quarterly newsletter with information about new 3DO products, behind-the-scenes previews, and profiles of those who have licensed 3DO's technology. Contests, special events, and sweepstakes will also be a part of the club, 3DO added.

To entice membership, those purchasing Panasonic 3DO systems now will receive free one-year memberships and a sweepstakes with a grand prize of an all-expense-paid trip to Universal Studios is also being offered. Ten first prizes of 3DO software titles will be awarded as well, the company said.

Those interested in joining 3DOIA are encouraged to call 3DO for more information. Information on the 3DO Club may be obtained by mail. Janet Strauss, director of marketing for 3DO said the company has already received thousands of letters from people who want to join the 3DO Club.

3DO has as its largest competitor Philips with the Compact Disc Interactive (CD-I) player. Philips has announced a deal with Paramount to introduce 72-minute movies for the CD-I player that will play with the addition of

special Motion Picture Experts Group (MPEG) hardware module for decompression of the video. The company recently cut the price of the CD-I player so with the MPEG module it is comparable to the 3DO price of about \$700. Philips is also doing "infomercials" on national television and has more game titles available as it has been marketing the CD-I player for over a year. However, 3DO claims other game systems are no match for the graphics capability of its system.

One other player in this market could be the Atari Jaguar system. While Atari officials hope the Jaguar will be as popular as the now ancient Commodore 64 home computer, the company has lost nearly all its momentum in the US market and is struggling to manufacture the Jaguar systems in large enough quantities to meet demand. However, Atari does have backing from C-Cube, a maker of video compression hardware chips.

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1.7 PR on Sun Systems

» Edited Press Release on the new Sun Systems «
Provided by Pipestrello on Delphi

New systems feature revolutionary imaging capabilities and the industry's lowest-cost real-time video capture/compression technology, both developed by SUN.

--SPARCstation 10SX -- providing industry-leading image processing performance, full 24-bit color, 3-D graphics and hardware-accelerated video playback.

--SPARCstation 10M -- offering all of the capabilities of the SPARCstation 10SX, plus real-time video capture/compression and a video camera.

--SPARCclassic M -- at \$4,995, the industry's most inexpensive, fully configured multimedia workstation. It includes a camera, real-time video capture/compression card -- enabling multimedia conferencing over standard networks -- and a storage disk.

In the area of imaging, the SPARCstation 10SX delivers unmatched performance and capabilities among workstation platforms. "Imaging" means the ability to manipulate and process such images as digitized photographs, X-Rays and satellite data.

The SPARCstation 10SX is the first system in its class with a graphics and imaging ASIC integrated right into its memory subsystem that can manipulate images as large as 300 megabytes in almost real time. Common imaging functions -- panning, zooming and rotating -- as well as advanced special effects -- sharpening, blurring and edge detection -- are carried out extremely quickly due to the speed of the SX chip.

In addition, SX is the only imaging accelerator that doesn't force data to

pass over a relatively low-speed bus.

The 10SX has superior imaging, provides full 24-bit, Gouraud-shaded, Z-buffered graphics for interactive 3-D. It also provides fast decompressed video playback in hardware. All of these capabilities are carried out by the revolutionary ASIC.

The SPARCstation 10SX, which is available immediately, has introductory pricing beginning at \$15,495. The price includes a 535 megabyte hard disk, 32 megabytes of memory and a 16-inch color monitor.

SMCC also introduced two workstations providing new levels of video conferencing and multimedia authoring . They feature video capture and compression at 30 frames per second. These systems are the SPARCstation 10M and the SPARCclassic M computers.

SMCC's video conferencing workstations come equipped with the new SunVideo capture/compression SBus card, that supports multiple video compression standards such as MPEG, JPEG and CELL, SMCC's internally developed algorithm.

The multimedia workstations also include a video camera and a CD-ROM disc containing licensable video and multimedia programs.

In addition, users can take advantage of Solaris LIVE!, an extensive array of multimedia technologies that support workgroup collaboration, video conferencing and more. Solaris LIVE! is part of the Solaris 2.3 operating environment.

The SPARCstation 10M has introductory prices starting at \$17,095, available beginning Dec. 15.

Also available is a "multi-media bundle" that can be used to equip any of the existing installed base of SPARCstation systems for multimedia. Allows customers to retrofit existing systems for multimedia. Priced at \$1,895, the multimedia package includes the SunVideo capture/compression card, video camera and multimedia CD-ROM disc. The SunVideo card can also be purchased alone for \$1,495.

1.8 AmiTCP/IP v2.1

» AmiTCP/IP 2.1 available for FTP «

TITLE

AmiTCP/IP - TCP/IP protocol stack for Amiga

VERSION

Release 2.1

NEW FEATURES

* Inet-handler:

- With Inet-Handler you can use AmigaDOS IO to access TCP protocol

- * finger:
 - New application, prints information about local and remote users
- * fingerd:
 - Calls now finger when asked for local users. (This feature requires Apipe-handler by Per Bojsen, Apipe-handler can be found e.g. on Fish disk 783)
- * ls:
 - New application, an imitation of Unix directory lister. Supports multiuser filesystems. Included as an example of user and group database usage
- * Napsaterm:
 - Default window title is now the name of the remote host
 - A public screen can be used with -S switch (thanks trossi!)
- * SynClock:
 - A simple script which synchronize clock in Amiga with specified host in network
- * AmiTCP:
 - A timestamp is added to the log messages
 - Faster checksum calculation implemented in assembler
- * netlib:
 - User and group database handling routines are added to the net.lib. Release includes example databases for 'ls' and 'finger' utilities, which use these databases
 - A real gettimeofday() using locale is also added

AUTHORS

The AmiTCP/IP Programming Project Group in Helsinki University of Technology, referred further on as AmiTCP/IP Group:

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DESCRIPTION

AmiTCP/IP is the first publicly available TCP/IP protocol stack for the SANA-II interface. AmiTCP/IP provides an application level socket interface to the Internet protocols as an Amiga shared library.

The Internet protocol suite, commonly known as TCP/IP, consists of user level protocols TCP and UDP which use IP as the network level protocol. There is a wide variety of different network applications and services using TCP/IP protocols. The BSD compatible socket interface to Internet protocols makes it possible to port existing applications with minor modifications.

AmiTCP/IP connects to the network via SANA-II compatible device drivers. SANA-II is a hardware and protocol independent network adapter interface specification published by Commodore. Several network adapter manufactures have made available SANA-II device drivers for their hardware. Currently there are SANA-II drivers available at least for Ethernet, Arcnet and serial line interfaces. So you can connect to Internet with Ethernet LAN, or via modem line

with Serial line IP (SLIP) optionally with compressed headers (CSLIP).

A typical application is to use (C)SLIP to connect to the Internet and have multiple connections simultaneously. You can read your e-mail and news, transfer files and have multiple terminal sessions at the same time over one modem line.

FEATURES

1. Standard SANA-II network device driver interface.
2. BSD-compatible socket interface as a Amiga shared library.
3. ARexx port for configuration and statistics.
4. Over 200 pages of documentation including:
 - Installation and configuration
 - ARexx port commands
 - Programmer's manual based on the BSD IPC manual. This is a fairly complete tutorial for developing powerful client/server applications
 - Internal description of the implementation
 - Utility and API function reference guide in AutoDoc form.
5. Basic applications with source included.
6. Based on the BSD Net/2 release.
7. Full source code included.

While all Internet services and applications (telnet, ftp, news, mail) are possible with AmiTCP/IP, many applications are still under development by us and others. Current release of the AmiTCP/IP contains following applications:

- * Telnet - standard program to log on other systems **
- * Ftp - standard program to transfer files between systems **
- * Finger - prints information about local and remote users
- * ls - Directory lister with user and group information
- * Napsaterm - a VT100 terminal emulator using remote login protocol
- * NcFTP - an alternative interface to FTP protocol %
- * NetFS - a Amiga specific network filesystem ##
- * TCP - networking support for GNU Emacs. With TCP you can use any elisp-based networking applications (Gnus, Gopher, Irchat etc.)
- * FingerD - a Finger daemon which prints user information or a banner file
- * QWriter - an application to test and benchmark network

Following network utilities are also available:

- * arp - tool to handle ARP hardware address translation tables
- * ifconfig - tool to control network interface parameters
- * inetd - Internet super server, which starts other services when needed and provides some simple services by itself
- * letnet - a simple filter for connecting to TCP based services. Suitable for scripts and testing
- * netstat - a ARexx script to get statistical information from networking
- * ping - utility to test network connectivity
- * route - tool to display and manipulate routing tables
- * online/offline - utilities to control SANA-II device drivers

***) Telnet and FTP are ported by Mark Tomlinson and Goeff McCaughan

%%) NcFTP is ported by Carsten Heyl
 ##) NetFS is authored by Timo Rossi

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

AmiTCP/IP can be run from floppy and with one megabyte of memory, but as usual, a hard disk and more memory makes your life easier.

Amiga OS release 2.04 or newer is required.

SANA-II device driver is needed for your network adapter. A test device driver, `agnet.device`, is included with sources. Also the freely distributable Commodore A2060 (Arcnet), A2065 (Ethernet), SLIP and CSLIP drivers are included. The `rhslip.device` and `rhcslip.device` are derived from Commodore drivers but contain bug fixes made by Olaf Seibert.

LHA or `lx` utility is required to unarchive distribution archives.

Most of the source files has been compiled with GNU C 2.3 and SAS C 6.3. Some utilities and libraries are compiled only with SAS C 6.3. However, only the executable files compiled with SAS C are tested. Also, the DICE C support is untested.

AVAILABILITY

AmiTCP/IP software has been uploaded to the Aminet. It should be shortly available at the following Aminet hosts:

Switzerland	<code>litamiga.epfl.ch</code>	(128.178.151.32)
Scandinavia	<code>ftp.luth.se</code>	(130.240.16.3)
Germany	<code>ftp.uni-kl.de</code>	(131.246.9.95)
Germany	<code>ftp.uni-erlangen.de</code>	(131.188.1.43)
Germany	<code>ftp.cs.tu-berlin.de</code>	(130.149.17.7)
Germany	<code>ftp.th-darmstadt.de</code>	(130.83.55.75)
Germany	<code>ftp.uni-paderborn.de</code>	(131.234.2.32)
USA	<code>ftp.etsu.edu</code>	(192.43.199.20)
USA	<code>ftp.wustl.edu</code>	(128.252.135.4)
Australia	<code>splat.aarnet.edu.au</code>	(192.107.107.6)
UK	<code>src.doc.ic.ac.uk</code>	(146.169.2.1)

For the convenience of Finnish users, AmiTCP/IP is also uploaded to the `ftp.funet.fi`.

The latest version of AmiTCP/IP is located in `kampi.hut.fi`. This archive is not meant for massive downloading. Major new versions will be announced and distributed to other archives, too.

DIRECTORY

In Aminet: `pub/aminet/comm/net`
`ftp.funet.fi: pub/amiga/datacomm/tcpip`
`kampi.hut.fi: AmiTCP`

FILE NAMES

AmiTCP/IP revision 2.1 is distributed in following archives:

AmiTCP-bin-21.lha	AmiTCP/IP binaries
AmiTCP-api-21.lha	Include files and link libraries
AmiTCP-src-21.lha	Source for AmiTCP/IP

If you just want to use AmiTCP/IP you need only archive AmiTCP-bin-21.lha containing also the basic documentation. You can upgrade from AmiTCP 2.0 to AmiTCP 2.1 with archive AmiTCP-bin-21.lha. Unarchive it to your work directory, then click Install_AmiTCP. Installation script copies your old configuration to use with AmiTCP/IP 2.1.

The separate documentation archives are not changed from release 2.0. The full System manual is available in text, PostScript and DVI formats. PostScript and DVI documents are formatted for A4 and "Letter" page sizes, PostScript fonts have 300 dpi resolution. Normally you need only one version suitable to your printer. Full documentation includes Programmer's Manual and Implementation Notes.

Archive name contains the release number, for instance archive AmiTCP-bin-21.lha contains release 2.1.

To develop your own applications or AmiTCP/IP you need AmiTCP-api-21.lha. It contains include files and link libraries. Full source for AmiTCP/IP and most of the applications are in the archive AmiTCP-src-21.lha.

PRICE AND DISTRIBUTION

AmiTCP/IP is distributed for free under GNU General Public License Version 2.

PLEASE NOTE

The release 2.1 of AmiTCP contains some improvements and bug fixes over previous releases. It is compatible with release 2 at binary level. It is uncompatible with first release at binary level.

HOW TO CONTACT AUTHORS

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Developer and announce list <amitcp@hut.fi>

Subscription: <amitcp-request@hut.fi>

1.9 Online Weekly

/// ONLINE WEEKLY Amiga Report Online

The lines are buzzing!

From the Amiga Tricks echo on AmigaNet
=====

*** Area: TRICK_AMY Date: 28 Oct 93 0:16:00
*** From: Bruce Goodman (40:200/1.0)
*** To : All
*** Subj: A3000T surprise

For all those who recently purchased an A3000T from Creative Computers, you may have a nice surprise waiting for you. Try a High-density disk in your floppy drive. You just might have a high-density drive already installed. If this is old news to everyone, I apologize. But in going through the documentation, I found no references to high-density drives installed.

The easiest way to check is to put the high density disk in the drive, then format it. If it formats to 1600+ tracks, you have a high density drive. Of course, you can get even more if you format using FFS.

From the Amiga International echo on FidoNet
=====

*** Area: AMIGA Date: 30 Oct 93 2:34:00
*** From: Bob Wages (1:3608/1.0)
*** To : All
*** Subj: CD-32 in CGW

Hey everybody. Just thought I'd let you know that the November issue of Computer Gaming World has an article on the CD32. The article speaks highly of the CD32 in comparison to Atari's Jaguar and the 3DO. But the author of the article said some pretty rough stuff about C= marketing tactics. (Not that I blame him of course.) He described their plan as "of stealth-like, atrophic advertising). But he still gives C= a chance to capture a "lion's share of the 32-bit and beyond console game market". Quoting him again, "It's (the CD32) is certainly the most cost effective alternative at present, and the most expandable console device to arrive thus far." The article even gives C='s address and phone #. (215)431-9100 for perspective buyers to call.

