

CPC SOUTH WEST

The Amstrad Users Group

APRIL 97 ISSUE

LET THE WIZZARD PUT A SPELL
ON YOU TO WIN THE COMPETITION

THANKS TO JOE FOR DONATING
THE PRIZES.

IF YOU DON'T ENTER,
THEN YOU
CANT WIN .



WACCI TROUBLE AT MILL ??????
BIG CHANGES AT THE TOP. ?

SEE INSIDE FOR FULL DETAILS.

CPC SOUTH WEST

COVER DISC

FREE P.D. WITH EACH
ISSUE .

BOTH SIDES OF THE DISC FILLED
WITH PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE.

HAVE YOUR COVER DISC SENT WITH
YOUR MAGAZINE.

P.D. FROM YOUR OWN LIBRARY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE :

THE EDITORIAL (THE BIT NO-ONE
EVER READS)

SOFTWARE REVIEWS

P.D. REVIEWS

UPDATE ON ROUTEPLANNER

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TUTORIALS

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READERS LETTERS

MEMBERS HELPLINES

HELP LINES
ARE PROVIDED
VOLUNTARY.

TAPE TO DISC
DISC TO DISC

PETER CURGENUEN
01841 - 520875.

ARTWORK AND
GRAPHICS.
PD .REVIEWS

JOHN REILLY
15 NORTH GREEN
FORCHES ESTATE
BARNSTAPLE
NORTH DEVON
EX32 8EA.

MUSIC AND
MACHINE CODE

SIMON CRUMP
01884 - 32761
AFTER 6PM PLEASE

EPROM BLOWING
HARDWARE &
ELECTRONICS.

IAN NEILL
01926 - 337708.

BASIC PROGRAM
AGONY UNCLE

BARRIE SNELL
8 ST.AUGUSTINE ROAD
SOUTHSEA
PORTSMOUTH
HANTS
PO4 9AD

Barrie will sort out your
Basic problems

EDITOR.
SUBSCRIPTIONS
PD .SOFTWARE.
GENERAL NATTER

YOURS TRULY.
DAVE STITSON
4 CONNAUGHT AVENUE
MUTLEY
PLYMOUTH
PL4 7BX
01752 - 254004

MR.FIXIT
NIGEL WILL SORT
IT OUT FOR YOU.

HAVING PROBLEMS WITH YOU CPC ?
SEND IN YOUR QUESTIONS AND
READ HOW TO FIX IT.
MONITORS
DRIVES
KEYBOARD
ADD-ON'S.
SEND IN YOUR REQUEST TO ME
DAVE >>>...

JOHN REILLY WANT'S HELP WITH
SOFTWARE REVIEWS ETC.
SEND IN A REVIEW ON ANY
SOFTWARE OR HARDWARE OR A
STORY ABOUT YOUR SELF TO JOHN.

PLEASE REMEMBER, IF SENDING A
LETTER, TAPE, DISC ETC, AND YOU
WANT THEM RETURNED, SEND AN
S.S.A.E. NO S.S.A.E. NO RETURN

TA !.

DAVE >>>..

No payment can be offered or
made for any material selected
for publication.

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THE EDITOR SPEAKS



The Bit No-one Reads



Hi ! everyone.

ARTICLES WANTED .

Here we go once more, another issue for you to read .

What I'm desperately in need of is ' ARTICLES ' for further issues, and if I dont receive any, then it's NO magazine for you, it's as simple as that. The Article can be about anything, CPC related, your favourite piece of Software, (Utility - Game), or any story that you may think other members would like to read about.

Remember it's your magazine, and I'm sure you don't just want to read what I input to the mag each issue. We have a new writer, Mark Johnson who will be doing articles on the groups PD library, Waccki members will notice that Mark also writes the ABC of PD in WACCI. So it's a BIG thank you to Mark for offering his services.

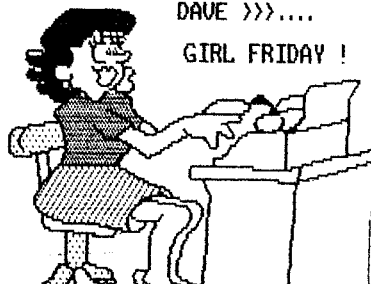
I have written to Barrie Snell to ask if he would like to contribute to the magazine, perhaps on BASIC PROGRAMMING. An idiots guide for members like me who is useless at programming, I think it's because writer's who have done articles of such before, seem to think we all know what they are talking about, and Barrie does explain the ins and outs of the program.

The main reason that I'm after articles is that we are coming up to the spring-summer time and I know a lot of you don't fire up your machines as much during this period, so by asking in advance, I may be able to keep the magazine going during this period if I receive a lot of articles in advance. Even WACCI who has a lot more members than us at times run short of articles to publish, so get those fingers tapping on the key board or send them in on disc or by hardcopy.

I keep being asked about this years get-together ?, I'm not sure at the moment as last years was short of members attending, and being short on ticket sales means that the price would have to rise, see WACCI ticket prices for this years event (£4 = 00) each.

DAVE >>>....

GIRL FRIDAY !



Reader's Letters

The Place To Have
Your Say.



From Martin Bela

Dear Dave

First of all, I just want to say "thanks" to Jonty for the discs of clip art that he gave me as a prize in the September 96 compo. As I didn't have much clip-art this was very welcome. Cheers Jonty !

