

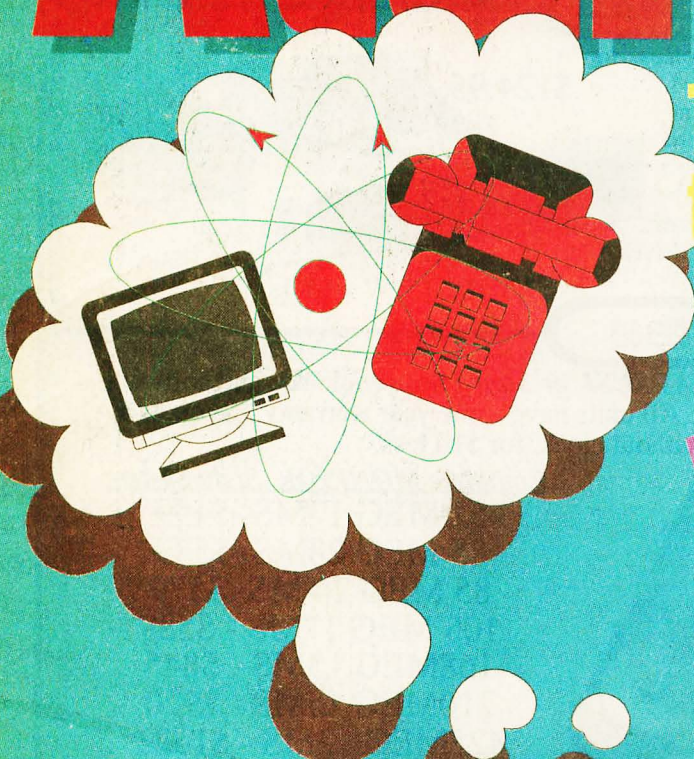
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March '92

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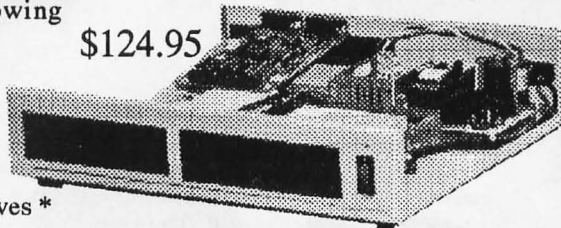
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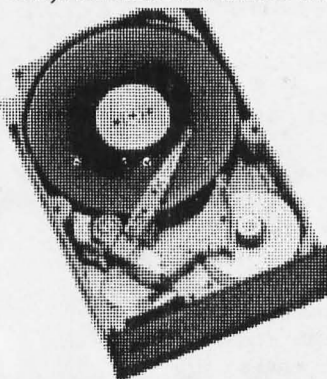
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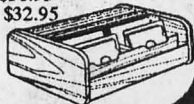
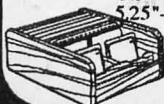
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## Welcome to yet another Special Issue!

We've got more news and information this month, including a Calendar of Atari Events for 1992. Plus, we have part one of a two-month feature section all about telecommunication. You'll learn new things from this collection no matter how seasoned or novice you consider yourself. This month, it's the general user that we'll focus on. Next month, the realm of international calling, high-power modem use, and running your own BBS. Many thanks go to our staff and guest writers (including Bob Brodie of Atari Corporation) for an outstanding effort to give comprehensive coverage.

In keeping with the feature, our *RE:Views* this month are of a number of popular terminal packages. A viewpoint in our *High Resolution* section offers a look at the world of Piracy, penned by Gordie Meyer, manager of the Delphi Atari area. We top this installment of our theme with one of the best and up-to-date Atari BBS lists in captivity, compiled by John Lockard.

Atari is on an upswing with new computers and products just weeks away, and you can be sure to see and read about them first in *AtariUser* in April! *Don't miss the next issue* for pictures and details, as well as the rest of our telecom feature.

On another note, in the February *AtariUser*, our lead news item was sub-titled in such a way that a casual read might have led you to believe that we were reporting that Atari Corporation was being sold! In fact, the item was written to refute a spreading but apparently baseless rumor to that effect—but some readers got exactly the *opposite* impression (uh, Atari Corp wasn't amused either). Sorry for the confusion; Atari Corp is *not* being sold, nor is it being readied for a sale according to Atari officials and so far as any indication or research we have been able to unearth, as was reflected in the article itself. So, please accept our apology if you got the wrong idea—and tell your friends, "That sale I told you about? Never Mind!"

Thanks for your continued up-dating of our (your) Dealer List. Keep 'em coming. We'll begin publishing your updates next month!

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—John Nagy, Editor-In-Chief, AtariUser Magazine

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## Feature...

**The Modem in the Home** 18  
**Telecommunications — Part One**  
*This month, we'll look mostly at the home Atari user, the beginner and intermediate modem owner who is looking into broadening their calling horizon. Next month, we'll go more in depth on types of modems (what do all those letters and numbers mean, anyway?), running a BBS system yourself, and international calling.*

*Why should you telecommunicate, anyway? The main reasons are for help, for news, for conversation, and for free programs...*

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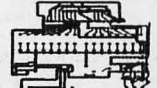
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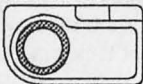


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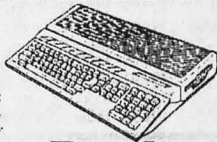
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# Software Piracy

▼ Viewpoint from Gordie Meyer, Assistant Area Manager, ST Advantage, DELPHI.

After a recent DELPHI formal conference on software piracy and its effects on the ST community, I realized that some problems never really go away. Atari users, it seems, have always been branded with the skull & crossbones. While many of us bristle at the thought, we all have to acknowledge that there is some basis in truth.

Software piracy comes in three major flavors. Counterfeiting is perhaps the most severe, but the world of the PC and Mac offers far more of a market to plunder than ours. Pirate bulletin board systems offer "cracked" versions of commercial software in exchange for more of the same. It is out and out theft, and those involved are well aware of their dishonesty. They may rationalize why they pirate, but they still know they are doing something both wrong and illegal.

what constituted ease-of-use grew, too. More and more were buying hard drives, and wanted to be able to install their software on them. This brought on a whole new family of software protection techniques. Document referencing, while not exactly unintrusive, was accepted as a compromise between installable software and floppy-only software.

The kinds of piracy encountered in the ST community today are little changed from those rampant on the 8-bit. But the amount of software theft seems to have diminished. Many ST users have become enlightened as to how software theft hurts everyone, and benefits only a few dishonest users. More and more, the offer of a 'preview' copy of a program is turned down. There is a long way to go still, but the automatic association of Piracy and Atari seems to be fading.

According to Charles F. Johnson, his CodeHead company recently offered their first hardware product, the TEC card to upgrade to TOS 2.06. Advance orders for the TEC exceeded the number of any of CodeHead's software products within days. While that certainly reflects the universal appeal of the TEC, it also shows that there may be more than a few ST owners that are familiar with CodeHead products, but who haven't purchased them. Many of those people are pirates.

Similar stories can be assumed from other Atari developers. Expensive software is an even greater target for piracy. Before someone spends \$600 on a program, they want to feel confident that the money is well spent. The temptation to "preview" that program is enormous, and if someone's copy can be "borrowed" to test drive, that urge can be overwhelming. But, once that copy exists, it's far too easy to rationalize not buying it, with an "I don't use it that much" argument. The simple truth is, if you use it and haven't bought it, you have stolen it. Whether you use it daily, or twice a year, it's still stolen.

The small size of our Atari community makes the impact of every lost sale far greater. If someone's house is robbed in New York City, it barely makes the paper. In a small town, it's front page news. In AtariTown, every sale, and every theft, is felt.

Only by each of us taking a personal stand against stealing the work of someone else, can piracy be stemmed. You have to refuse to take a copy of a program when offered. You have to refuse to allow someone to take a copy of a program you have. You don't have to be self-righteous about it. You don't have to make a big deal out of it. Just do it. — Gordie Meyer ■

▲ Gordie has owned an Atari computer of one kind or another since 1981. Somewhere along the line, he got a modem and found DELPHI. His wife suffers for that discovery to this day.

*"Piracy was rampant on the 8-bits. The combination of inexpensive, well-documented hardware and owners who bought their computers as much for the price as the capabilities..."*

The most destructive form of software piracy is the one that is perhaps the most difficult to pin down, and probably the most widespread. Casual copying probably steals more money out of ST software developers' pockets than all of the crooked BBS systems. And most of the casual copiers probably don't even realize the effect of what they're doing. But Atari developers do feel the impact. In their wallets.

Piracy was rampant on the 8-bits. The combination of inexpensive, well-documented hardware and owners who bought their computers as much for the price as the capabilities, proved to be deadly. Hackers had a field day, and some even came out with commercially available hardware modifications to make piracy simpler for the average user. When sales started to fall off, most developers simply stopped writing for the Atari, while others spent time and energy devising protection schemes that seemed to be only welcome challenges to the pirates.

When the ST came along, many of the old 8-bit pirates made the move to the "latest and greatest." Software piracy in the early days of the ST was almost as bad as on the 8-bits. But developers had learned a lesson. Protection schemes were implemented in greater and greater levels of sophistication. FTL, the folks who gave us Dungeon Master and Chaos Strikes Back, attained new heights, both with their games and with the techniques used to prevent software theft.

But as the level of computer sophistication of the average, non-pirating ST user grew, their expectations of



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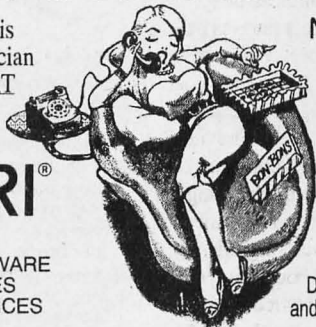
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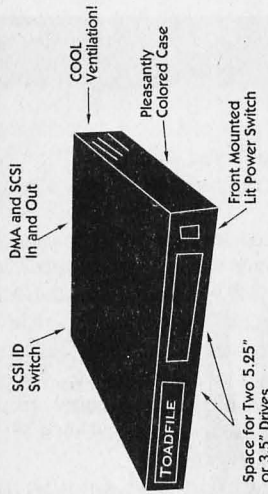
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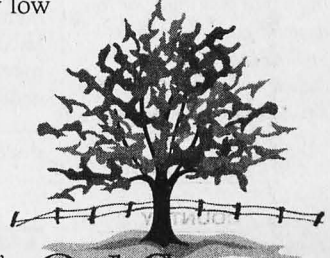
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## News & Stuff

**NEWS NOTE** ■ Check out the Atari Event Calendar on the back page of this issue of AtariUser for NEWS of shows and Atari appearances around the USA and the world!

### SST Shipping, Spectre Fix

*The Gadgets By Small SST 68030 board began shipping in mid-February. The modular unit starts at \$599 and goes up with additions of CPU and memory to make what designers Dave Small and George Richardson call "the fastest ST on Earth," with some last minute design changes that increase speed still more. Currently, SST is at version 1.21. Dave promises that he already has ideas for "interesting capabilities" to come in version 2 of the SST driver software, to follow "soon." The SST comes with TOS 2.06, and the SST Brake, (an optional board, which has a 68000 to allow processor switching when needed for finicky software). The Brake is still in the design stage, but will plug into the ST motherboard 68000 socket, and the SST plugs into it.*

*Dave says that his Macintosh emulator, the Spectre, is still at version 3.0, but work is also progressing on 3.1, addressing TT problems, Mac System 7 oddities, etc. He'll begin the sixth Gadgets Newsletter as soon as he has something to report on 3.1, which he intends to distribute for free as an upgrade. Progress on the MegaTalk was stalled for a time, but should be completed now that the SST is out the door.*

*In the January AtariUser, a "GCR FIX" was posed by Jim Allen, but Dave Small says that it shouldn't have any effect on*

■ Continued — Far Right

## Atari and Related Computer News

# AtariUser NewsEdge

## Calamus SL Now Available

Last month we said it would be soon, and in a late January announcement, Nathan Potechin of ISD Marketing in Toronto, Canada said that the long-long awaited super-upgrade from the already outstanding desktop publisher Calamus (Version 1.09N) was finally ready to ship. Says Nathan, "SL marks the transformation of Calamus from an excellent desktop publishing program to an expansive DTP environment. With its new modular design, Calamus has become the center of a powerful and ever-expanding universe of DTP tools." A modular approach to features allows growth (and expense) of the new system as the user needs it.

New SL features include the ability to expand, compress and skew text, rotate and mirror frames, print parts of pages (tiling), and to define and use more than 16 million colors. The basic Calamus SL package contains a 600 page manual, three program disks, and eight standard modules: Clipboard, Page, Frame, Text, Text Style, Line, Raster, and Document Converter modules. For a limited time, two additional modules, PKS Write and the Raster Generator, will be included along with two AGFA Compugraphic font families.

Calamus SL has a suggested retail price of US \$795.00. Calamus 1.09N now appears slated to remain available at

its current retail price of \$299.95, with the anticipated "S" version either postponed or scuttled. The upgrade charge to Calamus SL for registered 1.09N customers is only US \$200.00.

Three SL modules available for separate purchase now (with more to come shortly) are the Speed Line (auto-tracer) Module (\$49.95), Color Separation Module (\$49.95), and Vector Graphic Editor Module (\$99.95).

Orders can be sent in E-mail on GEnie to ISD along with your Visa or Mastercard number, by telephone at (416) 479-1880, or by mailing in your money order to ISD Marketing, Inc., 2800 John Street, Unit # 15, Markham, Ontario, Canada L3R 0E2. ■

*Editor's Note... Last month, AtariUser featured in-depth views of Calamus 1.09N, and Nathan Potechin asked for a few and clarifications. We knew better, but we printed that Calamus was a product of DITEK. It is by DMC of Germany, and marketed in America by ISD. We also referred to Calamus 1.09N as a "lame duck," an American colloquialism for a product that is still available after its replacement is already announced. ISD took exception to the term. No slight was intended, as could be seen by the entirety of the review that recommended Calamus as the writer's program of choice.*

## Atari/GE Service Deal Final

In January, Atari announced officially that its deal with GE was complete. Atari products will be serviced by the General Electric Service Center network through the United States and Canada, 250 strong. Ted Maciejewski, Atari's National Service Manager, stated that product-specific service programs are currently being developed by Atari and GE, and are expected to be fully implemented by March 1992. Mail-in service will also be available with normal ten-day and optional one-day turnarounds. Atari also repeated their earlier statement that all Atari computers except the Portfolio purchased since November 1, 1991, are under a full one year warranty, regardless of the documentation that may be in the box or the information that the dealer may have.

## TOS Development Kits

After years of playing close to the vest with developer information, Atari's Bill Rehbock announced the release of TOS development information to the general public at

modest costs. "We are making the kit available for \$150 (U.S.) [with] one year of technical support from Atari," said Rehbock in a January press release. Individual portions of the full set are available, ranging from every issue of the developer newsletter since 1985 to the release notes for the exciting new STBook, STe DMA sound, or FSM GDOS. Sub-kits start as low as \$10 each and many feature disks with source codes, accessory programs, and more information. Contact Gail Bacani on 408-745-2022 for more information on the Commercial Developer Program, or write to: Atari Corp, 1196 Borregas Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA, U.S.A. 94086 — Attn: Gail Bacani.