Also covered in the magazine were articles on the Jaguar and 3DO. According to the article, the basic Jaguar system will be cartridge based and sell for around \$200. But I saw a mail order add for it at \$257. The CD-ROM drive will cost an additional estimated (it wasn't out at the time of the article) \$200. The Jaguar allows up to six megabytes of code per ROM cartridge. Cartridges will cost from \$39 and \$69 bucks. Since the CD unit isn't out for the Jaguar yet, I'd say this really sucks. The article shows a picture of the basic unit and I don't like the way it looks. (Of course I'm biased as heck.) There will be five (yes count them five) whole games available at launch. All cartridge games of course.

The 3DO looks like a black box with one port for a control pad. The control pads are supposed to be daisy chainable, but if that's true, then the control

pad that comes with the 3DO will have to be at the end of the chain because it doesn't have a pass-thru. The 3DO has no expansion module but one is promised for the future (with an additional cost of course) from Matsushita sometime in the middle of '94. The 3DO is exclusively CD and no price was given for it.

To finish, the article for the CD32 stated that C='s Amiga CD32 is the first "32-bit game console available to consumers, and the only one currently employing a double-speed CD-ROM drive. Retailing for \$399, the Amiga CD32 also debuts several hundred dollars below the 3DO and the Jaguar with the CD drive."

It's been a long time since I've heard such high praise like that in a magazine which is dominated by I*M and clone games. Hopefully, it's a new start for C= if they get their arses in gear and push this machine heavily. I'm calling C= and asking for more info on this machine and recommend that they advertise more, more, more.

*** Area: AMIGA Date: 29 Oct 93 1:12:00
*** From: Skipper Smith (1:114/146.0)
*** To : All
*** Subj: InfoWorld 10/18/93

In the 10/18/93 issue of InfoWorld on page 70, the column "Down to the Wire" actually mentioned the Amiga. However, it is one that is not pleasant in tone and I believe that it might be a good thing for people to be aware of it so they can be a bit active in defending the honor of Amiga user's everywhere (though not all Amiga users, since it is quite accurate about some). And I quote (without permission):

"And after a couple of recent less-than-positive columns on Windows NT (particularly the client version), we've found that if there's any group we don't want to offend, it's the NT fan club. We haven't seen such sensitivity to criticism since the Amiga. We once implied that nobody uses the Amiga as a serious business machine. Big mistake. We got letters of outrage from every business user with an Amiga on the face of the earth, and both of them were really nasty."

I don't, at the present time, use my Amiga for business, but I know there are a lot of people that are. Bombard the heck out of them for this incredibly silly statement BUT DON'T BE RUDE!!! Let them know that, while there are certainly zealots willing to defend any machine, most of us use the Amiga because we are intelligent, non-cattle like individuals who happen to be able to recognize brilliance when we see it :)

The address of the rag is:

Letters to the Editor
InforWorld
155 Bovet Road
Suite 800
San Mateo, CA 94402

or

letters@infoworld.com

Remember: Above all else, be polite!

1.10 Amiga Report Mailing List

/// Amiga Report Mailing List

Are you tired of waiting for your local BBS or online service to get Amiga Report each week? Have you been spending more money than you want on long distance phone calls to download it from one of our Distribution Sites? If so, have we got a deal for you!

If you have an internet mailing address, you can receive Amiga Report in UUENCODED form each week as soon as the issue is released. To be put on the list, send Email to Amiga-Report-Request@gnu.ai.mit.edu. Your account must be able to handle mail of any size to ensure an intact copy. For example, GENie has a limit of about 40K per message, and most of our issues are well over that limit.

Please do not send general Email to Amiga-Report-Request, only requests for subscription additions or deletions (or if you are not receiving an intact copy). All other correspondence should be directed to the editor at ROB_G@Delphi.COM.

Many thanks to Bob Caron for setting this service up for us!

P.S.: Please be sure to include your Email address in the text of your request message, it makes adding it to the list much easier. Thanks!

** IMPORTANT NOTICE: PLEASE be certain your host can accept mail over
** 100K! We have had a lot of bouncebacks recently from systems with a
** 100K size limit for incoming mail. If we get a bounceback with your
** address in it, it will be removed from the list.

1.11 CBM Shareholder's Movement

/// The Commodore Shareholder Movement, Question and Answers

November 4, 1993

Introduction

The Commodore Shareholder Movement (or CSM) receives letters, e-mail and phone-calls on a daily basis and is responding to the demand for information with this compilation of the most important and frequently asked questions. We apologize if you wrote us and have not received a personal response. We pay attention to every message we receive and hope that all of your questions are answered herein. Please share this information with others and send us the filled-out questionnaire at the bottom of this document.

What is the Commodore Shareholder Movement?

The Commodore Shareholder Movement (or CSM) is not a shareholder rebellion, but is rather a group of people working to ensure a beneficial future for Commodore computers. The CSM exists because of the remarkable activism among Commodore customers, and stands for the interests of all those who rely on Commodore products. A core group of people in Philadelphia have served as the focal point for CSM communication since 1989, but there are active contributors around the United States and Canada. Every Commodore customer who cares about the goings-on of the company is desired as a participant in the CSM. Our size is currently over 500 and expected to soon grow into the thousands.

Who are the leaders of this movement and why are they doing it?

The CSM is led by Commodore customers Michael Levin and Marc Rifkin whose careers are centered around the use of Commodore equipment. Their experiences include having been Commodore employees, user group leaders and participants in the 1991 shareholder meeting. They do not characterize themselves as the fanatics once described by Commodore's top officer, but rather as pragmatic and motivated individuals who are protecting their investments. Michael and Marc pay attention to every piece of mail sent to the Shareholder Movement and have accordingly assumed the roles of spokes-people for the movement. They may be contacted by fax at (215) 825-3966, voice at (215) 487-0440 or Internet/Portal MarcR@cup.portal.com Mail may be sent to CSM, P.O. Box 8296, Philadelphia, PA 19101.

What does the Commodore Shareholder Movement want to accomplish?

We wish to become a partner and a resource for Commodore top level management. After the 1991 shareholder meeting, the CSM became the outlet for Commodore-related frustrations. Our positions on Commodore issues are a composite of all the views we see expressed. Our plan is to formalize communication with top Commodore management for the purpose of relaying customer feedback, and for becoming managements most valuable vessel for implementing marketing strategies.

Why will Commodore pay any attention to the Shareholder Movement?

We believe that we are the only clear voice speaking to Commodore management. Commodore has listened to us once and it will probably listen again. At the 1991 Shareholder Meeting, we described products which needed to exist. They have consequently been released as CD32 and the Amiga 1200. This year we are going to the Shareholder Meeting to speak about three very important issues which can be acted upon much faster than new product development. They are as follows:

1. Happy customers will win and retain new customers; this benefits the

company. Unfortunately, the reverse is also true.

2. Licensing can establish Amiga technology as the worldwide "interactive standard." This can solve any distribution problems and result in unprecedented success for Commodore.
3. Well considered strategies must be consistently carried out for improving product, promotion, placement and pricing. Inconsistent strategy can only result in failure.

What would the Commodore Shareholder Movement like to see happen with Commodore?

This is the most important question of all and requires a bit of explanation. Commodore's core strength is in its ability to offer high value products at the lowest cost. Commodore had once jeopardized its existence by straying from this path. So, in order to move forward, Commodore must now realize the full potential of the CD32 product (which we, the CSM, helped to define in 1991). By focusing on Commodore's strengths and employing appropriate strategies, we can experience a boost greater even than the days of the C64. This success can then be used to advance the rest of the product line forward and to renew Commodore's position as the computer industry leader.

To achieve this, Commodore must discern the future conditions of the marketplace and position itself for the greatest advantage. It is becoming increasingly clear that the industry is entering a standards war where the winner will sit on the top of almost every television set in the world. The market is potentially bigger than even that of the Commodore 64. These sales will go to somewhere, and if it is not to Commodore, then it will be to companies such as 3D0, Nintendo or Atari.

Commodore must win the war to standardize this imminent new home computer market (being dubbed the TV "set-top" computer market), and must therefore succeed in the United States as well as Europe, because establishing a worldwide standard can not be done in only one continent. No other company is able to offer a technology as well suited to this purpose as the chip-set and operating system on which the Amiga computer is based, but this will not be true for long. Heavy-weight players (including many of the Amiga's original developers) are busily working to shut Commodore out of this emerging U.S. market. Commodore's brief advantage must be leveraged by a full-force campaign to convince major manufacturers to licence and produce CD32-based products. This would solve Commodore's distribution problems. In turn, Commodore must always ensure subtle superiority in its own models through consistent research, development and product differentiation.

Finally, Commodore is in the perfect position to implement a very potent marketing strategy by transforming the shareholder movement into an unstoppable marketing force. Printed materials and promotional videos can be made available through Amiga dealers and user groups. Aided by these resources, customers would be asked to sell five of their friends on the Amiga or CD32. From the CSM's experience, we believe that the only motivational incentive would be official gratitude from Commodore. This strategy is akin to the MCI Calling Circle or the Ross Perot campaigning method. Promotional materials can be produced very cost-effectively by utilizing the professional services of people in the Commodore community.

Can the Commodore Shareholder Movement work with Commodore's current management?

This is an important question because of how it affects our goals. The CSM will do nothing except what is good for Commodore. Unfortunately, the opinion throughout much of the community is that lasting improvements will not be achieved under current management. Therefore, the CSM had investigated the process of replacing the Commodore Board of Directors. Although achievable, it would be at great expense and compromise our essential goals. Our activity along this vein should be viewed as a knock at management's door. The CSM is now prepared to work together with Commodore management in order to achieve our common goals.

We need to continue receiving your letters of support, and although we are not currently planning to stage an election contest, we still must receive proxy ballots demonstrating our shareholder backing. Backed by this material, we are certain that we can work with Commodore's current management, especially considering the good that was admittedly achieved in 1991. Ultimately, we would like to see a new strategically-minded leader at the helm of Commodore International who knows what's good for Commodore and can work with the CSM. The CSM knows of a willing industry veteran who is particularly well qualified to address Commodore's difficulties. We would like Commodore to acquire him.

What will be the CSM's next step after the Shareholder Meeting?

We will request a special meeting with Commodore's top level management where we can define the official role for the CSM. We plan to establish a formal and ongoing channel of communication with management. We will monitor the electronic networks and receive mail. Our function will be to compare and summarize the opinions we see expressed, and to deliver to Commodore management what we learn.

Does the Commodore Shareholder Movement have a chance of achieving its goals?

Yes, absolutely. We've done this before, but now we're picking up widespread support. We are constantly surprised by the assistance we receive from both expert and grass-root sources. We've talked at great length with people ranging from the executives of large companies to high-school students. We represent the most active percentage of Commodore's customers and have already been through the learning process of being effective shareholders. Not one person with whom we've spoken disagrees with our goals or methods. How can Commodore not listen to the most vocal and organized portion of their customers--customers who care enough to become co-owners of the company? If top-level management sees anything, then they must see the advantage in utilizing us rather than leaving us to find other outlets.

Why participate in the Commodore Shareholder Movement?

If you rely on Commodore, then you must have faith that Commodore does the right things, but as a shareholder, you have the power to act. Our cause is worthwhile. Commodore can still become the company you have always envisioned. It is time to rally the troops and take control of the situation. The CSM offers the effective route to assure Commodore's future

and to see that it reaches the potential we all know is there. Our goals are carefully chosen to benefit everyone concerned. We encourage participation by all. Commodore management should welcome our annual reunion.

Have the large Amiga developers contributed to the CSM?

Officially, none of the large Amiga developers have contributed to our cause because of Commodore's possible interpretation of such action. These companies rely on Commodore in various ways and can not afford to jeopardize their standing with Commodore no matter how positive the goals and methods of the Commodore Shareholders. On the other hand, none of the many companies with which we have spoken have any objections to our goals, and because we are not soliciting financing, company support is not as important as the support of the individuals within these companies. It is the individuals who own stock.

Is it too late to buy Commodore Stock to vote?

This is unknown. There is a cut-off date for the shareholder list; everyone on the list at this time should receive a proxy statement (including a ballot). Due to unusual delays, the proxy statement has not yet been distributed. Rightfully, the cut-off date for the list should be shortly before proxy distribution. This would indicate that if you buy stock now, you might still qualify for casting a proxy vote at the annual shareholder meeting (the time and place for which has still not been announced). Even if you don't receive the proxy, you can still accomplish some good by filling-out and returning our questionnaire included at the end of this document.

What do the delays in releasing the proxies and financial reports mean?

We don't know. You might want to call Commodore and ask. Information from Q4, FY 93 ending June 30 and Q1, FY 94 ending September 30 have not been released as of this writing.

What is involved in buying stock?

Call the telephone information number of your bank to see if they offer stock purchasing services. Because you know what you want, you do not need to pay for the advice services of a regular broker. A discount broker can easily be found in the phone-book. Discount brokers will usually charge a transaction fee of about \$50 to \$80 in addition to the price of the stock. Your age does not matter. You will probably want to ask to receive the stock certificate--as opposed to it being held by the broker "in street name." Although this adds an extra step when selling the stock, it will ensure that the reports and statements go directly to you without delays. It also allows you to send us your proxy ballot and still have the certificate as proof of stock ownership in case you want to also attend the shareholder meeting and be at our side. The certificate will arrive a few weeks after the purchase.

What should be done with the proxy ballot once it arrives?

The proxy ballot represents your ability to vote. It is important to sign the proxy ballot and send it to us as soon as it is received, although it is difficult to say when this will be. There will be at least two boxes on

the ballot: one for approving management's slate and one for withholding management's ability to exercise your vote. In order to put the Commodore Shareholder Movement in the most effective position, please send us your signed ballot without checking off any of the boxes.