Which brings me neatly to DTP software. Can you tell me which one will give the best results when printed out ?

I currently use either Stop Press or Micro design Plus, but the curves are a bit "steppy". Even using MD+ in 26SK strip format, the steps are still visible ; is there anything better, or am I expecting too much of the humble CPC ?.

Dave here why not write to John Reilly who no doubt can give you tips on how to get rid of those steps >>>....

The st up I use is MD+ to do the graphics (for documents, letters etc), and then I print the text using Protext and Protype ; this gives excellent results as far as the text is concerned, but although the graphics are very good, I would like to produce graphics to the same quality as Protype produces

text (and no, I'm NOT going to buy a PC).

Dave Here. I think we all would like to produce very good graphics, but as you said before, " The Humble CPC ". alas, it wont produce excellent graphics. Do drop John a line.

The Prospell article from Barrie Snell was very interesting. When I bought Prospell (many moons ago) I had intended to gradually increase the dictionary, but (luckily) I only added about a dozen or so words ; perhaps as well, eh ?.

Changing the subject slightly, I had chance to play a point and click type of adventure game a few weeks ago on an Amiga (er, not mine, I hasten to add). Now, I've got nothing against programmers making the most of a computers power, but it can get very tedious when every action requires a disc access. At one point I had to change discs SIX times just to get the next location loaded (it makes me glad I've only got a CPC !).

Talking of games see advert..
Cheerio for now MARTIN.

thanks Martin Dave >>>....

Reader's Letters

The Place To Have
Your Say.



Dear Dave

With reference to the 'REMBRANT' drawing package on the October Cover Disc, I purchased this package when I first obtained my CPC (a long time ago). The program now being placed into the Public Domain, I hope I'm correct in assuming that this also applies to the user manual ??.

DAVE HERE

I would also assume the manual is also PD....

To this end, I have transcribed my copy of the manual to the enclosed disc.

If my assumption is incorrect then I'm sure you will erase the files.

Dave Here Again If the manual files are not PD, I will take full responsibility for offering them to members.

Also included on the disc are three pictures created with 'Rembrant'..Did you draw them Andrew ??? Dave>>>...The pictures are in each screen mode and the basic loader for the screens. Please note these screens were created on a MONO monitor.

From a Hard Copy point of view, I find that the mode 1 printouts give the best results, although there is nothing to stop users printing the screens out using other art packages or screen dump utilities, this may improve the quality of the printout.

Andrew had hoped to get the details to us for the last issue, but missed due to christmas etc.

Thank you Andrew

The whole picture takes up the full screen so I made a cut-out using Powerpage.

DAVE >>>.....



This is a .CUTOUT from a 'WILLOW' pattern screen on the disc.

If you want the manual, please send a disc Dave >>>.....

STOP-PRESS STOP-PRESS HERE'S THE NEWS !

**YES IT'S TRUE, THERE IS
PROBLEMS AT WACCI .**

The phone lines have been buzzing throughout the UK about problems at HQ.?

At first I was told that the club as it is, would be reverting to a ONE MAN BAND, and the magazine would be no longer a magazine, just a NEWSLETTER as and when who knows !!!!!.

I think for some time now there has been a lot of discent from members on the publication of the magazine, not the quality, but what was in it and by whom it was edited, so look out for news in your next WACCI..

As I understand it, the main reason is that the membership has fallen to such a low number, it is'nt viable to continue running the club in it's present format.

Frankly I'm not surprised, as in my opinion, and this is my personal opinion, the quality of the magazine has been dropping off and certain comments made in replying to members letters is not the WACCI we all know.

SO what's happening to CPCS???

I intend to keep the group running even if the figures fall below 50 members, and yes the membership has fallen to just above 85 members now, some of those who has fallen by the way side, may remember to re-new their subscription, who knows this does happen of course, and during the summer months, it is a general thing for membership to fall by the way side over this period, I'm happy to continue as long as we have members to want a magazine falling on their door mat every two months or so, and provided that we have articles to publish.

IT'S up to you members if you want the group to continue, I shall support it in every way possible and keep going untill there are NO MEMBERS to send a magazine to.

Lets hope the problems at WACCI sorts it's self out soon. You can be reassured CPCS will continue to support the CPC and it's members.

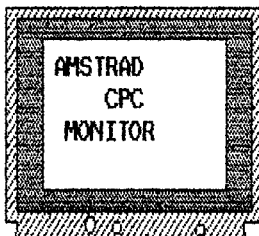
Dave >>>.....

**A
HARDWARE
TIP.**

TIP'S

**FROM
BRIAN FURSE**

If the "Brightness" control of your monitor is fully on and the screen is still on the dull side. Here is a little tip that cured my problem...



Find the internal potentiometer for brightness marked as (BRIGHT). Turn the power back on and very carefully insert a fine screwdriver, insert the screwdriver into the potentiometer slot, adjust

PLEASE BE WARNED
Messing around inside the monitor with the 'POWER' ON can be dangerous!!!!!!

by turning the screddriver clockwise untill the screen is lit up.

Turn off the power, turn the brightness control fully anti-clockwise.

Turn off the power once again and replace the back cover to the monitor.

