Editorial

Here we are again, how time flies, I hope that you have all sobered up after Christmas, and it was nice to see some of you at the Weston Show including Roland Hewson who I would like to thank the team. Those of you who couldn't make it missed a great day and many bargains. I see from the letters that you enjoyed the last issue, I hope that we have really got to the gist of things. I'm putting a little character into the text. David Rothery's last article in issue twelve was so riddled with mistakes as to make it unreadable. It is reprinted this month.

Many of you have written in with queries about New Era, etc. So I have reprinted an interview with Donald Morrison of Dragon Logic on page two. The more Smith's COMMS blew up this month!

Contrary to the opinion that Paul Grade thinks I have regarding Simon Jones, I believe that Simon put a lot of effort into the Dragon scene and developed from nothing a fine magazine which is an achievement for someone of his tender years. Get your facts right, Paul. An apology would be nice as well.

Editorial Address: Sunsoft Publications, PO Box 13, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 8BZ, UK
Published by Sunsoft Publications

125p 2 issues (edit 15p for postage)

It is important to realise that 6809 USER is an amateur magazine. It is not regulated anywhere, but it is fairly popular as a result of the enthusiasm of its contributors. We do not guarantee the accuracy of the contents. The opinion of some contributors is not necessarily that of the editor. We stock a variety of other publications, but these are not endorsed by Sunsoft Publications unless otherwise stated.

If you need help or advice regarding the above contact the editorial address.

Contributions to 6809 USER will be accepted for publication in this magazine.

Sunsoft Publications

Contents

Page 1 - Editorial
Page 2 - Donald Morrison of Dragon Logic interviews your editor.
Page 3 - Your letters are here with some OS-9 details.
Page 4 - Adventure's Lair is back this month. Robert Clemenson returns with a solution of SRALAG.
Page 5 - Librarian update. More news from the real world of computing.
Page 7 - Ken Smith's interesting article about Computing in general, with a strong backing on Dragon's.
Page 8 - Roland Hewson a great contributor to the Dragon home computer gives us some news about our much appreciated micros.
Page 11 - K. Redhead looks into the future, mentioning the Targon
Page 12 - Your Classified ads.
Page 14 - Software Reviews and Software Update.
Page 15 - M Oglehorn is back again with more Hardware for the Dragon.

Editor's Interview

Donald Morrison of Dragon Logic interviews Roger Quaintance

Q: Why did you set up Sunsoft and what did you hope to achieve by doing so?
A: I have for many years written specialist programs for my own use and also to tutor others, my wife and I ran an animal rescue centre and when ways were being sought to finance the question of selling my software was raised. Enter SUNNY SOFT, the receipts from which go to SUNNY DOG ANIMAL RESCUE.

Q: Why did you make a personal choice to buy a Dragon?
A: I first bought a Dragon when they were being sold off cheaply following the demise of Dragon Data. It was simply the best value for money (as time has proved) around at the time.

Q: What experience did you have with the Dragon prior to setting up SUNNY SOFT?
A: Many years using and programming for my own enjoyment.

Q: How do you rate the Dragon as a games machine?
A: Not being familiar with the facilities and games available on other computers, I can only say that I am surprised that so much has been got out of such a little memory. My main interest is utility programs for radio and business, word processors, spreadsheets, graphics packages etc.

Q: What do you like best about the Dragon?
A: The answer to that is simple: being a programmer. The real winning point is the people who use it.

Q: Do you think that Dragon users are doing enough to keep the Dragon alive?
A: A few people are doing a lot, but a lot of people are doing very little, every Dragon owner owes it to himself to contribute something on a regular basis, most people think that just subscribing to a magazine is sufficient, it is NOT, without feedback, in the form of letters/articles, no magazine can survive and without them the situation will soon be reached.

Q: Has your work with the Dragon been an enjoyable experience and what has made it worthwhile?
A: I must have found it enjoyable; to have taken over the 6809 User, as no one would take on that amount of work if they didn't. What really makes it all worthwhile is the wonderful friends that I have made, even if they didn't buy me a drink at Hove.

Q: In the light of the recent takeover of New Era, could you explain the reasoning behind your decision to buy the company?
A: I have not taken over New Era, I have not bought 6809 USER. I have taken over the production of 6809 USER, which is a totally different thing. My reason for doing so was simply to continue the magazine and to improve service available to other Dragon users.

Q: What exactly does the deal with Simon Jones involve?
A: There was no "DEAL" as such. A sum of £5 for each outstanding issue was passed over with the membership list. This sum irrespective of what was actually paid by contributors was all that Simon had left. I am now responsible for 6809 USER. All previous debts, if any, and other NEW ERA's products remain the responsibility of SIMON JONES. I did expect to receive the FULL amount paid by contributors, but it will not affect the future of the magazine.

Q: How confident are you that the decision to take control of New Era was the right one?
A: I do not control New Era, I am advised by Simon that the company is no longer trading. With regard to 6809 User I have no doubt that the decision was the right one.

Q: How do you respond to critics who describe New Era's literature as being economical with the truth and do you fear the controversy 6809 User has inevitably stirred has affected its standing in the Dragon community?
A: I can only assume that the so-called critics have not read the magazine lately. I am not prepared to print anything that I have not personally checked. I cannot comment on previous policy as I had no control over it. My job is to produce an interesting and informative magazine. I will do my utmost to achieve without rubbing other publications, or entering into personal backbiting.

Q: How confident are you that you can successfully revitalise 6809 User?
A: How can you revitalise something that is so vibrant and successful what I intend to do is to increase our overseas coverage, which at present is only five other countries, and to further improve content and presentation.

Q: How do you rate the Dragon as an alternative to the machines available today?
A: As long as I am able to do all the things that I want to and the Dragon has no interest in looking at other machines, however many go faster stripes they have.
Extra Comands

Excellent! The only way to describe edition 13 of 6809 User. Well done to you all.