How can someone participate in the Commodore Shareholder Movement?

Fill out the included questionnaire and return it to our address (even if you have contacted us before). Spread our message. Talk to other customers about what we're doing. Speak on it at user group meetings. Re-publish this article on electronic bulletin boards and user group newsletters. Write to the editors of magazines. Initiate activities demonstrating support. If you can afford it and are willing to take the risk, then buy stock and send us your signed proxy ballot when it arrives. Attend the shareholder meeting once it is announced.

You can assist individuals who are paralleling our effort to improve Commodore's situation. For instance, to help foster the demand for CD32s in the United States, you can contribute to a volunteer advertising campaign led by Commodore customer Aaron Smith of Idaho. He plans to place CD32 advertisements in non-Amiga computer publications, but can only do so with the your contributions. Amiga distributors are welcome as sponsors. Contact Aaron by electronic mail at the Virtual Reality BBS (208) 467-4292 or by voice at (208) 722-6006.

The CSM has even been contacted by a film maker in Miami who has done commercials for many large companies and is willing to produce a Commodore spot at cost. His proposed idea is to run the commercial during programs which use the Amiga for special effects. The commercial will ask the viewer if he/she would like to have the same computer used to produce these special effects. We think this is a good idea and welcome such offers.

Become a leader of the Commodore Shareholder Movement. Be ready to back-up the current leaders. I recommend you do this by reading Guy Kawasaki's book on promoting causes, called *Selling the Dream*, and to read *The Art of War*, a remarkably short Chinese classic which summarizes everything you need to know about strategy. You should probably also own stock and be willing travel and speak at the Annual Shareholder Meeting.

Finally, don't take matters on faith. Lend us your support by filling out and returning the following questionnaire. Please keep your answers concise for the purpose of database entry. If you contact Commodore, ask them to acknowledge your loyalty. Express your hope that Commodore works with the CSM. Ask that someone be chosen to revitalize the company. Write to:

Commodore International Limited
1200 Wilson Drive
West Chester, PA 19380
attn: Irving Gould.

The Commodore Shareholder Movement
Post Office Box 8296
Philadelphia, PA 19101

Internet/Portal MarcR@cup.portal.com

Fax: (215) 825-3966
Tel: (215) 487-0440

The Commodore Shareholder Movement Questionnaire. Please fill-out and return to the CSM.

Name:
Address:
Phone number:
Fax number:
Network address or BBS:

Do you consider yourself a part of the Commodore Shareholder Movement?

What Commodore products do you own and what do you plan to purchase?

Do you own Commodore stock? If so, how much? Are you planning to purchase stock?

Where do you get most of your Commodore-related information (magazines, user groups, dealers, etc.)? Please be detailed.

If possible, would you attend the Commodore Annual Shareholder Meeting?

What would you say to Commodore management at the Shareholder Meeting?

What incentive would you need for you to participate in a Commodore promotional campaign?

How do you see yourself participating in the Commodore Shareholder Movement? What more would you like to say?

1.12 Usenet Review - Picasso II

/// Usenet Review: Picasso II graphics board

By David Hopper
(i-daveho@microsoft.com)

PRODUCT NAME

Picasso II RTG Graphics Board (Hardware rev. 1.2)

DESCRIPTION

The Picasso II is a 24-bit graphics board with a Retargetable Graphics system. Additional software includes TVPaint Junior and a number of image viewing utilities.

[MODERATOR'S NOTE: It is important to note that the Picasso's "RTG" system was created by Picasso's manufacturer, and is not the rumored Commodore RTG system. - Dan]

AUTHOR/COMPANY INFORMATION

Germany:

Name: Village Tronic
Address: Braunstrasse 14
D-30169 Hanover
Germany

Telephone: + 49/(0)511/13841
FAX: + 49/(0)511/1612606

USA:

Name: Expert Services
Address: 7559 Mall Road
Florence, KY 40142
USA

Telephone: (606) 371-9690
FAX: (606) 282-5942

LIST PRICE

\$549.95 (US) for one-meg version. An additional \$72 for the two-meg version.

I paid \$499.95 at a dealer for the one meg board, and acquired the additional meg of DRAM direct from Expert Services for \$72 (it's 45 nanosecond RAM, and RAM is expensive today anyway). I have seen the board as low as \$465 in mail-order shops (but we should all support our local dealer, right?).

SPECIAL HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

HARDWARE

SYSTEM: A2000, A3000, or A4000 with any empty Zorro II or Zorro III slot (the card itself is Zorro II). The included pass-through monitor cable is a 15 pin male to male cable; it will work directly with an A3000 or a 2000 with an A2230 deinterlacer card. If you own a 4000, you will need to use the 23 pin RGB adapter provided with the A4000. If you have a MicroWay flickerFixer, you will need a 9 pin to 15 pin VGA adapter, available directly from the manufacturer, or from a cable dealer.

PROCESSOR: A CPU faster than a 68000 is not required, although viewing and editing 8 and 24-bit images is always fairly CPU intensive. The on-board Cirrus blitter makes certain graphics manipulations speedy regardless of the CPU.

MONITOR: A multiscan monitor is required; a 1080, 1084, or 1084S won't cut it. 14" or higher is recommended.

MEMORY: The system hooks take very little overhead, and there are no special memory requirements for the Workbench emulation. Some Fast RAM might be nice for the Picasso II to keep screens in. A2000 owners with a full 8 megs of Zorro II memory (i.e. not on an accelerator board) will need to run the Picasso II in segmented mode, resulting in slower performance.

TVPaint Jr. will run with 4 megs of fast memory, but things will be tight. Since my recent upgrade to 8 megs of fast memory, TVPaint Jr. has run comfortably in 640x480x24 and 800x600x8, and barely in 1024x768x8 (no undo buffer).

SOFTWARE

AmigaDOS 2.04 or greater required. To use an 8-bit Workbench, AmigaDOS 3.0 or greater is required.

MACHINE USED FOR TESTING

Amiga 3000/25
8 Megs Fast RAM, 2 Megs Chip RAM
A-Max II+ Macintosh emulator
Picasso II 2 meg board
NEC MultiSync 4DS (17" monitor)
Kickstart 2.04 (37.175), Workbench 2.1 (38.35)

INSTALLATION

Installation is easy: simply plug the board in, connect the short monitor cable from your Amiga's Video Out port to the Picasso, and plug your monitor into the Picasso's second video port. The board fit very snugly and took me some force to fit into the slot. The software installation uses Commodore's Installer program, and is very straightforward. You will need to know the maximum horizontal scan rate that your monitor can sync to; I clicked on "57kHz" for my MultiSync, and I was off and running.

REVIEW

The Workbench emulation and RTG subsystem consist of only three files: village.library, vilintuisup.library, and the Picasso monitor file. Additionally, there are some useful utilities included with the Picasso II and actively supported by Village Tronic and Expert Services:

ChangeScreen: A commodity to "promote" applications that do not directly support the display database, so they can (potentially) run on the Picasso board.
StyxBlank: A screen blanker commodity.
ViewIFF: IFF/IFF24 picture viewer.
ViewJPEG: JPEG picture viewer.
ViewGIF: GIF picture viewer.
PlayMPEG: MPEG animation viewer/decompressor.

Play: Views uncompressed MPEGs at up to 25 frames/second.
 IntuiView: This is a GUI front-end for the utilities included with the Picasso. With it, you can launch programs, view images and animations, read text files, or configure your own filetypes.

The remaining files are benchmark utilities, graphics test programs, AmigaGuide help files, and developer autodocs and examples. Drivers are included for Art Department Pro, ImageFX, ImageMaster, Real3D, and Reflections. Finally, the Picasso II is bundled with TVPaint Junior, a fantastic 24-bit paint program, little brother to the legendary TVPaint.

Upon plugging the board in and installing the software, a quick reboot left me facing a 640x200 4 color screen. Once I launched Screenmode (just the standard preferences program), I was faced with a tough decision. In addition to the regular Amiga modes, I was given the choice of eight new ones: 320x240, 640x480, 800x600, 1024x768, 1120x832, 1152x900, 1280x1024, and 1600x1280. I have fully tested them all and discovered a few things. (NOTE: these observations may be specific to my NEC 4DS monitor. Your results may differ if you have a different monitor.) 1600x1280 flickers like an old NTSC:Hires-Interlaced screen, and is much too small. I notice no flicker at all on the 1280x1024 screen, but again, it was just too small for my 17" screen. My 4DS will not sync to 1152x900 at all (this is the monitor's fault; the sync rates fall well within spec), and 1120x832 (NeXT resolution) requires some manual screen adjustment. I've found 1024x768 to be a terrific balance between screen size, legibility, and compatibility.

Now, I need to admit that I was expecting to see 8-bit Workbench support with the Picasso, even though I've only a 3000 with AmigaDOS 2.1, but this is not the case. The Picasso programmers have decided not to play any color depth tricks with Intuition, and have left it up to the OS. This is fine with me, as it seems to have boosted the Picasso's Workbench emulation above competing boards' emulation schemes (from what I gather), which all add hooks to Intuition to provide 256 on-screen colors with a 2.x system. For the sake of compatibility, I am quite content to wait for 3.1 to be released for my machine. With MagicWB installed, I'm not as anxious to get an 8-bit Workbench (yet!).

I have had the board for four weeks now, and have thrown everything I've got against it. I was pleased and relieved to discover that A-Max II works just fine with the board; the Picasso passes the video right through to the monitor (as long as you use Productivity mode with A-Max, that is). Perhaps the Picasso's strongest suit is its grace under pressure. It has rarely failed to pass through screens and programs which use illegal graphics calls. A comprehensive list of the programs I use daily will follow, and whether the board directly supports, promotes or passes through the video. The Picasso directly supports those programs that use AmigaDOS' own Display Database. If the board promotes the program, I have listed the maximum usable resolution that the program itself can handle (on my monitor). And yes, as a matter of fact, I *did* pay for all of this software. :^)

COMPATIBILITY LIST (for my setup):

APPLICATIONS:

A-Max II+, 2.56 : passed through

AmigaVision 1.70Z : promoted (1600x1280)
 AdPro 2.3.0 : special (24-bit saver)
 DigiPaint3 : passed through
 Directory Opus 4.11 : Display Database (1600x1280)
 Distant Suns 4.2 : promoted (640x480)
 DPaintIV : passed through
 Digital Sound Studio : passed through
 MandelMania : passed through
 Mand2000 Demo : Display Database (1600x1280)
 PageStream 2.1 : promoted (1600x1280)
 ProWrite 3.3.1 : promoted (1600x1280)
 Term 3.4 : Display Database (1600x1280)
 Terminus 2.0a : Display Database (1600x1280)
 TVPaint Junior : special (direct support)
 VistaPro 3.00 : passed through (saves IFF24)
 VLT Jr. 5.576 : promoted (800x600)
 WordPerfect 4.1.12 : promoted (1600x1280)

UTILITIES:

AIBB 6.1 : passed through(*)
 EdPlayer 2.1 : passed through (full screen)
 MegaD 2.00 : promoted (1600x1280)
 PowerPacker Pro : promoted (640x480)
 Plotypus (SLAC Plotter) : promoted (1600x1280)
 ProTracker 3.01 : promoted (640x480)
 SysInfo 3.22 : passed through
 Xoper 2.4 : promoted (1600x1280)

GAMES:

SimAnt : promoted! (640x480)
 Act of War : passed through
 Black Crypt : passed through
 ChessMaster 2000 : promoted! (320x240)
 Civilization : passed through
 Eye of Beholder II : passed through
 F-18 Interceptor : passed through
 Indiana Jones/Atlantis : passed through
 MechForce 3.81 : passed through
 MegaFortress : passed through
 Might & Magic III : passed through
 Moria : passed through
 Out of this World : locks up
 Pinball Fantasies : locks up
 Populous II : passed through
 Shanghai : promoted! (320x240)
 Space Hulk (floppy) : passed through
 Syndicate : locks up
 Wing Commander : passed through
 Wings : locks up

(*) AIBB can be promoted, but its Intuition benchmarks aren't usable on screens other than the default Amiga screens.

Now, I won't dig back through my archived disks to find more games

that fail, but of these that I play regularly, I'd say that 4 fails out of 20 isn't bad at all (too bad they're my 4 best games ;-). If these were booted from floppy, they would probably work. You get the idea, though. The other programs I use regularly, like AmiBack, sits happily on the Workbench. Compatibility has been excellent with the Picasso, and I've not had to sacrifice a single program, save for four games.

What's really terrific about the Picasso II is that my Chip RAM rarely dips below 1.9 megs. All background screens are copied only to Fast RAM, and the frontmost screen is kept on the Picasso II's DRAM. Screen-swapping occurs as fast as my monitor can sync up to the new screen, or virtually immediately for two screens of the same resolution (maybe 1/10 of a second).

BUGS

The Picasso RTG system tries very hard not to alter Intuition's behavior in the way it handles screens. It is, I believe, the only RTG board (besides the Merlin) that still allows you to drag your screens, something I don't think I could ever do without. Such attention to detail can't be an easy thing to program.

In using the one-meg Picasso, certain little things would occur with certain software. For instance, I discovered that Terminus 2.0a would corrupt the Picasso's display if it did three successive jump scrolls. Or DirOpus would sometimes leave bits and pieces of its interface lying around the Workbench. None of these things affected program execution, but it was an annoyance nonetheless. Pinpointing whether or not it's a Picasso bug, or a bug with the application trying to deal with a screen it wasn't programmed to work with, can be a difficult thing.

To Village Tronic's and Expert Service's credit, updates have been coming furiously. Right now it looks as if a significant upgrade occurs on a monthly basis. Upgrades are available in the US for the cost of a late-night call to their BBS in Kentucky (or Germany, depending on your hemisphere). Brick Eksten and Scott Bennett at Expert Services have been extremely helpful, attentive, and competent both on the phone and through the support BBS.

