

DRAGON



UPDATE

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The Gaffer's Bit

The first item this month is specially for all of you who were wondering what to put in that hole in the bath ... a plug!. Dragonfire Services new owner, Robin Hemmings, having raided his piggy bank in order to keep the firm alive, is in urgent need of YOU, or to be precise, your money!. You're always saying that there isn't enough software available, but Dragonfire has an excellent selection of games and utilities available on disc and tape, mostly at very reasonable prices, so why aren't you rushing out to post Robin your order?!. The crossword fanatics may be interested to know that the first prize each month is a voucher enabling you to chose a FREE program from the Dragonfire list. Robin is making no charge at all to the Group for this service, so please see to it that he gets some sales in return!. By the way, regardless of his name he is NOT connected with Batman (they aren't even just good friends), and he does NOT wear his knickers over his tights (at least, I don't THINK he does), so no complaints about "Batmania" please!. (Sorry, Robin, but if I hadn't explained that you'd have been getting Valentine cards from Stephen!). Next item, just for a change, is this year's Summer Show at Hove. I'll be sending out details shortly to the usual firms who may wish to take a stand there, but if YOU can think of anyone who might be interested in a stand PLEASE ask them to phone me as soon as possible so that I can add them to the list. Of course, YOU will be attending, wont you? no excuses other than death are acceptable, so anyone failing to attend does so at their own risk!. Just been reading Steevie's Editorial Bit ... what's all this about turning over new leaves?! ... as the late Mr. Wilde is alleged to have said ... "not until I've got to the bottom of this page!", which I seem to have done now, so I'll leave YOU to turn over, while I go for a coffee break!. More garbage next month. Paul.

The Editor's Bit...

Can it be true? I haven't been moaned at this month! Well! Have we all turned over a new leaf for our new year's resolution? (Maybe February for you, still January for me). Avoiding all the turkey-related gags and all that "gobbledegook (not bad, eh?); here we are finally in 1990. Remember all those storms of last month? Well, they're still happening right now, so if anyone wants to come and fix my fence, they're more than welcome.

Despite Paul's tidings of woe last month about "the last big show", we still have a relatively large group, and it's about time you slackers out there did your bit. Write an article, write anything - write to Dudley if you must, but make your contribution, and who knows, we may still be here this time next year! (Visualise Paul with a gun saying "I can't take it any more"!)

Stephen.

Basic Fractals II...Roy Cashmore.

Dr. Mandelbrot.

In the first article I gave a brief introduction to Fractals with a listing based on an algorithm by Dr. B Martin of Aston University. It is worth experimenting changing the function. This time the listing is based on one by Dr. Mandelbrot. Pairs of numbers are subjected to a repeated function. If, as a result of a subsidiary test, it can be seen that the result will eventually go to infinity after a number of repetitions of the function, a point is plotted in a colour representing the number, or, if the result will be finite, nothing is plotted.

In this version, if after applying the function once, the test shows that repeating the function will eventually result in infinity, a point is PSET in colour 1. If it is clearly going to infinity after a second application of the function, it is PSET in colour 2, and so on. If repeated subsection to the function will result in a finite result, the point is PRESET.

The listing in MicroMart, issue 88, used 255 repetitions. Using 50 gives the same pattern. Using 25, I cannot detect any difference. The resultant picture, in common with most pictures produced by fractals, resembles natural forms.