## More Atari Ads!

Readers of Discover Magazine were greeted with a sexy centerfold—an advertisement from Atari for the Portfolio and ST, featuring details of the new Atari Music Division. The consumer-science magazine, recently purchased by Disney, has a subscriber base that exceeds 1.2 million readers.



# Atari Scores at NAMM

Atari Corp was virtually the only computer being seriously shown at the National Association of Music Merchants show, held January 17-19, 1992 at the Anaheim Convention Center in metropolitan Los Angeles, California. NAMM is a conclave of everything from sellers of guitar picks to makers of turn-key recording studios for the stars. Spanning three huge interconnected convention halls, this NAMM offered more varied music products than in the recent past.

In the middle of this musical phantasmagoria was Atari Corp's booth, the largest yet at any NAMM. It was apropos of Atari's new commitment to its Music Division, headed up by James Grunke, a division that has been operating for nearly a year but only formally announced at this NAMM. An open area accommodated as many as 25 work stations manned in "COMDEX fashion" with a host of third party developers. They included music specialty developers Hybrid Arts (with their Digital Master unit, to be featured in a future issue of AtariUser), Thinkware, Roland, Steinberg-Jones, Dr.T's, C-LAB, Fostex, JLCoooper, Interval, Pixel, Korg, Hotz, and many more, each showing off their latest products for the Atari platform. About a third of the Atari booth was a glass sound studio in which musicians were able to witness real-time use of Atari computers and software in a live and recording studio atmosphere. For a change, non-musical software was also being shown. CodeHead products, Tracker-ST, Calamus, PageStream, DiamondBack, and many other productivity titles were shown to musicians who had, in many cases, not considered using their MIDI computer for anything else.

No Apple or Mac at this show. No Amiga. A trifling IBM booth showing... OS/2. Atari alone had the music technology specialty offerings for the entire conflagration of Music Merchants to view. And to buy big. In the first half day of the three day show, Atari had already penned more deals at higher bucks than at the entire show last year. And the sales pace kept up throughout the show. A major piano and organ chain opened its first purchase of Atari hardware with a six-figure order.

The crowds never let up inside the Atari booth, even when the isles and surrounding booths were on the wane. That was unlike any trade show Atari performance I have ever witnessed. It was exciting. It got more exciting when Computer Chronicles, the National PBS computer series, arrived to interview, tape, and profile lots of people in the Atari booth. Their special show on MIDI/electronic music is to air starting the week of February 25.

The hottest Atari news of the show was the new alliance of Fostex and Atari, with C-Lab, Dr. T's, and Steinberg working together to create the first automated/computerized control studio. Fostex has integrated MIDI control of multiple track tape systems. Now, from the Atari console, full control of any and all tape functions can be executed or assigned to infinite combinations of controlled MIDI events. The motto is "Thread it and forget it." The Atari makes it possible, for the first time. A system consisting of an Atari 1040ST, Fostex R8 8-Track, MIDI/SMPTE converter, and sequencing software starts at \$4,500.

The TT gathered support as a new top professional option for MIDI work. All of Dr. T's products work on a TT, CUBASE has been upgraded for the TT, and C-Lab has committed to upgrade ALL of their products for use on the TT030 by year's end.

NAMM '92 was an unqualified smash success for Atari, establishing it as, if not the ONLY serious music computer manufacturer, at the very least the ONLY one who cared enough to come to the musicians with the tools they need, want, and can afford.

C-LAB Software, distributed in the USA by Ensoniq Corp., 155 Great Valley Parkway, Malvern, PA 19355 (215) 647-3930. ■ Dr. T's, 100 Crescent Road, Needham, MA 02194, 617-455-1454. ■ Fostex Corp., 15231 Blackburn Ave, Norwalk, CA 90650, 213-921-1112. ■ Steinberg/Jones, 17700 Raymer Street Suite 1001, Northridge, CA 91325, 818-993-4091. — John Nagy ■

*floppy problems — even though it has worked for some users. Dave has drawn the brunt of complaints from those who tried it to no avail and posts his own findings and suggestions for TT owners with GCR difficulties in their disk drives:*

*"1.) The floppies are getting EMI from the monitor — move it.*

*"2.) The cartridge port fuse, on the +5 line, is blown. Common. Check pins 14 and 28 for 0 and +5 volts (or close) respectively.*

*"3.) The floppy drives may not be 100% if you have the caches on.*

*A lot depends on how fast the 68030 runs, which can depend on if the program ends up paragraph aligned at a critical point. (True!) Try clicking the caches off from the Spectre menu.*

*"4.) DO NOT TT-RAM flag SPECTRE.PRG, LAUNCH.PRG, or GCRTEST.PRG.*

*"5.) Finally, there can be a timing bug that relates to 68030's in general and the GCR. It really all depends on the particular TT and on a particular chip's speed in the GCR; if your GCR works, don't fix it..! We have a fix for this timing snag that appears to cure this problem after much testing. I will try to get it from GENIE and upload it here. It involves adding one IC piggyback and an RC network for fine tuning. We have built up several hundred modified GCR's for TT's (they also work on ST's still!) and are getting them into the pipeline."*

*A service bulletin explaining this last fix is available from Gadgets by Small, 40 W. Littleton Blvd #210-211, Littleton, CO 80120, (303) 791-6098 from 8:30am to 2:30pm Mountain time on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, Fax (303) 791-0253 anytime. ■*

## Pushing the Portfolio

On December 2, 1991, the Atari Portfolio was unleashed into 20 CompUSA stores. In early February, in Tampa Florida, Atari made arrangements for a talking Robot powered by a Portfolio for the grand opening of the store there. The store sold several hundred Portfolio's on the opening day, exhausting their stock on hand. The following week, similar openings were scheduled in the Philadelphia and Chicago areas with further outstanding sales of the Palmtop Portfolio. Atari is also said to be assisting in radio and print advertising for these stores and events.

## Low Cost Fax Modems

Supra Corporation of Albany, Oregon, is now offering two new high speed, low cost modems with fax and other enhanced abilities. The SupraFAXModems are 9600 bps fax/2400 bps data, and retail for \$299.95 (V.32) and \$399.95 (V.32bis). Data compression allows connections of up to 9600 bps and 14,400 bps, respectively. These prices are 1/2 to 1/3 that of comparable modems, according

to Supra. The units are in Supra's super-small case (1" x 4.5x6.5") and will feature upgradability later this year for voice and caller ID. Special offers are available to SysOps of BBS systems, and upgrade pricing is available for owners of older Supra modems. Supra Corporation, 7101 SW Supra Dr., Albany, OR 97321, 503-967-2400.

## The Tray = Full Page Scans

WizWorks, the MultiviewerGraphica people, offer "The Tray" (\$69.95), a full-page paper holder with two guides (one on either side) and a snap-in guide that fits most popular hand scanners (including the popular Migraph model). The device allows you to scan a full-page (in two passes). Using the included "Coalesce" software, you can seamlessly stitch the two scans together, save the image to a standard .IMG file or print to most printers. Also available is Scan Lite, a desk accessory that can use most any scanner to quickly and simply collect an image in limited memory situations, or while running most applications. At only \$20, it features a



**Good News  
Bad News  
Department**

*Sierra-Online is offering low low prices on their great line of ST games, including King's Quest I and III, Space Quest I, II, and III, Leisure Suit Larry I, Gold Rush, Police Quest II, Colonel's Bequest, Codename: Iceman, Manhunter (both New York and San Francisco), Black Cauldron, and Mixed-up Mother Goose. The bad news is that Sierra plans no further support of the Atari ST line. These games are ALL both color and Monochrome capable, and many feature MIDI soundtracks. Pricing is \$19.95 for the first one, plus \$10 for each additional title. Call 800-326-6654 to order. ■*

■ Some of AtariUser's News and Press information is provided by the Z\*Net International Atari News Service, a division of Rovac Industries, Inc., P.O. Box 59, Middlesex, NJ 08846, (908) 968-2024 voice, (908) 968-8148 BBS, GENie: Z-NET, CompuServe: 71777,2140.

**Fast, Very Fast Mega ST's**

Jim Allen and Fast Technology have released the Turbo 030, now distributed through ISD, the Calamus people. Described in detail in the December AtariUser, the Turbo 030 is a 68030 upgrade for Mega ST computers that may be an alternative to buying a new Atari TT030. Using the Turbo 030, screen redraws in Calamus are instant. DynaCADD can repaint the T20 Tigershark in about 3 seconds instead of 72 seconds on an unmodified machine. Using a 68030 processor running at 40 Mhz, and an optional (US \$299.95) 68882 FPU math coprocessor running at 50 or 60Mhz, 4 Megabytes of 32 bit burst mode ram which replaces your MegaST4's 16 bit ram, the Turbo 030 also has a standard 68000 chip to ensure complete software compatibility with older software utilities. Retail, the Turbo 030as described above, is US \$1,995. For a limited time only, the cost to registered customers of ISD is US \$1,495, a savings of \$500. A second, somewhat slower board configuration is also available at a lower price. The 40 Mhz Turbo 030, equipped with a Static Ram Cache but no onboard memory is US \$1,195, but available to registered ISD customers now for US \$995, a savings of \$200.00. ISD Marketing, Inc., 2800 John Street, Unit # 15, Markham, Ontario, Canada L3R 0E2, (416) 479-1880. ■

pipeline to allow it to load images directly from the scanner into other applications, like MegaPaint from CodeHead. WizWorks, P.O. Box 45, Girard, OH, 44420, (216) 539-5623.

**Geez, More CodeHead Stuff**

CodeHead Software continues to grow by taking on new and old Atari product lines. The latest to join CodeHead is Quick ST, the software screen accelerator. Darek Mihocka, the original creator of Quick ST, sold the flagship product of Branch Always Software in order to spend more time developing a PC based Atari ST emulator. The retail price of Quick ST 3 is \$34.95. CodeHead will also be handling updates from older versions of Quick ST. You can upgrade to the latest version by returning your original Quick ST 2.x master disk to CodeHead Software along with a check or money order for \$20. Owners of Softek's Turbo ST (any version) may also upgrade to Quick ST 3 by sending in your Turbo ST master disk and \$20.00. The first update will be QST V3.5, with a whole new look and bug fixes to work with FSM GDOS and Calligrapher. Availability will be in early March.

CodeHead Software is now importing the TEC board from Artifex Computer of Germany. The TOS Extension Card is a small hardware board that it will fit in all ST's even those with MS-DOS emulators, most hardware accelerators and graphic expansion cards. The installation usually requires a bit of soldering work for the regular model (\$139), but a 100% plug-in option is available for Mega owners, using the Mega bus (\$155). Another alternative available is the TECbridge CPU, that plugs onto the CPU and is recommended for models where the CPU is already socketed or where a socket has been soldered on the CPU (also \$155). This price includes the board, Atari's official TOS 2.06, the new control panel XControl, the "Icon Juggler" program to convert icons from all the current ST icon formats, and a manual that describes both the installation of the card and the new functions of TOS 2.06. The TEC will allow switchable ROMS as well. A special \$20 discount is offered to users who send in their competing desktop alternative program disks. NeoDesk or DC Desktop owners may format their master disk before sending it in for the discount. CodeHead also offers TOS 2.06 chips separately as an upgrade for STe owners for \$60.00. CodeHead Software, PO Box 74090, Los Angeles, CA 90004. (213) 386-5735, Fax: (213) 386-5789, BBS: (213) 461-2095

**New Graphic Card from Gribnif**

Gribnif Software ventures into the marketing of hardware

with the release of the "Crazy Dots" video display adapter for the Atari Mega ST, Mega STE, and TT/030 personal computers. The Crazy Dots video display adapter allows the Atari computer to drive a variety of VGA, Multi-Sync, and other high end color and gray scale displays. The adapter supports any resolutions from 320 x 200 up to 1,664 x 1,200 pixels, and can display up to 256 different colors (16 million palette) or gray levels at once. Developed by TKR in Germany, the adapter is the fastest of its kind, offering the ability to switch the display's physical resolution from within any GEM program without rebooting. Crazy Dots includes a special "Video Application Slot" for future expansions options, including ECL adaptor, Genlock, and True Color display. The "Crazy Dots Megabus" model, designed to fit into Atari's original Mega ST2 and Mega ST4 computers, is \$949. The "Crazy Dots VME" model, designed to fit into Atari's Mega STE and TT/030 computers, is \$999. Gribnif Software, P.O. Box 350, Hadley, MA 01035, (413) 584-7887, Fax: (413) 584-2565

**PageStream Update**

A few months ago, AtariUser published a Soft-Logik User Group offer for two free copies of PageStream to registered Atari User Groups. In an error confusing the handling of the Amiga version with the Atari version, Soft-Logik has asked the User Groups that responded to the offer for their registered Atari User Group number, which is non-existent. Atari's Director of Communications, Bob Brodie does NOT assign any numbers to the groups. Soft-Logik has been made aware of this and no longer requires this number. Groups ARE required to be listed with Bob Brodie at Atari to be eligible. Soft-Logik, 11131 S. Towne Square, St. Louis, MO 63123, (800) 829-8608.

**New Mag Hits the Streets**

Last month, AtariUser reported on the breakup of ST Informer magazine. Since then, the publisher of ST Informer, Rod McDonald, assembled a new editorial team and released the January issue, a 74 page book-style magazine very similar to AtariUser in appearance. Now, the writers and staff that left ST Informer have announced their own new magazine, "Atari Advantage." Atari Advantage will "continue ST Informer's style of hard-hitting in-depth product reviews, informative articles, wide spread show coverage, and most importantly... it will be just as fast!" according to editor Mike Lindsay. Special price pre-publishing subscriptions are offered, and the first issue should be out by April 1. Atari Advantage Magazine, PO Box 803, Merlin, OR 97532, (503) 476-3578 ■



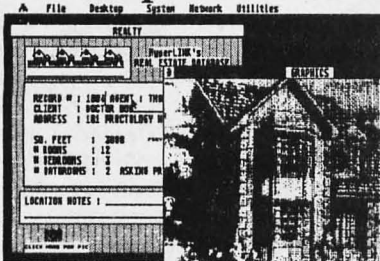
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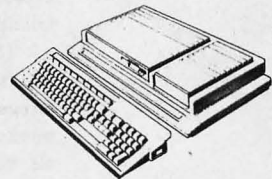
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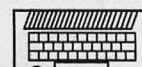
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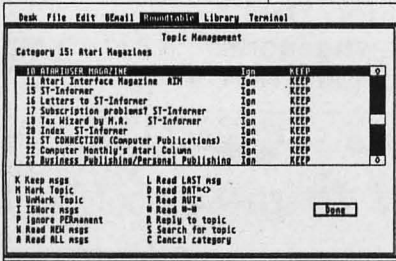


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# RE:Views

## Telecommunications Focus



▲ Aladdin

### The Magic of Aladdin

Aladdin is a special automated terminal program designed to be used exclusively on the GENIE service, much like the software for the Prodigy service on MS-DOS and Mac systems. The program works on all ST/TT lines of computers in either color or monochrome. Currently at version 1.4, Aladdin is available from GENIE for the cost of the download and includes a

comprehensive manual of over 80 pages.

The idea behind Aladdin is to make using GENIE easier and cheaper, by pre-organizing your call—automating it, and then getting offline. You then “replay” the session at your own pace, without connect charges, tagging files you see to download, or replying to messages. Then, select “do pending operation” and off Aladdin goes again, to do your bidding. The software uses standard Atari GEM pull down menus and dialogue boxes, is easy to install and customize to your needs, and can be up and running in less than half an hour—in spite of the overly technical manual.

