

XIO3



Garden City Atari Computer Enthusiasts

1003 Amphion St. Victoria, B.C. Canada V8S 4G2

SUMMER 2001

ATARI News and Rumours

by Rowland Grant

There is still a market for TOS computers, particularly the Falcon and TT. However new hardware has become scarce. The Milan I computer is still available in limited quantities. There is a 68040 and a 68060 version. Motherboards for the Milan are also available. There are also rumours that work is continuing on the operating system software for a Milan version III. I wonder if anyone is really interested. Rodolphe Czuba is still working on accelerator hardware for Falcon computers. This accelerator now may be available for the TT. Called the CTT60, this accelerator may feature a 68060 processor and additional SDRAM. Adapted from the earlier Falcon card the CTT60 will require some soldering to install it.

There is interest in Mario Bécroft's Galaxy Graphics card. He has received a large amount of mail regarding it. Mario has been extremely busy and has not been able to do any work on the card this year until recently. Now he hopes to improve the software and assemble some more Galaxy cards to sell. The Galaxy card normally has 4

MB of RAM, which is all that is needed on a TOS computer at present. A card using 16 MB of screen RAM would not be useful with the current software drivers, although the extra screen RAM could be used as extra system memory. The Galaxy card is designed for the VME extension slot of a TT or Mega STE. Mario is using a version of fVDI as his software driver. He says that it may be awhile before the software drivers and firmware realize the full potential of the card. An ethernet

(<http://home.nexgo.de/thomas.redelberger/prj/atari/ethernea>).

For those still interested in programming TOS computers, various aids are still being created. Since C was the original programming language used to create TOS, most of these aids support C. On the contemporary PC and Macintosh computers there are special programming environments that do much of the tedious background work for Windows or Mac OS. A similar environment for GEM called Application Construction Set professional or ACSpro has been created in Germany. This is shareware and may be obtained from (<http://acspro.atari.org>). ACSpro runs on all Atari systems, including clones and emulators. Supported languages are GCC, Pure C, Lattice C, Turbo C and Pure Pascal. Examples are supplied as well as libraries for Pure C and Pure Pascal. It's now possible to register a copy via Europe Shareware

(<http://www.europe-shareware.org>). Another library for GEM code is MGEMLIB from France. The latest version can be used to create programs running under Magic OS and has been optimized for speed. It works with most C compilers including the freeware Sozobon C. MGEMLIB can be obtained at (<http://gemtos.free.fr/libs.php3>).

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connection was to be included on the Galaxy card, however this is not yet available. However, I notice that Thomas Redelberger has released the circuitry design and software for his ETHERNEA ethernet system. The hardware uses the ACSI port of TOS computers. All information has been released under the GNU public license agreement. His web site is:

See Rumours on Page 4

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MEMBERSHIP

Membership dues are \$20 per family per year. Membership includes a subscription to this newsletter, access to a few hundred 8-bit public domain disks and 210 ST disks in our library and literally thousands of 8-bit and ST PD files on various CD-ROMS.

MEETINGS

Meetings are held in the Nellie McClung branch of the Greater Victoria Public Library at 3950 Cedar Hill Road (corner of McKenzie) on the fourth Thursday of each month. All meetings are at 7 pm. There is no meeting in the month of December.

The Old Gent

The old gent was backing his Rolls into the last available parking space when a zippy red sports car whipped in behind him to take the spot.

The young driver jumped out and said: "Sorry Pops, but you've got to be young and smart to do that."

The old man ignored the remark and kept reversing until the Rolls had crunched the sports car into a crumpled heap.

"Sorry son, you've got to be old and rich to do that!"

Two foreign immigrants have just arrived in the United States by boat and one says to the other, "I hear that the people of this country actually eat dogs."

"Odd," her companion replies, "but if we shall live in America, we might as well do as the Americans do."

Nodding emphatically, one of the immigrants points to a hot dog vendor and they both walk toward the cart. "Two dogs, please," she says.