Now, I wonder if you would like to include these notes on some extra MAJOR facilities that aren't in the

Dragon manual.

1. I expect that everyone is familiar with the function MIDS, but the manual makes no mention of the

STATEMENT MIDS.

MIDS($e,$s,$a,$b)="string"

Try X$="ABCD"

then MIDS($s,$s,$a,$b)="X"

this will change X$ to "AKEDC"

2. I think everyone knows about BM, used to enter number in HEX form, but how many know about 80

(latter O) used to enter OCTAL numbers. Again, no mention of this in the manual.

2. New for some additional BASIC editing commands:

' LST as changed, remain in
e X Edit mode.

'A REST edit session and enter changes. Like pressing ENTER, but line is not displayed.

' QUIT editing without entering changes. An OK prompt is displayed, does this imply a manual start?

SHIFT + UP ARROW, leave any edit mode, not just INSERT as implied in the manual.

Try an eternal shame this was typed on a COMPAG 285 (what's a COMPAG 285? - Ed) compatible.

but then I haven't got a WP. or Printer for the Dragon so I hope I'll get one (sort of...). Ok?

At the best for now and best wishes for Christmas & The New year.

David R Marsden, 67 Fourth Avenue, Garston, Watford, WD2 5GH.

Ed - Thanks for the information. Company? What is that? How about getting a Centronics cable and Edittext from Prestons and get your letters printed via your trusty Dragon and printer?

Praise for 6809 User

Received today my copy of issue 13. I had a shock when I first saw it thought it was Dragon User come to life, the front page is almost identical.

First impressions? WOW! last time we have now a professional style magazine, well laid out, confident, and readable. The lines of which have not been seen since the demise of Dragon User. Those who have given up subscriptions do not know what they are missing.

The first problem will be in letting them know and getting them back, the second will be increasing the number of contributors.

I see that Mr. Cleghorn has responded to my suggestion re the Terminal Emulator (edition 9). Will he be expanding it on the lines of having 80 column terminal, now no I do with these the obvious will be to let text output to the new 80 column format. But what about AMPC model 2 is in use around here? Also perhaps on your next edition could provide some more detailed description on the actual connections, does this sensor computer need to have a comms port as well? I notice that he was selling all his gear as well, hopefully not leaving the Dragon scene altogether! I also noticed the listing at $1600 which is the first graphics page, (except when DOS is started) then it is moved up one, can I start the listing from $6000 so that I can use the disc drive still. Or use a program which copies DOS to the cartridge area.

Frank.J.Fisher, 29 Thornham Road, Guildford, Kent, ME7 8RE.
Ed - Thanks Frank. Martin reassures us that he is not leaving the Dragon World.

OS News

Some information of interest for all 6809 users:

1. The 6809 user group previously run a Milton Keynes based operating system, well, and running in Köln, it's run by Burghard (Butz) Klindel. Butz's English is rather poor but after a year or so (not yet) I wish my German was up to his standard. You can contact him at Leipziger Ring 119, Erlstadt, West Germany. Phone from UK.

Butz has already produced a couple of discs, and is looking for more software for the next issue. Butz has a Coco with Level 2, and it's very nice indeed, especially with the hard disc.

2. For people using the 68000 OS as well as the 6809 version, there are more goodies Barry Knapton and Malcolm Cowen have been improving the interface, and one of the nice things on offer is an emulator to use a dragon as a 68000 system as a terminal, as well as being used as its own right. It's based on a program from Chris Joly, and it makes two good systems, in their own right and even better one. If you have a 68000 OS system or know of any others please contact either Barry or Malcolm Cowen a ring in Manchester.

or write to: 23, Bristol Ave, Levenham, Ipswich, Suffolk, MI9 3NU. If you are interested in improving any OS system we want to know your

Malcolm Cowen, Manchester.

Ed - This is good news for 6809 users. The information supplied by Barry and Malcolm is to have a comms port as well, hopefully not leaving the Dragon scene altogether! Also noticed the listing at $1600 which is the first graphics page, (except when DOS is started) then it is moved up one, can I start the listing from $6000 so that I can use the disc drive still. Or use a program which copies DOS to the cartridge area.

David Rothery replies to the letter of Sentos Mendus regarding the multitasking facilities of 6809E microprocessor. However, it came too late to be included in this edition.

Here we are again trying vainly to get something down on paper and sent in before the deadline passes and our enthusiastic editor sends his hate squad to collect. (You should see them.)

First off, there's Tim Lees down there in Brighton (hope you enjoyed the show Tim), now Tim tells me that he has been doing some work on a printer for over a year now and can't get out to get a pint, at least I think that's what he wants to get out for. Now the said printer seems to be found in channel 8's TIME MACHINE.

Unfortunately I don't happen to have that adventuring as yet but, riding to the rescue on a large brown envelope is TCM WILKINSON who kindly sent me a few maps, solutions, one of which just happens to be called TIME MACHINE. So without further ado here goes: Assumed you found and took the pistol and flashlight from the house before entering the machine then from outside you should TAKE SHOWER (required elsewhere) PRESS STONE, GO OPENING (the door now closes on you, right Tim) LIGHT FLASH, GO NORTH, SOUTH, GET ROCK, GO SOUTH, FULL LEVER, TAM LEVER, THE MOST IS that the rock's for G, get your S, GO NORTH, NORTH, GO NORTH, DOOR, GUEME STATE, GET PRISON, GO DOWN, SHOOT DOGE, GO OPENING, GO SOUTH, GO PORTAL. You could get the gun from the machine.

Now having got that out of the way, modestly forbids but a few of you may have seen my name as the winner of the quiz the last time round. Well this is just to say that the prize arrived on the doorstep last night and as all the lessons have been proceeding (apart from my own) there were no errors as high, is that what computer does?). Thanks a bunch lady. The solution to the month is STAGLASS by Dragon Data. The scenario is you are locked in the hot box (as a punishment) for not writing to this column) in a prison of war camp and must escape, and as the camp has been evacuated prior to an air raid you just have to be found about.