You can select which roundtable you want to call, a nice feature if your interests go beyond the ATARI section. Aladdin allows the user to either get messages that are marked, just check to see if you have new messages in your area of interest, or to log on to the first page of a roundtable in order to decide where you want to go using standard GENIE commands in real (paying) time.

The Library options are very useful. Aladdin can look for a specific program or get a listing of files that you can browse, while off-line for automated retrieval later. If your mission is specific, say, you want to get Z\*Net each week, all you have to do is tell it to go and get it. If you have a file you want to upload you may set up the commands before you log on so everything is automatic. Even though uploading is free, this still saves you time and effort.

Aladdin does this and more, but the real magic is that it is FREE, easy, and makes it cheaper to do more on GENIE! —John King Tarpinian ■

### Flash

In 1986, Antic Publishing introduced a powerful terminal program, written by Joe Chiazzese and Alan Page, called Flash. It immediately became the most popular terminal program available for the Atari ST. Now at version 1.6, it is almost unavailable due to the demise of Antic, but when found, Flash retails at \$29.95. A totally new Flash is expected to debut at the April TAF show in Canada, brought out by Missionware—more on that in a moment.

Flash is loaded with features! An

extensive dialing directory allows complicated macro files. You can create a log-on script that could be executed once you had connected to a BBS, making the log-on process very simple.

You can program the function keys to execute macros, or run other .DO files. One of my favorite techniques was to browse a download file, and when I found a file I wanted, hitting the F1 key to execute the complete download sequence of commands.

Flash also has a built-in word processor. The features are limited, but it offers a quick way to read text files or make up quick messages to upload.

An accessory package called “Shadow” does “background” downloading, allowing you to download a program while doing other things (like editing messages, un-arc'ing files, or even playing a game).

Unfortunately, Flash lacked any type of support for the past few years. Other programs have been introduced that offer many of the same features, plus much more. While a review copy is not available yet, the new Flash II is expected to be a substantial upgrade. The name alone was purchased from Antic Software, and Australian programmer Paul Nicholls created the new program. It now includes 20 separate macros for each BBS; 10 global macro slots; online viewing of RLE and GIF graphics; support for 10 terminal types; automatic answer mode; full-featured GEM text editor; support for ST, IBM & DEC character sets; background file transfers; 10 file transfer protocols, and of course, more. Flash II is to be ready for distribution by the April TAF show in Canada for \$49.95, and owners of the original Flash will be able to send in their old disk for a discount. Missionware Software, 354 N. Windsor Drive, Palantine IL 60067, (708) 359-9565. —Jerry Cross ■

### Freeze Dried Terminal

The Freeze Dried Terminal Program (FZT) is an impressive new shareware program that is quickly becoming one of the most popular terminal packages available. And for a good reason. In this one single package you'll find the most sought-after features—far too many features to list here.

FZT has an extensive dialing menu that supports macro commands and supports multiple dialing. Each number can be configured to different baud rates or other RS232 configurations, Auto-Logon, and Auto-Macro support. It supports several terminal types, including VT-52, ANSI, IG- and UBT Graphics. A capture buffer can be configured to handle up to 9990 lines of text. Some limited editing features are included in the capture viewing screen, such as block marking and search. FZT supports all Flash DO files. If you are currently using Flash there is no need to rewrite your files to support FZT. Of course, it supports the

▼ Freeze Dried Terminal





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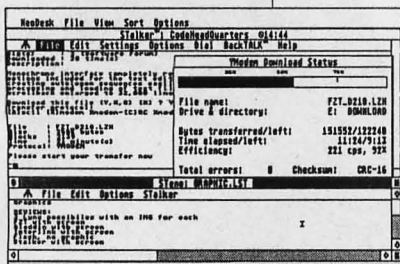
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## ▲ STalker

popular file transfer protocols including ZMODEM. You can run other GEM and TOS programs and applications from within FZT.

FZT was developed on a color ST system, and the author goes out of his way to make color users happy. The screens are 3-D with subtle and attractive use of color, making FZT the prettiest terminal program ever. If I had only a color monitor, I'd never use anything else. The monochrome

version is good, too, but not as impressive to look at.

I'd like to see some additional buffer editing support added so you could highlight blocks of text with the mouse instead of using the keyboard commands. Additional protocols such as CompuServe's Quick-B and Kermit would also fill out the already remarkable program. I know that plans are in the works to add background downloading.

The Freeze Dried Terminal program has more whistles and bells than you could master in a lifetime. The version that is being circulated on the BBS's and national networks is a demo version. Only a few non-essential features have been disabled, and the demo program is fully usable. As a shareware program, if you like what you see, you should send the author a \$25 registration fee. In return, you'll get a fully working version, and access to any updates in the future.

For more information, write to: Aaron Hopkins, 1213 Walnut Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266. — *Jerry Cross* ■

## Interlink

Interlink is a commercial terminal program originally released by Intersect Software in 1987, and for years was the only viable alternative to Flash. The last update to the program was in 1988, although the authors have periodically said that an update would be coming sometime soon. Intersect briefly offered the "upgrade" for Interlink, called MasterLink, but it was recalled after proving to be too buggy to market. Nevertheless, Interlink remains a well-favored choice, if scattered in availability.

Interlink has limitless dialing menus. Each number is configurable separately, including baud, terminal type, RS-232 and auto log-on sequence. Modular design has allowed Interlink users to add features, as the terminal emulations were released into the public domain and include documentation on how to setup and use. It is supplied with VT-52, with other modules available from public domain BBS's and services. Now available are Atascii, IBM3101, Ansi, and even Instant Graphics emulation for use with Interlink, making it perhaps the most versatile terminal. More modules offer Zmodem, Fmodem, Ymodem, Ymodem batch and even background downloading at baud rates up to 19,200.

Other features include a recorder that permits you to save an online session, a buffer finder system that includes mark setting, string repeat and location. ST Medium and High resolution are supported, with full function key macros for ease while online.

One of the nice features is the buffer.

As both a capture buffer and a file text editor, it makes both preparation for going online and saving the results of your session easy. The buffer is only limited by system memory and offers search, block edit, and block transfer. Also, while capturing files, you can replace or append after a capture.

With lots of features, a good manual, and support through public domain modules, I use and recommend Interlink. \$39.95, Intersect Software, 2828 Clark Road, Sarasota, Florida, 34231. — *Ron Kovacs, Publisher, Z\*Net Online Magazine* ■

## Stalker 3

I spend a tremendous amount of time online, "talking" to large numbers of Atarians. It's essential that I have a great terminal program, and STalker 3 is just that. STalker 3 operates as either a desk accessory or as a free standing program (good for memory-short users). Running it as an accessory allows the user to enjoy true background file transfers that utilize batch XMODEM, XMODEM 1-K, YMODEM, YMODEM-G, and ZMODEM, while you do something more interesting in other applications. CompuServe's Quick-B protocol will come in a future update.

Everything is mouse (or keyboard equivalent) operated with GEM dropdown menus even when STalker is an accessory. The autodial menu has easy to set up log-in scripts to automate your logon process. STalker is smart when it comes to downloading, too, with auto-sense for ZMODEM file transfers. Once you tell the service to download using ZMODEM, STalker does ALL the rest! STalker shows a neat window with the file status on it with a horizontal bar graph showing the progress of the transfer, and logs the status and transfer speed statistics in your main terminal screen.

STalker supports just about every kind of telecommunication set up that you might reasonably encounter. It handles the multiple modem ports on the Mega STE and TT030, the MIDI port, the write-only function of the Parallel port, the DC-Port multiple line package, Gadgets by Small MegaTalk, and even Beckemeyer's MT-C Shell. By simply installing multiple versions of STalker (and more modems), you can be online on more than one system at a time.

When combined with STeno, Gribnif's accessory text editor (separately available for \$29.95), you get a very powerful interactive system that includes a great type ahead and/or editable capture buffer with well thought out interaction; the pair even set up their own windows on the click on a mouse, arranged perfectly!!

STalker supports a scripting language, BackTalk, that's very powerful and has been compared to programming in C. More than half of the manual that accompanies STalker 3 covers the programming of BackTalk files. A complete BBS, an Aladdin emulator, and a remote file handler are possibilities of this complete programmable communications environment.

I've retired all of the other telecommunications programs that I used to use—I'm strictly using STalker now. That's my highest recommendation! STalker 3, \$49.95, Gribnif Software, P.O. Box 350, Hadley, MA 01035. — *Bob Brodie, Director of Communications for Atari Corporation* ■

## ▼ Interlink





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# Telecommunications:

## The Modem in the Home

*Recent polls show that about 25% of Atari owners have a modem, and that about 20% of those who own them use them regularly. That's hard to believe, because it means that only 5% of the Atari public creates all of the incredible amount of electronic communications on all the bulletin boards and national services. It also means that 95% of that public is missing out on the rich and varied world of telecommunication. This month and next, we're going to open that world to more of you. And, trust us, even you seasoned veterans of the wires will find something new in the wealth of information we've gathered here.*

### Atari on GEnie...

GEnie is THE premier source of Atari information. With over 22,000 files in its Atari ST Roundtable libraries, dozens of developers online to support their products, a number of Atari employees to give advice and information, dealers ready to give you mail order service and support, and users from all over North America and abroad, GEnie is definitely Atari heaven. The ST RT is visited by every type of ST user, from the neophyte to the power user, from the musician to the publisher, from the programmer to the game player. While users are always encouraged to participate, some prefer just to sit back and watch—whereas others enjoy diving right in, asking questions, offering suggestions, and expressing their opinions.

Managed by sysop Darlah Potechin and her mighty clan of assistant sysops, the Atari ST Roundtable yields about three to four hundred new messages each day in its 36 categories, and anywhere from five to 15 new files per day in its file libraries. The ST RT is the most active roundtable on GEnie. The following list includes developers who are active on GEnie: CodeHead Technologies, Double Click Software, Gribnif Software, Lexicor Software, ISD Marketing, WizWorks, Omnimon Peripherals, Fast Technology, ICD, Goldleaf Publishing, Hisoft, Kidprgs (by D.A. Brumleve), Oregon Research, JMG Software, Beckemeyer Development, Spectrum Holobyte, Migraph, Cherry Fonts, Branch Always Software, and Step Ahead Software.

Not only is there excellent support in the ST Roundtable, but there's also a number of other GEnie roundtables which cater to the likes of Atari users. There's the Atari 8-bit Roundtable, the Gadgets by Small Roundtable, the Soft-Logik Roundtable, and the ST Aladdin Roundtable. Because the ST is the predominant MIDI computer, the MIDI/WorldMusic Roundtable also has Atari-interest categories. The Games Roundtable has a few Atari categories and topics. The Science Fiction & Fantasy Roundtable has a topic devoted to the discussion of the Space, Fantasy and Adventure Network, an up-coming cable network run by Mike Kelley and an Atari-loaned TT.

If you want the utmost support for your ST, GEnie is the place to be. — Ed Krimin, Z\*Net Staff Writer (Perusing GEnie) ■

**This month, we'll look mostly at the home Atari user, the beginner and intermediate modem owner who is looking into broadening their calling horizon. Next month, we'll go more in-depth on types of modems (what do all those letters and numbers mean, anyway?), running a BBS system yourself, and international calling. Why should you telecommunicate, anyway? The main reasons are for help, for news, for conversation, and for free programs...**

A major motivator for many users to get online is the desire for technical assistance or information about some application or hardware that they either have and can't get to work, or don't have and want to know more about before they buy. For these people, the investment in calling pays off handsomely. I've found that almost everyone on BBS systems and the national services ENJOYS sharing their experience with newcomers and old-timers alike. You can find out almost anything from a host of experts with a single request. About the only way to tick them off is to ask for a personal reply while admitting that "I know this was discussed earlier in this message chain, but I don't want to read it all."



# ARC, LZH, ARJ, ZOO, and Letters I've Known...

If you're planning at all to get involved in downloading any of the thousands of shareware, public domain, and/or freeware programs that are available for the ST or any computer, you'll have to enter the world of compression. Schemes for reducing the size of files and then blowing them up again save money, space, and time. When calling long distance or paying by the minute on telecommunications services, smaller is cheaper, and therefore more desirable. The same goes for storing away files that you don't use but don't want to lose. The compression types keep changing as new ways to squeeze more into less are found, and today's standard will be tomorrow's memory.

A long-term standard of sorts for file compression on many platforms, ARC (short for archive) is therefore portable and very popular. ARCEd files have an .ARC extender and can contain many files in one, each named properly for their interdependent use. Upon "opening" an ARC, you'll have all the original files just as they were before ARCEd. Encryption is also available for security of stored files, making the file only able to be opened if a password is entered properly.

ARC602ST is the most recent flavor of ARC for the ST, and it allows the file to have "nested folders" within it, with entire file arrangements preset at the time of ARCEd. Recently LHARC, a newer and incompatible method of storage, has become popular. An LHARCEd file (with an .LZH extender) will most likely be smaller than the same file if ARCEd, even though it takes a bit longer to "freeze" and "melt" LZH files than ARC files. LZH11321 is an example. LHARC methodology is still improving, and files compressed with the most recent release are not able to be "melted" or uncompressed by earlier formulas. LZH201 is an example of what is now called LH5 compression, but still represented by .LZH extenders. You have to keep up!

Besides ARC and LHARC, ZIPed files, and ZOOed files are showing up as well on the ST level. ZOO files are very common on Usenet and the ZOO method is also shared by many other computer platforms. ZIP is also very efficient and is often seen in IBM filebases, as are ARJ files. For Macintosh users, SIT files are popular. Each is the same concept, with different, incompatible formulas.

Just how does one deal with these programs? Since most of the ARC, LZH, and other packing programs are .TTP programs, when run as stand alone programs, they cryptically ask for parameters. Is there a simple method for uncompressing files that we download without having to read hundreds of pages of instructions, and without having to face the DOS-like world of command lines? The answer is yes, you can use a "shell." A shell is a program written to easily control the variety of compressors you select, and to pass along the instructions necessary for it to do as you desire after making your menu or GEM mouse selections. For example, you might not only want to extract a file, but you may wish to delete the ARCEd file and have the uncompressed files placed in a folder located in a special directory. By installing a well-configured shell as an application on the desktop or desk alternative, just double clicking on the compressed file itself will trigger these kinds of things and more, automatically!

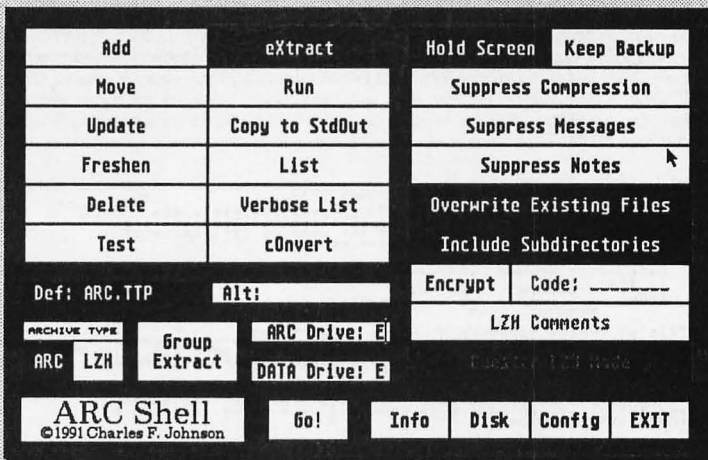
For ARC and LHARC, the most common needs in the Atari realm, it's my opinion that nothing beats Charles F. Johnson's ARCSHELL. ARCSHELL31.ARC is the filename of last month's release, version 3.1. The interface is professional, default and alternative methods for formulas are accounted for, and you can run other programs from within the shell as well. ARCSHELL is also made to make the most of CodeHead's HOTWIRE and MAXIFILE. CFJ includes buttons for all of the options that Questor provides for with the new LH5 compression system, something others don't do. ARCSHELL is a shareware program.