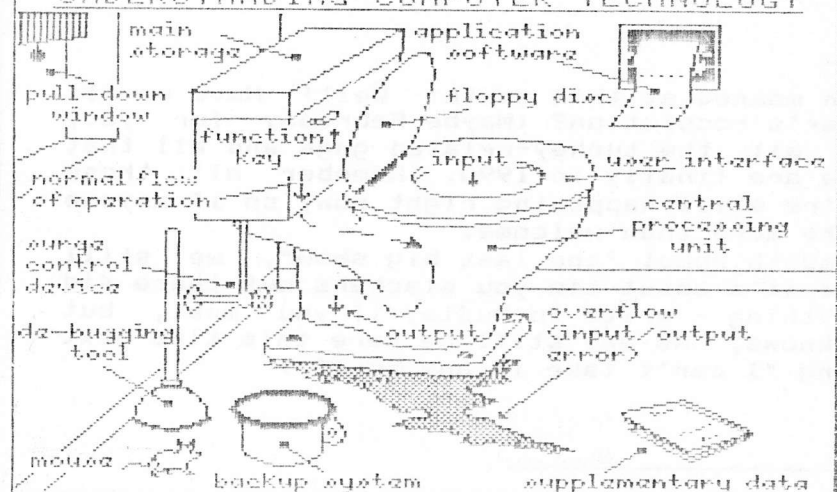
Work is being done to try to predict the mathematical repetition (iteration) required to produce given natural shapes. This could possibly be used to reduce the amount of data required to produce video pictures, as compared with the present point to point method.

Next time, I hope to have a listing for fractal trees, but here is the Mandelbrot listing. The program is slow and will take several hours to run.

```
10 REM MANDELBROT
20 L=175:D=-2:E=-1.25:S=2.5:G=S/L
30 PMODE3,1:SCREEN1,0:PCLS3
40 REM PLOTTING LOOP
50 FOR M=1TO191:FORN=1TO255
60 X=D+N*G:Y=3+M*G:A=0:B=A:C=A
70 H=A:A=A*X-B*B:X=B:Y=2*H*B+Y:C=C+1:Z=A*A+B*B:IFZ<4 AND C<25 THEN 70:'ITERATION L
80 IF C<9 THEN PSET (N,191-M,C)
90 IF Z<4 AND C=>25 THEN PRESET (N,191-M)
100 NEXT N,M:SOUND 100,50
110 GOTO 110
120 END
#####
```

Contribution from Stuart Beardwood.

UNDERSTANDING COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY



For those experiencing inferiority complexes when listening to the ramblings of mega PC owners. Here's a graphic aid to bear in mind as you smile, nod, and try to look impressed!

Dedicated to all Dragon users who can appreciate their machines as useful tools, and can manage quite well without wallet-shrinking ego-boosters.



DGS PLUS - REVIEWED BY FRANK FISHER

Before 'booting up' Dragon Graphics Studio Plus, if your computer will not handle the double speed poke, then 'Run: Setup'. This will delete the poke and save the amended loader. This program also requires the use of self centering joysticks, (Dragon Data sticks will work but will not allow precise movement). What do you get?? You get a fairly versatile and comprehensive program with minimal use of the keyboard. Lots of pull across menus and icons. The top quarter of the screen is taken with the main icon menu, and the bottom quarter of the draw screen is hidden, this will be revealed using the scroll mode or the view mode, (it must be pulled up to draw on). The main menu consists of 26 icons (I will not list them all), these deal with all the necessary draw and text modes, and call up the various other functions. These include the 23 text fonts, and disc operations, different patterns, brushes etc. Also an excellent zoom mode for the finely detailed editing of any portion of the drawing. There are also 8 demo screens to be called up to practise on, and 16 cutouts. These can be viewed from a separate program. DGS Plus is an enhancement of DGS, although the extras are not essential, if you already have DGS and want to upgrade then contact Stephen and he will possibly upgrade your master for a small fee.

The manual runs to 4 A4 pages and is fairly comprehensive, but like any program of this type, has to be used and a lot of paper wasted. The printer routine is the normal 'Epson' type but instructions are given for you to slot in your own. If you are the artistic type then this program is about as good as you will get, and for the price (£5.99) is an absolute bargain. If you have not got this one then BUY as rumour has it that Stephen may pull out, and that will be a loss to us all. We cannot afford to lose any more good programmers. I rank this one alongside KCLICK, VISITEXT, TELEWRITER and RALLY, to name but a few. Dragon Graphics Studio Plus available from Knight Computer Services, 76 Etwell Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 0LE.