Remove the back cover of the monitor. Look inside and you will see a PCB (Printed circuit board). A horizontal one to the left side beneath the Cathode Ray Tube.

Now when you turn on the monitor you can adjust the brightness control to suit your needs.

Thanks Brian >>>....

Remember the ' Cathode Ray Tube ' has been going for some time, like our very own eye's, things get a bit blurred, but dont adjust the potentiometer to far, and PLEASE. PLEASE. PLEASE BE VERY CAREFUL..

This is NOT a tip of sorts, You remember ' RAMBRANT ' on the cover disc (October issue), well Andrew Soloman very kindly sent me a disc with the ' Manual .DOC ' files on how the program works, there are also some pictures that can be printed out from the program, I'm not sure and Andrew doesn't say, if he drew the pictures or if they are supplied with the manual as examples.

If you want the manual. please send a disc and a SSAE. TA !

Since Andrew sent me the files, I have received them also from France, so we can assume that as the program is now Public Domain Software, the Manual will also be PD. If this is not correct, then CPCSW through the magazine Apologize.

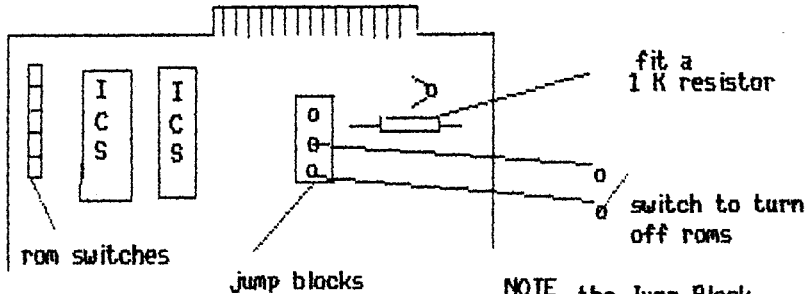
Thanks for the files Andrew
Dave >>>...

No.1 by
ARTHUR.

TIP'S

ARTHUR
BAGGOTT.

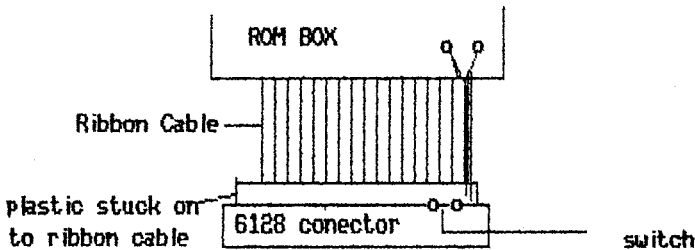
Arthur was telling me on the phone that he had problems with his ROMBO ROMBOX with a switch to turn off the 'Roms', here's how he fixed it...By fitting a 1K ohm resistor, so I suggested he puts pen to paper to show us how it's done.



8 Socket ROMBO ROMBOX

NOTE the Jump Block
connector must be
removed....

This how Arthur fitted his switch...on the ribbon cable...



Arthur states his switch now turns off the 'ROMS' without no problem, someone also phoned me to ask about Rombo Rombox problems ???, I've forgotten who it was, well I hope the above information from Arthur Baggott has also solved your problem....

Thanks Arthur for this tip. Do you have tips like this that we all could profit from ??????. Brian Furse has and his tip is on the next page....

More tips needed PLEASE

Dave >>>....

ROUTEPLANNER

BY BRIAN FURSE.

UP DATE.

If you read December 1995 issue of CPCSW, you would have seen my review on 'Routeplanner' V. 1.11 and my conclusions were then that "It was very impressive and a useful utility with the only downside to the program being that route calculations were slow on long routes".

Richard Fairhurst has recently updated this program and Angela Cook has kindly supplied CPCSW with V.1.2. for a review update.

With the update, Richard has addressed the calculation times and amended motorway additions. The rest of the program is as it was in V.1.1, with it's comprehensive menus and the options of access by Mouse, Cursor Keys or Control+ Keys. Therefore I shall concern this review on the amendments only.

With V.1.11, I tested the calculation times by setting the route between two towns that were the farthest apart on the map, Penzance and John O'Groats. The results were that by selecting the shortest route took 32 minutes and the quickest route took 27 minutes. I concluded that as the end result was precise, if it took a bit of time that was OK so I decided to go and make my self a cuppa whilst awaiting another result.

Well onto V.1.2. On running the program, during the initial loading the legend -V.1.2.(c) System D - appears on the bottom right of the screen.

I mention this as on printing out the route, I found the Headings were unchanged and referred to V.1.11.

I decided that the best way to compare the new version with it's predecessor was to use the same tests as before. I expected there would be maybe a 50 % reduction in time. I keyed in the route for Penzants to John O'Groats, selected the shortest route and went off to make my self a cup of coffee.

On my return about 10 minutes later, I was extremely surprised to see that the calculation was completed and the map was already drawn on the screen. So out with the stop watch and start again. The result this time was 3 minutes and 20 seconds for the calculation, also I noticed that on the clock icon which indicate a calculation is in progress, the hand revolved at a steady pace, whereas on the earlier version it started and stopped intermittantly. The remarkable reduction in calculation times appears to be System D.

You need to load Routeplanner to find the continuation of this review... Dave >>>....

Routeplanner...