To get out of the box you must first make a chart of anything you have with you. On an empty cardboard box you can pick up the lock and start your race against time. The first move is south then up. You find a power switch supplying the electrical fence so you might as well push the switch and cut the power to the fence (you might not have time to come back and cut the junior, or you won't). Go down and west drop the needle and pick up the axe. This is no time to rest so going North then East you find yourself in the shower but where you espy a lever jacket, property of one Coll Hogan (anyone remember Hogan's Heroes)? Marked on the jacket is a bar set til 60000, so remembering this number proceed West South, East and use the combination to open the lock then South, West, North, you should be able to open it. Take the can opener proceed South East, North, West, North, East, East, examine the toolbox and get the tin open the tin get Ham then drop both tin and opener and go West South, and drop the ham (this feeds the dog thus preventing it from tasting you). While the dog is otherwise occupied take the football and head for the police hospital going North West, West, East. Now examine the football and look. Look on the table to find a pair of scissors and use them to cut the lace and release the key which you should now obtain. Drop the football, lace and scissors and go East, North, West, North then examine the locker. Ignoring the box close the locker and examine it again and you will find a knife, get the knife and head South East, South East, East, North open the padlock on the door with the key then open the door and go North. Move the beds and look them and lift the lid and look again. Throw the lid away and then lift the footboards and do something with them. Get Down, East and dig tunnel, you up, then you dig and write your war memories and live it up. Now it's a little while before Christmas so why not make a break for it. The Escape is kept in a leather case but I doubt if anyone now has the key to this puzzle or where the lock is kept.!

Tips this time round:

1. Don't bet on the horses unless you can afford to lose.

2. KEYS OF THE WIZARD... to get the scrolly you need the rope, and it's not the dragons sword you need the lantern.

3. DEATH MINES OF SIRUS... code for the first adventure is CBW and for the second is TLL.

4. GOLDFISH BATON... take the fish, head for it with slugs... to pass theizard WAVE QUARTZ.

5. SORCERER OF CLAYMORE CASTLE... don't use the Seashell Spinel to get inside the castle.

6. GO for a water entrance instead.

Well that's it this time around, slightly shorter but still jam packed with rubbish. Now on to get on with trying to solve the rest of the worlds problems and await the deluge of mail I feel sure the post office is stocking somewhere. HAPPY ADVENTURING and DON'T FORGET TO MAKE THOSE MAPS.
LIBRARY UPDATE - COMPUTER NEWS
Sotos Mandalos et al give more Computing News

New Use for 8086-based PCs
Clients mean to use 8086-based PCs in New York have produced an 8086-based PC incorporating 1 MB of RAM and software, selling for $1,955. Target market includes home and education sectors.

IBM Lay Offs in the Wind
John Akers, in a recent analysis briefing given in New York predicted that IBM would be taking a hit of $2,300 million. This means that 10,000 staff would be made redundant.

India
An Indian Govt agency, Electronic and Technology Development Corp, plans to manufacture a PC priced at $600 and sell over 1 million in the next 5 years.

Hungary gets Cellular Phones
In a deal struck between US West Inc, Denver and Magyar Post, the Hungarian PTT worth $10m in the first phase. Hungarians will get the benefits of cellular telephone starting in 1991.

Next: Steve Jobs make bullish claims
Steve Jobs, president of NEXT claims that the ship will bring shipping 'hens of thousands' of workstations in 1990.

Christmas Cheer from High Tech Santa
Even Santa Claus has gone high-tech in Lapland. Computers now form 144 nations which arrive at the rate of 400 per day. Bicycles are sent out in 8 language. Santa also has a videophone line in Finnish for children studying in schools over Christmas. What can be next? Watch out Rudolph, you might soon be replaced by a Japanese robot!

WEATHER PICTURES BY RADIO
Chris House makes a description of the Dragon and a weather satellite

With all the attention being paid to satellite television by the owners of the more up-market, Computers, a somewhat overlooked aspect, the means of picture transmission, has tended to be overlooked. Facsimile or a fax is for short is used by many offices and shops to send documents to remote locations by telephone.

Until recently a fax machine was a complicated mechanical contraption, consisting of a large drum around which was wrapped the paper for transmission. At the receiving end, the drum was fitted with a sheet of light sensitive paper. Both drums were rotated at the same speed and the picture was built up by lines. A scanning head moved across the paper in the case of the receiving unit the signal varied the brightness of the lamp, producing a spot of light about 0.1 to 0.2 mm in diameter. The need for precision mechanical components meant that the fax receiver was an almost impossible task for the amateur to produce. If you look at a fax signal you will find that it bears a remarkable resemblance to the cassette system used by home FM radio. The picture is converted into just two tones. Black and white, and is perfectly adequate for line drawings and documents. These two levels are transmitted as a frequency shift keying signal with a centre frequency of 1020 kHz, and corresponding to 1 millisecond of 1 MHz.

As it can take as much as 12 minutes to send a picture you can see that the receiver must have a stable timebase. Enter the Dragon - its crystal-controlled timebase is stable enough (just) and still in a FSK circuit is ideal for decoding the FAX signal, add a dot matrix printer and a communication type receiver and you have a FAX receiver. The picture is in 8k pixels and you must have a Dragon and if you want to save the pictures you receive you will need a disk system. One other item you will need is the software and this where WEFAX comes in. Unless someone knows different this is the only FAX program for the Dragon, it started life in America and was written to run on the CoCo. The CoCo version will run on a cassette based Dragon system, but you cannot save the pictures on the DR Ranger only print it with an EPSON MX50 fitted with Grafix. I re-wrote this American version to enable it to run on a Dragon 64, with some other changes made. The program is capable of running the WEFAX picture into a Hi Res Dragon screen and two example pictures. Each picture takes up 54k so that only two can be saved on each disk, even so there is little room for anything other than the WEFAX program on the disk. The extension speaker used for the radio is connected to the tape input socket on the Dragon, no interface being needed. After connecting an external and running the program you are ready to go.