The vendor is only too pleased to oblige, wraps both hot dogs in foil and hands them over the counter. Excited, the companions hurry to a bench and begin to unwrap their "dogs." One of them opens the foil and begins to blush. Staring at it for a moment, she turns to her friend and whispers cautiously, "What part did you get?"

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Bellcom Disks	John Picken	598-2386
Programming	"	"
DOS & Operating System	"	"
Word Processing	"	"
Games	Ted Skrecky	598-6173
16/32 Bit Applications:		
Desktop Publishing	Gord Hooper	475-0857
Word Processing	"	"
Games	Ted Skrecky	598-6173
Telecommunications	"	"
TOS & Operating System	John Towler	382-5083
Hardware:		
Modem & Printer Setup	John Picken	598-2386
Repairs & Sales	Gord Hooper	475-0857
Other Computers:		
Apple Macintosh	John Towler	382-5083
Commodore Amiga	Ted Skrecky	598-6173
IBM's & Clones	Rowland Grant	598-3661
	Ted Skrecky	598-6173
	John Picken	598-2386

PEEKing Around

by Gordon F. Hooper

...NOEL BLACK, in his own words, was protesting with his ass on Government Street. (See picture on Page 5). DENIS BATE is moving to a new building and was cleaning out cupboards, including ST STuff. He brought it to my house with instructions to find it all a good home. thanks, Denis. I phoned the CyberMooch, TED SKRECKY, and he went into Super-Suck mode and took a lot of it off my hands. He grabbed an STE, an ST, some software, a lot of floppies, a floppy drive, a monitor and some mice. He also got a harddrive for CyberBrother, DOUG SKRECKY. The second time he came, he gave me two, count 'em TWO, CD R's which cost him a whole \$2. Great mooch job, Ted... Be sure and call GORD at 475-0857 if you want to rat on other members... Now for some humour...

Having a bad day? It takes 42 muscles to frown, but only 4 to pull the trigger of a decent sniper rifle.

One day two boys were playing by a stream. One of the boys saw a bush and went over to it and the other boy couldn't figure out why his friend was at the bush so long. The other boy went over to the bush and looked. They were looking at a woman bathing naked in the steam. All of a sudden the second boy took off running.

The first boy couldn't understand why he ran away so he took off after his friend. Finally, he caught up to him and asked why he ran away. He said to his friend, "My mom told me if I ever saw a naked lady I would turn to stone, and I felt something getting hard, so I ran."

If "Dear Abby" Were A Man...

Q: My fiance still has feelings for his old girlfriends. I'm afraid he will not be faithful.

A: A man's capacity to love is boundless. It has been proven to increase with the number of sexual partners. Thus, by having a few other women, your partner is really increasing his love for you. Best thing to do is to buy him a nice, expensive present, cook him a nice meal and don't mention this aspect of his behavior.

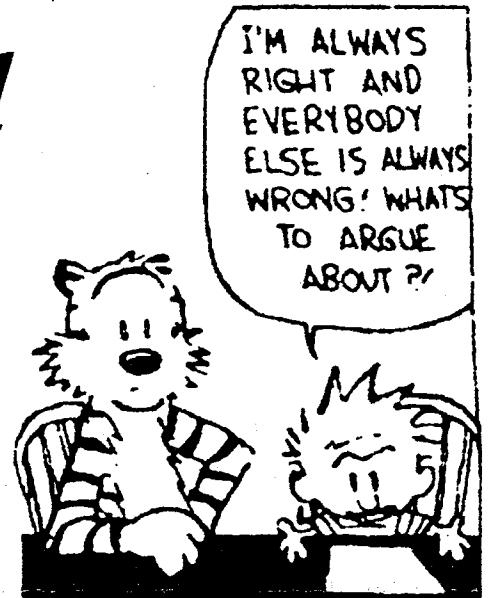
Q: My husband has too many nights out with the boys.

A: This is perfectly natural behavior -- And it should be encouraged. The man is a hunter and he needs to prove his prowess with other men. Far from being pleasurable, a night out with the boys is a stressful affair, and to get back to you is a relief for your partner. Just look back at how emotional and happy the man is when he returns to his stable home. Best thing to do is to buy him a nice, expensive present, cook him a nice meal and don't mention this aspect of his behavior.