EPSON TEXT PRINTER REVIEW: FRANK FISHER

On running you will be presented with a menu giving the following options : -
1) Load a SHADED dump 2) Load an UNSHADED dump 3) Load DEMO
The dumps are loaded into HIMEM (30000), and will printout as 11cm x 4.5 cm block, (this is an Epson type printout), of the text screen memory of 1024 to 1535. The Shaded dump will printout GRAPHIC BLOCKS as a shaded area as well as the normal text. The Unshaded dump will only printout normal text, and any GRAPHIC BLOCKS as CHR\$(32) (space). On selecting your option the required dump will be installed and it is then only necessary to load your own program. It took a while to make up my own screen and then work out how to run it with the dump, the sample program for this assumed that the text screen had been saved as a binary file, mine were in Basic. My first line had to be CLEAR 200,29999, and the last lines were PRINT CHR\$(27);"A";CHR\$(8);:EXEC 30000:[1000] GOTO 1000 (a program loop to hold the screen).
A nifty pair of programs, no doubt MacGowan's "Dumper" or your own could do better sideways, but you would not get the shadings. Not really my cup of tea as I do not do any programming as such, but somebody must do a lot of graphic text screen work, and at the price (£2.49), it must be a snip.
TEXT SCREEN PRINTER available from Knight Computer Services, 76, Etwell Road, Hall Green, Birmingham. B28 0LE.

Tell Us About It...

If you have written any new software, why not publicise it a bit by sending Mike a copy. He will get it reviewed, and I can usually guarantee to use the article within a couple of months, so you will be reaching the group members (the literate ones at least) and who knows, you may actually sell a few copies!
New titles have been fairly thin on the ground recently, so if you're secretly programming away in the back room, send us a review copy.
Stephen.

Fishy Business (10) . . .

Ugh, ugh, snort. Or for those of you who do not have an extensive knowledge of Neanderthal, hello. Yes, it's your favourite orange aquarine-being, back with another wild column, or about as wild as things can get when you've got nothing much to write about. Yes, the old problem returns; nobody wants to write to me anymore. But before you rush off to send loads of pokes, tips, and hi-scores, remember to enclose an SAE. One of those who did manage to follow this simple rule is Mike Lee. In fact, he even sent me a bit of paper to write my reply on. Now there's service for you. Mike wanted to know anything to help him progress on Hewson's 3D SPACE WARS. Personally, I've never played the game, but somebody out there must have. So if you can help, write to Mike at 4, The Dene, Worksop, Notts. S80 3QH.

Onwards, games lovers, to more tips from the very wonderful, gifted, and good-looking Paul Burgin (note subtle hint Paul ie got any more please?). These are for extra lives (X=lives required).

NINJA WARRIOR (some versions only) POKE9575,X

STARSHIP CHAMELEON - POKE 25023,X

POKE 25810,X

POKE 26535,X

POKE 26710,X

POKE 27801,X

POKE 29078,X

For immunity on FIRE FORCE, press fire when "Arrgh I'm hit" appears. Now, see how many men left, and press RESET now for immunity. That's all for this month on the hints side of things.

Now allow me to introduce you to a new feature of Fishy business - reviews! (albeit rather brief ones!) Yes, I've finally given in and decided to review games. But there'll be none of yer vague conclusions in this column, no sir! I'm giving out marks. Plus, for games that are for whatever reason something really special, I'm giving away the DTIGG Piscine Perfection Prize (or PPP for short). Also, I'm not going to look at any really new stuff, as this is done elsewhere in 'Update'. Rather I'll be taking a look at some of the older stuff that's kicking around and seeing how it matches up to modern standards. Marks are given for Graphics, Sound, Playability, Durability (ie how long it'll take you to get bored senseless with it) and an overall mark. All these will be out of 10. So, here are a few to start you off...

	G	S	P	D	Overall
COPTA SNATCH	6	5	8	8	8
BEAM RIDER	5	7	9	8	8 **PPP**
PHANTOM SLAYER	6	6	6	6	6
BUG DIVER	6	7	5	4	5
EMPIRE (Shards)	5	4	8	8	7

If you want any more details about the above games, drop me a line. Must be going. So many games, only one Dudley. Next month I'll have a few words to say about JSW+ and TOTAL ECLIPSE, so I'll see you then (unless you're wearing sunglasses in which case I probably won't recognise you).