The calculation speeds are not proportional to distance but on the complexity of roads. For instance, testing a medium distance route, Paignton to Coventry on U.1.11. the calculation time for the shortest route took 2 minutes and on U.1.2. the time was 35 seconds.

This program is now in the same class as PC types such as Auto Route Express, not quite as quick nor does it have many features, but I found Routeplanner more accurate for some routes, the PC programs emphasises motorways as the quickest routes, irrespective of holdups due to over capacity where said motorways pass through cities at peak times.

Routeplanner cost's £14-99, if you have the earlier version and wish to have it updated, send back your disc with £7-99 to Angela.

ANGELA COOK. BRYMPTON COTTAGE. BRUNSWICK ROAD. WORTHING.
WEST SUSSEX. BN11 3NQ. (01903 - 206739).

MY THANKS TO ANGELA AND ARTHUR COOK OF MERLIN - SERVE.

Thanks to Brian for the update review
you will notice that I called Fenzance-penzants, that was because I
once went there and sat on a ANT'S NEST.

Dave >>>...

FASTEST
SHORTEST

DISPLAY
PRINT

ZOOM IN
ZOOM OUT

AVOID
OPTIONS

THANKS FROM DAVE.

Talking on the telephone to one or two of you, I asked for a program that was good at converting Multiface saved screens to normal screen files, well Dave Caleno sent me one, thanks dave, I also received another from ??? I have no idea as it wasn't signed or any address on the paper it was written on, well I tried it, but there was a fault on it, So I asked Barrie Snell if he could help, and Help he did, Thanks Barrie. Not only did Barrie put the program to right, but he also explained one or two things about the program, so I would like to share this information with you all, I'm sure Barrie wont mind.

THE PROGRAM..

```
10 MEM CONUERT.BAS
20 MEMORY 83FFF
30 LOAD"filename.bin"
40 CALL 88000
50 SAVE"filename.SCR",b,84000 ,
84000
```

HERE IS THE ORIGINAL PROGRAM

```
10 MEMORY : 3FFF
20 LOAD"Filename.bin",84000
30 SAUE"Filename.SCR":B,: 84000 ,
84000
```

Now, to programmers out there, you can notice at once were the problem arrises, but to idiots like me, not so.

So turn over the page to see what the problems where.....

Barrie sorts it out...

When I ran the original program, I got the error message 'operand missing' in line one. And Barrie went on to mention that even if I sorted that line out, I would have had problems the other two lines. So how did Barrie sort it out for me ?. LOOK BACK at the original program the three lines, the colon (:) shouldn't have been there, also the character '&' was missing, likewise the colon in lines two and three shouldn't have been there either.

Barrie very nicely made the 3 line program (that didn't work into a 5 line program that did). He then went on to explain a little about the program...

First of all, all multiface screens are saved with a .BIN extention (IE:"SCREEN.BIN".file, it not only stores the 16K (84000) of screen bytes, but the mode, border and ink colours as well. Plus a little machine code program to let the user see the screen. This adds an extra 140 bytes to the length of the .BIN file which is why it wont load directly into the computers screen area. Also theres the matter of the "execution" address, which is set at 88000 by the multiface program whereas it shouldn't be anything (or more correctly, it should be 88000) for a normal SCREEN.SCR file. So all you have to do is to load in the .BIN file. Strip off the unwanted 140 bytes, and redirect the "execution" address to zero.

Barrie said in his letter that from the letter I sent to him, he could see that I'm not 'into' programming as such, so he wouldn't waste time by waffling on about the ins and outs of such details, but he would mention some of the lines to make sense.

What it did make me do was to turn out the Amstrad manual and look at different parts of programs that is printed in it to see if I could have avoided making these mistakes or having to impose upon Barrie to sort it out for me. But it is as Barrie stated, I'm not into programming as such...

My thanks go to Barrie for not only sorting the program out, but taking the trouble to try in explaining it to me. I wonder if I could persuade Barrie to do a series of BASIC tutorials for us or for idiots like me.... How about it Barrie????



If Barrie is unable to help due to other commitments, is there anyone else out there who would like a go.

Dave >>>>....

ADVERTS

MARTIN BELA

Martin has written a new game and has called it "THE BOMB ROOM".

It involves you overcoming puzzles throughout a building in order to find a room with a 'Bomb' in it, which you must then disarm.

THE BOMB ROOM is a new Freescape solid 3D game for all AMSTRAD CPC's.

Set inside the rebel's Headquarters, you must find and disarm their ultimate weapon ; a Nuclear Bomb !.

The screen shows the view of the player as if he were actually standing there, in Solid 3D.

IE: "Virtual Reality" (without the headset of course!). The game uses the " Freescape 2 " system from Incentive Software.

Control is by Joystick or Keyboard.

Available on 3" disc from Martin price £6.99. cheques payable to M.J.BELA Overseas, please add £1-00.

MARTIN BELA. 11 COLWELL DRIVE. BROOKSIDE.ALUASTON. DERBY. DE24 0UP.

JOE ROONEY

Joe has very kindly sent me some spare software that he no longer needs, also a Multiface to give out a prizes etc.

There is " QUALITAS " a print enhancer plus manual.
TAS-SIGN with manual.

MICRODESIGN+. EXTRA. and MICRODESIGN. no manual
BONZO BLITZ with various information sheets.
XEXOR no manual.