Q: My husband wants to experience three-in-a-bed-sex with me and my sister.

A: Your husband is clearly devoted to you. He cannot get enough of you, so he goes for the next best thing - your sister. Far from being an issue, this will bring all of the family together. Why not get some cousins involved? If you are still apprehensive, then let him go with your relatives, buy him a nice, expensive present, cook him a nice meal and don't mention this aspect of his behavior.

Q: My husband goes straight to sleep after making love - we have no time to talk.



A: Sex is an extremely difficult task for a man. Afterwards he needs rest. In fact, the more he loves you, the more hard work his lovemaking is, and the more rest he needs. Stop putting pressure on him. Best thing to do is to buy him a nice, expensive present, cook him a nice meal and don't mention this aspect of his behavior.

Q: My husband's efforts at lovemaking only last 30 seconds.

A: Your husband loves you very much. He is so turned on by you that he cannot control himself. In fact, the shorter the 'effort' the more he loves you. Return this love by buying a nice, expensive present, cooking him a nice meal and don't mention this aspect of his behavior.

Q: My husband is uninterested in foreplay.

A: Foreplay to a man is very hurtful. What it means is that you do not love your man as much as you should -- he has to work a lot to get you in the mood. Abandon all wishes in this area, and make it up to him by buying a nice expensive present, cooking a nice meal and not mentioning this aspect of his behavior.

Thank God "Dear Abby" is a woman.

Sometimes it is difficult to find out what's wrong when a program will not run properly. A disassembler will analyze the assembled code and show how it works. Henk Robbers of Holland has released TT-Digger version 6.2. This is an interactive disassembler for C code with many advanced features. Henk has also released an experimental text editor AHCX. However his main work is XaAES, a freeware multitasking GEM for use with the MiNT replacement for TOS. For this kind of development work a good disassembler is essential as it is used as much as the C compiler itself. The latest version XaAES 0.906 has been released. This is available for download at (<http://members.ams.chello.nl/h.robbers/Home.html>).

Thomas Goirand is author of Fashion, a resource file editor that was to be included in the developers kit for the Centek computer. Since the computer was cancelled, Thomas has released all the source code. This includes a library for programming GEM using assembly language, a small desktop (called Rune) for the Dolmen TOS replacement and an image viewer. See (<http://zigo.anotherlight.com>).

Then there is the Ax86 project that aims to create a TOS clone computer using an Intel CPU. I presume that it will use its own firmware and will not depend on Windows or DOS. Of course the Motorola 68000 code will have to be emulated. This is being done using the freeware Basilisk, which emulates a 68040 Mac on a PC, as a starting point. They are also adapting TOS 4.04 for this system. Using a current Pentium, the TOS clone should have lots of speed. I understand that the necessary software is almost complete.

TOS computers are still used for MIDI sound work. Often one needs more than the pair of MIDI ports that are supplied. A number of MIDI expanders are available. Mario Becroft is still selling the 3-MIDI output expander for use with music sequencer programs such as Notator and Cubase on Atari ST computers. It connects to the ST's serial port. Also Paul Caillet sells a kit to make a MIDI expander called

Noboxe 48. This also provides three MIDI out connections and uses the serial port. Unlike the 3-MIDI system, the Noboxe requires a battery or a 9V adaptor to run and requires soldering to assemble. The original MIDI output port on the ST handles up to 16 channels. This is no longer adequate for most synthesizer systems. These expanders enable the use of up to 64 channels.