** So much for "incredible games-playing goldfish"! Never played 3D SPACE WARS! Get organised, or you may find yourself known as "Dudley the edible games-playing 100% prime fish fillet steak in batter with a side order of chips and green salad"! If anyone CAN help Mike, please drop him a line. Stephen**



CoCo Matters(8) . . . Chris Rouse.

I would like to end this series on the DOS by listing all the DOS commands, their tokens, and ROM entry points.

COMMAND	TOKEN	DESPATCH ADDRESS Vers. 1.0	DESPATCH ADDRESS Vers. 1.1

DIR	CE	CBCF	CCA9
DRIVE	CF	CDE9	CCE5
FIELD	D0	CFE0	DOBC
FILE	D1	D080	D15C
KILL	D2	C6C2	C6EF
LOAD	D3	C99A	CA48
LSET	D4	D026	D102
MERGE	D5	C98B	CA39
RENAME	D6	CF3F	D01B
RSET	D7	D025	D101
SAVE	D8	C932	C9E0
WRITE	D9	CF8A	D066
VERIFY	DA	D65B	D74E
UNLOAD	DB	D146	D233
DSKINI	DC	D4AB	D599
BACKUP	DD	D175	D262
COPY	DE	D2CC	D3B9
DSKI\$	DF	D3FF	D4ED
DSKO\$	E0	D474	D562
DOS	E1	----	D6EC
CVN	FF,A2	CD1A	CDF4
FREE	FF,A3	CD00	CE9C
LOC	FF,A4	CD36	CE10
LOF	FF,A5	CD5B	CE37
MKN\$	FF,A6	CD28	CE02
AS	FF,A7	B277	B277

The intrinsic functions from CVN to AS all require FF to be in front of the token, just as the BASIC functions do. Finally, some other useful data in table form:

RAM variable names and addresses for DOS

DCOPC	\$EA	operation code (0=restore head, 1=NOP, 2=read, 3=write)
DCDRV	\$EB	drive number (0-3)
DCTRK	\$EC	track number (0-34)
DCSEC	\$ED	sector number (1-18)
DCBPT	\$EE,\$EF	buffer pointer (256 bytes long)
DCSTA	\$F0	status byte

Status Byte has the following meaning: Bit 7=drive not ready, bit 6=write protect, bit 5=write fault, bit 4=seek error, bit 3=CRC error, bit 2=lost data. 1793 disk controller commands:

\$03 RESTORE, \$17 SEEK, \$33 STEP, \$53 STEP IN, \$73 STEP OUT, \$80 READ SECTOR, \$A0 WRITE SECTOR, \$C4 READ ADDRESS, \$E4 READ TRACK, \$F4 WRITE TRACK, \$D0 FORCE INTERRUPT.

The disk controller register at \$FF40 uses 8 bits as flags as follows, bit=1 means set: bit 0 drive select 0, bit 1 drive select 1, bit 2 drive select 2, bit 3 motor on, bit 4 pre-comp enable, bit 5 double density enable, bit 6 drive



OS9 - Why I Love It... Malcolm Cowen.

This is intended to be the first in a series of articles on OS9. It's not perhaps the easiest of systems for the beginner, it costs more than the normal built-in OS does, So why bother with it? I can give three good reasons why I switched slowly from FLEX and Dragon OS to OS9:

1). It's facilities are superb. It looks like one the best and most modern operating systems, because it is one. OK, so it takes more work to learn, but then Jags are harder to drive than Raleigh bikes.

2). If you want to learn languages like C or PASCAL, or just get to know about the innards of a really advanced operating system, then you can. The system is completely modular, so you can join the ranks of those who have rewritten (so far) 30% of the Dragon OS9 system, and made a good product even better.

3). Come the sad day when your much loved beast finally dies, you can switch to other machines using the same software under OS9, and keep all the files, all the documents you have collected over the years. Or if as I do, you find yourself having to fight your wife (husband) for the word processor, you can get a second machine (say a COCO or an Atari with Cumana OS9 if your pocket can afford it, or even another Dragon if you're lucky enough to find one) and your two systems are completely compatible - you can even use one machine as a second terminal into the other. Try that on a Beeb or MSDOS (or even Atari TOS)!