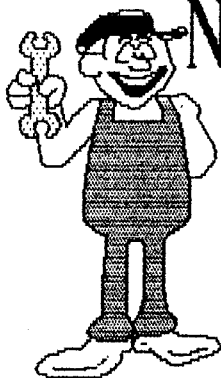
MULTIFACE boxed with instructions.

The XEXOR will be up for grabs in this issue competition somewhere in the magazine. The Multiface will also be up for grabs in the next issue for the best humorist story sent in to me (Clean stories), to be published in the magazine. Please send in on Disc ASCII file or Hard Copy. Editors Decision is Final.

Thanks once again Joe Dave >>>....

**Anyone else have spare software
etc that they no longer need. ?
If so Please send it in.**

Dave >>>....



NIGEL CALLCUTT

MR. FIXIT.

Having got my self a 6128 plus machine, I asked Nigel for a simple re-set switch, not having any details of the PCB lay-out I asked the expert...

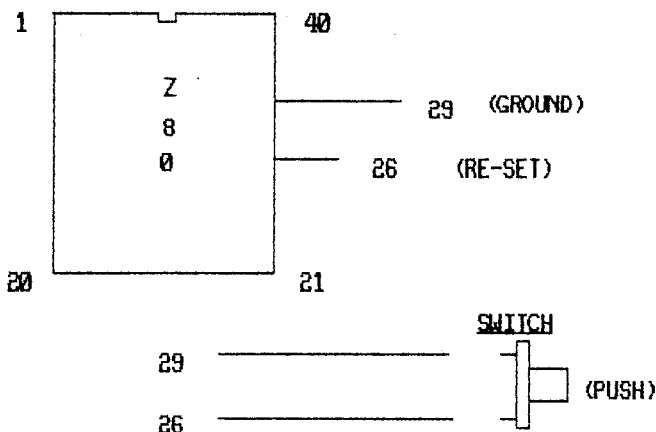
Nigel states this is a simple but effective switch, just like the one used on the Multiface...

This switch can be used for the Standard CPC's or the plus machines.

So what materials do we need ????

Two lengths of wire and a (PUSH TO MAKE SWITCH TYPE) it only cost me 75p for the switch, the two lengths of wire from an old cable.

All you have to do is to Solder a length of wire to PIN 26 (re-set) of the Z80, another length to PIN 29 (ground). The other ends of the wires to the switch just like the drawing...



Never use a SPDT (Single Pull Double Throw) confuses Z80.

I have fitted this switch on my standard 6128, one day I will delve inside of the plus to fit this switch...

Thanks again Nigel Dave >>>...

DAVE'S GAME

PIN BALL

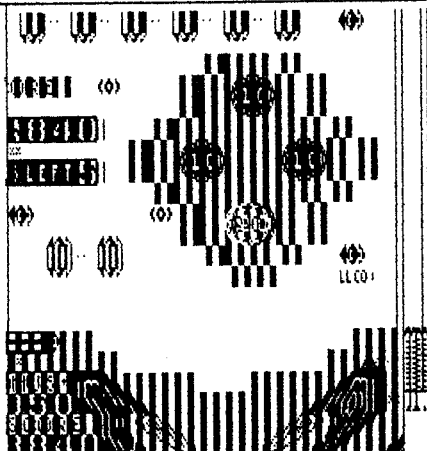
Do I play games ? was a question asked. Well to tell the truth, The only game that I do like playing with is PIN BALL.

What I like about the game is that you can really make that ball move by hitting the right or left cursor keys that makes the flippers clout the ball, guide it to the bunch of 4 pins near the credit score and watch it bounce from one to the other at the same time watch your score increase, now I know this may not be everyone's cup of tea, but I think it's a good game and I have joined the names of high scorers, I wasn't going to tell you my score as I doubt if anyone would believe me, but I will just the same. 38,250.

Another game that I don't mind is PAPER BOY....The main problem with this game is evading all the stray dogs-cats-dustbins and trying to stay on the pavements at the same time as throwing the paper to the front door, all this is done by riding a bicycle with the paper bag slung over your shoulder, not as easy as one thinks.

How about you ??? what games do you play often, my turn to ask now, come on own up...

Dave >>>>.....



MANY THANKS TO
JOE ROONEY FOR
SENDING IN SOME
GOODIES.

Joe very kindly sent me some software and a piece of hardware that he no longer required to use for prizes in our competitions.

I'm sure there those members like Joe who has no further use for the odd bit of software or hardware, dont let it rot on the shelf, send it to me and some other member could make good use of it.

Thanks Joe

dave >>>>....

As the last issue was late, what I have done is extend a l l y o u r subscriptions by at least another issue to make up for the lateness.



Dave >>>>....

COMPETITION TIME

BY THE

ED....

Yes it's back, but only because we have some goodies to give away thanks to JOE. With reference to the last competition, we only had one entry and that was from DAVID HALL, so I have decided to offer David the prize just for entering without me checking if it was correct or not. The Book that was the prize has dissapeared ??? . So David I can offer you TAS SIGN - MICRODESIGN - or BOZO BITZ disc, please let me know which of these 3 software programs do you want..



SO WHAT IS UP FOR GRABS !!!!!