A new version of Manfred Lippert's desktop replacement program jinnee 2.5 has been released. It is particularly suitable for use with the MagiC TOS replacement. This version has many of the features included in Mac OS. It is available from Atari Workshop at about 30UKP with English manual. For more information see (<http://www.atari-workshop.co.uk>). From the same source is Scriptor by Holger Weets. Scriptor a scripting language that can automate frequently occurring tasks, run programs, and move data between them. Scriptor works particularly well with jinnee. There are many scripting languages such as awk, perl and javascript available on other computer systems. Scriptor is for TOS computers. It has a typical computer language syntax something like C. The code for a particular task is a list called a script. Several scripts can be executed at the same time, since they can run with pre-emptive multitasking. Like any computer language, Scriptor can be extended with special plugins and libraries. The price is about 25 UKP with hypertext manual in English. Also Atari Workshop has Uwe Seimet's HDDRIVER 8. This is probably the best hard disk driver software for SCSI hard drives, IDE type drives and removable media drives (such as ZIP, JAZ, etc). It is available with English manual for about 30 UKP.

Adobe created the Portable Document Format (PDF) and sells software to create PDF documents. A PDF file can contain all required fonts and graphics to preserve the look of the original document. It is independent of the computer platform. To open, read and print PDF files, Adobe's free Acrobat Reader is all that is needed. Alas, Adobe doesn't make software that will run on Atari computers, so all those neat PDF books found on various CD's are

unavailable to Atari computer users. But maybe not. There is a program called gemgs which does display PDF files. It is based on ghostscript, the Atari postscript clone. I suppose that it works because PDF files are made from postscript formatted text. It is said to be on the Belgian ftp server (<ftp://chapelie.rma.ac.be/atari/editors/ghostscript/>). There are five files. By the way, (<ftp://chapelie.rma.ac.be/atari/>) is an excellent Atari source.

Another universal format, this time for sound files is MP3. For video and sound it is MPEG. These files can be played on the Falcon using version 2.15 of Aniplayer. I notice that the spreadsheet program 3D-Calc+ is now on the web for download as freeware. The manual (in Word 97 format) is also available See: (<http://www.medcalc.be/stwww/index.html>). Version 6.2 of the notation software MusicEdit runs on the TT, Falcon, Milan, Hades and on all other Atari computers using MagiC or N.AES. A demo is available at (<http://www.musicedit.de>).

NoSTalgia is an Atari ST emulator for the Macintosh. It has reached version 1.0 which will run under the more recent operating systems from Mac OS 8 to Mac OS X. The code has been largely rewritten, but it can still be somewhat slow in the higher Mac video modes. NoSTalgia remains one of the best ST emulators, and the price right. See (<http://users.skynet.be/sky39147/>). STonX is an Atari ST emulator for computers running under Unix or Linux. It is available in the original source code, and must be compiled for the particular computer platform. There have been reports of difficulties in certain environments. This is not surprising.

Many text editors on other platforms will create HTML

Protest!

The February meeting featured Gordon Hooper's PC being completely confused by Noel Black and others. Oh the joys of Windows! In March, Noel was supposed to bring his Macintosh LC475 to our computer 'show and tell'. However Noel couldn't make our meeting because he was caught up in some demonstration to save the world. Noel has been a member of GCACE for years, and you'd think

he would have his priorities right by now. Anyway, Bruce Funk brought his new toy, a notebook Power Mac that he got through Ebay. I brought my Zenith Super-sport 286, one of the first portables with a full LCD screen. The ol' Zenith is like our ST's, still working after 13 years of use. Ted Skrecky ran a number of demos and games for the ST, Cool World, Thunder-jaws, Lost Boys Demos and more.

At the April meeting, unsuccessful attempts were made to confuse Gordon's new PC. And someone brought a news clipping showing Noel reclining on a couch blocking traffic on Government Street. What a comfortable way to demonstrate!

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Distinguished GCACE member Noel Black (centre) putting his backside to good use by blocking Government Street in protest! (Of what we don't know.)

(Hypertext Markup Language) files which can be viewed easily by a web browser. There have been utilities for HTML conversion available to ST computer users. The latest is Atari HTMLGen. It makes web pages with a well defined structure (header, body and footer). The user can rely on the main HTML tags (title, subtitle, images) available from the main menu, or the HTML code can be customized using the built in text editor. HTMLGen works on any Atari ST system. Available at (<http://hfa.linuxpersonal.com/htmlgen>).