So, to the start of the matter, what is OS9, and how does it work? OS9 is an operating system written for the 6809 chip, and later extended to the 68000 and now the Intel range of chips (about which I will say nowt cos I know nowt). It is written using a lot of the basic ideas and structures used in the UNIX operating system, which is fast becoming a world standard. Most of the C and PASCAL programs written for UNIX will work on OS9 - just recompile them, the compilers are compatible. The main difference is that OS9 doesn't have a lot of the fancy features of UNIX. This is not entirely a disadvantage, it means that OS9 is much better for industrial applications where the program has got to respond very fast to what's going on in the outside world.

As you might expect there is a user group of OS9, in fact there are two! A gentleman called Steve Bourike of Dage (GB) Ltd runs the OS9 European User Group, which is mainly people involved in controlling industrial processes and mainly 68000 stuff. Burghard Kinzel of Germany runs the amateur group, which is mainly 6809 based. He speaks excellent English, far better than my German, and can be contacted at Leipziger Ring 22A; D-5042; Erftstadt; West Germany (this is the group that Martin Vernon used to run). Failing that, you are welcome to contact me (especially if you are into using 6809 and 68000 systems together or have an 80 column card from Compusense) on 061 225 4674 between 7.00 and 10.00 in the evening, NOT Wednesdays.

If you have a copy of OS9 which you've never used because you couldn't understand it, or you can lay your grubby paws on one, or even buy it new, then next time I will be describing how to set it up. As far as I know it is still available from Hans Christian Anderson of Englandsveg 380; DK-2770; Kastруп; Denmark.

Crossword 49 Answers.

1A, Wiper. 1G, Trasn. 2A, Illustrate. 3H, Switch. 4B, Robin. 7A, Roy. 8A, Elm.
8D, Rest. 8I, Coke. 9H, Turen. 10F, Leopard. 11C, Cuttlefish. 12B, Osprey. 13A, Snap.
13E, Yashmak.
A1, Windscreen. B6, Solution. C1, Ply. C5, Olympics. E7, Cemetry. F1, Stun.
F5, Tinsel. G1, Transmit. G10, Ely. H1, Rasher. I3, Worldcup, J9, Rail.
K1, Hitchhikers. L3, Cheese. M2, Champagne.
Voucher for the first prize donated by DRAGONFIRE SERVICES, second prize a tape from our collection.

Reminder about reminders!..

As I've had several enquiries recently about subscription renewal dates, perhaps I'd better explain the system used once again. You will normally be sent a reminder slip with the TWELTH issue of Update from your last subscription, and if no payment is received by the end of that month a "Final" reminder will be sent with the next issue, after which you're "off the list". However, please note that waiting for the "Final" doesn't really gain you a free issue 'cos we backdate the renewal anyway!. All clear now?. Good. P.G.



FOREST OF DOOM

— ANDREW OAKES

Forest of Doom is described by Orange Software as "a fairly easy beginner's adventure". Ummm.. I thought, sounds like my kind of adventure! My present adventure success rate is a pretty abysmal 10%, but nonetheless I still enjoy a good adventure game although my chances of completing it are pretty slim. I did manage to complete this adventure, in one long sitting, most of the problems being fairly straight-forward but some require a bit of thought. You can actually retrieve all the treasures without having to solve a single puzzle if you possess a certain item. Once you find out what it is and how to use it you'll see what I mean. The vocabulary list is very small, most tasks can be accomplished by simply DROP-ping the correct item in the correct location. I found the hints useful and typing 'HELP' lists them again if you missed them at the start. The game has lots of humorous comments and situations which helps to keep interest up, try typing in a swear word and note the reply. Forest of Doom has no save facility but I don't think that matters much because once you know the moves the whole adventure could probably be completed inside ten minutes. All in all a reasonable beginner's adventure (perhaps a little on the too easy side) at a reasonable price. FOREST OF DOOM available from Orange Software, The Garth, Star Road, Nant-y-derry, Abergavenny, Gwent, NP7 9DP. 2.99 +50p P&P on tape or disk is shown in my latest price list but please check as this was an old review tape returned by Pauline Hampson.