Tune to FAX station, a list of some is given in the manual, and listen on all controls via the joystick. Three transmission rates are provided for, 40, 50, and 60 Hz. Once received the picture is displayed in nine Hi Res PMODE4 screens. The picture can be saved to disk and printed, two pictures can be saved on each disk. Pictures can also be viewed on video that should the wrong sidestand have been selected and as well as loading a complete picture one of any of the nine sidestand screens can be loaded without fouling the screen in memory. A few example pictures show, the actual size depends on your printer, but varies from about 3/2s to full A4 size. Printers supported include the Tandy DMP 10S/6 and DMP 110, EPSON's, and other Epson Compilables.

Computing in Amateur Radio
R Quintaine gives us details on CW

Well I hope that you have now completed the equipment and are itching what you can do with it. Mike KK4BMK of Goveker Software can supply you with a number of programs which work with the Morse, and a Morse to wave converter costs E10 for the tape version (this contains instructions to enable you to transfer the programs to disk. There are two programs on the tape, a Morse Tutor which allows you to practice receiving Morse at various speeds, and gives you the choice of single letters or words. A number of programs which allow you to adjust the time delay between characters. A superb aid to learning or just keeping yourself up to speed (this program does not need the demod unit). The second program is a Morse Transceiver. You can make use of this without the demod unit to test your own sending. For this you can connect a morse key between the 0v and 5v lines of the printer port as shown in the last month's diagram. A guide is given on the bottom status line of the average length of your dots, dashes, space between characters and gap between letters, so you can adjust your rhythm for the optimum accuracy. If you send radials, rubbers will appear on the screen, but if you are receiving properly it will match your speed and appear in front of you MAGICI.

I have been using the programs for a couple of weeks now and am able to send at around ten words per min., with 90 per cent appearing correctly, the other ten per cent are my mistakes not the program. Using the demod unit you can receive transmission via your communications receiver, which is very good if you may be used to the sound faster than you can receive or write down the incoming messages. There are no facilities missing in this program, you can review, save, recall, add to memory, and even send the program to send Morse, but a further piece of circuitry is needed, more a radior and a transistor. Your own circuit is incorporated into the program so that you can send standard Q1 calls etc with minimum keypresses and NOW TO FAX-
WHO'S THE CRAZY ONE?

Kon Smith says that the Dragon is all you need.

Have you ever had the feeling that either you are going mad or the rest of the world has beaten you to it? I get it these days. I started reading one of the computer magazines and within a couple of pages I started to doubt my sanity. It usually comes on about half way through the hardware reviews where there is bound to be a bersheen of the latest Xenon Gargan-Teplan. That is, if you have ever heard of how many megabytes it has and how many pixels make up the screen display. When he or she gets to the price tag, usually the best word's legs, that is usually treated as an insignificant. In many cases it would take me three to six months to earn that much money. Why then am I expected to believe that it is a good value for money does it fly, now the law, the line, it is a computer.

As you can see I recently attended the Alternative Micro Show. I quite enjoyed it and I was able to understand that anyone expecting a gadget show could be disappointed. However, the only review I could find in the general computer press had such a tangle of sour grapes that I could hardly believe what I was hearing. After making comments about supposed bargains, consisting of old monitors and out of date printers the reviewer went on to say that "some stalls were trying to make out that the only way one could save was to pay the Star decorate a bargain price". Now, I have no idea about the price that a good colour printer would be offered at 50% or less than the usual price, let alone the advertising slogan is "new"

I don't know why it is that my friends call me when they can't make their new machines perform properly. Maybe I have had my Dragon long enough to learn something.

RODAN'S RAMBLES

Roland Hawson well known from his work on Dragon User talks about the Dragon micro

As David Frost would say, "Hello Good Morning and Welcome" it is a good time news that Roger has agreed to continue to run the 6800 User and will improve its format.

Not to be out-done, he has prevailed upon me to write something about the Dragon. I have not been able to think of the Dragon in relation to the Dragon. In the past I have always attempted to express myself in terms of Programs etc. not given time to write as I have. It's rather sad saying "If only I had a thousand pounds to spend" and then followed it with "you see it is a million;"-

Well for the first attempt I'd like to refresh everybody's memory to happier days - Do you remember the first edition of Dragon Magazine in December 1983? It was aimed and objectives were simple. "to help Dragon users with information and also to help them contact other users to meet and exchange ideas". Unfortunately, the wrong things happened and we all hoped that when GEC's Michael took on the Marketing of Dragon Data's products, accompanied by its line for 6800 and a new professional machine, we were all 'saved'.

Not so, as in November 1984, less than one year after the launch of Dragon World we found that GEC had negotiated cut price deals with both Verbatim and Dragon Giant machines. With an actual cost of about £500, we were told by GEC that it had an agreement with Eurohard to sell the products. Yes you heard - Eurohard. What products? At the 6800 colour show Saturday 17th November, whilst trying out the new professional machine with it's built in drives etc. etc. the news came of the demise of Dragon in the U.K. and that it had actually been sold to Eurohard. The year 1984 and the name of this company were not равнодушны with the world of Dragon and Computers. However Amstrad came out and did so much of the promotion of the computer. Then soon after that Roger Overell wrote about 1984 and Big Brother, but he did not foresee the shackles of computer power that was to follow. The subsequent emergence of IBM compatible products. Nevertheless, Dragon...
FLEX - OS9

David Rothery gives more information on these two Popular Operating Systems.