After making a brave attempt to put out another issue last year, the venerable magazine Atari Applications hasn't been heard from since. That seems to be the end of Atari print publications in English. Of course there are on-line magazines. One of the most recent is MyAtari magazine hosted by Matthew Bacon at (<http://www.myatari.net>).

As would be expected, there are many on-line magazines for Macintosh computers. One of these, Low End

Mac provides news for all Mac users but particularly for users of older Mac models. One low end Mac this magazine covers is the Atari ST using David Small's Mac plus emulators, Magic Sac and Spectre . See this at

(<http://lowendmac.com/clones/atari.html>). Spectre GCR on my mega ST held its own against a real Mac SE at one of our meetings awhile back. David Small was never able to make his emulator work with Mac system 7. There are rumours that David intends to release the code for Spectre GCR version 3.1 (if he can find it). Perhaps others will try to break the system 7 barrier using the Spectre code. Dareck Mihocka's Soft Mac emulator for the PC can handle the Mac OS up to 8.1, so handling system 7 by emulators is possible.

A trio of hackers in France who call themselves Renaissance have been working on a game called DGEM. This uses the original Dungeon Master graphics files to create a Dungeon Master type game that runs differently. They are continuing to add to DGEM, making it more elaborate with better sound, new wall ornamentation and textures, new hazards and so on. See <http://www.multimania.com/nef/files/dgem012.zip> for downloading the 300K file. Also in France, Francois Berthuit has

released a freeware program called attool. This is a disk management program and will copy, compress and undelete files. ELFBACK is an American utility, and version 3.0 has been released as shareware. ELFBACK will back up hard drives using the LZA system of compression.

Raoul Teulings of Holland reports that he makes a living as an artist. He uses TOS computers only, including a TT, Falcon, 1040 ST, STacy and STBook. He prepares promotional brochures of his art work using Papyrus and Calamus. On receiving a commission, he makes a wireframe sketch of his proposed work using Cybersculpt. He finishes it using Xenomorph or NEON and Photoline. The resulting image file is imported into Calamus and included with text description from Papyrus and spread sheet

material from Texel. Digital camera pictures are loaded into the TT using Phototip. Printing is done using the Calamus Starscreen module. Raoul is an inspiration for us all. You don't need the latest and greatest, you need to master what you have.

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



Find It On The Web

by Rowland Grant

Some years ago, Nick Kennedy released his SIO2PC system. This enabled a PC computer running under MS-DOS to emulate Atari 8-bit disk drives using disk image files. The SIO2PC system consisted of PC software and a cable-interface that connected the PC and Atari computers through their serial ports. A similar system (APE) was developed for PC computers running Windows. Now Dan Vernon has released his Atari810Win software that extends the functionality of SIO2PC to PC computers running Windows NT and Windows 2000. This is available at <http://www.bitsofthepast.com/atari>. Computers running under Linux can also be

used with a SIO2PC cable. The software is called FEMUL, and comes from the Czech Republic. I believe it is in C source code format and must be compiled.

I understand that LK Avalon, the Polish software source for Atari 8-bit games, is still in business. They have more than 50 games from various sources listed on (www.lk-avalon.com).

Raphael Espino has released version 0.5 of his a8jdpag. This is a JPEG picture file viewer for Atari 8-bit computers (<http://rjespino.atari.org>). It is an Atari adaptation of juddpag written by Stephen Judd for the Commodore 64. Also M.E. Lee

has rewritten RAMBOOT3 and corrected several bugs. This is an AUTORUN.SYS file which sets up RAM disks on computers running MyDOS. It includes the RAM disk program Myrd2, which can detect an existing RAM disk and will not re-format it.

The full text of the book "Atari Graphics and Arcade Game Design" is now available on the Web at (<http://www.atariarchives.org/agagd/>). Published in 1984, the book covers BASIC and assembly language programming. Also on the Web are two dozen classic articles on word processing using AtariWriter Plus. These were written by Carolyn Hoglin from 1990 to 1992 and is available at (<http://www.atariarchives.org/articles/>).