ARCGSH41.ZOO is the most recently released shell. ARCGSH is a German shareware program designed to ARC, LHARC, Compress, Shar, Tar, Uud/Uue, Zoo, etc. from a GEM (mouse) environment.

Another option is ESHLL222.LZH, containing the EDM Shell that allows work with ARC, ZIP, and ZOO. It also features a convert option, so that you can change one file type into another. This version is partially disabled until registered.

Other shells are available to do the same job with different twists or for differing file compression methods. Just to keep things interesting, there are several types of "self-extracting" files, distributed as a single .PRG or .TOS file, that will literally decompress themselves when run.

What do you need to begin? Download the uncompressed version of the formulas you need from a good BBS or online service. CodeHead Quarters BBS in Los Angeles (213) 461-2095 has just about everything you need in uncompressed form. ARC.TTP (the original arc) is file #94. ARC602.TTP (the enhanced arc) is file #1743 and file #1744 has the instructions for it. LHARCDI.TTP (LZH201) is file #1742, and #1747 has the directions for it. Use UZ283.LZH or STZIP11.LZH for your ZIPper, and ZOO21.TTP for your visit to the ZOO technique. ARCSHELL is file #1800. Configure your choice of shell, and if you wish, install the shell into the desktop using the INSTALL APPLICATION method, and you're off and running! — Ron Bernstein ■



## Conversation

You'll find anything and everything imaginable and unimaginable being discussed with passion or professionalism on BBS's and services. Not limited to computer topics, the political debates, sports, soap operas, and probably knitting have equal time—somewhere. Most new users in the modem realm shy away from participating and even reading message areas. The concept of extended conversation with unseen strangers (with interruptions and injections at any time across days or weeks) is a little hard to get used to at first, but after a time, these areas become the online

focus for many of us.

## Programs

For many, the sole reason to get online is to collect software. And it's not a bad reason. There's over 20,000 Atari files available on GENie alone, and hundreds of current offerings on most any BBS. You've seen our public domain columns here in AtariUser... the selection is awesome. And all you need to do is call and tell the BBS to send the file. So easy, it seems almost criminal.

And some of it IS criminal. Distribution of commercial programs is very, very illegal, but hard to prevent.

Telecom Part  
One — The  
Modem in the  
Home

# BBS'ing 101

Bulletin boards, like online information services, are a place to meet people, exchange ideas, play online games, and download the occasional file. While bulletin boards are much smaller than online services, they make up for it by their numbers—in the thousands. If you're a beginner to calling bulletin boards, here're a few tips, hints, and warnings about calling bulletin boards. First off, be prepared to read! Read the manuals that come with modem and terminal software. The "terminal and communication port settings" can be overwhelming, if you let them. Don't worry, most all places you call will work with the "standard" settings described in the manuals.

Since not every city has an ST bulletin board, you may have to call long distance to get one. Plan ahead before calling. There's nothing quite like a multi-hundred-dollar phone bill announced loudly by a loved one. Decide how much you plan to spend each month and keep track of the time you actually spend online.

When dialing a bulletin board's phone number for the first time, it's a good idea to listen in just after the modem finishes dialing the number. You don't want to waste time and money calling a wrong or disconnected number. After successfully connecting to the bulletin board you may or may not go to the main logon screen. Some boards will ask you if you want Vidtext, IGS, V52, or Atascii. Unless your terminal program has

Continued — Far Right

# GENie Telecommunication Service

I've always both loved and hated computing. I loved computers, but I hated typing in or writing programs. I always wished there was a way I could enjoy them. Then my cousin loaned me his modem and I joined CompuServe. Computers were suddenly fun. But I never realized how easy it was to charge up that money!

Soon I discovered GENie: the General Electric Network for Information Exchange. Like the Atari motto "Power Without The Price," GENie's motto is "More Online Time for Less." GENie fit my needs and my pocketbook. GENie has a flat rate "BASIC" service that allows access to many, many fascinating areas for unlimited time, plus libraries of data on almost anything at lower hourly rates.

GENie's bulletin boards do not use the "threading" system that most BBS's use. Instead, each message area has interests arranged in categories. One such category might be "Hardware" in the Atari ST "Round Table" (RT), or "Writers" in the Science Fiction RT. Each of those Categories can hold up to 50 topics, and each topic can hold a thousand messages. The messages don't scroll off into the bit-bucket like other systems. They are available to be read until they are deleted. You don't have to worry about missing messages in a busy topic because you only log on every other day. The most informative topics are later archived into the libraries for permanent reference, too.

The realtime conferences simulate CB chat, where you can communicate with people from all over the country and at least three continents. Some

```

Welcome to the ST Roundtable
-----
Check out the latest Z*NET, File #22719 ZNET9207.ARC which
includes an exclusive reprint of the excellent ST Book article
written by Mark Jansen, published in the January 1992 issue of
Atari Explorer Magazine.

Welcome to the GENie Atari ST Roundtable
-----
Official Online Resource of Atari Corporation
Regular Open Conference every Wednesday night, 10PM EDT, 7PM PDT
BTP conference every Monday at 10PM eastern in room 3.

ST Roundtable Staff wants to thank everyone that has taken
time to upload. Uploading is FREE but we sure do appreciate
effort and the time.

Check out the latest issue of Captain Midnight's Game Room, the on-line
newsletter for sophisticated gameplaying! File #22536.

Atari ST RoundTable Bulletin Board
Z-Net [John Nasy]
On: Sun Feb 16, 1992
Topic 1 Welcome to the Atari ST Roundtable
Topic 11
Topic 11 User Groups and Shows
-----
# msgs in topic 2: "Looking for Local User Groups"
# msgs in topic 3: "Bob Briddle is Speaking in Atari Where?"
# msgs in topic 4: "Are you a member of an Atari Group?"
# msgs in topic 5: "Atari User Group Coordinator Messages"

```

conferences are formal, with one person able to "speak" at a time; others are free-for-alls. Unlimited E-mail is part of the Basic Services package as well as American Airlines EAASY SABRE system, Stock Quotes and News, Grolier's Electronic Encyclopedia and much more.

The Software Libraries are a GENie Value Service, and are not part of the GENie Basic Services Package. Uploads during non-prime hours are free. Downloads are \$6 per hour at 300, 1200 or 2400 baud.

There are online games on GENie—from the single player variety text adventures to the exciting multi-player animated games like Air Warrior, Stellar Warrior, Dragon's Gate, Poker, Backgammon, Gemstone III, Orb Wars, Galaxy I, Federation II, and Diplomacy. Most are available at an hourly rather than BASIC rate.

I think everyone that owns a computer should join some type of national information service. They bring timely information into the home and offer an entertainment alternative. And GENie offers it all at a reasonable price.

The monthly subscription fee is \$4.95 a month, entitling you to unlimited non-prime time (after 5 PM, before 8 AM) use of all "BASIC" services, plus \$6 an hour for GENie "Value Services", using 300 to 2400 baud access in non-prime. Prime time rates are much higher. To sign up FREE, call GENie at 800-638-8369 with your modem set to half duplex (local EXACT). When you see the CONNECT message, type HHH and press return. At the U# prompt, type this log-on code EXACTLY as you read it here, observing spelling carefully: `XTX99428,ATARIUSR` then press return. Have checking or credit card info ready, and follow the directions. — *By Kenneth Estes, Assistant SysOp of the GENie Science Fiction RT*

Rarely will users not realize that a program shouldn't be shared, but they do it anyway. This is called PIRACY, and yes, it's wrong. It really does hurt the people who worked to create the program to have their efforts given away. It hurts their personal budget to not be paid for their work. Consider what it would do for your work ethic if your employer took your services and didn't pay you. Refuse to steal commercial programs. There's plenty of good free ones to go around.

## News

No media is faster than the electronic ones for bringing literally instant news to you. CNN on TV is fast, but you'll find the array of available news—of any kind—on the telecom services to be incredible. Business news and stock reports, sports and wire service news, full text of articles from major newspapers, and lots more are not only available, but searchable with simple commands for key issues you want to know about. Some services even have a clipping service, where you set up topics you care about, and the news on those topics simply comes to you.

Specialty services abound. Health care professionals have a dedicated network for fast and current information on anything from drugs to organ donors. Law professionals have extensive online support systems including Westlaw

and Lexis that provide instant custom citations and research. Real estate brokers use BBS's to check listings. In many cities, local political figures operate their own BBS as a means of getting closer to their constituency. Local BBS's often have a single focus or select users, based on hobbies or even sexual preference. And many, many computer stores have a BBS that advises customers of stock and specials, as well as offering online ordering of merchandise.

Closer to our Atari home, the news of computer products, releases, shows, and reviews are also online. Through the years, several groups have created literal Atari News Bureaus, one of which AtariUser subscribes to. The Z\*Net news service has an online magazine that averages 30 full printed pages of Atari news and information every week. The news in it is often only hours old when it is published each weekend and distributed on the BBS systems worldwide. The success of Z\*Net's format in the Atari world has spawned Z\*Net PC, a similar and very popular weekly magazine for the IBM compatible market online.

OK, if there's so much out there, what's the number one reason why even modem owners don't venture out into the telecommunication world? Fear. Fear of making themselves look dumb, and fear of spending



# Delphi Telecommunications Service

If you are a bargain hunter, here's one for you. While there are a number of national bulletin board systems with varied services including Atari support, only one that I know of gives you the option of buying your time wholesale!

Delphi, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, is perhaps the least known of the national services. It's a function of General Videotex Corp. and like all the others, its main purpose is as a business service during the business day. And, like the others, it offers the use of the system at night and weekends, at a reduced rate.

The standard rate in non-prime time is \$6 per hour. Delphi, however, offers a bargain rate of twenty hours a month for twenty bucks! Additional hours are \$1.20 each. That rate is for almost all the areas online, including the computer Forums. The Delphi 20/20 Advantage plan bills you \$20 each month, whether you use it all or not, but if you use the system more than three hours a month, it's cheaper than the hourly rate anywhere. This rate is especially good news for program downloaders.

Message areas for each brand of computer, called Forums on this service, are very informal and will remind you of chatting on a local BBS. A few general categories are identified, but no other organization of enforced. It could well be described as "homey." There are fewer Atari developers here than on other services, but the numbers are growing, as is the whole Atari population, as the word of this bargain gets around.

Similarly, the public domain and shareware program database is substantial, though not as large as on GENie or CompuServe. But, as is the nature of these services, the good programs are uploaded within days of showing up on other systems. And Delphi gives uploaders credit time, which encourages this practice. Downloading can be accomplished using all the major protocols, including YMODEM and ZMODEM.

DELPHI is unique in assigning you workspace, online memory which holds your E-mail, files you transferred to and from other users, and other uses. Telex messages sent to DELPHI, with your username, are delivered to you as E-mail. But beware, files in your workspace can accrue storage charges if left to mold.

And here is a killer! You can set up private forums, sort of a private internal BBS, at reasonable cost. You control access to friends, fellow hobbyists, family or whatever. Any member can do it for \$40 setup and \$15 per month. Around here, that's just about the cost of a second telephone line!

It goes almost without saying that, like the other services, there is access to libraries, encyclopedias, business and financial services, airline reservations, news and weather, merchants, etc. Fax, Telex, Easylink are at your command, and you can arrange message translation into foreign languages. Some of the extra services are extra cost, but can be handy if you really need them. For example, stock market quotes are free on GENie, but cost a few cents each here. But on Delphi you can get reports on many other financial instruments and detailed reports on companies and funds.

Special interest groups include all popular computers, entertainment, online games and a lot of other things like SciFi, music, photography, DTP; and remember, if it isn't there, you can start it yourself! For gamers, there are a variety of online games, including ones that use VT-52 graphics (very nice for ST'ers). Playing games online might be too expensive to contemplate on other services, but a buck per hour changes your perspective—on a lot of things!

To join DELPHI:

1—Via modem, dial 1-800-695-4002 2—When connected, press RETURN once or twice 3—At password, type ATARI

See "Using DELPHI" online for detailed information on rate options and possible telecom surcharges. If you have other questions about DELPHI, call DELPHI Member Services at 1-800-695-4005. — Norm Weinress, Atari Developers and AtariUser Columnists ■

money. Neither reason is a good one.

Playing with a computer at home is pretty non-threatening. You can fail with confidence of privacy. But many people are afraid that, because calling a BBS or service is "public," that someone is watching, and errors will brand them as incompetent. Nonsense. While it is possible that a system operator can monitor activity in real-time, you generally are as alone on a BBS as you are in Dungeon Master. The software won't break. You can't hurt the BBS or your computer by experimenting. If you read the menus, you'll find that almost all systems make sense, and are far more alike than different. Like Bo, Just Do It.

How about the major phone bills? Yes, the temptation to overdo it and call all over the country is a legendary experience. But for almost all users, there's a local BBS with no charges whatsoever. For some, the locals won't feature Atari, but can still be a great launch pad for your telecommunication experiments, without cost. You can still download and use clip art and some graphics, and participate in the message areas. When you become confident about your ability to maneuver, electrically speaking, make the jump to controlled calling to ST sources, wherever they might be. Of course, this is easier said than done. I and many of my friends had to survive the "trial by Bell" adventure of multi-hundred dollar phone bills when we began to use our modems. Of course, it was at 300 baud back then, and simple things took forever.

## Equipment

What do you need to start? Not much! A 1200 baud modem (the slowest you should consider today) is as low as a \$20 item today. A faster 2400 baud modem is more

typical and satisfying, and are regularly available under \$100. Get a modem, a standard cable for it, and a terminal program, and get online.

## What about Prodigy?

A media blitz for Prodigy during the past year has brought telecommunications and some of what it can do to the mass attention of the world. Can you, as an Atari user, get on Prodigy? No. As a joint effort of Sears and IBM, no attempt has been made to offer compatible terminal programs for other brands of computers. They may be more interested in creating a market for IBM products than they are in making a worthwhile and popular system. But don't fret, most Prodigy users graduate to the far more varied and rich resources of CompuServe, GENie, and other

## BIX

General Videotex Corporation of Cambridge, Massachusetts, announced on February 1 that it had purchased BIX, the online service developed by BYTE magazine. Already the owners of DELPHI, a consumer oriented online service, GVC now adds BIX as a popular outlet for hardware and software engineers, system designers, independent consultants, technology buffs and computer industry celebrities. The relationship between BIX and BYTE magazine will continue, with staff presence and the full text of BYTE magazine, etc., online. No "merger" of services is being proposed at this point, but rather the experience of GVC is seen as a healthy addition to the operation of BIX, while BIX adds to the overall market position of GVC. A transition of ownership will keep continuity of service for BYTE's BIX subscribers. GVC's purchase includes the computer system and software used to operate BIX. The command structure and menu design will remain unchanged. All present products, such as binary mail attachments and the MicroBytes daily newswire, will be available. BIX subscription and customer-service are now being handled by GVC, 1030 Massachusetts Ave., 4th Floor, Cambridge, MA 02138, (617) 491-3342 or (800) 695-4005. Join BIX by using a modem to call 1-800-225-4129 (617) 861-9767 from within Massachusetts). Once connected, press return. When asked to log in, type "BIX" and then enter "NEW" when asked for a name. ■



BBS'ing 101 — cont.

these options, stick to ASCII or normal text.