Once I upgraded the Picasso II to two megs of video DRAM, all of the graphics artifacting disappeared entirely. TVPaint Junior, too, is much happier with 2 megs of video memory on board. If you are experiencing any kind of video corruption or cosmetic glitches, you may wish to consider upgrading your DRAM until a fix from Village Tronic is available.

Since my upgrade, my configuration has become quite stable. The only crashes I experience are when I get adventuresome with individual program settings (like trying to force Lyapunovia 1.5 or MandelMania to use a 1280x1024 256-color screen-- whoops).

TVPAIN'T JUNIOR

Perhaps the best part of the Picasso II software is the bundled TVPaint Jr. If you're thinking that it probably isn't that useful as a 'crippled' version of TVPaint, think again. It deserves its own full

review, but I will run down some of the most important features here.

TVPaint Jr. reads and writes ILBM/IFF24, JPEG, and its own DEEP format. It works with 32-bit data: 24 bits of color and an 8-bit alpha channel. All of the basic drawing functions are there, as are spline curves, text, airbrush, magnification, and brush support. Things missing from classic TVPaint are full anti-aliasing on drawing functions and freehand brush support. This last one is a bummer, as it allows only rectangular brushes. Brush mapping is supported, but only horizontally. Brushes can be inverted, rotated, and stretched.

TVPaint's palette control is great. Full colorwheel and RGB/CMY/HSV color choice is supported. Four separate color cycling ranges may be defined, and cycle fills and color density fills are supported. Color masking and locking are fully supported. The LUT, or Look-Up Table, is a powerful feature that allows you to perform image-processing functions on the image. By altering an X:Y plot of source values:result values, you can create a negative of the image, lighten or darken the image, solarize, or create a false-color effect. Compositing images using the Alpha channel is fully implemented.

Finally, the color modes. Color and Stamp work like we're all used to. Smooth *is* available as a drawing mode, in spite of it not being built-in to the drawing functions. Smear is a mode that is very similar to running your finger across a wet painting (duh...). Shift is my favorite of all. Everything under the brush is moved along the direction of the brush (I like what the manual says about this: the colors are "carried by the breath of its passage." Ah, those French). Different from Smear, Shift keeps the image under the brush intact. With it, I've been able to make some rather disturbing images of bug-people and towering VistaPro crags. Nice. Transparency mode allows you to paint 'through' the spare screen (great when you create a negative of the original image on the spare screen). Shade and Light modes do just that; and finally, Grain mode generates irregular 12-bit dithering to 'dirty' up impeccably clean images.

The program is fast. Very fast. I've got a 25 MHz '030, but I still have the idea that this program is written entirely in Assembler.

That gives you an idea of what TVPaint Jr. is capable of; obviously, classic TVPaint will give you more features. But the engine, speed, and the most powerful modes and features are the same.

SPEED

There has been a great deal of debate on comp.sys.amiga.graphics as to whether or not Zorro II versus Zorro III really makes all that much difference when working with RTG cards like the Picasso II, Piccolo, Spectrum, Retina, and Merlin. All I have to add to that particular debate is that I work with 16-bit ISA graphics cards on PC's every day: cards like the Video-7 VRAM II and the #9 GXE. The Picasso's apparent speed on my Amiga is no worse than similar 16-bit cards in the PC world. And on my system, it's damn fast. Redraws, fills, blits... all are faster than the Amiga's own blitter. You should see Distant Suns' or SimAnt's sluggishness disappear when run on the Picasso, and my Workbench just flies now. The number-mongers can debate as much as they'd like; what I have right now is a fast system that works.

VENDOR SUPPORT

As I mentioned earlier, support by both Village Tronic and Expert Services has been tremendous. The support BBS has an active message base, as well as a file base that has the current build of the RTG drivers. Additional utilities are available on the BBS such as an FLI animation player for the Picasso and a demo version of Expert Services' 'Canvas', a multi-module screen blanker for the Picasso. The people I've dealt with at Expert Services have been friendly and eager to help, and I've not had a problem getting through to them at all, even on Saturdays.

WARRANTY

One year, applies to original purchaser.

CONCLUSIONS

The Picasso II provides Amiga users with RTG in a mature way: provide the user with a system that works, that allows them to use high-resolution displays, and works seamlessly with the Amiga's own tried-and-true interface, Intuition. I've not had to change a *thing* with the way I work on my Amiga, right down to my draggable screens. Once I get OS 3, I'll have a virtual AGA machine. As for the additional 24-bit GUI's like the EGS system for other boards, I'll pass. I've seen and used the interface, and unless it becomes Intuition, I'm content that most popular 24-bit programs will be written specifically for the Picasso II until AmigaDOS 4 and RTG hit the streets.

Dave Hopper (i-daveho@microsoft.com)
Corporate Events Technician, Microsoft.

1.13 Features List: Real 3D upgrade

/// Features List: Real 3D Upgrade v2.4

SUMMARY OF NEW FEATURES AND IMPROVEMENTS =====

- Highly increased rendering speed:
 - Material handling speed doubled from v.2.35
 - B-spline shading speed 2-3 times faster
 - Up to four times faster environment rendering
 - Improved memory management, allowing much more complex imported polygonal databases to be shaded
-

- A built-in 3D-font loader tool
 - New material features:
 - Fractal noise mapping handler
 - Fractal noise scope handler
 - Fractal noise bump handler
 - Fractal noise color handler
 - Marble color handler
 - Granite color handler
 - Alphabetical sorting
 - Auto indexing of duplicate material names
 - New tool window features:
 - A wider collection of built-in icons available
 - A new dialog-based icon selection window
 - A "No gadgets" option available for tool windows
 - The color wheel window available under OS. v.39
 - Improved and more complete keyboard support
 - Built-in conical spotlights
 - Built-in cylindrical spotlights
 - New light source attributes:
 - Distance intensity fading control
 - Spot-axis intensity fading control
 - Spot angle/radius control
 - Brightness control
 - Automatic default light source in Shadowless and Normal rendering modes
 - Create torus function
 - Skin curve to surface
 - Create parallel curve/surface tool
 - Freeform extrusion tool:
 - Automatic bevelling with four bevel profile options
 - Adjustable bevelling radius and extrusion depth
 - Both inwards and outwards bevelling supported
 - Fully automatic: generates holes, adjusts bevelling radius etc.
 - Uses B-splines for the best quality
 - Advanced tool for creating complex skeletal particle systems
 - Volume filling particle tool
 - New, improved skeletons:
 - A new special skeleton primitive for better control and visual appearance
 - Joint friction enables natural motion
 - Editing of any skeleton point using inverse kinematics is now possible. For example, it is possible to animate a skeleton using several inverse kinematics methods, each affecting the desired skeleton point.
 - Easy-to-use interface for editing physical attributes of objects. Tag-editing is no longer necessary.
-

- New object attributes:
 - 'No shadows' eliminates shadows from the surface of an object, increasing rendering speed
 - 'Bump shadows' generates distorted shadow edges on bump mapped surfaces
 - Freeform curves can be used as trim curves to cut objects
 - Circular bending: which can, for example, be used to bend a straight tube into a ring.
 - Twist modification which twists objects around a given axis
 - Shrink wrapping functions:
 - Parallel shrink wrap
 - Cylindrical shrink wrap
 - Spherical shrink wrap
 - 'Natural' shrink wrap to surface normal direction
 - These functions can be used to generate a mesh surface from geometric primitives, or to simulate Boolean operations with freeforms.
 - A function for changing the start point of closed freeform objects
 - A function for automatically generating triple end points/curves for freeform objects
 - New and improved functions for controlling a view window's internal camera. The most important of these are listed below:
 - A new, intuitive mouse-based camera MOTION controlling mode for view windows, enabling easy, interactive scene viewing
 - A new, intuitive mouse-based camera POSITION controlling mode for view windows, enabling accurate interactive camera positioning
 - Total and accurate control of all possible camera positioning/tracking variations via the keyboard.
 - The same control-key qualifiers also work with mouse-based control.
 - Viewpoint rotations around aimpoint in camera/abs. space
 - Aimpoint rotations around viewpoint in camera/abs. space
 - Banking control
 - Aimpoint moving in camera space/abs. space
 - Viewpoint moving in camera space/abs. space
 - Panning in camera space/abs. space
 - 90 degree rotations
 - A new center display function
 - A new reset scale function
 - Automatic aimpoint tracking feature. For example, when animating the camera,
 - a horizon plane correction is now used instead of the 'shortest route' correction used in v.2.35. This eliminates undesired banking.
 - A new asynchronous window type for controlling views' camera attributes and camera object interaction:
 - Numerical and slider control of lens Scale and angle
 - Aimpoint and viewpoint coordinate control and reset
 - Control of Heading/Pitching/Banking angle by sliders and numerical gadgets
-

- Distance control
 - Depth of field control
 - A new camera object creation function, introducing a view cone based camera definition
 - A new camera wireframe shape, showing the camera orientation and the lens angle
 - A new input plane control system, enabling accurate perspective editing
 - Editing in absolute space coordinate directions
 - Editing in object space coordinate directions
 - Horizontal/vertical locking
 - Control of hot-point position and depth when editing
 - A new, handy asynchronous control window for handling view windows. It includes the most frequently needed grid control, scale control, drawing setting control, camera control and input plane control functions as quickly accessible buttons.
 - Grids are now drawn in the input plane instead of the origin. This is useful when using perspective modeling with the separate IO option.
 - Visible coordinate system and view window coordinates are now separate Drawing setting options
 - Numerical, accurate window size control
 - Animation frames can be used instead of absolute time references
 - Easy-to-use interfaces for creating and editing key frame animations:
 - Ability to adjust key frame positions in the animation using slider controls
 - Key visibility control
 - Linear/B-spline interpolation
 - New graphical interfaces for most animation methods, including path, rotation, direction, sweep, size, and stretch methods. This feature enables easy and more accurate control over method parameters and their evaluation.
 - More versatile method parameter handling. For example, a sweep around a point rotates the target in all directions, but a sweep around an axis allows rotation only around the axis. For example, you can now sweep a camera in 3 dimensions without modifying the banking angle.
 - A new fractal noise based motion/spin method for generating irregular forces and motions like wind
 - A time line interface for animation editing
 - A graphical user interface for editing tag-based information of all animation methods
-

- The animation window can now appear as a window, not only on a separate screen
- The file selector is now available from the animation window
- New vector stack functions:
 - Lasso deselect
 - Push all points from the selected objects to the stack
 - Pull all points from the stack
- RealConvert can now generate B-splines from PDraw Clip files. This is especially useful in combination with the new freeform extrude tool.

All together, about 100 new features and improvements, most of which are intended to make the user interface easier and the features of the software more accessible.