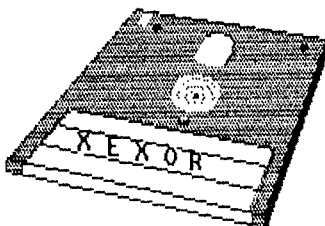
XEXOR

THE SOPHISTICATED DISC BACK UP
UTILITY.

EYES DOWN IT'S COMP TIME.

All the answers to the clues below are (4) four letter words,(not swear words either). They all have something in common and that is that they all share the last letter.IE: CAT.BAT (T), get it ??? . The first letter of each word will spell out a book by Charles Dickens and a Magician !!!!!!!.

- CLUE No.1. YORKSHIRE VALLEY
- CLUE No.2. ELECT
- CLUE No.3. BIRD OF PEACE
- CLUE No.4. MUSICAL INSTRUMENT
- CLUE No.5. PROD, JAB
- CLUE No.6. REIGN, REGULATION
- CLUE No.7. LAZY
- CLUE No.8. NOT ON TIME



YES THE PRIZE IS A 3 " DISC ' XEXOR ' BY QUANTUM COMPUTING 1994
AND IS LICENCED BY COMSOFT.

**So get your answers in if you
want to WIN this superb Disc
Utility**

**IN THE NEXT ISSUE WE WILL HAVE A MULTIFACE UP FOR GRABS. NOW IF
YOU DONT ENTER, THEN YOU CANT WIN.**

DAVE >>>.....

COMPETITION TIME

NO. 2.

THE PRIZE

DONATED BY ANGELA COOK OF
RADICAL SOFTWARE.

ROUTEPLANNER THE LATEST
VERSION.

The Clues.

- 1). Paper Fasteners - 7.
- 2). Foe - 5.
- 3). Silicon Chip Machine - 8.
- 4). Very Fat - 5.
- 5). Maths Formula - 6.
- 6). Pleasure - 3.
- 7). Fury - 4.
- 8). Fried Snack - 7.

My thanks to Angela for donating the prize, (see up date review) and to Colin for setting the competition..



Take the high road !

DISC DOCTOR.

Chatting on the phone to one of our members a few weeks back, I was told that following the article in the last issue, the Disc Doctor was contacted to see if some files could be recovered, but it seems the Doctor doesn't like recovering AMSDOS files, mostly PC and CPM files.

And by all accounts, his charges are fairly high. Why oh Why dont these people say so in the first place. All I can think of is that the charity he say's receives monies from his work, must be well off.

So obtain a price before sending your disc's.

WANTED

Dave wants a volunteer to put together a 'COVER DISC' each issue. Any takers ????????

All P.D. for the 'Cover Disc' will be supplied by me, or you can use your own.

A nice loading screen like our John Reilly has done for us in the past if possible please.

If you fancy a go at it, please send in a sample to me of the type of work you can provide, you can use clip art or free hand drawing.

Please HELP if you can.

DAVE >>>...

CPC S-W ~~CODERS FORUM~~

Welcome to CPC S-W Coders Forum a new section of you local and not so local fanzine that offers you help with your machine coding queries. The Coders Forum advert is on the Coverdisc so I'll leave it up to you to look there for more information. Machine code is where you get to do what you want to do. You can use the 'Unique' CPC embedded software which is contained on your computers internal System ROMS. These provide instant access to the same Code that BASIC uses to for example change screen mode, sound the cursor beep and load files from disc etc etc.

But whats the point of accessing these built in routines from machine code when it is easier to access them from BASIC? The main advantage is extra speed and flexibility!

Extra flexibility because you are 100% in control and Extra speed because you control in what order things are executed. Once you are comfortable (depends on how you progress) you will probably want to write your own Customised routines to achieve the quickest and best results that the CPC range of machines is clearly capable. You will move onto this as a matter of natural progression (if you continue) as many of the in-built routines encompass a number of tasks. So naturally you may want to write your own routines to do 'exactly and no more' than is needed.

May I point out that although Coders Forum is not set out as a machine code tutorial it will in essence be here to help anyone with problems. Doesn't matter if it's just something you can't quite grasp or if you are totally stuck. I will try and answer all you questions and will be able to recommend sources of information.

For information regarding the 'in-built' routines of you CPC you should try and get a copy of 'SOFT 968 Firmware Manual'.

This is the original Amstrad [AMSOFT] manual of routines. The best way to get this is via - Angela Cook's 'MERLIN SERVE' who will offer you a reasonable price for an out of print manual. It has to be said that Angela normally gets what she wants so be prepared to haggle with the young lady!

You will also be please to hear that the 'Pipeline Tutorials' are now available from WACCO Software. Costing only £5 pounds each including P+P for the U.K. they are an excellent source of detailed and easy to understand information about all CPC programming areas (BASIC and M/CODE). I'll leave you with the

details of the sources for not only getting started with machine code but also progressing into a comfortable state of understanding of a much 'mystified' but primarily important and exciting area of your, should you dare to explore it?