You will not have failed to notice that my last article was liberally sprinkled with parenthesised comments and the initials 'sc'. Now what silly sot would do a thing like that? (Answer: a drunken sot.) See here, Sotos, you can't escape a lot of confusion with your interjections (if you think I am using quite a long word it's just to see if you get the spelling right). First, 'sot' is a useful word but a special kind, as its name implies. Using one of the most interesting features of OS9, its ability to 'pipe', you can link utilities together so that the output of one goes to the input of the next. Thus:

d | sort | col 6

which gives a sorted directory arranged in 6 columns, 'd' is directory utility which outputs one word per line. This 'sorts' into alphabetical order, then output into /dev/c0t which puts it into whatever columns you specify. This 'sort' and 'col' are filters with an input and an output, just like your coffee filter! And if you can't find any of the above programs on your OS9 disk, you obviously haven't set for PDI, one of the disks I was offering last time.

You will remember 'sort' also offered to walk in the House show I could multitask on a 68020. He knows he was safe, as the show was only a day or so after publication, but if you care to walk in Grose instead, Sotos, I will happily demonstrate 'multitasking' by printing a mailshot (i.e. multiple printings of a letter) where the names of different recipients are inserted from a previously prepared file at the same time as I am writing a new letter with 'Style'. Granted, memory limitations mean I can't write the Great English Novels on it, but this is meant to be used as a memory aid. The 68020 is so fast you don't notice it doing two jobs except during disk accesses. Also, I am told you can link two Dragons or CoCos and both of them can use the same program at the same time, since OS9 program zapping has been disabled. However, I don't believe this myself, and have no reason to believe that leading producers on the OS9 scene like Dale Fickel are liar! So get yer boots on, Sotos!

The big OS9 news of the month is that I received Newsdesk from the OS9 User Group. This is the first since Bughead Kinski took over with Martin Vorne's blessing. Most of you will know that Martin got himself snowed under and stopped sending regular issues about twelve months ago. The Newsdesk follows the usual pattern, with a few letters and a number of utilities mostly contributed by D. Tellerman. These are mostly updates of the original OS9 commands such as dir, copy etc., but with extra facilities or improved efficiency. There are no longer articles, but instructions are given for the new commands and also the sources for you to play around with. A bit thinner on material than some of the earlier disks, but a very worthwhile acquisition for any OS9 owner. So do join the group, and give Bughead as much support as possible, both morally and also by contributing material which you can. Bughead's address is: Bughead Kinlorn, Leizinger Ring 22a, D-5042 Etstadt, West Germany.

I believe two more disks are already prepared.

The 6809 is so fast you don't notice it doing two jobs except during disk access.

Now many people tend to type long pathlist to access files, so that with the Newsdesk they type:

```
list /d1/library/instructor/treeprog
```

to get information on 'treeprog'. If you want a lot of instructions it is easier to type

```
'cd /d1/library/instructor/
```

cuts the working directory to INSTRUCT, and then 'list tree'. You can then list any other files which are in the library under the heading 'instructor'.

```
d1 (disk name)
```

```
CMOS LETTERS LIBRARY NEWS ARTS HELP
```

CMOS INSTRUCT SOURCE

tree (and other files)

If all this makes little sense to you I don't know how. It helps if all actual files except the PC in which we are interested, and shows how the pathnames are traced by CMOS.

So now suppose you get this Usergroup disk and you have no idea what's on it. I will show you a system where few people seem to make good use of which is inevitably suspect, but once you get the hang of it. First do a 'ch d/d1'. Now type 'dir' and you will get a list of the directories on the PDI ST from CMOS to HELP. Now to get further down the LIBRARY path type 'cd library followed by dir'.

Why do this? The directories you are in are all the directories you have seen, except the ones. So you will be looking at the working directory which is /d1. To start with, So

'list /d1/list /d1/LETTERS'

then every time you type something like

'/d1/red'

it is equivalent to typing 'list /d1/LETTERS/red'. The only advantage is that the shell takes rather more memory, but this is offset by the fact that you no longer need to keep looking at all your lists. As Sotos has its own error message device built in.

I have written on so long about OS9 that FLEX users will be beating their hair out! (Or should be, as I see that they semi-parametrically have more than one.) I promise that next time FLEX will have the lion's share with a review of FLEX COPUL. I also promise to be nice to Sotos (no-one would be daffy enough to offend someone who has to type this lot!).

Now using a hard disk or have put all your files on one 80 track disk and have only a single drive and have no 01! I suggested using 'dump' to find where the programmer had written 01 and changing it to 010 or whatever. A more sophisticated aid is to change 010 to 011. This means that whatever drive you are using, the program will always go to the root directory on that disk (unless you are writing on the directory tree). The dot system is certainly useful.
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

K Redhead puts the Dragon first among equals and looks to the future.

I believe I speak for all my fellow Dragon and Tandy synthesizers when I ask the Editorial Team at 6809 User to accept our thanks and congratulations of their efforts to produce a magazine for us in the vacuum left by the demise of Dragon User. I am certain that given the right impetus, there is every reason to suppose that 6809 User will eventually replace and perhaps even surpass Dragon User in terms of quality and content - not to mention subscriber levels.

But not yet. The impetus I referred to above will be generated and sustained only by the overall level of professional display by the magazine and the equally critical level of response to it in the form of subscriber numbers and participation. Unfortunately, this is the classic “chicken and egg” dilemma: a quality magazine of necessity incurs significant overheads in terms of time and production costs, which in turn require a sufficiently large subscriber base to justify and support them. On the other hand, potential subscribers will not be willing to part with their cash in exchange for a magazine which is not of a sufficiently high standard, and thus a self-defeating downward spiral is formed.

In my view, therefore, the future success and continuance of 6809 User is essentially dependent upon preventing such a downward spiral developing once allowed to do so, the resulting spotty trend will lead upon itself until the magazine is eventually forced to cease publication.