Heaven

A very spiritual, devout and holy priest dies and is immediately swept up to heaven. St. Peter greets him at the Pearly Gates, and says, "Hello, Father, we've been waiting for you for a long time. Welcome to Heaven!"

"You are very well known here, and as a special reward, because you are such a spiritual and holy man, we're going to grant you anything you wish even before we enter heaven. What can I grant you?"

"Well," the priest says, "I've always been a great admirer of the Virgin Mother. I've always wanted to talk to her."

St. Peter nods his head to one side, and lo and behold who should approach the priest but the Virgin Mary!

The priest is beside himself, and he manages to say, "Mother, I have always been a great admirer of yours, and have studied

everything I could about you and followed your life as best I could. I have studied every painting and portrait ever made of you, and I've noticed that you are always portrayed with a slightly sad look on your face. I have always, always wondered what it was that made you sad. Would you please tell me?"

"Honestly?" with a little pained grimace on her face. "Well, I was really hoping for a girl."

Is Windows A Virus?

No, Windows is not a virus. Here's what viruses do:

- 1.They replicate quickly - okay, Windows does that.
2. Viruses use up valuable system resources, slowing down the system as they do so - okay, Windows does that.
3. Viruses will, from time to time, trash your

hard disk - okay, Windows does that too.

4. Viruses are usually carried, unknown to the user, along with valuable programs and systems. Sigh... Windows does that, too.

5. Viruses will occasionally make the user suspect their system is too slow (see 2) and the user will buy new hardware. Yup, Windows does that, too.

Until now it seems Windows is a virus

but there are fundamental differences:

Viruses are well supported by their authors, are running on most systems, their program code is fast, compact and efficient and they tend to become more sophisticated as they mature.

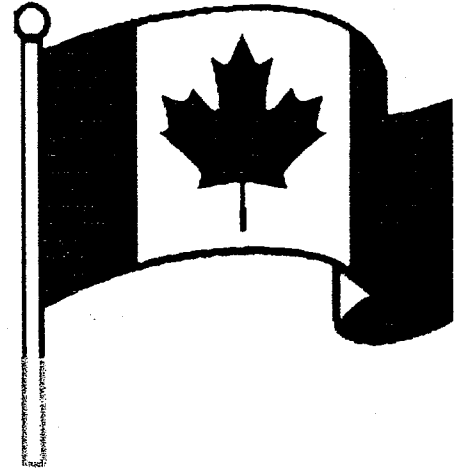
So Windows is not a virus.

It's a bug.

Quick Thinker!

A man walked into the produce section of his local supermarket and asked to buy half a head of lettuce. The boy working in that department told him that they only sold whole heads of lettuce. The man was insistent that the boy ask his manager about the matter. Walking into the back room, the boy said to his manager, "Some asshole wants to buy a half a head of lettuce." As he finished his sentence, he turned to find the man standing right behind him, so he added, "and this gentleman kindly offered to buy the other half".

The manager approved the deal and the man went on his way. Later the manager found the boy and said "I was impressed with the way you got yourself out of that situation earlier. We like people who think on their feet here. Where are you from, son?" "Canada, sir," the boy replied. "Well, why did you leave Canada", the manager asked. The boy said, "Sir, there's nothing but whores and hockey players up there." "Really!" said the manager. "My wife is from Canada!" The boy replied, "No shit? Who did she play for?"



We all know those cute little computer symbols called emoticons. where :) means a smile and :(means a frown. Sometimes these are represented by :-) and :- (respectively. Well, now we introduce "assicons".

(!_) A regular ass.

(!) A tight ass.

(_0_) An ass that's been around.

(_X_) Leave my ass alone.

(_o^^o_) A wise ass.

(_\$_) Money coming out his ass.

(_!_) A fat ass.

(_*_) A sore ass

(_x_) Kiss my ass.

(_zzz_) A tired ass.

(_E+MC2_) A smart ass.

(?_) A dumb ass.

Thanks to George and Marlene Rose for passing these on!