You'll be asked for a "System Password." Don't panic. Remember, READ. Follow the directions, as most systems will make it quite clear what to do.

You may be asked as little as two questions or as many as two dozen. Most are along the lines of what is your name, address, age, phone number, and computer type. But beware, while it is okay for online services to ask you for your credit card

number as a means of payment, small bulletin boards shouldn't. Not only are there some that engage in credit card

fraud, but there have been reports of some sysops asking PC Pursuit users for their account information and passwords and then run up huge bills to those same unsuspecting users. Keep in mind what information you are giving out and to whom you are giving it.

Eventually, you'll reach the "main menu," the center of the board and a place to branch off to the message base, bulletins or data base, online games, or the file

■ Continued — Next Page



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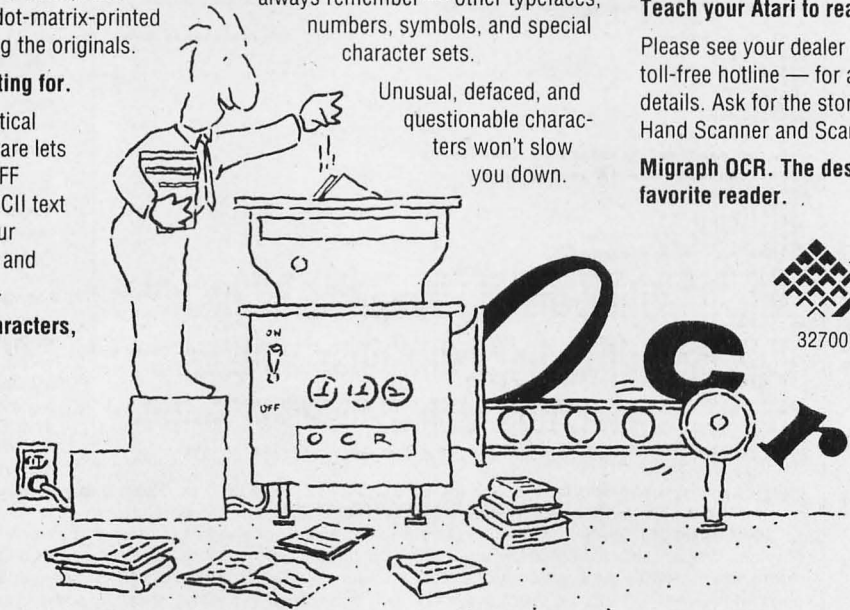
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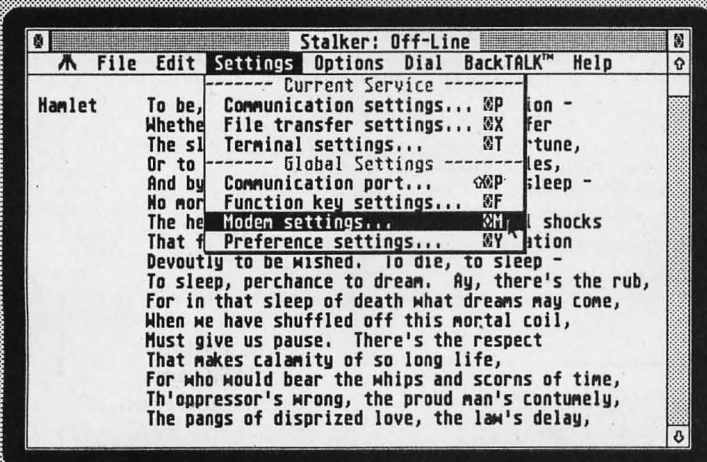
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Home

BBS'ing 101— cont.

system. If you don't get the menu, try entering a question mark - it's the universal help key. Once you get to the main menu, you might find you cannot do much of anything, except log off. The reason is that the sysop has to verify you and raise your access level—this usually takes a day or two.

From that point on, each BBS will be a unique experience. Sample several to see what variety of topics are covered, what files are available, and what audience surrounds each. You'll find some you love, others that you'll never call again. But wherever you call, please, don't participate in piracy—the illegal exchange of commercial software. What may seem like harmless fun is in fact a major drain on the entire Atari community. Don't help strangle Atari developers. Refuse to be a pirate. — *John Lockhand* ■

# CompuServe

Started in the 1970's in Ohio, CompuServe has grown to 920,000 users, running on over 40 mainframe computer systems. Reaching out from Ohio, it has expanded to reach across the US, Canada and Europe. And it's still growing.

First and foremost, CompuServe Information Services (CIS) is designed for communications. Extensive services surround the electronic mail area (E-mail) by which private mail can be exchanged with any user. Options even allow a

note you compose online or a letter you upload to be converted into a FAX sent automatically anywhere in the world. There are forums, a "real-time" CB Simulator, Classified Ads, clubs and special interest groups that include support areas for most computers, including the Atari ST, Portfolio, and 8-Bits.

CIS receives and allows users to access reports from wire services, major newspapers, and newsletters from various sources. It includes The Associated Press Online and Hollywood Hotline. The Executive News Service allows users to electronically "clip" stories of interest from the AP, UPI, and other news wires. Local weather reports are available.

Users can access EAASY SABRE and the Official Airline Guides Electronic Edition, which provide airline schedules, availability, and allows

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Forum contains the following features:
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FORFILES (Files)
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IBRARY directory
TIONS for this forum
1 ST ARTS FORUM - An international Forum specializing in
nig entertainment-related software and information relating to the
6-Bit (ST) series of computers. Includes games, game data files,
AL/FBI picture files, MUSIC/MIDI, Demos/Spectrum/Cyber graphic
nimations, and related viewers and utilities. Type GO ATARIARTS at
is this area.
1 ST PRODUCTIVITY FORUM - An international Forum specializing in
ctivity-related software and information relating to the Atari 16-Bit
series of computers. Includes telecommunications, programming,
file applications, desktop accessories, printers/font support, etc.
GO ATARIIPRO to access this area.
Atari Productivity Forum has a private area for communication among
ntered Atari developers who are approved by Atari Corp. or access. To
access to this section, send a CompuServe Mail (GO MAIL) message to
i Corporation at User ID number 78867,1872.
1 ST VENDORS FORUM - An international Forum specializing in the
nt of commercial hardware and software but participating vendors. ■
    
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them to make reservations. Access the ELECTRONIC MALL(R) provides users with access to hundreds of stores around the world. Best of all, there are no connect charges in this service.

A number of financial areas allow users to access stock market quotes and information, banking and brokerage services, tax and insurance information, and corporate reports. The reference area allows access to electronic reference materials such as encyclopedias, a nation-wide telephone book, and government publications. For the computer users among us, there are a number of discussion forums about specific kinds of computers and software.

On the lighter side, there are a number of online games that pit you against the computer or another user. There are even multi-player fantasy games and games that run via a fully graphic "front end" at your computer.

To help you find your way around, there is a comprehensive Member Assistance area. It provides you information on billing, changing your password, directory of members, CompuServe Magazine's Electronic Edition, even a guided tour. GO HELP will take you to this area.

## Atari on CIS

The Atari Portfolio Forum on CompuServe has been called one of the most pleasant forums on the system. It is also an Atari official support site, which means that company employees drop by on a regular basis.

Thirteen Message Sections are available in the Portfolio Forum, allowing users to meet and exchange a lot of information on this little machine. Many of the authors who write the software available in the libraries are available for comments, suggestions and bug reports.

The most popular area in the forum has to be the Libraries. As of February 1, 1992, there are now over 650 files available for downloading. Games of all kinds, programming tools, as well as languages, hints, tips, and so much more are waiting in the libraries. In order to keep abreast of all the activity, sysop Judy Hamner writes a weekly Forum News report which is available in LIB 1. She summarizes the conversations going on in the message area, as well as listing all the files that had been uploaded in the previous week. To access the forum, log onto CompuServe and type: GO APORTFOLIO at any prompt.

The Atari ST areas are divided into Atari Arts, Atari Productivity, and Atari Vendors. Each specializes in discussion and file libraries specific to their subdivision. CompuServe enjoyed the position as the focus for Atari activity in years past, and has a considerable library amassed despite the more recent popularity of GENIE. GO ATARIARTS, ATARIIPRO, or ATARIVEN.

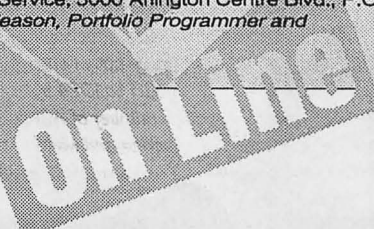
CIS's 8-Bit area remains unsurpassed for file selection and support. CompuServe has added LYNX support in its 8-Bit Atari area. In response to the increased sales of Atari's LYNX (really an 8-bit computer), the staff of the Atari 8-Bit Forum on CIS has recruited the services of two well-known LYNX gaming experts, Jeff Kovach and Todd Ellering. A new library devoted to LYNX files includes game maps in GIF graphics format, help and hint files, and press releases detailing new game introductions. Kovach and Ellering are online daily to answer LYNX questions and will host special conferences with playing tips. For more information, type GO ATARI8 at any main CompuServe prompt.

## Signup

CompuServe has a new pricing scheme. For \$7.95 per month, users get unlimited usage of a wide variety of services including News, Sports, Weather, Business, Reference Library, Shopping, Money Talks, Games & Entertainment, CompuServe Mail, CompuServe's software support Forums, and Travel and the Leisure area. For those who prefer to pay as they go, CompuServe bills on a minute basis: 300 baud - \$6.30/hr; 1200 and 2400 baud - \$12.80/hr; 9600 baud - \$22.80/hr.

You can sign up for CompuServe for free, and get 15 dollars of free usage time. Call (800) 848-8199 and ask for operator 198. You will be sent your free sign up kit. CompuServe Information Service, 5000 Arlington Centre Blvd., P.O. Box 20212, Columbus, OH 43220, 614-457-8650 or 800-848-8990. — *B.J. Gleason, Portfolio Programmer and AtariUser Columnist* ■

services once they get used to, then tired of, the cute and limited system that Prodigy offers. Any idiot can use Prodigy... But you're an AtariUser. You're ready for more. Go get it. — *John Nagy* ■





# MIDI Online

Technical support and information is a major issue in the volatile musician's world of MIDI. Telecommunication provides a partial cure for this confusion. The choices fall into four groups...

## Commercial information services.

PAN (Performing Artists Network, part of DELPHI) is expensive to join (\$250 to sign up, unless you can find one of the many sign-up offers) and expensive to use. There are some proprietary files and some professional exchanges that might be of use to the professional, though that's not guaranteed—people tend to get in, grab what they need, and go before the costs get out of hand. There's some manufacturer support from keyboard and software companies.

More active is the MIDI forum on CompuServe and the recently refurbished MIDI RoundTable on GENie. Both offer a range of files, product support and active message exchanges. The GENie MIDI RT features active support from Dr. T's, Steinberg-Jones, Dragonware and others, along with a Home Studio category, various tape exchanges and song projects, and a growing file library.

## Private Bulletin Board Systems

Owned by professional and non-professional musicians, bulletin board systems dedicated to MIDI have been springing up worldwide. Some, like MIDIMUM in Los Angeles (818-764-4538), are supported by user subscriptions; others are free of charge. Often good places to find public domain patches, song files and demo software. You may find, however, that you'll need to call far afield to find what you want—one source of PD Korg patches turned out to be a BBS in Holland.

## Manufacturer and Retailer Product Support BBS's

Still few and far between, sadly. Kawai has suspended their board for the time being, while Dr. T's transferred support to GENie and closed down their board. Still going strong are Hybrid Arts' Midl World Network in Culver City, CA (310-841-0347), and Yamaha's BBS in Buena Park, CA (714-522-9464), though this latter BBS mainly supports the C1 MIDI computer. Several software companies have their own BBS systems, as do a number of stores—for example, Electronic Music Box in Sherman Oaks, California (818-789-4287). These systems range from bare bones to quite spectacular—EMB is stuffed to the gills with demos, for example.

## FIDO and Other Networks

The FIDO MIDI network is managing to remain alive, despite a paucity of boards carrying the conference, and provides some good information amongst the noise and chatter. MIDILink, which was intended to grow into the main non-commercial MIDI network, seems to have faltered in its growth, though the two central systems, MIDImaze (615-723-1867) and the Washington MIDI Users Group BBS (703-532-7860), are still up and running. Other conferences running are boards connected into RelayNET, MediaNet and SmartNet.

Whatever flavor you prefer, a little research will yield results, as will a willingness to put up with the noise level that can occur in the search for concrete data. The thing that's always certain is that no matter what sort of problem you're having, somebody online has probably already gone through the troubleshooting phase and has an answer to the question you want to ask. — *Steven McDonald, GENie MIDI RT Sysop* ■

## A Quick intro to File Transfer Protocols...

When transferring program files, absolute accuracy must be maintained or the program will not run. The main idea behind a File Transfer Protocol (FTP) is to break the file to be transferred into smaller chunks, called packets. Added onto this data packet is some control information to allow the receiving station to test the validity of the packet it is receiving. If the packet is received incorrectly, the receiver requests the packet again. An ACK is an acknowledge code, a NAK is "not acknowledged," meaning an error has occurred.

XMODEM: This is probably the most common protocol. It sends a one byte Start-of-Header code to indicate the beginning of a packet, a two byte block number identifier, 128 bytes of data, and finally a one byte checksum, a number representing the total of the values of all characters in the block. The receiving station compares its calculated checksum against the transmitted checksum. If the two checksums match, then the packet was received properly.

XMODEM/CRC: The checksum calculation used for XMODEM is very simple, and provides 99.7% accuracy of error detection. A more advanced method uses a two byte Cyclical Redundancy Check (CRC), which can provide approximately 99.997% accuracy.

YMODEM or 1K XMODEM: The header information, CRC, and ACKs reduce the throughput of the system. By increasing the data from 128 to 1024 bytes reduces the packet overhead and the number of ACKs. Larger blocks also mean less interactive checking and waiting, often a slow process on data networks. The major drawback? More information needs to be retransmitted and an error occurs.

It is not recommended for speeds less than 1200 bits per second.

YMODEM BATCH: Based on YMODEM, this version uses the initial packet 0 to transfer the filename to the receiver station for automatic name handling. This also allows for transmitting numerous files using wild cards.

WXMODEM: Window XMODEM increases the speed of the transfer by reducing the number of ACKs that need to be sent. The transmitter will send up to 4 packets before expecting a response from the receiver. The ACK that gets sent back also includes the packet number of the last packet received. A NAK can be sent to retransmit a bad packet.