NOTE: ALL 'ORANGE' SOFTWARE NOW ONLY AVAILABLE FROM PULSER.

Microline Desktop...Chris Burrige.

Having purchased a copy of DESKTOP at the Hove show last summer and finding that the printer dump was the famous, but to me totally useless, 'Epson Compatible' dump, I put the disk in a drawer and forgot about it, that is until recently, when I needed to print a cover for a magazine for work. Now the printer I have is an OKI Microline 182 dot matrix printer, which has given me excellent service and cost me nothing. I have not had much luck with writing my own dump so didn't expect any change there, so I asked some of my colleagues at work if they had written dumps of their own and explained my problem. The only help I could get was that the IBM version of the printer was similar to the Epson codes and might work. I set about fitting the IBM EPROM which I was able to take a copy of, and lo and behold DESKTOP burst into life and printed out a whole page of my efforts. The only problem now was that the line spacing was wrong, and my knowledge of the ROM calls used by DESKTOP were unfamiliar to me. Perhaps someone in NDUG could give me an explanation. I have now sorted the problem by inserting one line:-

```
1025 PRINT#-2, CHR$(27);CHR$(49)
```

This changes the line spacing from 8/72 inch to 7/72 inch and gives a perfect printout on the Microline printer.

DESKTOP is excellent, very easy to use, and the 19 fonts well designed, although an italic font would be nice as the Microline doesn't have one. It is fairly easy to design your own poster, advertisement etc. I say fairly easy, for if you make a mistake in line or print positioning, the whole line has to be erased and re-written, but with patience, good results may be achieved.

DESKTOP may be obtained from Ray Smith, 5 Glen Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset, and costs just 12.50 for the nineteen font version. I would like to express my thanks to Ray Smith for his help and excellent service in obtaining the extra fonts, and for his advice.

If anyone has a Microline printer and would like information on the IBM EPROM, then please write to me at 16 Patterson Road, Chesham, Bucks, HP5 2DG. The EPROM costs 6.00.

Please note, you don't HAVE to erase an entire line to correct errors, just backspace and "space" the error out! Paul G.

EASY MACHINE CODE (9) ... R.A.DAVIS

Now you know how the screen is cleared by storing a blank at the addresses allocated to the area of the low resolution screen, using the A,B or X registers. in the same way you can print to that screen, by storing the ASCII code of the letter or number etc required at the location at which we want it to appear. The low res screen occupies RAM from &H400 to &H5FF. We will print something at the centre of the screen.

```
10 DATA BD,BA,77,8E,04,CD,86,48,A7,80,86,45,A7,80,86,52,A7,80,86,45,A7,80,39
20 I=&H7000
30 FOR J=1 TO 23
40 READ A$: A=VAL("&H"+A$)
50 POKE I,A
60 I=I+1:NEXT
70 EXEC &H7000
80 GOTO 80.
```

Here we have used the ROM routine to clear the screen at the start. &HBD is an opcode for Jump to subroutine and &HBA77 is the ROM routine which clears the screen. &H8E is the opcode for load the X register immediately with this number. The number is &H04CD which is a location near to the centre of the low res screen. So, now we load the A register with the letters we need, store this in the location pointed to by the X register, increment the X register by one after doing this. &H86 means load the A register, the hex number for each letter follows the opcode for load A. &HA7 is the opcode for store the contents of the A register and &H80 the operand which means in the location pointed to by the X register then increment the X register by one. So, we have a sequence of loading, storing and incrementing, until &H39 which is the end of the routine. The assembler as it would be written with DASM is as follows:-

```
10 CLEAR 400,&H7000 50 JSR &BA77 90 LDA ##45 130 LDA ##45
20 EXEC &HCFFA 60 LDX ##04CD 100 STA ,X+ 140 STA ,X+
30 ALL 70 LDA ##48 110 LDA ##52 150 RTS
40 @START EQU * 80 STA ,X+ 120 STA ,X+ 160 END
```

HERE

When you EXEC &H7000 you should see the result. This of course is a crude method but it does explain how the code works. A better way is to store the script as data, near the start of the program, using a label to identify it, with a short routine to load the A register from the data held and store it on screen. We'll have a look at this next time.