1.14 Taking the PC Plunge

```
/// Taking the PC Plunge!                               To switch, or not to switch...
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By Robert Glover
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Okay, you're depressed. Depressed about how Commodore is allowing the Amiga to die. Or at least that's how it appears. At any rate, you find yourself considering more and more the possibility of moving to the PC and selling your beloved Amiga. Let's take a look at what you're going to need to be as happy with your new PC as you are with your present Amiga.

First, I'm going to assume that you have at the very least a semi-powerful Amiga system. This means something along the lines of a souped up A500 or A1200, or perhaps an A2000 with plenty of extra memory, and maybe a graphics card. An accelerator isn't necessarily required, but essentially a decent hard drive and plenty of RAM is what I mean.

Now, in order to have as nice a machine (in essence) as your Amiga, you'll have to run OS/2 or Windows NT. Nobody seems to really like NT that much right now, so I'll stick with OS/2.

OS/2's requirements are (at a minimum) a 386SX with at least 6 meg of RAM, and about 60 meg of free hard disk space. However, for best overall results, plan on a 486DX/33 with at least 12 to 16 meg of RAM, and a 340 to 500 meg hard drive. I'm not kidding. Everyone I've talked to says that even a big 486DX2/66 can be a bit slow with OS/2, but like with Windows, memory is the key. With 16 meg of RAM, you'll have enough room to keep OS/2 from having to rely on virtual memory too often. Remember, OS/2 is huge. In fact, it comes on about twenty high density disks, or an optional CD ROM disc (I highly recommend this), to simplify things.

So let's settle on a 486DX/33 with 16 meg of RAM and a 340 meg hard drive. Without a monitor or video card, you're looking at \$1800-2000, depending on the brand. This is a VESA localbus system, too, BTW. Now, there are several good choices for video cards. My first choice is the Diamond Viper

with 2 meg of video RAM. This is the fastest 32-bit video card on the PC to date, and OS/2 drivers were recently released for it. Drivers? Yes, you'll have to be sure whatever video card you choose has drivers available to run OS/2 in any mode above standard VGA's 640x480.

Basically, the cards it supports are any S3 cards (Viper, Genoa, ATI, etc.), plus the video systems in IBM's own PS/1 and PS/2 series. And a good video card will set you back anywhere from \$100-400, depending on what you ultimately choose. I have heard through the grapevine that the Genoa is the best one for the money, being available mail order for about \$95. It ranks in performance-wise along with the ATI Ultra Graphics Pro, yet is reasonably priced, and can take another meg of video RAM, for a total of two.

So we'll add another \$150 to our \$1800 figure, to make \$1950 (I added the extra meg of video RAM, for good measure). Now you're going to want a good CD ROM system. See, part of what is making the PC take off even more so in sales are the wide array of multimedia software available. This includes Microsoft Bookshelf, a nice all-in-one reference library, Grolier's and Compton's multimedia encyclopedias, fabulous games like Seventh Guest, and so on.

So you'll need a sound card and a CD ROM. What to get? Well, forget about those cheap \$300 packages at Best Buy and Wal Mart. They are the older MPC Level 1 kits, that have 16-bit sound cards (like Sound Blaster 16 or Media Vision), and a 150K/sec 350 ms CD ROM drive. Too slow and limited for this fast-paced marketplace. Also, OS/2 will not run on anything but a pure SCSI CD ROM. So plan on a sound card that has a true SCSI port, and Sound Blaster doesn't. Two choices are the Pro Audio Spectrum 16 or the Gravis Ultra Sound. The Gravis is a nice board, but lacks support by many games, as it is not Sound Blaster compatible. It is, however, the closest thing you'll find to a 16-bit version of the Amiga's Paula chip as you're going to get. Sound Blaster has been knocked by every PC magazine as having poor sound quality. This is because Sound Blaster (like it's competitors) have pre-sampled sounds in ROM, which are called by programs and games. That's why games like X-Wing sound so "synthesizery." The Gravis, on the other hand, has onboard RAM and will accept true digitized samples, much like Paula does. You give up some compatibility, but the sound quality makes it worthwhile. Or, you could get a Gravis, and then pick up a used Sound Blaster Pro (8-bit card) cheaply, and run it on a different IRQ, and have the best of both worlds.

IRQ?? What's that, you ask? Well, the PC doesn't have the auto-configuring convenience that the Amiga does. Every time you add a new board, you'll get to set its interrupt request setting (IRQ), and a host of other things. I won't go into detail here, because, well, frankly, it makes me shudder just thinking about it.

The Pro Audio Spectrum 16 or Gravis boards will run you about \$150 on the street, so our price is up to \$2100. Remember, we still don't have a monitor selected. We'll do that a little later. Next we need a CD ROM drive. A good multispin drive (which means it can do 150K/sec or 300K/sec) plus have a reasonable seek time of 300 ms or better will cost about \$400 bare. Now our total is up to \$2500.

Okay... now we have the computer, the memory, the sound card, video card with 2 meg, and a big hard drive. Now we need a monitor. There are some important things you need to know about monitors.

I've done a lot of looking around at all of the different computer stores and discount chains (Best Buy, Wal Mart, Sam's, Sears, etc), and found a lot of things. First of all, the monitors that are included with 99% of these pre-packaged systems are garbage. The monitor is probably the most important part of your computer. Without a good monitor, you won't be able to get the most out of the system. Either the resolution isn't high enough, or the size of the screen isn't large enough, or worse still -- the refresh rate isn't high enough and you're left with lots of flicker. The "standards" for PC resolutions are 800x600 at 72 Hz and 1024x768 non-interlaced at 74 or 76 Hz. The Packard Bell monitors you find around town do 800x600 at 50 Hz and will do 1024x768 at 72 Hz, but it's interlaced, so there IS flicker. Furthermore, these monitors have a lousy 0.39 mm dot pitch (or worse -- I've seen Tandy monitors -- the VGM 225 -- with a 0.52 mm dot pitch!), which makes the text fuzzy, even at 640x480.

A GOOD monitor will cost you at the least \$450. The one I have in mind is a new Philips 15" flatscreen at Best Buy. Actually, they want \$468 for it. Or, you can buy a refurbished NEC 4D directly from NEC for about \$450. Both of these monitors are excellent -- both have a dot pitch of 0.28 mm, and have a very crisp, clear picture.

So by the time we get a good monitor and pay tax or shipping, we're looking at \$500. So our total is now up to \$3000. Again, this is for a 486DX2/66 machine with 16 meg of RAM, a 16-bit sound card with SCSI, a SCSI CD-ROM drive, a 340 meg IDE hard drive, and a decent monitor. That is what is required to have a PC that can equal your Amiga in terms of usability and overall pleasure. Dealing with Windows is far too frustrating to count, and since it can't multitask worth a darn, it doesn't really count anyway.

Now, to maintain a bit of fairness, we are talking about a pretty decked-out PC versus a fairly baseline Amiga. Yeah, the PC will have better overall sound and graphics, but it takes so much money to get the machine to be as easy to use as your Amiga.

I know what you're saying now... "What if I were to take an Amiga and max it out, for comparison?" Okay, let's do that. We'll start with one of those blowout Amiga 3000's from Creative Computers. They're \$900 with 5 meg of RAM, a 120 meg hard drive, and one floppy drive. Add \$400 to bring memory up to 18 meg (which includes 2 meg of Chip RAM), for \$1300. Let's add \$100 for a second floppy drive (what the heck)... \$1400. Now we'll add \$450 for one of those fancy new Picasso II boards that'll do 1600x1280 in 24-bit if you have enough RAM in the computer... \$1850. And a refurbished NEC 4D for \$500... \$2350. Oh, and in case we need to do NTSC resolutions, let's grab a used 1084 for \$150... \$2500. The only real difference now is that the A3000 is a 25 MHz 68030 compared to a 66 MHz 486. There is a bit of processor power difference, but I'm not going to count it, on the basis that you pretty much need a 66 MHz 486 to make OS/2 run well. Oh, and the 120 meg hard drive versus 340 is due to the size of the operating system on the PC.

Now, an alternate system to consider is an Amiga 1200... for \$380 you get a base machine. Add an MBX1200z or equivalent RAM board with 8 meg of Fast RAM and a 25 MHz FPU for about \$400 for a total of \$780. Add a 120 meg, 2.5" IDE hard drive for about \$220... \$1000. Or instead, instead of the RAM board, add a 50 MHz 68030 on an MBX1200XA and a 25 MHz FPU for about \$600, to total about \$1200.

So the bottom line is that in order to get a PC as capable as an Amiga,

you're looking at a good \$3000 minimum, whereas you could have a nice Amiga system with plenty of bells and whistles for between half and 25% less.

1.15 Portal

/// Portal: A Great Place For Amiga Users

Portal Communications' Amiga Zone

The AFFORDABLE alternative for online Amiga information

The Portal Online System is the home of acclaimed Amiga Zone, which was formerly on the People/Link System. Plink went out of business in May, 1991 and The Amiga Zone's staff moved to Portal the next day. The Zone has just celebrated its second anniversary on Portal. The Amiga press raves about The Amiga Zone, when compared to its competition.

If you live in the San Jose, CA area, then you can dial Portal directly. If you live elsewhere, you can reach Portal through any SprintNet (formerly Telenet) indial anywhere in the USA or through Tymnet from anywhere in North America. If you have an account on another Internet-connected system, you can connect to Portal using the UNIX Telnet programs, from anywhere in the industrialized world. Delphi and BIX users can now Telnet into Portal for a flat \$19.95 a month, with *unlimited* use.

Some of Portal/Amiga Zone's amazing features include:

- Over 1.5 GIGabytes of Amiga-specific files
 - The *entire* Fred Fish collection of freely distributable software, online.
 - Fast, Batch Zmodem file transfer protocol. Download up to 100 files at once, of any size, with one command.
 - Twenty Amiga vendor areas with participants like AmigaWorld, ASDG, Soft-Logik, Black Belt, Apex Publishing, Stylus, Prolific, NES.
 - 35 "regular" Amiga libraries with thousands of files. Hot new stuff arrives daily.
 - No upload/download "ratios" EVER. Download as much as you want, as often as you want, and never feel pressured doing it.
 - Live, interactive nightly chats with Amiga folks whose names you will recognize. Special conferences. Random chance prize contests. Famous Amiga folks aren't the exception on Portal, they're the norm.
 - Vast Message bases where you can ask questions about *anything* Amiga related and get quick replies from the experts.
-

- Amiga Internet mailing lists for Imagine, DCTV, LightWave, HyperAmi, Director and Landscapes are fed right into the Zone message bases. Read months worth of postings. They don't scroll off, ever! No need to clutter your mailbox with them.
- FREE unlimited Internet Email. Your Portal account gets you a mailbox that's connected to the world. Send letters of any length to computer users in the entire industrialized world. No limits. No extra charges. No kidding!
- Portal has the Usenet. Thousands of "newsgroups" in which you can read and post articles about virtually any subject you can possibly imagine.
- Other Portal SIGs (Special Interest Groups) online for Mac, IBM, Sun, NeXT, UNIX, Science Fiction, Writers, amateur radio, and a graphics SIG with thousands of GIF files to name just a few. ALL Portal SIGs are accessible to ALL Portal customers with NO surcharges ever.
- The entire UPI/Clarinet/Newsbytes news hierarchy (\$4/month extra) An entire general interest newspaper and computer news magazine.
- Portal features an exciting package of Internet features: IRC, FTP, TELNET, MUDDS, LIBS. Free to all Portal customers with your account. Internet Services is a menu driven version of the same kinds of utilities you can also use from your Portal UNIX shell account.
- All the files you can FTP. All the chatting you can stand on the IRC. And on IRC (Internet Relay Chat) you can talk live, in real time with Amiga users in the U.K., Europe, Australia, the Far East, 24 hours a day.
- Our exclusive PortalX by Steve Tibbett, the graphical "front end" for Portal which will let you automatically click'n'download your waiting email, messages, Usenet groups and binary files! Reply to mail and messages offline using your favorite editor and your replies are sent automatically the next time you log into Portal. (PortalX requires Workbench 2.04 or higher)
- And Portal does NOT stick it to high speed modem users. Whether you log in at 1200 or 2400 or 9600 or 14.4K you pay the same low price.

How does all that sound? Probably too good to be true. Well, it IS true.

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or enter "C PORTAL" from any Sprintnet dial-in in the USA,
or enter "portal" from any Tymnet "please log in:" prompt, USA & Canada
or telnet to "portal.com" from anywhere.

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	Startup Fee \$	Monthly Fee \$	Fee Per Hour \$	Total Cost 1 hr. Per month \$	Total Cost 5 hrs. per month \$	Total Cost 10 hrs. per month \$	Total Cost 30 hrs. per month \$
Portal	19.95	19.95					
2400/9600/14.4Kbps, *direct 24 hrs			0.00	19.95	19.95	19.95	19.95
2400/9600bps nonprime Sprint or Tymnet			2.50	22.95	32.45	44.95	94.95
2400/9600bps prime Sprint +% or Tymnet			5.50-10	29.95	69.95	119.95	varies
2400/9600bps non prime # PCPursuit			1.00	20.95	24.95	29.95	49.95

* plus cost of phone call if out of Portal's local dialing area

Direct rates also apply to connections made to Portal using the UNIX "telnet" program from an account you may already have on an Internet-connected system.

% 9600 bps Sprintnet and Tymnet available in over 300 cities areas

+ \$10 rate prevails at smaller US Cities

PCPursuit is a service of US Sprint. Portal is a PCPursuit

"Direct Access Facility" thus connection to Portal with a PCP account is simply a matter of entering C PORTAL,PCP-ID,PCP-PASSWORD at the SprintNet login prompt instead of C PORTAL.

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Portal Direct 9600/14400 bps service is available for both USR HST modems, and any V32/V32.bis modems. There are dozens of direct-dial high speed lines into Portal. No busy signals!

SprintNet 9600bps service is V.32 modem protocol only.

Tymnet 9600bps services is V.32 modem protocol only.

Again, Portal does NOT surcharge high speed modem users!

Portal subscribers who already have an account on an Internet-capable system elsewhere, can use that system's "telnet" program to connect to Portal for \$0.00 an hour. That's right ZERO. From anywhere in the world. If you're in this category, be sure to ask the Portal reps, when you signup, how to login to Portal from your existing Internet account.

Call and join today. Tell the friendly Portal Customer Service representative, "The Amiga Zone and Amiga Report sent me!"

[Editor's Note: Be sure to tell them that you are an Amiga user, so they can notify the AmigaZone sysops to send their Welcome Letter and other information!]

That number again: 408-973-9111.

Portal Communications accepts MasterCard, Visa, or you can pre-pay any amount by personal check or money order. The Portal Online System is a trademark of Portal Communications.

1.16 A.M.I.G.A.

/// Another Moronic, Inane and Gratuitous Article

By Chad Freeman
(cjfst4+pitt.edu)

Well folks, I'm back! That's right, after a few short weeks in that hot vacation spot some people call "The Love Canal," your fearless humorist has returned with yet more inanity to dull your senses. But first, I have something quite serious to discuss. You see, the reason I have been absent from these hallowed halls for so long is that I was afflicted with the oft-times fatal disease of "RPGitis." Yes, that's right my bit-buddies, I had to check myself into the Gary Gygax Clinic. I am not ashamed of my condition, and the people at the GGC were very nice to me. However, during my tenure in this institution (it was a rough time with nary an Ultima game in sight) I realised that many of you suffer from this very same disease, yet can't afford the expensive program at the GGC (thanks to my superb benefits package from Amiga Report, I was covered). However, since the GGC's program is covered by strict trademark laws, I am not allowed to share their ingenious treatment style with you. So I just threw together a cheesy one of my own and called it...

THE AMIGA RPGITIS TREATMENT (originality is not allowed in this program)

The AMIGA RPGitis Treatment is a 13.2 step program.

Step 1. Want to be cured. This means you should send every role-playing game you own to me, Chad Freeman, Box AMIGA, Johnstown, PA 15907 (for safe keeping). And that includes that copy of Faerie Tale Adventure you have squirreled away with the christmas decorations downstairs.

Step 2. Talk about your problems with a friend (WARNING: due to the nature of your illness, you may not have any friends. In this case, stay up late and call one of those 976 numbers for someone to talk to. Then stay tuned next biweek for The AMIGA 976-ITIS TREATMENT).

Step 3. GO OUTSIDE! Yes, there is a real world out there! No, you don't need to take a sword or any healing potions. Find something to do. Go to a park, a play, a movie, a concert, anything. It is vitally important, however, that you participate in some form of social interaction. You ARE a social animal!