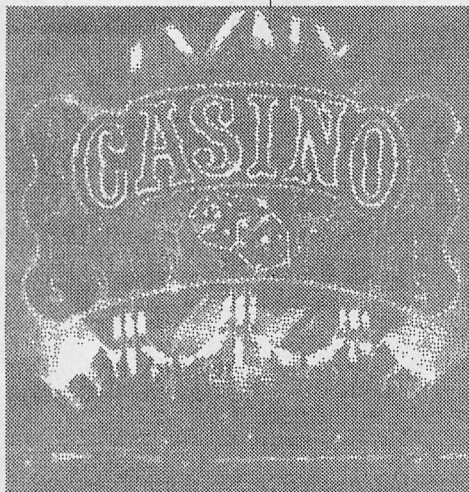
KERMIT: To transmit binary files, the communication lines need to be set to 8 bits. Many computer systems and networks were designed for 7 bit transmissions. Kermit was designed to allow binary transmission over 7 bit data lines. If an 8 bit character needs to be sent, it is translated into two bytes: an "escape" character, and the lower 7 bits of the character. When the receiver sees the "escape" character, it sets the 8th bit of the next byte high. KERMIT allows for various length packets by including a <packet length> byte in the header information.

SEALINK: An upgrade of XMODEM that is compatible with most XMODEM implementations. It includes the filename via packet 0, and ACK/NAKs with packet numbers to allow for sliding windows, similar to WXMODEM.

ZMODEM: Declared by the creator of it to be "not just another XMODEM hack." It preserves the true file size; uses sliding windows, variable size packets and a 32 bit CRC. It can also later resume where it left off in the event of an interrupted file transfer. Probably the most automatic and fastest combination to date. — *B.J. Gleason* ■



## Atari at CES — All Lynx



▲ Due in March

Atari didn't have a huge area (like Nintendo and Sega) at the Winter Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas in January, but they made the most of the space they had. Since the production of the Lynx has been outstripped by the demand, no promotional pitch was required. As guests in the Telegames area and in a by-invitation suite at the Rio Hotel, Atari's main goal was to talk with the people who carry the Lynx system and find out what they like and what they don't like.

One thing they did like was the success of Atari's \$129 holiday bundle which included the new Lynx, California Games, AC Adaptor, ComLynx cable, and

carrying pouch. They were big sellers during the Christmas season and Atari will continue the deal with a similar package.

### Third Party Happenings

Telegames is currently the biggest independent third-party

classic, Joust. Joust should be out April or May and Shadowsoft is also working on two original games, a puzzle contest and a superhero game.

### CES Info From Star-Linx

Jeff Kovach, sysop of the Lynx support Star-Linx BBS (602-464-4817), attended the show and passed along the following...

Atari will be releasing a new version of the sunscreen that works with the new model of the Lynx. The new sunscreen snaps onto the top and bottom sides of the Lynx. The new shade retains the pop-up tent design.

An external battery pack will let you stay portable for 25 to 30 hours! The \$15 accessory (not \$40 like the competition) uses 6 D batteries and has a belt clip and a shoulder strap.

New Title Releases through March: SuperSkweek - action-puzzle game with over 200 levels; Toki - platform arcade game with fab sound; Crystal Mines 2 - similar to Boulderdash with over 200 levels; Hyperdrome - multi-player Ballblazer-style game; Lynx Casino - gambling simulation of craps, poker, blackjack, slots, and roulette.

April should bring these sports titles: Dirty Larry, Pit Fighter, Baseball Heroes, Basketbrawl, NFL Football (SUPER!!), Hockey, and World Class Soccer.

Also being shown at CES were several titles still under development with no specific release date.

Demonsgate 1 is an overhead role playing game which allows you to mix ingredients to make different kinds of potions. Kung Food is a ridiculous premise with awesome graphics: a martial arts game that pits you against various foods in a refrigerator. Dino Quest looks like a must-have Lemmings-style game that has a bunch of cave guys trying to work their way to the end of a level. Zoom in and out to control individual men, and try to get at least one to survive.

Rampart, Battlezone 2000, Hydra, and Steel Talons were also on display.

### New Games in the Works

The following info comes courtesy of Atari's latest release list.

Bad Boy Tennis; Bikini Beach Volleyball; Dracula; Ninja Gaiden 3, this time based on the popular NES title; Asteroids/Missile Command — two classics on one game card; Switchblade 2; Blood and Guts Hockey; Heavy Weight Contender; Full Court Press, for the basketball purists; Road Riot, a number one arcade hit that features combat driving, scaling, and two player action; and Operation Desert Storm. There's no word on what kind of game this will be, but it seems fitting that the Lynx has this title since Atari donated Lynxs to help keep many of our soldiers occupied in the Mideast before the war started. —

Clinton Smith ■

**LYNX ALERT ■ A Lynx Softcase Game Card Wallet** for only \$5.95! A couple years ago, Realm Company introduced the Softcase System, 3 carrying case pieces that acted individually or together. Due to the relatively high cost of the system, all but the Wallet have been discontinued. The Wallet is a Velcro-closing tri-fold case of padded black Cordura, and has nine clear vinyl pockets inside for a very professional player look. Sales are now direct from Realm, who has reduced the price of the Wallets from \$12.95 to only \$5.95 (plus \$3 shipping for up to three wallets, .50 more for each three after that). They offer a full money back guarantee and same day shipping. REALM, 10504 Easum Rd., Louisville KY 40299, Call 502-267-7024, GENie: REALM.

developer, while several other third party companies are developing Lynx titles but will be releasing them through Atari. Hot at the Telegames booth was their eagerly awaited role playing game, The Guardian:Storm Over Doria which is slated for a March release. They also announced that they've signed a long-term agreement with arcade company and Nintendo licensee, Tradewest, to gain the rights to produce Lynx versions of popular Tradewest games. First up will be a two-player version of the arcade beat'em up, Double Dragon, slated for July. August will see the release of a 4 player version of the monster truck racing game, Super Off-Road. This agreement may open the possibility of a Lynx conversion of the popular Battletoads game.

Shadowsoft, who recently released a great conversion of Robotron, will be following it up with another Williams

■ Clinton Smith is 24 years old, and lives for his Lynx. His APE NEWSLETTER is published 5 times a year now. Contact Clint at APE, 2104 North Kostner, Chicago, IL 60639, or on GENie at C.SMITH89.



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- #1220 - Tetris - 1 or 2 players simultaneously
- #1252 - Captive Help Files, ST Gaming Digest 12/91
- #1255 - Jeopardy V3, Hearts (Color Only)
- #1258 - Liamatron V1.0 - Arcade game (1 Meg/Clr)
- #1277 - Mystic Well: Similar to Dungeon Master (DBL)
- #1334 - Omega - Dungeon Exploration (1 Meg/DBL)
- #1353 - Klatrix - Tetris/Klax combination (Color)
- #1366 - Rolling Ronny - Super Mario type game (Clr)
- #1371 - Blackjack Plus 3 Demo
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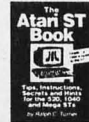
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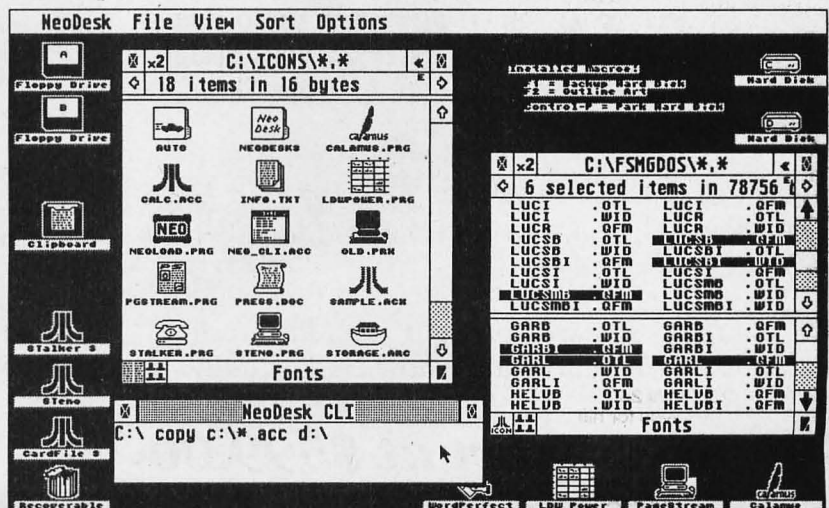
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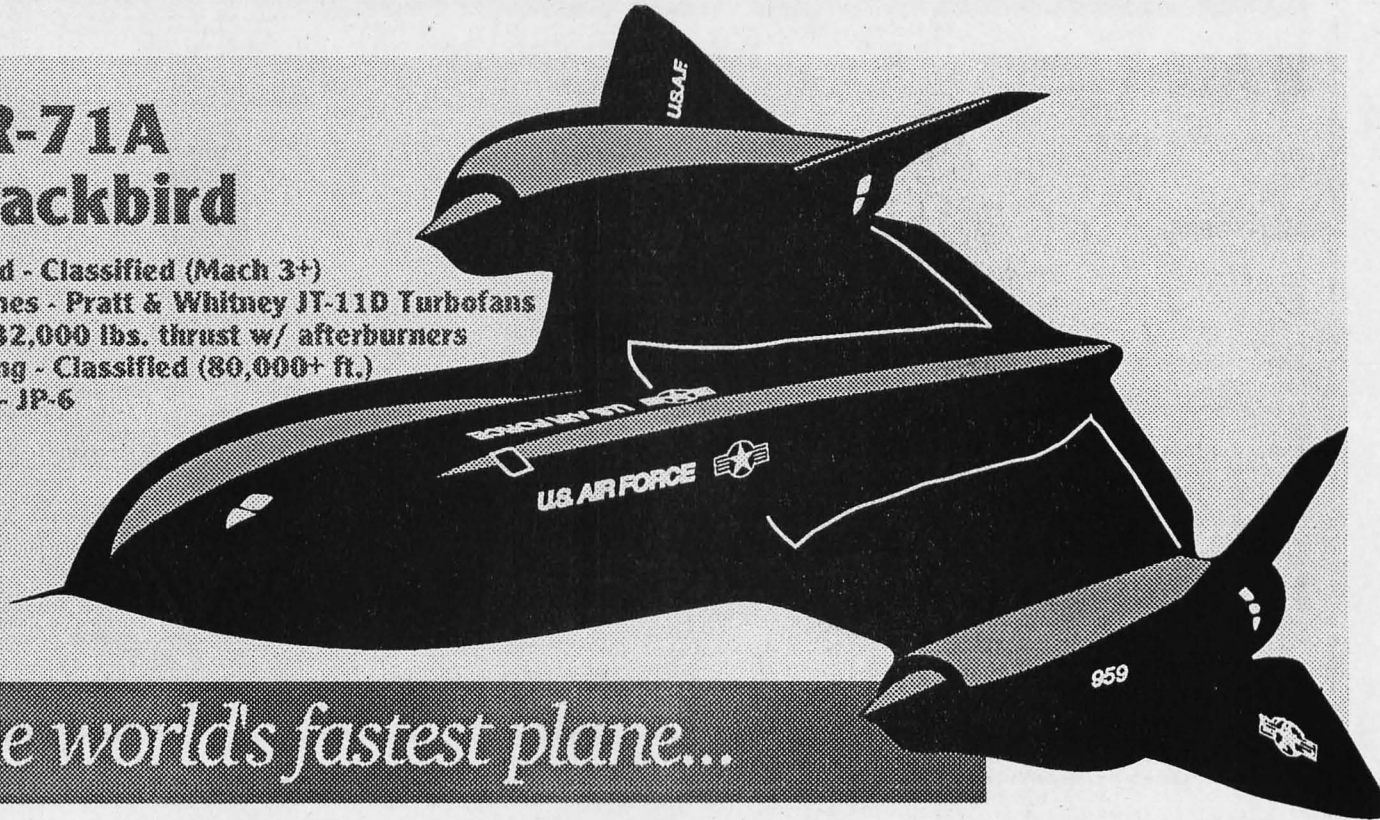
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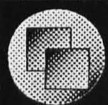
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From the people who brought you Macintosh emulation on the Atari (and whose Dad actually flew the SR-71).

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## 68030 SST

Speed - 16 to 40 mhz asynchronous design; up to 12 times faster than a Mega ST  
Engine - MC68030 Microprocessor with Caches and Burst Mode Afterburner  
Ceiling - up to 12 Megabytes of RAM  
Fuel - up to 8 Megabytes of 32 bit fastRAM in tandem w/ a 16, 33 or 40 mhz oscillator  
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Expansion - processor direct slot; Chromax Super Video board already "in rollout"  
User Upgradeable - when ever you want to

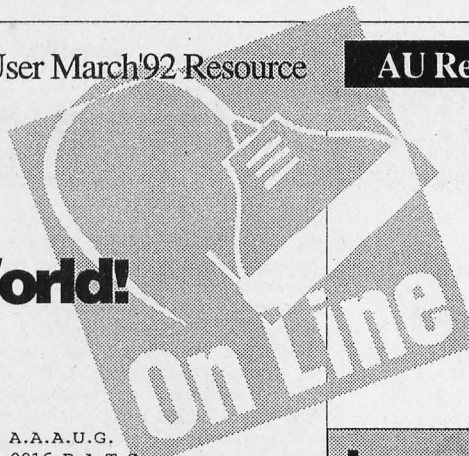


# Gadgets by Small SSTSSTSSTSST

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## Atari BBS's Around the World!



### United States

#### Alabama

(205) 722-0900 A..T H.A.U.G.