As far as the magazine itself is concerned, it’s good and improving steadily, but it can be better still. A wide-ranging change to A4 format, for example, will not only give greater scope for layout and design, but will also bring it into line with publications devoted to other computers. In addition, may I present the following pointers for consideration:

a) An increased use of colour and pictures.

b) Having the magazine professionally printed on high quality glossy paper.

c) Investigating the possibility of persuading enthusiastic contributors to Dragon User, such as Gordon Lee and Brian Cadger, to resume their columns in 6809 User on a regular paid basis.

d) Encouraging contributions from readers, whether letters, articles, queries or programs, again paying appropriate fees.

e) Resuming monthly as opposed to bi-monthly publication.

f) Bringing the existence of the magazine to the other as wide a potential readership as possible by advertising in other publications, such as Computer Mart.

g) Finally, care must be taken with editing and proof reading so that printing errors and spelling mistakes are reduced to an absolute minimum, as these are irritating and detract from the overall impression.

I am aware that all this is asking a great deal, and would entail 6809 User developing from a semi- to a fully professional magazine. Well why not? If the stated intention to replace Dragon User is to be taken seriously, then it is my contention that editorial policy ought to be developed along these lines. Several subscriptions need to be increased to provide the required finance, to be, I for one would be willing to pay more in return for receiving a quality magazine in the style of Dragon User in its early days, and I am sure that other readers feel the same way, as for producing the magazine in tape or disc form, I must confess I find myself in two minds on the subject. I accept the points made in the Sept/Oct issue in favour of the idea but I on the other hand, having it in printed form makes it far easier to sit back, relax and enjoy a good read. Personally, I would prefer the continuation of the printed version, with perhaps an occasional tape or disc included as way of supplement. At this point, it become appropriate to look at the Dragon scene in general. The users base is growing, as a result of Software Houses and hardware suppliers discontinuing their products and through the users themselves gradually abandoning the Dragon in favour of more modern computers. We may question the wisdom or necessity of this in many cases, but we are constrained to recognize hard facts. It seems to me, therefore, that attempting to produce and sell anything to such a market, be it software, manuals or anything else cannot be regarded as a realistic or sustainable venture. The necessity of halting and reversing this decline naturally follows, more especially now that Eurocard seems to have disappeared into the Burmuda Triangle, or whichever acronym might be thought by its logical conclusion. It becomes apparent that what is needed is a new computer, capable of running existing Dragon/Tandy software, and able to rival, for example, anything being produced by Amstrad or Atari.

With this in mind, I was much encouraged to read in the Sept/Oct edition of 6809 User that such a machine, the Dragon Targant, has been developed by Protect Systems, albeit still in prototype form. Its specification sounds impressive and promises to meet modern design and operating criteria (eg. 80 column screen and built-in drive), it may well prove to be the solution to the Dragon World’s problem.

In conclusion, I am still wondering whether or not PROTECT is financially viable in terms of setting up and maintaining the bulk production and marketing of the TARGANT that I am advocating. If it is, well and good but, if not, maybe the Enterprise Initiative Scheme could provide the necessary funds. But what about ordinary Dragons? why should we not put our money where our mouths are? Say we all contributed $10 to the venture, even taking or depleted numbers into consideration, this would raise a respectable sum.

And the second requirement? Simply this will be to intend to produce and sell PROTECT to Dragon HQ, and when ready, a new ready-to-run Dragon briefly to be the Dragon’s last chance of survival. Faint hearts, and scoffers can stop reading at this point. But to those of you who, like myself, want to see the decline in the Dragon’s fortunes reversed, I put the following suggestion, namely, that the Dragon Targant should be developed and put into production as soon as possible, supported by a vigorous marketing and publicity campaign to bring it to the attention of as wide a public as possible, and thus give retailers an incentive to stock it and Software Houses to take a renewed interest in supplying good programs for it.

Clearly, the technical expertise necessary to achieve this already exists within our ranks. Two further ingredients are required. The first is, obviously, working capital. I don’t know whether or not PROTECT is financially viable in terms of setting up and maintaining the bulk production and marketing of the TARGANT that I am advocating. If it is, well and good but, if not, maybe the Enterprise Initiative Scheme could provide the necessary funds. But what about ordinary Dragons? why should we not put our money where our mouths are? Say we all contributed $10 to the venture, even taking or depleted numbers into consideration, this would raise a respectable sum.

And the second requirement? Simply this will be to intend to produce and sell PROTECT to Dragon HQ, and when ready, a new ready-to-run Dragon briefly to be the Dragon’s last chance of survival. Faint hearts, and scoffers can stop reading at this point. But to those of you who, like myself, want to see the decline in the Dragon’s fortunes reversed, I put the following suggestion, namely, that the Dragon Targant should be developed and put into production as soon as possible, supported by a vigorous marketing and publicity campaign to bring it to the attention of as wide a public as possible, and thus give retailers an incentive to stock it and Software Houses to take a renewed interest in supplying good programs for it.

Tell me I’m not alone!

This, then, is a brief, if heated, view for the future of 6809 User and the computer it supports. I see a first rate professional magazine dedicated to a new, first-rate machine capable of meeting and beating the challenges posed by the likes of Commodore, Atari and the Amigas. Working in mutually supportive partnership, PROTECT and Software Houses engineers in general can, I believe, make this possible.

continued on previous page

Redhead looks to the future

continued from previous page

WANTED

Dragon 64/32 contact Pay Tott
Scribbler 111, Dynastar-Pascal for flex origins

PC Convert (to read Dragon/Dos disks on a PC)

FOR SALE

Tape software no longer used available for just 30p per tape to cover postage send SAT for list Ian Burford 79 Hatford Road, Stevenage, SG2 8SE.

Top quality "DX" CR Radio equipment, talk to the liner corners of the earth, INTERNATIONALLY. £50

Next issue... BBC style shorthand BASIC, Speed-up your programs with this utility from PAUL BURGIN.

Send all your classified ads to 6809 User!

Entreprise Initiative Scheme could provide the necessary funds. But what about ordinary Dragons? why should we not put our money where our mouths are? Say we all contributed $10 to the venture, even taking or depleted numbers into consideration, this would raise a respectable sum.