XWORD 50 CLUES.

ACROSS: 1A; Shot bug rests, a film where a lot of people are slimed. 2A; A short animated TV programme for example. 2I; A lucky fairy may give you this in triplicate. 3H & 1I; The clue to this person is elementary. 4I; Use this word to turn York into a county. 5B; American state where you would find Little Rock. 6B; Pack carried on back by climber/hiker etc. 7A; More can be written by B. Cartland for example. 8E; A tortoise may retreat into this. 9E; Used for placing a cup on. 10C; Remedy used in adventures for counteracting poison. 11A & D8; Famous monkey type on the big screen. 11F; Naturally occurring radioactive gas. 11K; Formic acid used to be obtained from this small insect. 12A; The way into a building. 13A; Violin of great value, made by a famous Italian maker (1647-1737).

DOWN: A1; A round or conical pile of stones marking a mountain top. A7; Famous cube. B1; Place for storing aircraft. B9; Hard type of quartz used as a prehistoric tool/weapon. C5; Type of animal which chews its cud. D1; A pile of computers perhaps. D8; See 1A. F1; Device used for transferring people from ship to ship perhaps. I5; Without this you would be a shapeless blob. J8; Stoke in Staffs. is on this. K6; Type of cattle originally bred in Friesland. L1; See 3H. L9; Lists of options perhaps. M1; Place for storing water.

TSBT
S
Rg AEO

-H-S-B- - - -S

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	G	H	O	S	T	B	U	S	T	E	R	S	R
2	C	A	R	T	O	O	N	W	I	S	H	E	
3	A	N	A	S		H	O	L	M	E	S		
4	I	G	C	U	S		S	H	I	R	E		
5	R	A	R	K	A	N	S	A	S			L	R
6	N	R	U	C	K	S	A	C	K		F	O	V
7	R	O	M	A	N	C	E		E		R	C	O
8	U		I	S	H	E	L	L	T	I	K	I	
9	B	E	N	O	S	A	U	C	E	R			
10	I	L	A	N	T	I	D	O	T	E	S	E	
11	K	I	N	G		R	A	D	O	N	A	N	T
12	E	N	T	R	A	N	C	E	N	T	I	N	
13	S	I	R	A	D	A	V	A	R	I	I	S	

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PEEKING THE DRAGON (22) - MIKE STOTT

An amazing thing has happened this month. Just as I thought the software scene had finished completely, it came pouring in. Slight exaggeration, but there is news of it later in my article.

First of all let me apologise to those many people who have been trying to contact me but I have been working until 10pm virtually seven days a week since Christmas. My wife was amazed how many Dragon owners and companies were still left, never mind ringing me. To those who have written - thanks for your kind words (it's unusual for people to say nice things about me). Thanks especially to Stuart Parnell from Benfleet who tells me he ordered EDIT+ from Compusense and eventually received it together with DYNAFAST, DASM, and DEMON in a special "Bargain Pack" along with a note to say that Compusense Ltd have moved to 54, Dawlish Avenue, Palmers Green, London, N13 4HT Telephone 01-882-8752. There has been no response to R.Cleminson's pleas for help but he has written to me saying he has completed Starship Destiny and offers help to others in a multitude of adventures so how about reading his queries in my article (December) and helping him out.