Step 4. Buy some new clothes. You'll never get a date dressed like something out of a cheesy 80's rock video. You've been isolation for quite a long time, and the world has not waited for you.

Step 5. Read the newspaper. You must continue to come in touch with reality. Also buy recent books (no sf/fantasy!). Try and find a hobby that doesn't involve electronics. You'll need some other interests (and

possibly the newspaper's personals) for the next step.

Step 6. Ask someone out on a date. That's right, it's time. You'll be rejected for about a year or so, but keep repeating steps 3 through 6 until you've become normal enough to warrant the attention of a member of the opposite sex.

Step 7. Develop a relationship. Believe me, nothing will kill your time more than being involved with someone. Finally, you care about someone other than the little cartoony-looking guy in Secret of Mana.

Step 8. Move out of mom's house. Sure, she'll miss you, but you're way too old to be living there and its time you got on with it. Besides, part 7 is hard to do if you're both living with your parents (and anyone interested in you probably is).

Step 9. Get a job. You're on your own now, possibly supporting a live-in. You need some cash. Don't worry, its real easy to save money when you're not plunking down 70 bucks a pop for the latest RPG.

Step 10. Get married. There's no chance of you even looking at an RPG now that your spouse owns half of your assets.

Step 11. Have kids. Remember that money you had squirreled away in case of a relapse? You just spent it on a "My Size Barbie!"

Step 12. Now that you've settled down and gotten a good job, start putting aside some savings, making smart investments, etc., in preparation for the next step.

Step 13. Send all of your money to me at the address in step 1 for bringing you out of your hermit-like state, getting you a spouse, bringing joy into your life, and generally being a nice guy.

Step 13.2 This is the abbreviated version of The AMIGA RPGitis Treatment. Simply complete steps 1 and 13, and you're cured!

Well, I hope this helps all of you RPGitis sufferers out there as well as the GGC helped me. For most of you, I would recommend the abbreviated version, unless you have no money, in which case follow the whole plan. I should mention one detail, step 13 is a lifelong commitment, not just a few bucks once you've reached the end of the program. Good luck to you all, and I'll see you again in two weeks!

1.17 New AmigaDOS 3.0 PD/Sharware library

/// New AmigaDos 3.0 (system 3) Specialist PD/Shareware Library

Contact Details.

Generation #3 Library

PO Box 235
Palmerston North
New Zealand.
PH:+ 64 6 3587653

USENET: Generation3@eclipse.acme.gen.nz
FIDO: 3:771/425 - "Andrew Lockhart"

INTRODUCTION TO THE GENERATION #3 PD LIBRARY.

This Library has been created to enhance the use of Amiga Computers running AmigaDos 3.0 or greater OS. This includes, A1200, A4000, and soon A4000T. And to some extent the CD32 console, which has the capability to be expanded to a full 1200 like machine.

It is a machine specific library, in that we intend to include only software for the above machines. This will of course preclude the use of a lot of excellent software, but there are other libraries, notably Fred-Fish, and many others, which offer a more broad-range of available software to compensate. This should be considered if you have one of the above machines and have trouble finding software that is compatible.

Additionally we offer a slight bias towards software that has a visual side, like:

Graphics,
2D/3D Animation,
Image-Processing,
Demo-ware,
Multimedia Domestication,
... And associated utilities.

All releases will be distributed on 3.5inch DSDD format disk, utilizing Fast File System, and Directory Cache options. All disk's shall utilize English, as the native Language. All disk's shall be non-bootable. Boot through the WorkBench.

THIS LIBRARY OFFERS ALL AMIGA USERS, THAT HAVE A 3.0 OR GREATER MACHINE THE FOLLOWING:

- * VISA(TM) and MASTERCARD(TM) orders Accepted !!
 - * Virus Free Tested Software.
 - * A Library containing only tried and tested software.
(Where possible).
 - * A partial emphasis on fun, demo-ware, graphics, animations, artwork, Sound, Music, and associated utilities.
-

- * Software 'optimized' for System 3.x features and performance.
 - * A Library consisting of more 'system legal' software.
 - * Non Compatible Pre System 3 software NOT included!
 - * Variety of easy, low-cost mail order solutions for retailers, users, and user-groups etc.
 - * "Advance Pay" Savings for Volume discounts.
 - * The Latest News On Amiga Hardware And Software.
-

WHY SUBSCRIBE TO THE GENERATION #3 LIBRARY?

- * You will receive the latest releases (initially at least 5 disk's per month) days after release. Air-Mailed for all possible speed.
 - * I promise a, no more than, 24Hour turn-around time on all orders.
 - * Save on costly downloads, and toll/on-line charges.
 - * Not all of us have FTP available for FREE. Many charge a cost of up to \$20+ Per MB for mail. This option is cheaper and more convenient.
 - * Bulk order discounts mean you save on retail/user group volumes.
 - * Make the latest software available to your Amiga User Group; charge a small fee to copy each disk; The initial investment will pay for itself MANY times over. Put the excess funds BACK into your Amiga User Group/Club.
 - * Be confident that you have the Software to Demonstrate the Amiga in the commercial environment. Great for retail outlets.
 - * Your order will arrive on quality Branded Diskettes.
-

THE OBJECTIVES AND GOALS OF THE "GENERATION #3" LIBRARY ARE:

- * Increasing Performance and User-friendliness of Amiga software by encouraging the use of Commodore Developer Guidelines, and style (interface) Guidelines. (By accepting more system legal, and friendly software.)
(MORE ON THIS SOON)
 - * Assisting retailers demonstrate the New Amiga machines, by
-

providing ready-to-run demonstrations, and demo-ware.

- * Assisting Developers by providing more crucial information regarding important, and strategic OS Feature details. (Including new Hardware and Software NEWS.)
- * Provide a means to spread the hard work/achievements of Amiga programmers, by spreading their software, in as many countries as possible *worldwide*.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Only Software that meets one of the following criteria:

1. AmigaDos #3 compatible.

Software falling outside this criteria May be considered if:

2. Partially compatible, but seen as valuable to the Amiga community as a whole to be included.

Same as:

3. System legal, and user-friendly software, implementing only partial Amigados #3 compatibility.

Lastly, we like to mention ALL software will be thoughterly tested (as possible) and considered for inclusion nonetheless. But we feel, for the purpose of this library, Author's wishing to submit will gain greater chance if they follow the above guidelines (No pun intended!)

PLEASE NOTE! - Info on Mailing Submissions.

I do not have FREE FTP access. It is a Costly option for me. This is on top of other on-line charges, and membership fees.

As much as I may appreciate you posting your latest release of your work to my Usenet account, the subsequent charges will make it fairly prohibitive!

If you wish to submit, and want to make certain that it is considered for inclusion, then please take the following option.

Please post it Air-Mail to my PO Box, which I check at least once daily. This is more reliable, and secure way to submit. Don't rely on the net being a reliable media!

Occasionally material is obtained for the Library by FTP'ing various sites. Much potential material can be obtained from this source. Upload your release to this source; this will ensure we have it available (if you do not wish to mail it to me), AND it will become available to thousands of other users worldwide.

The quickest, and most sure way for me to include software you have written, and wish to have included here, is to closely take note of the following:

NOTE: * Commodore's workbench for example includes Copyrighted programs that we cannot use. (I could - but wont!)
In General - most of Fred Fish's suggestions for his *wonderful* library are relevant here. To clarify:

1. As stated above, we cannot include Commodore's files here. If your software requires a particular library, then say so in your documentation. It would hardly be ideal for me to get into moral and/or legal trouble for using copyrighted material without permission.
 2. With your submissions include a statement along with instructions on any 'restrictions' on how you wish the information be included. (Keeping in mind this library hopes to implement a more user-friendly approach, to how the software is presented to the end-user.)
 3. Present multiple submissions in separate directories, or separate archives. Include a CONTENTS.TXT in your archive/disk. This will assist me in sorting out multiple submissions.
 4. Please ensure your submission is in a runnable form. If it is an archive, then make sure its named so. Include where possible any freely distributable 'players' needed to run the software. This would include installation scripts. If not, state what's required, Keeping in mind #1.
 5. Include, (if applicable) software version number, size of archives included, and any other pertinent info you think necessary. In the previously mentioned CONTENTS.TXT. If you wish, include a short bio about yourself, your past and future works, state of employment etc., then feel free to do so. Name the file BIO.TXT and place it with your submission. Feel free to 'plug' for work, but not to advertise commercial products.
 6. Please do not include submissions on high-density disks. Remembering that Commodore have not yet got high-density format machines standard. There are tens of thousands out there (users of 1200's) without high density drives. The use of FFS (Fast File System), and directory-cache, is encouraged on disks submitted.
(I don't YET have a HD drive.)
 7. If possible, when making a submission, and it is an archive, use LHA to compact it. This will save me time.
 8. Use a quality Virus Checker to check your submission. Like "Virus Checker" by John Veldthuis.
-

ORDERING INFORMATION

A Word About Method Of Payment/S

YEP! We have support for Mastercard(TM) and Visa(TM) (ONLY). This covers most of the credit card market. It is difficult to get support for this, but I wished to provide this to you, my customers.

Because of minimum usage charges, a minimum Credit Card order applies. This is \$50 New Zealand dollars. (Similar to other libraries etc)

The current methods of payment, are as follows.

Please Pay In the following currencies.

(In order of preference)

- 1> MASTERCARD(TM) or VISA(TM).
- 2> New Zealand Dollars.
- 3> US Dollars.
Pound Sterling.
Duechmarks.

Just a reminder:

(New Zealanders Must add GST!)

No Personal Cheques. (Outside New Zealand Only).
No Euro Cheques.
Only VISA(TM)/MASTERCARD(TM) orders.

New Zealanders can send cash or personal cheques, whilst Australians, can forward one of the alternative methods of payment.

If you are in Europe for example, or fall outside one of these currencies, please convert before posting your order.

These currencies do Not cost me anything to exchange to NZ Dollars, thus allowing me to maintain this service.

I'm running on tight margins, and other methods like cashing a personal cheque from an Amiga owner in the US would quickly become VERY expensive and time consuming.

Q: What about Security? How safe is it to post Cash?

A: Well, the cost of insuring or registering the money is generally Very low. Its not much for peace of mind. You should register the letter. Post unregistered cash at your own risk.
If your order is fairly large, don't risk it, Register or Insure it.

NOTE: The currency your order is in makes no difference to the speed your order is processed. All orders are promptly processed.

Note to PD/Shareware companies and CD-ROM Manufactures.

If you wish to include the New Generation #3 Library in your PD/Shareware CDROM, then contact us for a Subscription. Or assistance if required. Please contact us first, as we would request that you include a text file from Generation #3, stating contact details, availability, pricing etc.

Note to Commercial Developers.

We will gladly accept your 'demo' software for inclusion. Same conditions apply. Games demos will be welcome. (Although non-system legal games demos will be welcome).

It is our belief you will receive the following for submitting:

- * Greater recognition for your Software.
 - * Appreciation from potential end-users.
 - * Feedback concerning product suitability for target marget.
(Does your company have an EMAIL address on Usenet? This is another way to get useful free feedback.)
-

GENERATION #3 LIBRARY COSTS:

All amounts in New Zealand Dollars:

1 > 5 disk's @ \$10 per disk.
 6 > 30 disk's @ \$09 per disk.
 31 > 50 disk's @ \$08 per disk.
 51 > 75 disk's @ \$07 per disk.

SAVE on Bulk order, "Advanced Pay" discounts. (Compare with above).

1 > 5 disk's @ \$09 per disk.
 6 > 30 disk's @ \$08.50 per disk.
 31 > 50 disk's @ \$07 per disk.
 51 > 75 disk's @ \$06 per disk.
 76 >100 disk's @ \$05 per disk.

NOTES ON ORDERING:

BEFORE you order, to avoid confusion, make your you have checked the

following checklist:

- 1: Have you included the correct method of payment?
- 2: Have you included the correct remuneration to cover Post and Packaging?
- 3: Have you insured or registered your order? (in the case of posting cash)

IMPORTANT:

- 5: Get quote on Post and Packaging for your order, before completing an order. There can be alot of variation depending on your location, and quantity ordered.

PLEASE NOTE:

- * Minimum "Advance Pay" discount order is 30 disks.
- * Single disk cost is virtually the same as other libraries, such as Fred Fish etc. EG: 10 \$NZ = approx US \$5.
- * Minimum Credit Card Order is NZ\$50.00
- * Your "Advanced Pay" monies, shall be held in a separate account to ensure refunds, for undelivered portions of your order, should I be unable to continue this service. (Example: If I get drowned tomorrow.) YOUR MONEY IS GUARANTEED.
- * As we cannot guarantee the suitability of software in the library for a particular purpose, we cannot give refunds. Of course, this excludes media defects.
- * For Post and Packaging costs, please EMAIL, or contact us.
- * All P&P costs are charged at cost. No more. Because it varies depending on location (country), we thought it easier to quote on application.

Please spread this file to your local Amiga BBS, newsgroup, club etc!

1.18 Holonet

/// Holonet: Inexpensive Internet Access

*** HOLONET ***

HoloNet is an easy to use Internet Access BBS.

HoloNet is based on custom BBS software which provides an easy to use menu driven interface. HoloNet is ideal for those looking for an easy way to use Internet services. HoloNet does not currently provide UNIX shell access.

Services include:

- o Convenient Access
A local call in 850+ cities nationwide.
- o Online Publications
Include USA Today Decisionline, Newsbytes, Datanet Computer News, Eeeekbits, and Boardwatch Magazine.
- o USENET
Averages over 30MB of USENET news per day. The following news readers are available: NN, TIN, and RN.
- o Internet E-Mail
Members have an Internet E-mail address similar to:
member@holonet.net
- o Internet Access
Access to telnet, talk, finger, IRC, and FTP.
(note: you must comply with the policies of any networks you use)
- o Single and Multi-player Games
Board, card, fantasy, and puzzle games.
- o Support for Eudora
Excellent off-line Macintosh e-mail reader.
- o UUCP E-mail and USENET feeds
Link LAN E-mail systems and BBSes to the Internet.

How to try HoloNet for FREE:

Telnet: holonet.net

Modem: 510-704-1058 (Berkeley, CA) at 1200, 2400, 9600, or 14400 bps. There are free demo numbers nationwide, for an automated response containing a list of access numbers, send e-mail to access@holonet.mailer.net

How to get more information:

E-mail: info@holonet.net

Modem: 510-704-1058 at 1200, 2400, 9600, or 14400bps

Voice: 510-704-0160

Fax: 510-704-8019

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1.19 The Emulation Examiner

/// The Emulation Rambler

By Jason Compton
(jcompton@tcity.com)

Time this week for a little emulation and a lot of rambling.

TOP PRIORITY:

A quote taken from comp.sys.amiga.emulators, from emulation's newest bestest buddy, Jim Drew.

"We are looking into the licensing agreement for the chipset used in the 3DO emulation."

WHAT THIS WAS ABOUT:

The quote's context was in reference to the CD32 only. However, I can easily see them trying to extend this to CD-equipped Amigas.

WHAT THIS MEANS:

This means that, depending on the cost of the 3DO Emplant module, a consumer could very well be able to buy both a CD32 AND a 3DO for around the price of 3DO itself. Now, the challenge would be to communicate that to the public.

Back to your regular article:

First off, I would just like to let our intrepid readers know that both Rob Glover and I are trying to obtain the Emplant board for review from Jim Drew at Utilities Unlimited -- I'm looking for the standard version and Rob trying to get the PCMCIA Emplant. The only word I've gotten back is that since UU is backordered, they're not releasing any copies for review, which sounds perfectly reasonable to me. He also added that UU is moving to a plant to produce 40,000 Emplants per month, in order to satisfy demand for the 4000/Emplant bundle package. Didn't I mention how good of an idea that would be a couple of months back? So, in closing on this topic-keep up the good work, Jim, and let us check out your product.

Also: I am STILL looking for someone with a fast Amiga (030/40 and up preferable) to run some PC-Task benchmarks for me. I've got a whole set of Macintosh SoftPC benchmarks just dying for comparison. Send me mail if you're interested in doing me a favor.