Anyway I hope you have no problems with machine code but on the other hand I am here to lend a helping hand if you do ahhh. By for now anyhow Frequency of Systeme D

for SOFT 968 Firmware Manual

MERLIN SERVE
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Merlin Serve can also provide you with a wide range of second hand/first quality software and hardware. You will need a copy of MAXAM on ROM and a ROMBOX if you don't have one. You can also get MAXAM from WACCO Software and COMSOFT as well as the well established O.J.Software.

for PIPELINE TUTORIAL details

WACCO SOFTWARE (Brian Watson)
HARROWDEN
39 HIGH STREET
ELY
CAMBS.
CB6 2EA

Please write sending a 3" or 3.5" disc and return stamped and padded envelope for loads more information on these top quality tutorial guides which cover BASIC and Machine Code.

CPC S-W **← CODERS FORUM →**

CPC S-W ← CODERS FORUM →

Assembler Example

The following assembler listing is of a Simple Screen Clearer for those of you without one there is a BASIC file on the Coverdisc for you to RUN"SCRCLR". Here is that listing in fully commented form:-

```
ORG &8000 ;Addr to Assemble to
NOLIST ;Turn off Assembler screen list

LD B,255 ;B is a single register in this case it
          ;is used as a +Counter+

.SETUP    ;this is a label it defines a reference point
;Firstly a few values are Setup

LD HL,&C000 ;HL is a register pair in this case it is
            ;used to initially point to TOP of Screen RAM

LD D,0;LD E,B ;DE is also a register pair here it is used
              ;to hold the *Step Size*

.LOOP     ;this Label defines the start of a Loop

LD (HL),0 ;Load the Value 0 INTO the location pointed
           ;to by the HL register pair

ADD HL,DE ;This ADD's the register pair HL with DE or
           ;HL=HL+DE

JP NC,LOOP ;Screen memory ends at &FFFF
            ;If the result from the ADD goes over &FFFF
            ;then a special value called CARRY will be set
            ;The JP NC,LOOP is like a IF NOT CARRY then GOTO LOOP

DEC B     ;this Decrease the +Counter+ or B=B-1

JP NZ,SETUP ;Like with the CARRY value if B is now 0 this
            ;will set a special value called ZERO so
            ;JP NZ,SETUP is like IF NOT ZERO then GOTO SETUP

RET      ;If the JUMP didn't take place (B=0) then a
         ;Return would as the name suggests return
         ;to wherever this program was CALLED from
```

CPC AND THE 'NET'.

CPCSW ON THE INTERNET !!!!!

I received a letter from Peter Henry from Co.Wicklow in IRELAND. Telling me that he has connected his P.C. to the internet and have checked out several sites, but couldn't find CPCSW. That is because Peter, we arn't there Peter. Dave >>>...



Peter goes on to say that there is a lot of CPC stuff out there to access, and would I like him to program a CPCSW web page. The answer is YES why not say's I. CPCSW on the net.



Peter only admits to having basic 'net' language (H T M L).



But he say's that he could program a reasonable page for us. Go for it Peter.

Newsgroups are sites that you can log onto where there is a list of articles which you can read and maybe reply to the authors. One can post their own articles.

In the case of the CPC, the articles are mainly from people requesting information about CPC's and Software. There are two newsgroups that would be of CPC interest. Amstrad and CPM, Amstrad is about the CPC,PCW and PC'S.

WACCI and UAUG are group web sites, but soon CPCSW with help from Peter will join them.

Thanks for helping out with offering to do a site page for us Peter. Dave >>>...

SITES:

news:

comp.sys.amstrad.8bit (Amstrad)

comp.os.cpm. (CPM)

web:

[http://users.ox.uk/~wowww.htm!](http://users.ox.uk/~wowww.htm) (WACCI)

<http://andercheran.aiind.upv.es/~amstrad> (Unofficial Amstad WWW resource)

<http://www.internetica.net/amstrad> (CPC Museum)

ftp:

<ftp://ftp.nvg.unit.no/pub/cpc> (main CPC site)

<ftp://sunshine.informatik.uni-wuerzburg.de/pub/joscho/cpcemu>

WORD-LIST AID ROUTINES

BY

BARRIE SNELL

DEDICATED TO THE MAGAZINE CPC-SOUTH WEST FOR CPC USERS

On the next issue cover disc, I will copy the files that Barrie Snell has sent to me that will make the headline more clearer for you.

Word List Aid Routines is a set of files 16 in number that sorts an Ascii files in various ways to help you to build up a good spell checker etc.

Most of users today use the Prospell spell-checker, me included (Dave),but it can take awhile sorting through a large text file, so what did Barrie do He wrote a program that would do the same thing in the 10th of the time, and dedicated it to the groups library.

Now Spell Checking seems to be Barries thing, remember his article in an issue gone by, and of course, Barrie wrote the BARDICTIONARIES that contain around 100,00 English words.

I've not had a lot of time to play with the Word-List programs yet, but what I have seen so far certainly speeds things up on the test piece of text I tried it on.

What's more, you do get a nice little print out that explains what each program does, this file is one of the 16 files on the disc and you are invited to write to Barrie if you have difficulties or queries regarding the programs.

Thanks Barrie...

Please DO CHECK the envelope to see when your subscriptions run out, I have had several phone calls to enquire what's happened to the magazine ? , When I tell the member who's on the phone or by letter his or her subscriptions have run out, Have they is the reply !!!

Dave >>>...

YOUR FOR SALE OR WANTED MESSAGE COULD BE PRINTED HERE, AND IT'S FREE TO MEMBERS.