And the second requirement? Simply this will be to intend to produce and sell PROTECT to Dragon HQ, and when ready, a new ready-to-run Dragon briefly to be the Dragon’s last chance of survival. Faint hearts, and scoffers can stop reading at this point. But to those of you who, like myself, want to see the decline in the Dragon’s fortunes reversed, I put the following suggestion, namely, that the Dragon Targant should be developed and put into production as soon as possible, supported by a vigorous marketing and publicity campaign to bring it to the attention of as wide a public as possible, and thus give retailers an incentive to stock it and Software Houses to take a renewed interest in supplying good programs for it.

Tell me I’m not alone!

This, then, is a brief, if heated, view for the future of 6809 User and the computer it supports. I see a first rate professional magazine dedicated to a new, first-rate machine capable of meeting and beating the challenges posed by the likes of Commodore, Atari and the Amigas. Working in mutually supportive partnership, PROTECT and Software Houses engineers in general can, I believe, make this possible.

continued from previous page
SOFTWARE REVIEW

Program: Filing System (Tape)
Supplier: R & AJ Preston
Price: £1.99
Reviewer: Roland Henson

Sometimes when you receive a "new" program to review one is anxious to dash to the computer and try it immediately — otherwise one just doesn't feel like it. This was one of those times; compounded by the fact that the operators on the tape were stuck on the wrong way round, sadly. Even so, after some work and a bit of perseverance, perhaps, both tapes were printed wrongly. Having sorted out this basic problem (the program in machine code used the word BASIC in its literal sense), I tuned it in and tried again. This time I got an OM Error. Then, generally speaking, the display was still not satisfactory. What is more, the text was quite legible. However, I was lucky! On loading a screen displayed menu, it was obvious that there was no instructions with the file. If one selects Display Edit the response is Edit What? What a surprise! Clearly there was enough to enter the records but there were no fields defined. Ah well, lots started again on the other side with the project. Yes, that's much better this reveals a screen but...

Create Database
Math function
A Add new Field
Input
Output
Q Quit
Your choice?

Once into creating the database, the information you need to remember is the fields because it is not clear which one is a field name and then a character length. With an address therefor there is to be broken down over a number of fields because it would not accept a field name and one character length. It is to be noted that the program does not allow for the use of spaces in the field name. The maths function was more helpful and enabled a change of a record through records or to change records by a percentage.

Regrettably although perhaps if there are database boxes in a similar vein then I think that the setting up although simple was cumbersome and as the program is competing with programs such as

Filemaster and DRIS compared somewhat unavourably. Nevertheless as an absolute beginner to this program which is fairly sophisticated despite it's limited capacity it is surprisingly adaptable very easy to use and would if other alternatives were not in use prove extremely useful. If it were available on disk it might perhaps find more favour with me.

SOFTWARE UPDATE

New release from NDUG Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy a new adventure with an excellent parser that allows full sentences and actions, text. Full details to follow. (Always assuming that we get vetted review copy. Ed)

Slow but Sure, a new screen dump in BASIC so that you can alter the control codes to suit your purpose. From DRAGSOF, Mike Townsend's latest release, full details and review to follow.

Dragonline Services have split into two companies, Dragonline sales incorporating all of the software and PD Library has been taken over by programmer Robin Hollings, 1485 Oatley Road, Winton, Leicestershire, LE8-1DG. Andrew Hill, now to be known as AM Enterprises will still be running Dragonline magazine and is still at his Oatley Road address.

Although the Dragon's world is small, there are a good number of Software houses still supporting the Dragon. When Microdeal was around there was heavy advertising and marketing in order to get the people to know what the company offered in terms of programs. Often there was repetitive information, but that was good. The reader did not have to look at previous magazines to find what was available.

Also Dragon User mentioned in the NEWS Column that companies should advertise through the magazine in so that people will know that they still exist and also to list their programs. However, this is not done at the moment. The only magazines to advertise are the 6809 User, the NDUG Update and possibly the Dragonline and Dragon Logic magazines. Pam D'Arcy mentioned that advertising in Dragon User was good despite a reader's criticism that there were too many adverts.

It is obvious that we need to know by the companies what they have to offer.

THE LIFE OF MICKEY

Martin Cleghorn is back again with more Hardware for the Dragon

To explain the advantages of a pointing system to someone who has not used one, it is a bit like explaining the beauty of an English garden to someone who is colour blind. Until you have used a WIMP* system and mouse you just don't know what you are missing.

There are a number of pointing systems: digitising tablets, trackballs, lightpen, touch sensitive screens, the flat glass area button but the most popular is the good old mouse. Even the humble mouse comes in dozens of varieties but basically they come in two groups, serial and bus. The bus mouse connects in parallel to a bus which is available to the computer bus, the serial mouse (no, not TV's DASS bus) data to the computer using an RS232C serial port. I have not come across a mouse which would easily interface with a Dragon but serial mice will work on any computer as long as you have a serial port.

THE WORKINGS

The most common mouse workings is a rubber coated ball which moves two detectors (X,Y) as the mouse moves. This information is passed to the computer in 3 bytes every time there is a movement or a button is pressed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PICKING YOUR MOUSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| All mice are not equal!!! some have two buttons, some have three or four or even a complete numeric pad. Some are more sensitive than others (no I don't mean that way). Sensitivity is measured in DPI that is dots per inch, the higher the DPI the more sensitive the mouse. Sensitivity ranges from 20 to 500 DPI the standard (if there is one) is 200 DPI which is plenty sensitive for the 256/200 resolution of the Dragon. Clever software can be used to make a mouse more sensitive the smarter it is moved. A working area of 5" x 4" is plenty for even the most detailed work. The mouse I invested my hard earned cash in is a Tandy make mouse (cat no. 256-14) which is listed at £4.50 but as with most Tandy goods there is always a sale! This weed based mouse comes in nice shade of grey (or black), two buttons and a sensitivity of 200 DPI.