On the subject of mail: Thanks to the few people who so far have successfully gotten mail through to me. Jcompton@tcity.com is an address

that looks like it will be consistent for me, so please direct all mail there.

I am, of course, an avid reader and try to be an active poster on comp.sys.amiga.emulations, and the one thing I'm noticing (along with just about everyone else) is that the Emplant is occupying all of the time there. I don't want to get sucked into that trap, so I'm especially anxious to hear from a handful of Bridgeboard owners or so, just to keep the spirit alive...since my funds are limited, I'm still plugging along on a C= 2286 bridgeboard, which I recently confirmed can indeed handle a SVGA card without freaking Janus out (some people recently have had hard times getting Janus libraries to load correctly when they started adding hardware...)

It looks like my article will be cut short there. I'm keeping an eye out for the release version of the IBM C-64 emulator, and anxiously awaiting the chance to review an Emplant for your reading pleasure. Until the next time...

1.20 Usenet Review - Shadow of the Beast III

/// Usenet Review: Shadow of the Beast 3

By Rob Morton
(morton@wam.umd.edu)

PRODUCT NAME

Shadow of the Beast 3

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Shadow of the Beast 3 (known for the rest of this article as Beast 3) is a side scrolling action game with puzzles, just to keep the mind working.

AUTHOR/COMPANY INFORMATION

Name:	Psygnosis
Address:	29 Saint Mary's Court Brookline, MA 02146 USA
	South Harrington Street Sefton Street Liverpool, United Kingdom L3 4BQ
Telephone:	(617) 731-3553 (USA) 051-709 5755

LIST PRICE

Probably around \$50.00.

COPY PROTECTION

Oh yeah. This game has disk based copy protection. I make backups of all my software using hardware copiers, and compared to other Psygnosis games this was milder.

MACHINE USED FOR TESTING

A2000, 3 Megs of RAM, Kickstart 1.3
A500, 1 Meg RAM, Kickstart 2.04
A1000, 512K RAM, Kickstart 1.2

REVIEW

Well, I hated the original Shadow Of The Beast, because it was just an arcade game with great graphics. Beast 2 had average graphics, with puzzles, but without using cheats it was way too hard. Beast 3 on the other hand seems to have the graphics and the puzzles. The puzzles start out easy and progressively get more difficult. It is the type of game that you can get better and the movements, so the levels that are hard at first become easier to do later.

By getting easier with skill, it makes the game possible to complete, but makes the game not have as much replayability. You can see everything there is to see pretty quickly. I am not saying that it has no enjoyment after solving it, because I still enjoy playing it now, but I do not play it anywhere nearly as much as before.

Controlling your character is very easy. It is all joystick control except for switching between items, and that does not have to be done in the heat of battle. I think by the time they got to the third Beast game, Psygnosis learned all of the tricks to programming a well controlled character and still leaving the graphics speed and sound intact.

DOCUMENTATION

The manual is very well organized. It starts out with the story of what you have done so far, and what is still left to do. After this they explain the controls very well. That is about all the documentation, but it is also all that is needed.

LIKES AND DISLIKES

Well if it is not too obvious by now, I liked this game. It was fun. There are not that many games that I like; actually, when my computer is on I rarely play games. For some reason, I just enjoyed this one. I am not the most skilled player for strategy, and am not that quick on shooters, and I found this game well made for my game-playing ability. I love graphics, and this game has them. Some of the backgrounds were astonishing. I also liked

the music. It did not get annoying like some games do.

The main thing I did not like was that it had disk based copy protection. This is an outdated concept that needs to be done away with. I will not buy a game that has it (my roommate owns Beast 3). It is also completely useless (I made backups of this game fairly easily). It should also be hard drive installable. The last thing that many people would probably like is for the game to be slightly harder and maybe longer. Longer I would like but not really harder.

For all future games, I hope Psygnosis either learns that people have hard drives, or starts putting its games on CD-ROM discs. This would make the games bigger, and left on one disk. I really hate disk swapping.

COMPARISON TO OTHER SIMILAR PRODUCTS

This game has the graphics of Shadow of the Beast, and the puzzles from Shadow of the Beast 2. It is perfectly detailed. There really are no other games that have held my attention long enough to finish them, so I would have to say it is one of the best games I have played.

BUGS

None that I have found.

VENDOR SUPPORT

I never needed to talk to Psygnosis for anything.

WARRANTY

The warranty is that they guarantee the disks work, and are free from any viruses.

CONCLUSIONS

The game is great. I rate this game a 4 out of 5. If they removed the copy protection, then they would have had a 5.

Rob Morton

1.21 BIX

/// BIX - Byte Information Exchange

Lots of information!

BIX is the premier online service for computing professionals and enthusiasts. While other online services cater to computer novices, BIX is the place for knowledgeable people to go for answers to tough questions. You're likely to find many others in similar situations who can offer advice, give technical assistance, or point you in the right direction.

BIX is divided into areas called conferences, each devoted to a particular area of interest. They range from algorithms to windows, from writers to amiga. Conferences are categorized into groups, usually referred to as exchanges, so that you can browse through whatever groups interest you and see a list of the conferences it contains.

These are some of the exchanges on BIX:

amiga.exchange - the place for Amiga developers and enthusiasts
 byte - the full text of each issue of BYTE magazine; source code too
 e.and.l - Entertainment and Leisure; music, pets, games, more
 ibm.exchange - everything from OS/2 to PC clones
 mac.exchange - Mac news, support, software, advice
 professionals - consultants, engineers, financiers gather here
 programmers - some of the best brains in the business!
 wix - the Information Exchange for Windows; Windows Magazine online
 writers.ex - the professional and amateur writer's exchange

*** FULL INTERNET ACCESS! ***

BIX also features access to the Internet - you can use FTP to transfer files from sites all over the world, telnet to log on to other online services, schools, and research sites, and send Internet mail to millions of people at services like DELPHI, CompuServe, America Online, MCI Mail, and other sites and services. Services like "WHOIS" and "Finger" are also available, with more features on the way (like USENET newsgroups; our newsreader is currently being tested and should be available very soon!) There are no usage fees or special charges for Internet access - it's all part of your BIX subscription.

=====
 Rates and Connect Information:
 =====

BIX membership costs \$13 per month, plus connect time. There are several different ways to connect:

SprintNet*	\$3/hour evenings/weekends	\$9/hour weekdays
Tymnet:**	\$3/hour evenings/weekends	\$9/hour weekdays
(SprintNet and Tymnet rates shown are for 48 contiguous US states only.)		

Tymnet Canada:	\$4/hr eves/wkends	\$9/hour weekdays
Tymnet Hawaii:	\$10/hr eves/wkends	\$20/hour weekdays
Telnet(via Internet):	\$1/hour, round the clock	
Direct dial (Boston):	\$2/hour, round the clock (up to 9600 bps)	

* SprintNet daytime hours are from 6am to 7pm, M-F, ET.
** Tymnet daytime hours are from 7am to 6pm, M-F, ET.

To find your local SprintNet number, call SprintNet at (800) 877-5045, ext. 5. Internationally, call (404) 859-7700.

To find a local Tymnet number, call Tymnet at (800) 937-2862. Internationally, call (703) 442-0145.

=====

There is no surcharge for 9600 bps access via either telecom carrier.

There is no surcharge for up to 10mb of Internet mail per month (sent and received). There will be a charge of \$1 per 100,000 bytes thereafter.

=====

20/20 PLAN OPTION (for USA-48 users only):

Volume users can choose the 20/20 Advantage Plan, which is \$20 per month and includes the first 20 hours of access by any combination of methods from the contiguous United States. Additional use is \$1.80 per hour (additional use for telnet access is \$1 an hour). The 20/20 Plan's cost is in addition to the \$13 monthly fee.

INTERNATIONAL USERS:

If you wish to connect internationally through Tymnet or SprintNet, please contact your local PTT. BIX accepts prepaid international calls, direct dial, or telnet connections. In order to make a "collect" (not prepaid) call to BIX, your account must be verified before the charges are accepted. When you complete the registration, we'll mail you a BIX Membership Agreement by regular US Mail. When you receive it, sign it and return it to us by mail. When we receive it here, we'll authorize your account to make reverse charged calls.

If you want to access BIX right away, contact your local PTT to set up a prepaid account. You'll pay your local carrier for your calls to BIX in advance, so there's no waiting period or verification needed. Or, connect at BIX via telnet to x25.bix.com.

SprintNet international calls from most locations are \$24 an hour. Tymnet international charges vary, but are generally between \$20-\$30 an hour.

=====

Billing Information:

=====

You can charge your monthly BIX membership fees to your Visa, Mastercard, Discover, or American Express card.

You may have your company invoiced for one or more BIX memberships with a BIX Corporate Account. To do so, send by US Mail or fax a Purchase Order including a Purchase Order number, invoice address, contact person, a phone number where we can reach the contact person, and the company's fax number. Please direct it to the attention of Connie Lopes, who handles corporate accounts. Our fax number is 617-491-6642. Your corporate account will generally be set up within 24 hours.

=====
To Sign Up For BIX:
=====

Dial by modem 1-800-695-4882 or 617-491-5410 *
(use 8 data bits, no parity, full duplex)

Press a few carriage returns until you see the Login:(enter "bix")
prompt, then type bix

At the Name? prompt, type bix.amrpt

* Users already on the internet can telnet to x25.bix.com instead.
At the USERNAME: prompt enter bix, then bix.net at the Name? prompt.
Once your account is registered, you can connect the same way, except
at the Name? prompt you'll enter your BIXname and then your password.

Using the above procedure will allow users in the 48 contiguous United States to take advantage of our special "5 for \$5" offer. This offer lets you use up to 5 hours of evening/weekend time on BIX during the current calendar month (whatever month you sign up in), for \$5. Additional time is \$1.80 per hour (\$1 per hour for telnet). At the end of the calendar month, you will be placed into our standard rate plan, at \$13 monthly plus connect charges. You may also join the 20/20 Plan at this time.

If you have other questions, please contact BIX Member Services at (800) 695-4775; send a fax to BIX at (617) 491-6642; or send Internet mail to info@bix.com.

BIX Member Services hours are 12pm - 11pm, Monday through Friday, ET.

1.22 Dealer Directory

/// Dealer Directory

Serving our readers!

Almathera Systems Ltd
Challenge House
618 Mitcham Rd
Croydon, Surrey

CR9 3AU England
VOICE: (UK) 081 683 6418
Internet: (Sales) almathera@cix.compulink.co.uk
(Technical) jralph@cix.compulink.co.uk

Amigability Computers
P.O. Box 572
Plantsville, CT 06479
VOICE: 203-276-8175
Internet: amiga@phantm.UUCP
BIX: jbasile
(Send E-mail to subscribe to our mailing list)

Apogee Technologies
1851 University Parkway
Sarasota, FL 34243
VOICE: 813-355-6121
Portal: Apogee
Internet: Apogee@cup.portal.com

Armadillo Brothers
753 East 3300 South
Salt Lake City, Utah
VOICE: 801-484-2791
GENie: B.GRAY

CLICK! Microcomputer Applications B.V.B.A.
Boomsesteenweg 468
B-2610 Wilrijk - Antwerpen
Belgium - Europe
VOICE: 03 / 828.18.15
FAX: 03 / 828.67.36
USENET: vanhoutv@click.augfl.be
FIDO: 2:292/603.9
AmigaNet: 39:120/102.9

Computers International, Inc.
5415 Hixson Pike
Chattanooga, TN 37343
VOICE: 615-843-0630

DataKompaniet ANS
Pb 3187 Munkvoll
N-7002 Trondheim
Norway - Europe
VOICE/FAX: 72 555 149
Internet: torrunes@idt.unit.no

Digital Arts
122 West 6th Street

Bloomington, IN 47404
VOICE: (812)330-0124
FAX: (812)330-0126
BIX: msears

Finetastic Computers
721 Washington Street
Norwood, MA 02062
VOICE: 617-762-4166
BBS: 617-769-3172
Fido: 1:101/322
Portal: FinetasticComputers
Internet: FinetasticComputers@cup.portal.com

HT Electronics
275 North Mathilda Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
VOICE: 408-737-0900
FAX: 408-245-3109
Portal: HT Electronics
Internet: HT Electronics@cup.portal.com

Industrial Video, Inc.
1601 North Ridge Rd.
Lorain, OH 44055
VOICE: 800-362-6150
216-233-4000
Internet: af741@cleveland.freenet.edu
Contact: John Gray

MicroSearch
9000 US 59 South, Suite 330
Houston, Texas
VOICE: 713-988-2818
FAX: 713-995-4994

Mr. Hardware Computers
P.O. Box 148
59 Storey Ave.
Central Islip, NY 11722
VOICE: 516-234-8110
FAX: 516-234-8110
A.M.U.G. BBS: 516-234-6046

MusicMart: Media Sound & Vision
71 Wellington Road
London, Ontario, Canada
VOICE: 519-434-4162
FAX: 519-663-8074
BBS: 519-457-2986
FIDO: 1:221/125

AmigaNet: 40:550/1
MaxNet: 90:204/1
iNET: koops@gaul.csd.uwo.ca

PSI Animations
17924 SW Pilkington Road
Lake Oswego, OR 97035
VOICE: 503-624-8185
Internet: PSIANIM@agora.rain.com

Software Plus Chicago
3100 W Peterson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois
VOICE: 312-338-6100

(Dealers: To have your name added, please send Email!)

1.23 AR Confidential

/// AR Confidential We heard it through the grapevine!

San Jose, Calif.

- Reports are coming in that the next major step in optical technology will be the addition of blue-light lasers. The blue light laser can operate in half the bandwidth of the standard red-light lasers, thus allowing higher data density. Reports of up to four times the current standard could mean CD ROM storage of up to 2.6 gigabytes, and have similar results in terms of optical read/write drives.

1.24 Humor Department

/// The Humor Department Jokes, Quotes, Insults, Shameless Plugs

While this isn't really a joke, it's amusing to know that Bill Gates has been dethroned as America's richest man by none other than Warren Buffett of Omaha, Nebraska. Buffett is considered a very conservative investor, and has averaged a 29% return since 1965. Bill Gates, eat your heart out!

Commercial Online Services
Sign-Up Information

FTP Announcements
New Files Available for FTP

AR Distribution Sites
Where to get AMIGA REPORT

/// 11/05/93 Amiga Report 1.32 "Your Weekly Source for Amiga Information"

- The Editor's Desk
- FTP Announcements
- Usenet Reviews
- Emulation Rambler
- Real 3D Features List
- CPU Status Report
- Dealer Directory
- AR Online
- A.M.I.G.A.
- 3DO Club Started
- New Products
- AR Confidential
- The Humor Department
- SOTB3
- Picasso II Board

- » Taking the PC Plunge «
- » Commodore Shareholder Movement Update «
- » New AmigaDOS 3 Shareware Library «

Amiga Report International Online Magazine
 "Your Weekly Source for Amiga Information"
 » FEATURING WEEKLY «
 Accurate UP-TO-DATE News and Information
 Current Events, Original Articles, Tips, Rumors, and Information
 Hardware • Software • Corporate • R & D • Imports

////////////////////////////////////

- DELPHI
-
- PORTAL
-
- FIDO
-
- INTERNET
-
- BIX

////////////////////////////////////

1.27 Columns and Features

From the Editor's Desk
Saying it like it is!

CPU Status Report
Computer Products Update

Press Release

Information on Sun Systems

Online Weekly
The lines are buzzing!

CBM Shareholder's Movement
Questions and Answers

UseNet Review
Picasso II graphics board

Features List
Real 3D Upgrade v2.4

Taking the PC Plunge
To switch or not to switch

A.M.I.G.A.
- The CURE!!

New PD/Shareware library
For AmigaDOS 3.0

The Emulation Examiner
3DO in the future??

UseNet Reivew
Shadow of the Beast III

AR Confidential
We heard if through the Grapevine!

The Humor Department
Jokes, Quotes, and Shameless plugs!

1.28 About Amiga Report

For Starters
Where to get AMIGA REPORT

AR Staff
The Editors, and Contributors

In Closing
Copyright Information

1.29 Commercial Online Services

Delphi
Getting better all the time!

Portal
A great place for Amiga users...

Holonet
Inexpensive Internet Access

InterNet
Subscribe to the AR Mailing List

BIX
For Serious Programmers and Developers

1.30 Files Available for FTP

Amiga TCP/IP v2.1
Upgrade to the popular TCP/IP software

1.31 NOVA

* NOVA BBS *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site
* Running Starnet BBS *
Wayne Stonecipher, Sysop
FidoNet 1:362/508
An Amiga Software Distribution Site (ADS)
615-472-9748 USR DS 16.8 24hrs - 7 days
Cleveland, Tennessee

1.32 In The MeanTime

* IN THE MEANTIME BBS *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site
* Running AXShell *
Robert Niles, Sysop
rniles@imtired.itm.com
509-966-3828 Supra V.32bis 24hrs - 7 days
Yakima, Washington

***** Notice *****

After 13 September 1993, In The MeanTime will no longer be on FidoNet, thus we will no longer be accepting File REQuests (FREQs). We WILL be still accepting calls and will have the latest edition of Amiga Report online. Downloads to first time callers are still accepted. For the west coast call

Cloud's Corner
to FREQ the latest edition of Amiga Report.

Those who call for the latest edition of Amiga Report, and who do not with

to establish an account, log in as guest with the password of "guest".
At the prompt type "ARMAG" (without the quotes).

1.33 Cloud's Corner