FOR FUN

THESE HAVE DRIED UP,COME ON GET YOUR THINKING CAPS ON !!!

DAVE >>>....

PAGE LAYOUT

D
A
V
E

I'm quite often asked how I lay-out the pages in the magazine, and what is is the best way for a member to send in an article etc.

Firstly, lets cover how I would prefer to receive the article. On a Disc or a Hardcopy is suffice, I can then import onto the page and play around with it to fit the page lengths, ideally, the text that you send to me saved in 1 K blocks.

IE: Article1.txt 1K.
Article2.txt 1K.

Not only does this help me, but we keep to the same font, and I can place clip art on the page as well if needed, also there is the matter of keeping the lines of text within the opposite columns together thus improving the magazines appearance.

So instead of members sending in pages that they create on Powerpage for the magazine, I do prefer articles etc in text form either on a disc or as a Hardcopy.I'm glad to see members using Powerpage

but I think you will be able to understand my reasons wanting articles etc in text format rather than Powerpage Format.

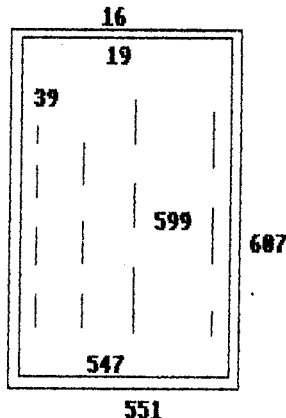
Which also now nicely allows me to mention that there is a new Powerpage Professional program that I hope to be in my possession in a few days time, which works different from the 128 version, so any pages sent will not quite work.

But for those of you who are interested, here is the set-up.

The numbers represent the x,y,coordinates taken from the Top of the screen and the Left side of the screen. 32

The Headlines is first typed in using the headline generator, and saved as a .CUT file, then imported onto the page.

The Columns are then set with the Left hand column starting 51 and the Right hand Column starting at 340, set about 145 from left to right to make up a column.



I hope the above info is of interest

Dave >>>....

CPCSW . P.D.

CP / N.

- CPM1. VDE.wordprocessor.READ AND WRITE TO PCN.& MORE 128 K
- CPM2. ANDYBASE.ZSM.INVENT.SUPERZAP. 128 K
- CPM3. PRINTMASTER for cards.calenders.ETC.BOTH SIDES NEEDED
- CPM4. PRINTMASTER GRAPHICS 1.with instructions.NEEDS CPM3.
- CPM5. PRINTMASTER GRAPHICS 2. AS CPM 4
- CPM6. VARIOUS GAMES ETC.
- CPM7. MORE GAMES.Masterwind.Chess.128 K NEEDED
- CPM8. MORE GAMES.Packman.Spellit.tic-tac-toe. 128 K.
- CPM9. HOLIDAY ADVENTURE.MINETT AND MORE
- CPM10. A FULL VERSION OF VDE. wordprocessor
- CPM11. TEACH YOUR SELF PASCAL BOTH SIDES NEEDED.
- CPM12. ZDE-UPDATED VERSION OF VDE.(CPM10)
- CPM13. UTILITIES DISC.Z80 DIS-ASSEMBLER.DATABASE
- CPM14. GENO-A DISC FILE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
- CPM15. THESAURUS.
- CPM16. CHARACTER EDITOR. MAKE YOU OWN FONTS
- CPM17. UTILITIES DISC.TO MANY TO LIST.
- CPM18. ANOTH UTILITY DISC WITH LOTS ON OFFER
- CPM19. SMALL "C" PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE. BOTH SIDES NEEDED
- CPM20. MAXISWEEP.DISC AND FILES MAGAGEMENT SYSTEM.BOTH SIDES
- CPM21. 25 UTILITY PROGRAMS. BOTH SIDES NEEDED.

MUSIC.

- MUSIC 1. DIGITIZERS.KEYBOARD.DRAM KITS FOR YOUR OWN PROGRAMS
- MUSIC 2. MUSIC DEMO'S FOR IMPORTING INTO YOUR PROGRAMS
- MUSIC 3. THE SOUND TRACKER BY SIMON CRUMP (CPCSW).
- MUSIC 4. MORE GOOD MUSIC DEMO'S FROM SIMON.

****PLEASE NOTE**.**

The CPM 4 & 5 are extra graphics for CPM 3 PRINTMASTER. with details on how to make a working disc.

Design your own letterheads, cards, calenders, labels etc professionally with this very good utility.



Dave >>>....

CPC SW Public Domain

A PD LIBRARY RUN JUST 4 YOU

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IVOR THE SPIDER HAS DISAPPEARED !!!!

HELP FOR CPCSW MEMBERS

Do you have problems with BASIC or MACHINE CODE programs ?
HELP is on it's way from BARRIE SNELL and SIMON CRUMP.

Barrie has kindly offered his services to sort out your Basic program problems. Cant get it to work or dont understand why, then Barrie is your man. Remember to send a disc 3" or 3.5" and a SSAE.

Thanks Barrie...

SIMON has offered to help you to understand MACHINE-CODE programs. Phone or write to Simon with your request on any machine-code program routine that you may be trying to get to grips with.

Thanks Simon...

Please use these services, but DO NOT ABUSE the kind offer of these two kind members.