#### Alaska

(907) 776-8186 A..E Midnight Sun

#### Arizona

(602) 242-3686 A.CO ST Base Express  
 (602) 285-9246 ABCO Ompher's  
 (602) 464-4817 A.CO Star-Linx  
 (602) 459-6514 A..E Danish Tower  
 (602) 789-9426 .BCT 0440 Realm of Chaos  
 (602) 938-8288 ABCR Paragone

#### California

(209) 436-8156 AB.T 0462 Atari ST Connection  
 (209) 732-8520 A..E The Voice Base  
 (213) 254-9534 ABCT ST Jungle  
 (213) 461-2095 ABCM Code Head Quarters  
 (213) 732-0229 ABCT 0592 O'mayer V  
 (310) 320-1541 A.CF Torrance Forem  
 (310) 379-3796 ABCO Hitch Hikers Guide  
 (310) 518-9524 AB.T 0429 M.A.S.A.T.E.K.  
 (310) 543-5483 ABCO The Travelling  
 (310) 634-8993 ABCE Target Range  
 (310) 841-0347 A.CT M.I.D.I. World Network  
 (310) 863-3718 ABCT 0506 Zoo Station ST  
 (408) 245-5827 A.CF Online Club  
 (408) 249-7916 ABCE Realm Of Wonder  
 (408) 255-6288 A.CO The Paladin's Temple  
 (408) 287-8399 A.CM Crime Bytes  
 (408) 353-4669 A.CM Compucat  
 (408) 449-2150 A..F Bit Stream  
 (408) 736-8849 A.CO The Rat  
 (408) 745-2191 A.CF Atari Corporation Online  
 (408) 848-6032 A..O S.C.A.U.G.  
 (408) 972-1548 A.CR Top Gun  
 (408) 986-0215 A.CO B.A.A.U.G.  
 (408) 997-7352 A.CM Dog House  
 (415) 362-8470 A.CF The Asylum  
 (415) 438-9387 A.CO W.C.S.  
 (415) 587-8062 A.CE A.B.A.C.U.S.  
 (415) 745-7901 A.CO The Wishing Well  
 (415) 790-1375 A.CM The Tavern  
 (415) 878-9602 A.CO Computer Rock  
 (415) 883-2236 A..E Castle of Blackthorn  
 (415) 965-3556 A.CO The Zone  
 (415) 965-9347 ABCT 0075 Bloom County ST  
 (415) 967-8319 A.CW Trembler  
 (510) 351-1385 A.CF The Grid  
 (510) 352-5528 A.CE S.L.C.C.  
 (510) 373-6792 AB.F 0706 Z\*Net Golden Gate  
 (510) 452-0350 ABCR Claw Marks  
 (510) 526-6471 A.CE ST Synchronicity  
 (510) 785-1290 ABCE Owl's Nest  
 (510) 834-1707 A.CM The Enchanter  
 (510) 839-4293 ABCE The Sword In The Stone  
 (510) 845-1789 A.CF Microworld  
 (619) 689-8157 A..M S.D.A.C.E.  
 (707) 446-4158 A..E Solano Station  
 (707) 528-4259 A..M Galaxy Class Starship  
 (707) 642-4636 A..O Gamer's Guild  
 (707) 792-2572 A..M Star Trek  
 (707) 823-3052 A..S Interface  
 (714) 247-3888 A..F The Vortex  
 (714) 361-1112 AB.T Argonaut's  
 (714) 534-7093 ABCT 0694 L.A. S.M.O.G.  
 (714) 546-2152 ABCT 0632 London Smog

(714) 625-4251 A..E A.A.A.U.G.  
 (714) 650-7779 A.CT 0016 B.A.T.S  
 (714) 688-3204 ABCO Starlink  
 (714) 969-5486 ABCT 0712 H. B. Smog  
 (805) 252-0450 AB.T 0248 Space Station  
 (805) 987-6985 A..T R.A.M. Of Ventura  
 (818) 222-4444 A..E Wizardy  
 (818) 708-8576 AB.T 0652 Pengo Land  
 (818) 766-5277 ABCT 0576 Loch  
 (818) 768-7125 ABCT 0559 Warehouse Entertainment  
 (818) 881-0738 A..F Port Royal  
 (818) 993-5516 AB.F The Software Bank  
 (916) 243-2683 A..E Alternate Reality  
 (916) 638-9923 A.CE Axolotl  
 (916) 723-1657 A.CS The Mind Keep  
 (916) 729-2968 A.CO ST Keep  
 (916) 791-4549 A..O Merlyn's Realm

#### Colorado

(303) 343-2956 A.CO Atari Club  
 (303) 361-9256 A.CE Tardis  
 (303) 367-0668 A.CO The Web  
 (303) 367-5877 A.CE Bavarian's GastHaus  
 (303) 431-1404 .BCT 0005 Mile High  
 (303) 452-4383 .BCT 0186 Grave Diggers Tomb  
 (303) 457-0320 ABCF Skyline  
 (303) 469-4954 A.CS Four Wheeling  
 (303) 699-0402 ABCT 0643 Ring World  
 (303) 798-5241 A.CO Carina II  
 (719) 574-7406 A..F 0602 Cartoon Haven

#### Connecticut

(203) 229-9833 A.CO Ultra Project  
 (203) 269-7969 AB.T 0474 Heaven 'N' Hell  
 (203) 274-7803 AB.F 0185 Billboard  
 (203) 331-9936 AB.E Star  
 (203) 421-4861 AB.T 0079 S.T.A.R.R.  
 (203) 528-7693 A.CF 0647 E.H.C.R.  
 (203) 656-0134 AB.E Terripin Station  
 (203) 776-9723 A..E New Haven  
 (203) 871-0696 A.CE Silicon Palace  
 (203) 873-8518 A..O Sinkhole Utopia

#### Delaware

(302) 378-2277 A..E ST Delaware  
 (302) 836-4816 AB.F 0307 Pay Bax

#### Florida

(305) 271-0688 ABCM A.S.I.M.  
 (305) 344-3644 A..E B.U.B.B.A.  
 (407) 381-5403 A.CF 0494 Top Gun  
 (407) 382-5275 .CF 0213 Crooked Dragon Inn  
 (407) 658-1425 A.CO Starship  
 (407) 831-1613 ABCT 0304 Twilight Zone  
 (407) 886-1632 A.CM McDonald's Computer Center  
 (407) 896-5772 A.CO Bullwinkle's Corner  
 (813) 397-5335 A..S The Darkest Realm  
 (813) 539-8599 A..E Tampa Bay Oracle  
 (813) 797-8449 A..O Tut's  
 (904) 786-4176 A..T 0350 The Bounty ST

#### Georgia

(404) 425-2718 ABCF Marietta  
 (404) 521-0445 A.CO Fortress R & D  
 (404) 659-5720 ABCS Overmind  
 (404) 796-3805 A..F 0675 Motherboard  
 (912) 471-7629 A..W U Want What?

#### Hawaii

(808) 261-2184 A..W Muskrat's Den

### Legend...

A - Board Supports: 300, 1200, Or 2400 Baud.

B - Board Supports: 9600, 14400, Or 19200 Baud.

C - Reachable From A PC Pursuit Outdial.

#### BBS Software Used...

E - Express

F - Forem

M - Michtron

O - Other

R - Remote Access

S - Stadel/Sanctum

T - Turbo

W - Wildcat

AtariUser R

**About this BBS list...**

I started a list of ST bulletin boards back in the spring of 1987 as a message with only ten bulletin boards on it. It's now grown to some 400 bulletin boards of the probably 1,000 ST boards in operation today. The listing here in AtariUser is a reduced version of the list I publish quarterly, as the main file contains more baud rate, bulletin board software, and PC Pursuit outdial information. The Spring 1992 edition of this list will be uploaded on Atari Corporation Online bulletin board and available on some FNET boards in the last week of March, and will eventually be posted on most major services and boards.

I check and update the list every three months because I have found that about 11% of the boards in that time have gone down. Yep, about one half the numbers on this list won't work next year. Since most are run as a hobby, BBS systems come and go, due to whim or hardware changes (or failures).

Many of the numbers in this list have FNET numbers attached. This means that they can network with other boards to exchange files and messages. FoReM and Turbo boards have access to FNET, and also some Express boards can do FNET in addition to their own special network. Citadels or Stadels have their own network called CitaNet that exchanges mainly messages. Michtron software doesn't network except for limited exchange of private electronic mail. Some systems listed here are multiline, in which case the main number is the only one listed.

Please help my list grow and stay accurate. Let me know if your board isn't here, or if any of these are gone. Your help will make the next list better. I can be reached at Atari Corporation Online and other FNET boards on the Z\*Net news conference and on some CitaNet conferences. PC Pursuit users can reach me by typing C PURSUIT at the "@ " prompt. Of course, you can even use a post card! Provide whatever information you can, including bulletin board names, phone numbers, baud rates supported, and bulletin board software and version number to: John K. Lockard 4 Red Oak Circle Johnson City, TN 37604-7616 — John Lockard ■

(808) 293-5459 A..E The Black Hole  
 (808) 531-4805 A..O Dragon Masters  
 (808) 622-2533 A..E A.C.E.'s HI

**Idaho**

(208) 587-7603 A..M Rattle Snake Station  
 (208) 832-4118 A..O Eagles Nest

**Illinois**

(312) 334-7468 ABCF Rune Quest II  
 (618) 254-6077 AB.F 0123 East Side  
 (618) 344-8466 AB.F 0621 The Garage  
 (708) 213-9299 ABCE Northwest Passage  
 (708) 231-7227 A.CM S.C.A.T.  
 (708) 250-0968 ABCT 0585 The Graveyard  
 (708) 310-9014 ABCT 0202 Outpost  
 (708) 423-1568 A.CF 0562 Midwest Connection  
 (708) 456-6875 A.CF 0557 ST Center  
 (708) 457-2219 A.CE Blue Moon  
 (708) 623-9570 A.CE Pegasus  
 (708) 680-5105 A.CE Python (L.C.A.C.E.)  
 (708) 789-3610 A.CR Code One  
 (708) 830-6387 ABCF ST Scruncher  
 (708) 894-9241 ABCT Software Syndicate  
 (815) 834-1914 A.CF Rick's Cafe  
 (815) 968-2229 A..E I.C.D.

**Indiana**

(219) 453-4046 AB.F 0456 Tippy  
 (219) 674-5947 A..E M.O.U.S.E.  
 (219) 674-9288 A..E Mouse  
 (219) 744-1396 AB.F 0678 A.C.O.R.N.  
 (317) 353-9326 A.CM ST Archive  
 (317) 849-4007 A.CO Indy Serve  
 (317) 962-7981 A..E The Next Generation  
 (812) 332-0573 A..T 0141 B.L.A.S.T.  
 (812) 466-3478 AB.E The Phoenix

**Kansas**

(913) 334-3897 ABCT 0067 H.Q.  
 (913) 651-7526 A..E The Flagbase

**Kentucky**

(502) 245-0386 A..E Triv Atari  
 (502) 456-4292 A..E The Atari Scene  
 (502) 897-1589 A..O Twilight Zone

**Louisiana**

(318) 537-3129 A..F 0701 Conqueror Connection  
 (504) 469-8468 A.CE French Quarter

**Maine**

(207) 668-3631 A..M MFS Computing

**Maryland**

(301) 460-6030 A.CO The Eighth Dimension  
 (301) 894-8516 ABCT 0556 Thieves Guild  
 (301) 924-3771 A.CO Hallucination  
 (410) 360-1356 AB.T 0504 Media 2000

(410) 437-0243 AB.F 0501 Storm Shadow  
 (410) 551-0742 AB.T 0080 Bit Heaven  
 (410) 628-2693 A..E Lighting Rod  
 (410) 969-0621 AB.F 0500 Battlezone

**Massachusetts**

(413) 648-9841 A..E Red-Eye Express  
 (508) 226-8028 AB.F 0671 Ye Olde Cookie Shoppe  
 (508) 393-1362 A..F 0720 East of Moon  
 (508) 752-1348 AB.F 0204 Full Moon  
 (508) 875-8009 A..E Microsystems Software  
 (508) 966-0503 A..F 0661 Vanguard Fortress  
 (617) 328-9230 A.CM Question Mark  
 (617) 396-4607 A.CM B.C.S.  
 (617) 567-8642 A.CM Toad Hall  
 (617) 598-6646 A.CO Bay State  
 (617) 665-0977 A.CE Outer City Limits  
 (617) 891-7338 A.CS The Blade

**Michigan**

(313) 233-6095 AB.E The Nine Planes  
 (313) 235-0158 A..E The Carnival  
 (313) 451-0524 A.CO Molin's Den  
 (313) 545-8593 AB.O 0137 Doc's Place  
 (313) 582-0888 A.CE Bloom County  
 (313) 778-8783 AB.F 0294 Game Room  
 (313) 973-9137 A.CM Treasure Chest  
 (517) 393-1748 A..O The Computer Dungeon  
 (517) 394-6852 A..O C.H.A.O.S.  
 (517) 787-5061 A..E C.A.C.E.  
 (616) 245-8259 A..O E.X.T.E.

**Minnesota**

(612) 426-8627 A.CF 0637 Source Machine  
 (612) 451-4005 ABCF 0452 Inner City  
 (612) 472-6582 A.CS M.A.S.T.  
 (612) 488-5973 A.CE S.P.A.C.E  
 (612) 544-5118 ABCF Flight Line  
 (612) 782-9845 A.CS MIDIApollis  
 (612) 784-8643 A.CS \*\*\* POOF \*\*\*

**Missouri**

(314) 275-2040 ABCF 0224 Flash  
 (314) 631-5449 A.CF 0624 Paradox

**Nevada**

(702) 363-6066 A..T 0475 Top Gun  
 (702) 435-0786 AB.E The Rebel  
 (702) 435-7919 A..F Ground Zero  
 (702) 565-5271 A..E The Sports Line  
 (702) 644-8857 A..F 0680 The Revolution  
 (702) 644-9813 AB.F 0189 Syclone  
 (702) 645-7570 AB.M Wild Life  
 (702) 870-4750 AB.F Bud Lite  
 (702) 883-8054 A..E The Tommy Line

**New Jersey**

(201) 579-3978 A..E Hotel Paradise  
 (201) 690-5224 A.CF 0685 J.A.C.G.



## What is the FNET?

Free international mail and conversation via a local Atari BBS is available through FNET. FNET originally meant FoReM Network, but now includes not only FoReM boards but Turbo BBS systems as well.

To be in the FNET, a BBS needs only to register and use David Chiquelin's FMailer program. A node number is assigned to the BBS, application for membership in any of very many "crossnet" message bases is processed, and then the board will automatically call and transfer data with other registered owners at preset times each day. Each BBS retains its own features and local message areas, but the networked bases are added.

Each system joins established conferences, leaves messages, and shares them with all the other nodes that are a part of the conference. A message may take several days to reach the furthest nodes, having jumped as many as six times before reaching all destinations. Files can also be distributed internationally via the network. In the Z\*Net Online Conference for example, there are over 60 BBS systems signed up, and all have the opportunity to respond to messages (over 2,000 per month in this one area alone). Once a week, each also receives the latest issue of the Z\*Net online magazine, right in the conference. Of late, Atari personnel have become FNET members and participate regularly (Bob Brodie operates node 706, Z\*Net Golden Gate).