```

* CLOUD'S CORNER BBS *
  Official Amiga Report Distribution Site
  Starnet/MebbsNet Support Site West Coast USA
* Running Starnet BBS *
  Larry Cloud, Sysop
  FidoNet: 1:350/30
  Internet: larryc@hebron.connected.com
  206-377-4290  USR HST DS  24hrs - 7 days
  Bremerton, Washington

```

New users can call and get ANY copy of Amiga Report. These are considered "free" downloads, they do not count against any file ratio. The latest issue of Amiga Reports can be Freq'ed (FileREQusted) from here as "AR.LHA", as "AR" or as ARxxx.LHA where xxx is the issue number.

For users interested in reading AR, but who do not have access to AmigaGuide, you can freq ARBUL and get the AR in bulletin form. This service is provided for persons who do not have Amigaguide (such as IBM users). Please note that any pictures distributed with the "regular" Amiga Reports archive will NOT be sent with this freq. This file is not available for dial-in users, but you can read bulletin #22 with your capture buffer open and get the same file.

1.34 Biosmatica

```

* BIOSMATICA BBS *
  Official Amiga Report Distribution Site -- Portugal
* Running Excelsior/Trapdoor/UUCP *
  Celso Martinho, Sysop
  FidoNet 2:361/9
  +351-34-382320  V.32bis  24hrs - 7 days

```

1.35 Amiga Junction 9

```

* AMIGA JUNCTION 9 *
  Official Amiga Report Distribution Site -- United Kingdom
* Running DLG Professional *
  Stephen Anderson, Sysop
  Internet: user_name@junct9.royle.org
Line 1  +44 (0)372 271000  14400  V.32bis/HST  Fido 2:253/510
Line 2  +44 (0)372 278000  14400  V.32bis only  Fido 2:253/520
Line 3  +44 (0)372 279000  2400   V.42bis/MNP  Fido 2:253/530
  Sysop Email: sysadmin@junct9.royle.org

```

1.36 BitStream BBS

```

* BITSTREAM BBS *
The BBS of the Nelson (NZ) Amiga Users Group
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site
* Running Xenolink 1.0 Z.3 *
Glen Roberts, Sysop
FidoNet 3:771/850
+64 3 5485321 Supra V.32bis 24hrs - 7 days
Nelson, New Zealand

```

1.37 Realm of Twilight

```

* REALM OF TWILIGHT BBS *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site -- Canada
* Running Excelsior! BBS *
Thorsten Schiller, Sysop
Usenet: realm.tdkcs.waterloo.on.ca
UUCP: ...!uunet.ca!tdkcs!realm
FIDO: 1:221/202
Fish: 33:33/8
24hrs - 7 days
519-748-9365 (2400 baud)
519-748-9026 (v.32bis)
Ontario, Canada

```

Hardware: Amiga 3000, 105 Meg Quantum, 213 Meg Maxtor, 5 megs RAM

1.38 Metnet Triangle

```

METNET TRIANGLE SYSTEM
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site
UK Support for Mebbsnet
* Running Mebbsnet and Starnet 1.02a *
Jon Witty, Sysop
FIDO: 2:252/129.0
24 hrs - 7 days
Line 1: 44-482-473871 16.8 DS HST
Lines 2-7: 44-482-442251 2400 (6 lines)
Line 8: 44-482-491744 2400
Line 9: 44-482-449028 2400
Voice helpline 44-482-491752 (anytime)

```

Fully animated menus + normal menu sets.
500 megs HD - Usual software/messages
Most doors online - Many Sigs - AMIGA AND PC SUPPORT
Very active userbase and busy conference
Precious days and MUD online. AMUL support site.

1.39 Omaha Amiganet

```
* OMAHA AMIGANET *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site
* Running DLG Professional *
  Andy Wasserman, Sysop
    24 hrs - 7 days
    FidoNet: 1:285/11
    AmigaNet: 40:200/10
Line 1: 402-333-5110 V.32bis
Line 2: 402-691-0104 USR DS
      Omaha, Nebraska
```

1.40 Amiga-Night-System

```
* AMIGA-NIGHT-SYSTEM *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site - Finland
* Running DLG Professional *
  Janne Saarme, Sysop
    24 hrs - 7 days
  InterNet: luumu@fenix.pp.fi
    FidoNet: 2:220/550.0
    +358-0-675840 V.32bis
      Helsinki, Finland
```

1.41 Ramses Amiga Flying

```
* RAMSES THE AMIGA FLYING *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site -- France
* Running DLG Professional *
  Eric Delord, Sysop
  Philippe Brand, Co-Sysop
  Stephane Legrand, Co-Sysop
  Internet: user.name@ramses.gna.org
    Fidonet: 2:320/104
    +33-1-60037015 USR DS 16.8
    +33-1-60037713 V.32bis
    +33-1-60037716 1200-2400
```

Ramses The Amiga Flying BBS is an Amiga-dedicated BBS running DLG-Pro on a Amiga 3000, 16MB RAM, 2GB Disk space, 3 lines.

We keep a dayly Aminet site mirroring, NetBSD-Amiga complete mirror site from ftp.eunet.ch (main site), Amiga Report, GNU Amiga, Ramses is the SAN/ADS/Amiganet French coordinator.

1.42 Gateway BBS

* THE GATEWAY BBS *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site
* Running Excelsior! BBS *
Stace Cunningham, Sysop
Dan Butler, CoSysop
24 hrs - 7 days
InterNet: stace@tecnnet1.jcte.jcs.mil
FidoNet: 1:3604/60.0
(601)374-2697 V.32bis
Biloxi, Mississippi

1.43 Freeland Mainframe

* FREELAND MAINFRAME *
Offical Amiga Report Distribution Site
* Running DLG ProgeSSIONAL *
John Freeland, SysOp
206-438-1670 Supra 2400zi
206-438-2273 Telebit WorldBlazer(v.32bis)
206-456-6013 Supra v.32bis
24hrs - 7 days
Internet - freemf.eskimo.com
Olympia, Washington

1.44 LAHO

* LAHO BBS *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site -- Finland
* Running MBBS *
Lenni Uitti, SysOp
Tero Manninen, SysOp (PC-areas)
Juha Makinen, SysOp (Amiga-areas)
+358-64-414 1516, V.32bis/HST
+358-64-414 0400, V.32bis/HST
+358-64-414 6800, V.32/HST
+358-64-423 1300, V.32 MNP
Seinajoki, Finland

Our machine is a 386/33 with 20MB of memory, 1GB harddisk and a CD-ROM drive. The BBS software is a Norwegian origin MBBS running in a DesqView windows.

We have over 7000 files online (both for the Amiga and PC) + 650MB stuff on the Aminet CD-ROM disk.

Every user has an access to download filelist (LAHOFIL.ZIP), list of Finnish 24-hour BBS's (BBSLIST.ZIP or BBSLIST.LHA) and every issue of the Amiga Report Magazine (AR101.LHA-AR1???.LHA) even on their first call.

The system has been running since 1989 and is sponsored by the local telephone company, Vaasan Ladnin Puhelin Oy.

1.45 Falling BBS

```
* FALLING BBS *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site -- Norway
* Running ABBS *
Christopher Naas, Sysop
+47 69 256117 V.32bis 24hrs - 7 days
EMail: naasc@cnaas.adsp.sub.org
```

1.46 Command Line BBS

```
* COMMAND LINE BBS *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site -- Canada
Canada's Amiga Graphics & Animation Source
* Running AmiExpress BBS *
Nick Poliwko, Sysop
416-533-8321 V.32 24hrs - 7 days
Toronto, Canada
```

1.47 Rendezvous BBS

```
* RENDEZVOUS BBS *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site - New Zealand
New Zealand Excelsior! BBS Support Site
* Running Excelsior! Professional BBS *
David Dustin, Sysop
Internet: postmaster@eclipse.acme.gen.nz
+64 6 3566375 Supra V.32bis 24hrs - 7 days
Palmerston North, New Zealand
```

1.48 Leguans Byte Channel

```
* LEGUANS BYTE CHANNEL *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site -- Germany
* Running EazyBBS V2.11 *
Andreas Geist, Sysop
Usenet: andreas@lbcmbx.in-berlin.de
24 hrs - 7 days
Line 1: 49-30-8110060 USR DS 16.8
Line 2: 49-30-8122442 USR DS 16.8
```

Login as User: "amiga", Passwd: "report"

1.49 Stingray Database BBS

```
* STINGRAY DATABASE *
Official Amiga Report Distribution Site -- Germany
* Running FastCall *
  Bernd Mienert, Sysop
E-Mail: sysop@sting-db.zer.sub.org.dbp.de
+49 208 496807 HST-Dual 24hrs - 7 days
  Muelheim/Ruhr, Germany
```