CONNECTING IT UP

The Tandy mouse comes with a metre long tail in a 9 pin DIN socket but only 5 are connected: 2-RX data, 3-TX data, 4-0119, 5-2019, 6-RTS. The mouse takes

If you have constructed any hardware for the Dragon then get in contact with 6809 USER, so that we can publish it.

---

*WIMP* stands for Windows, Icons, Menus and Pointers.
Editor’s Interview

Q. How serious a setback do you feel the demise of Dragon User has proved to one?
A. What came first the chicken or the egg, the decline of interest and support resulted in the demise of Dragon User. That is a fact. The setback to the world as a whole is neither more nor less than to question, to stimulate interest, but many other publications are trying to fill the gap between them. I am sure that they will.

Q. Have you any new software titles nearing completion?
A. I very much doubt that I shall have to time to write any more programs for the foreseeable future. As my time is taken up with the 6009 USER.

Q. What does the future hold for the few remaining Dragon Amateurs magazines, in view of Dragon Users demise?
A. The main reason for the demise of Dragon User was the high overheads compared to their income. Amateur magazines do not have high wage bills, accommodation costs or other associated overheads, and are therefore in a much better position to survive.

Q. To what extent do you attribute the continued survival of the Dragon to the efforts of the media.
A. Without the efforts of a few enthusiasts producing magazines, newsletters, etc. software house would have no contact with their customers, show organisers would be unable to tell everyone know the details of a show, in short the Dragon scene would rapidly shrink into obscurity.

Q. To date what has been your most successful program?
A. RA-E Maths Tester and Logic Trainer are about the same.

Q. On average how many units of a particular program can you hope to sell?
A. One more than I get paid for and one less than I have in stock, but seriously, I am not the person to ask that question as my programs are very specialised for a very small market, I certainly have not sold sufficient to cover development costs.

Q. With Dragon support falling how long can you see the need for SUNNYSOFT/SUNNYDALE PUBLICATIONS?
A. Although the overall support may be falling our subscription list is growing all the time, many people leave the Dragon scene, but that only means more new users talking over their machines, many users are unaware of the existence of the various publications and can be brought into the fold by careful advertising.

Q. As a programmer do you find it difficult to devise new titles for the Dragon?
A. As I only write utility or specialist programs there is no problem.

Q. To what extent do your own programs span from your own requirements as a user?
A. I only write what I personally need, if it appears to be of use to others then I market it.

Q. How have the Dragon community responded to Sunsoft since its launch?
A. After a quiet start much interest has been shown by the amateur radio fraternity, at whom most of my programs are aimed.

Q. Have you been tempted to move onto more powerful machines in order to make a living?
A. No. And I cannot foresee the time when I will.

Q. What is your favourite game?
A. An easy one that you don’t count adventures.

RETURN OF THE ALIEN BONGO BEAST IN THE CRISPY CROSSY LINES DIMENSION.

Redhead looks to the future

Consider this, the Dragon is not alone in its decline. Other computers too are in the same situation, and many have disappeared altogether. At the moment, therefore, we have the same problems as do owners of Einstins, Memotech, Spectraquids etc. And it is not reasonable to suppose that they also re-consider what has happened to their machines and equally reasonable to suppose that some, at least, are trying to do something about it. Mean-while, a new generation of potential users is making its appearance, looking for affordable computer running software. The prize will go to the computer that captures its imagination and fulfills its expectations. The Dragon Tangle could be the one.

What else can I say? The issues boils down to this, that either we are all content to let a damn good computer continue its inexorable slide into oblivion, or that, past failures and disappointments notwithstanding, to do something about it.

Who’s for giving it a damn good try?

Some strong views have been expressed by K. Redfield. We are sure that some of you will have their own opinion about the Dragon’s future. If you agree or disagree then drop 6009 User a line. How would you like the 6009 User to be published? Do you think that if we do advertise and market the magazine the Dragon will again appear in the headlines? How about Bob Harris, don’t you think that he had the same views with K. Redfield. Do you know that there is a vast market out there making lots of money? Is this market suitable for the Dragon?

PRESTON COMPUTER GAMES
Kings Hall Court, St Brides Major, Mid Glamorgan
Telephone Southerndown 24hrs
Distributors of computer hardware and software

SPECIAL OFFER
Citizen LSP 100 dot matrix printer, 150 CPSec
£149.95 with free printer cable.

NEW GAMES
ZOTOKA - a graphic adventure - do you think that you could rule an island? has a good review in Dragon magazine. £1.99
ROLA BALL - has had rave reviews in all the magazines. Clear the planet of the cubes and save the Rola-balls. £3.99
MUSIC MAESTRO - Write your own music with this program, one critic said it was the best music programme for the Dragon that he had seen, it enables you to compare music already on to the stave then play it independently of the program. £1.99
FILING SYSTEM - (reviewed this issue) A card index for addresses, phone numbers etc. in fact a database. £1.99
AUTORUN 11 - With this you can design 8 colour Text/Block/graphic loading screens and autorun your programs, both Basic and machine code. £2.99
EDITTEXT - At last a powerful and versatile word processor including disc or tape operation, normal or justified printing, automatic rewording, full editing facilities, find and replace words and phrases, move lines and paragraphs, upper and lower case printing, print formatting. All of these operations for only £0.95

NEW ITEMS
Cassette leads £3.00
Dragon 32 covers £2.00
Seal or type keyboard type through cover keeps out dust etc. £5.95
Dragon Data joystick £3.95 pair
Chess £1.99
Domino £1.99
Invader cube £1.99
Hungry Horace £2.99
Horace goes skiing £2.99
Reversi £1.99

THE NEXT OSETT DRAGON SHOW IS ON SATURDAY 21st April 1990

See you at the show, may we wish you all a belated HAPPY NEW YEAR