If you're a FoReM or Turbo BBS operator, contact Steve Rider at Node 204, John Miller at Node 18, or David Chiquelin at Node 3 for more information on FNET. ■



(201) 822-3658 ABCT 0439 The Strand  
 (201) 840-4463 AB.T The Underworld  
 (609) 346-1224 A..S J.A.C.S.  
 (609) 426-4472 AB.F 0677 Space Station One  
 (609) 451-7475 AB.F 0168 Cumberland County  
 (609) 691-3105 A..O Mystics Realm  
 (609) 848-2658 A..F Night Beat  
 (908) 290-1133 A..E A.C.E.'s High  
 (908) 859-1939 ABCR R.C.'s Place  
 (908) 525-9305 A.CO S.A.B.B.S.  
 (908) 727-1914 ABCT 0133 Hologram Inc.  
 (908) 859-5999 AB.F 0610 Songwriter's Den  
 (908) 920-7981 AB.T 0489 Steal Your Face  
 (908) 968-8148 ABCF 0593 Z\*Net Online

### New Mexico

(505) 525-0388 A..F 0430 Atari C.A.L.C.  
 (505) 897-4306 A..F Asylum

### New York

(212) 569-4118 ABCF The Midnight Caller  
 (212) 824-5512 ABCT 0266 Patch House  
 (315) 458-0118 A..E Backstairs  
 (516) 399-4252 A..M Star Scan (L.I.A.U.G.)  
 (516) 433-3309 A.CO Byteways  
 (516) 643-4963 AB.O Bandits Hideout  
 (516) 867-5654 .BCT The Shire  
 (516) 937-1455 A.CE B.A.C.K.  
 (518) 237-1232 A..E C.D.A.C.E.  
 (518) 475-1446 A..E The Soccer Base  
 (518) 793-0490 AB.T 0299 Critical Mass  
 (607) 692-2498 A..E The Enterprise  
 (716) 247-7157 A..O C.S.S. Support  
 (716) 247-8355 A..O Computer World  
 (716) 334-8232 A..F Cobblestone Manor  
 (716) 381-5139 A..O Moose  
 (718) 351-4304 A.CE Corner Pub  
 (718) 522-0768 ABCF 0467 Sherwood Forest  
 (718) 833-0828 ABCF 0669 Dateline

### North Carolina

(919) 425-9421 AB.E Center City Express

### Ohio

(216) 228-7335 A.CO Computer Professionals  
 (216) 376-0885 A..E Rubber City Atari  
 (216) 441-3816 .BCE D.C.S.  
 (216) 468-2759 A.CE Center Ice  
 (216) 582-1904 A.CE ST Nerd  
 (513) 233-9500 A..F 0410 A.C.E. Information  
 (513) 276-4158 AB.E Starbase  
 (513) 353-4098 AB.T 0689 Speedy's Raceway  
 (513) 528-5833 AB.T 0657 Round Table  
 (513) 528-7463 A..T 0658 Cin'Tari OnLine  
 (513) 574-5660 A..E Magic Kingdom  
 (513) 753-3001 .B.T 0681 Station  
 (614) 575-2135 A.CE Ultimate Connection  
 (614) 870-0085 A.CE Cool Wave

### Oregon

(503) 246-9712 A.CS 3cpu  
 (503) 254-1754 A.CO Missing Persons League  
 (503) 289-9429 A.CF 0670 Puddle City  
 (503) 297-6542 ABCF 0072 S.T.E.P.  
 (503) 686-3276 A..F 0690 Progressive Atari ST

(503) 873-7146 A..O Oak Circle

### Pennsylvania

(215) 261-0620 A..E A.C.U.T.E.  
 (215) 677-1370 A.CM Celler Dweller - N.E.A.T.  
 (215) 677-9721 A.CM Buffaloe's  
 (215) 750-9065 AB.F ST Emporium  
 (215) 755-0166 A.CT 0135 The Bat Cave  
 (215) 755-6743 ABCF 0483 ST World  
 (215) 776-7495 A..E Westex  
 (215) 879-8886 ABCT 0287 Starlight  
 (215) 942-3874 AB.F Threshold  
 (215) 945-0262 A.CM Star Station  
 (412) 331-2795 A.CT 0625 Phil's Hangout  
 (412) 481-5002 A.CE P.A.C.E.  
 (717) 675-4068 AB.E The Keep  
 (717) 765-8623 AB.E C & R  
 (717) 765-8994 A..E Sarge's  
 (717) 788-5665 AB.T 0099 Time Warp  
 (814) 825-9410 A..E Traveller's Inn  
 (814) 833-4073 A..F 0478 S.A.G.E.  
 (814) 946-3924 A..E New Sights and Sounds

### Rhode Island

(401) 295-2710 A..T 0345 R.A.M. Wasteland  
 (401) 621-5359 A..E R.I. A.C.E.

### South Carolina

(803) 469-6988 AB.F 0655 Wizzard's Castle  
 (803) 574-6738 A..F 0390 Bear's Den  
 (803) 576-6212 A..F Hyperspace I  
 (803) 788-7806 A..F 0538 Dragon Lair  
 (803) 851-3589 AB.E Mystery

### Tennessee

(615) 691-0113 A..O K.A.U.G.  
 (901) 873-3244 A.CE Doghouse-8

### Texas

(214) 251-1175 ABCE The Psychlo Empire  
 (214) 264-2415 A.CE Alein  
 (214) 278-6180 A.CE Vortex  
 (214) 613-7537 ABCT 0591 The Melting Pot  
 (214) 669-3144 ABCE 0627 Professional Forum  
 (214) 987-2494 A.CT The Best Of Both Worlds  
 (409) 539-6277 AB.E W.B.B.S. F.M.  
 (512) 523-0045 AB.T 0709 Excalibur  
 (512) 656-3261 A..E The Eagle's Nest  
 (512) 795-9175 AB.E Quantum Thump  
 (713) 333-1273 A.CO Musicians In Deep Insanity  
 (713) 480-9310 ABCF 0003 Atari-Oh!  
 (713) 586-9716 A.CE USS Kencom  
 (713) 688-9162 A.CF 0663 Anchor  
 (713) 729-7555 A.CF 0181 Bit Bucket #1  
 (713) 776-3699 A.CO Bit Bucket #2  
 (713) 827-8041 A.CF The Floppy Wizard  
 (713) 921-0550 A.CM H.A.S.T.E.  
 (713) 944-0108 A.CM Double Click Software  
 (713) 991-5105 A.CT 0406 Dark Side Of The Moon  
 (713) 992-3939 ABCF 0548 The Metal Shop  
 (817) 295-8400 AB.E Shade Tree Express  
 (817) 329-1125 A.CE Outland Station  
 (817) 573-4190 A..F Barsoom Project  
 (817) 778-2506 A..E Telephone Company

## National Calling through PC Pursuit

PC Pursuit, a service offered by U.S. Sprint, allows computer modem enthusiasts to very cheaply call 34 cities within the continental United States between the hours of 6:00 PM to 7:00 AM Monday thru Friday, and all day on weekends and national holidays.

Before 1986, Sprintnet's Public Data Network (PDN) served only business users and just after 5:00 PM the entire network would remain unused until the next day. After 1986 Sprintnet decided to offer an experimental service called PC Pursuit to fill in those unused hours. Back then, \$25 got the use of some or all of the five hundred non-business hours each month. Even though this service had no advertising, it quickly built up a large user base. So, in 1989 Sprintnet's executives decided to change and expand the service to three new account types. The first is the basic account, with thirty hours per month for \$30. A family account gives sixty hours for \$50. Finally, the handicapped account offers ninety hours per month for \$30. All three have a \$30 one time sign-on fee. One thing to keep in mind is that Sprintnet's primary users are businesses, so if your use strays onto business hours, they'll charge you \$14.00 an hour.

Using Sprintnet's packet-switching network is sort of like connecting to an online service at first, but once connected, the user tells the service to open a path through the network to an outdial location - then the user can call the bulletin board from the outdial modem, almost as though it were attached to his computer. Several thousands of users can send packets between nodes on a single line. This sharing of a line splits the cost of using that line among the users, but it causes a delay of about one second or more between the user and the bulletin board. This isn't a problem for users reading messages, but it slows down file transfers.

PC Pursuit offers access to online services as well. The one most commonly used by PC Pursuit users is Portal, which has a \$20 sign-up fee and a \$14 a month user fee. Portal offers access to files, messages bases, online chats, and conferences from Usenet, UUCP, ARPA, and Bitnet. There's no hourly charge for these services except the one for using a PC Pursuit account.

The BBS list in this issue of AtariUser identifies the BBS systems that can be reached with PC PURSUIT. For more information on PC PURSUIT, call 800-736-1130 (voice) from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Monday through Friday. You can call their 24 hour bulletin board at 800-877-2006. — John Lockard ■

### Utah

(801) 269-8780 ABCF 0633 Dark Star  
 (801) 272-4243 A.CF 0587 Acme  
 (801) 539-0605 A.CO The Only  
 (801) 565-0850 ABCF 0030 FACP-ST  
 (801) 967-8738 ABCE The Repair Shop  
 (801) 968-3921 A.CF 0078 Stun Bolt

### Vermont

(802) 524-9387 A..E Whispering Winds

### Virginia

(703) 250-7303 ABCF Merlin's Litterbox  
 (703) 354-6368 ABCF 0579 Dreaming City  
 (703) 425-5824 A.CO Hallucination  
 (703) 450-3910 A.CM A.R.M.U.D.I.C.  
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# AtariLand Calendar



**■ CeBIT, the world's largest computer show,** will be held March 10-16, 1992, in Hannover, Germany. Atari is expected to unveil at least one of a series of new computers. Watch for the APRIL issue of AtariUser for pictures and details!

**■ GLENCON 2, one of a series of technical and information conferences** sponsored by HACKS, the same group that puts on the Glendale Atari Faire, will have a CODEHEAD TECHNOLOGY conference on Saturday, March 28, 1992. Featuring John Eidsvoog and Charles F. Johnson, the conference will start at 10:30 AM, last about three hours, and be held in the 275 seat theatre above the Glendale Public Library's Main Branch, 222 East Harvard Street, Glendale, CA. Admission is FREE, but it is on a first come, first serve basis only. An open house will follow at The Computer Network, a local ATARI Computer Store at 1605 West Glenoaks Boulevard, Glendale, CA. Directions are

available from John King Tarpinian at (818) 246-7286.

**■ ACE '92, the Atari Canadian Exposition,** will be held April 4th and 5th as Atari Canada and the Toronto Atari Federation host a major event on or above the scale of last November's Chicago Computerfest by Atari. To be held at the Skyline Hotel on Dixon Road, near Pearson International Airport, ACE '92 will feature a 22,000 square foot convention area, an additional 7,000 square foot display and exhibit space, and 7 separate meeting rooms that will host a wide range of seminars, demonstrations and mini-concerts. On Saturday evening, a formal banquet will bring together local users with major figures in the present and future course of Atari. This is the third major convention that the Toronto Atari Federation has hosted in recent years. Atari Canada plans a dealer conference to run concurrently with the TAF show, offering dealers the option of attending and picking up the tab through dealer co-op. This is the second time Atari has held a Canada wide conference, and it may be that Atari Canada will use this opportunity to show some new products as well. Among the innovations at ACE '92 is an Atari Talent Show/Competition, with two categories for submissions: Music and Sound, with entries on cassette tape, and Graphics or Animation, with

entries spanning the possibilities of visual display. Prizes of \$700, \$200, and \$100 gift certificates will be awarded in each division. Entry, dealer, developer, and user group information packets are available from TAF, 5334 Yonge Street, Suite 1527, Toronto, ON M2N 6M2, or by phone at (416) 425-5357.

**■ The Boston Computer Society meeting of April 22, 1992,** will feature a special presentation and announcement of new hardware from Atari Corporation. Although the world will see Atari's new hardware first at the CeBIT show in Hannover, Germany, March 10-16, the BCS appearance will be the first US showing of a new Atari computer. According to Atari officials, a series of new computers will be introduced, one at a time, at computer events throughout 1992. The plan is NOT to use Atari-specific shows as a venue, as much more overall industry exposure will result in making the announcements at multi-brand events. The Boston Computer Society is a large and prestigious club with an active Atari contingent, and has been the venue for major product announcements by IBM and NeXT computer companies in the past. Atari made its own premier of the ST computer at a BCS meeting in 1985, and expects its new computers to cause as much of an industry stir as the revolutionary ST did

seven years ago. The presentation will be April 22, 7:30 PM, in the New England Life Hall, in the Copley Square Building, 225 Clarendon Street, Boston, Massachusetts. For Boston Computer Society information, phone (617) 252-0600.

**■ Mid-Indiana ST is making plans for MIST Atarifest IV** to be held in Indianapolis tentatively set for July 25, 1992. An annual strong midwest "small scale" show, last year's event brought over 500 individuals from surrounding states. Contact Dan Ward on GEnie (D.WARD10), by phone at 317-254-0031, or by US Mail at 1752 Alimingo Drive Indianapolis, IN 46260.

**■ The 1992 Southern California Atari Faire, known as the GLENDALE SHOW,** has been rescheduled to a date one week earlier than previously announced. This year's Glendale Show will be held on September 12 & 13, 1992. John King Tarpinian, president of The Hooked on ATARI Computer Knowledge Society (HACKS) and coordinator of the show says that the change was done as a courtesy to vendors who will wish to attend both the Glendale event and the WAACE show. Washington DC area WAACE recently announced their next show as being scheduled for October 10-11, 1992. Although the Glendale

dates were announced at the close of last year's show, WAACE has scheduled their event for the Columbus Day Weekend. As a result, the two major shows would have been only three weeks apart, despite the repeated requests of Atari's Bob Brodie that all events be planned for a minimum of 30 days separation. Tarpinian found that a recent cancellation in the Glendale Civic Auditorium calendar allowed him to move his show up one week and provide additional time between shows. For more information about the Glendale Show, contact John King Tarpinian at (818) 246-7286. Vendor information kits will be mailed starting in May.

**■ The Washington Area Atari Computer Enthusiasts are currently planning the 1992 W.A.A.C.E Atarifest,** which has traditionally been the largest East coast Atari show. The '92 event will be held on Columbus Day weekend, October 10th and 11th, once again at the Sheraton Reston Hotel in Reston, Virginia. An entirely new board of directors for WAACE has been elected, and they are soliciting input for what to include in their next show. Charles Hoffmann is now Acting President of WAACE Inc., and can be contacted via GEnie at address S.HOFFMANN, by phone at 703-569-6734, or by US Mail at 5908 Bayshire Road, Springfield, VA 22152-1146. ■



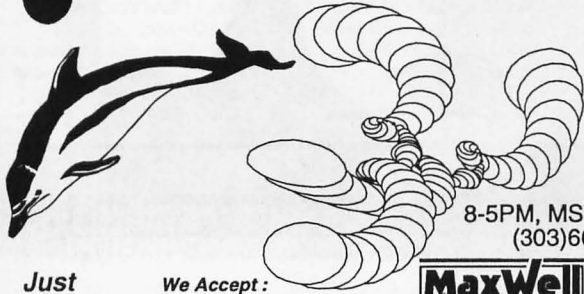
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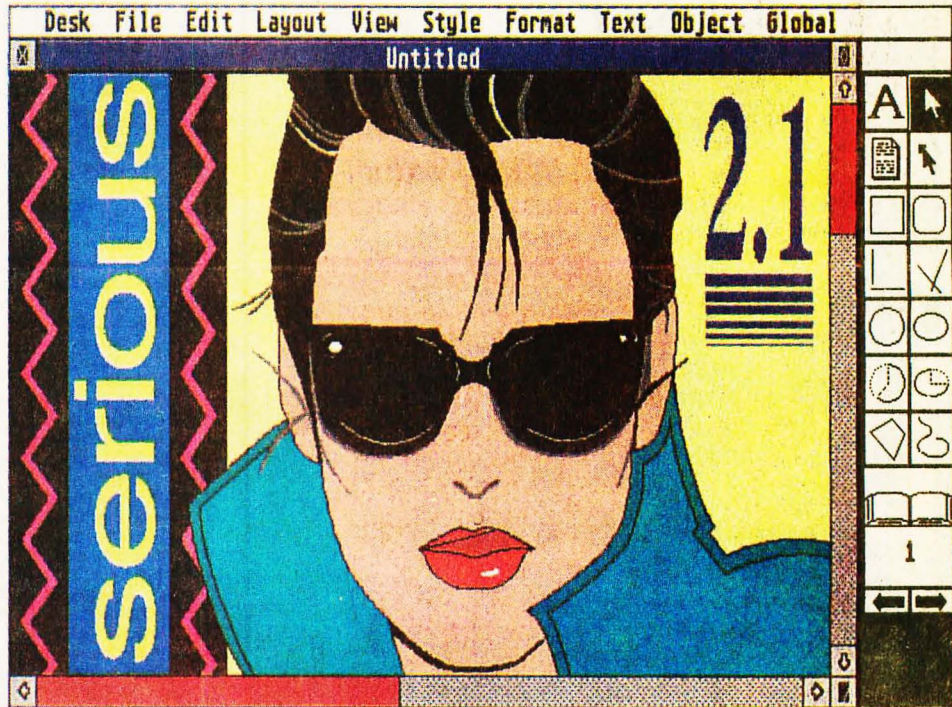
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