Jonathan Cartwright wishes me to inform everybody that he has now finally finished writing programs for the Dragon. He tells me that apart from ROLABALL (1 & 2), and CAD6809 (joint venture with Neil O'Connor of Pulser) all his software is now only available from Dragonfire Services. Robin Hemmings, the new owner of Dragonfire, can be reached at 8, Ingleby Road, Wigston, Leicester, LE8 1DQ. Good Luck with Dragonfire, Robin. A new program from them is POP-UP-PRINT-MASTER, the last written by Jonathan. I have used it for about six months and find it very useful. Coming complete with a very sarcastic manual this, initially BASIC program, allows you to enter your printer control codes for ITALIC, BOLD etc. When RUN, it is compiled and the resulting program when reloaded can be put into memory wherever you want so that you can run it alongside other programs calling it in by one keypress which will then allow you to tell your printer how you wish the hard copy to be produced. I have used it on a Tandy DMP105 and a Panasonic KX-P1080 and find it a great deal more convenient than looking up the manual every time I want to know the correct code to use for 'compressed' or whatever. I would even have paid the 4.00 for the disk if I had been asked for it.

I know Jonathan has taken some stick from some people over the years but he has given a lot of us Dragon owners many hours of enjoyment with his programs and I wish him GOOD LUCK at Lancaster University.

Richard Sutcliffe has sent me LETTER WRITER for BASIC42 which is a sort of word processor for letters and reports and will be reviewed soon by Frank Fisher.

I have now received a working copy of DESK TOP PUBLISHER from Steve Knight which, unfortunately, still seems to be on a 41 track disk which my drives are allergic to. I hope the reviewer has better luck. Steve is working on a few other items including a small "compendium" of games and would like people to let him know what sort of software they want. I have always thought there should be a Skateboard game for the Dragon. What are your ideas? Let Steve know so that he can write the kind of things you want. The Dragon tries to cater for it's users unlike other computers so get writing.

Finally, from Dragsoft comes SLOW BUT SURE which is a screen dump program in basic, easily edited to suit most Epsom compatible, 8 bit printers. Also now available is V2.0 of DATA & LOADER PRINTER which will now write directly to tape as well as printer, saving the risk of typing errors. Mike Townsend will supply the latest version to purchasers of the original providing they return the original together with the return postage. He also asks for any cheques etc to be made out to him and not Dragsoft.

Let us hope we have got even more software for reviewing in next month's issue of Update.

Editorial Afterthoughts 66...

Right, let's get this straight. I did NOT say that you supported Labour, Paul. If you had actually read the article properly you would have realised that it was a general statement, commenting on the narrow mindedness of the average person on the street or on a TV news interview who pretends to be left-wing because "Maggie Thatcher's ruined this country". And anyway, I thought everyone in the group was aware that you were Worthing's top National Front activist?

Secondly, there are only two "e"s in Stevie, not three. It was probably the autorepeat on this excremental program I'm forced to use (have I told you how bad it is, viewers?).

Thirdly, I rest my case over this Dragon data thing. We all KNOW that computer companies are run by "experts", and seeing as said experts are about as intelligent as the script writers on Coronation Street, then there was no way they could predict the slump. They aren't going to listen to outside observers telling them of impending doom when they are the "experts", are they? Therefore, there was no way that the DD execs (the "experts") could foresee the crash. See?

However, viewers, let's not dwell on the past. I can see you all grumbling about the reminders about the Hove show, but when you read this there will only be FOUR MONTHS to go. Puts it into perspective, doesn't it? You really should make the effort to attend this one, as it may well be one of the few large shows left. And what with our very own "expert", Paul, predicting that it WILL be the last 'big one', we should all try and make it as successful as possible.

Isn't it incredible to think that the Dragon 64 was introduced SIX YEARS ago?

This collection of plastic on my desk, complete with its "professional style keyboard" and keys "guaranteed for 20 million depressions" (Paul's had more depressions than that running NDUG, and it's only FIVE years old!), was first available in 1984. Along with the Lynx, Oric, Electron, MSX... Where are THEY now? Does anyone want to take bets on which of the current batch of "populars" will be on the scrap heap in 1996?

Ahh, there's nothing like a bit of nostalgia to relieve the boredom. Unfortunately, that WAS nothing like a bit of nostalgia, and everything's completely dull.

Finally, then, thank you to everyone/anyone who sent me their regards of the season last month. Much appreciated, at least some people out there are still sane. And in case no-one bothers answering Mike's plea for answers in this month's Peeking, this is for Robert Cleminson: I see from my list of hints that you should FRISK SABOTEUR in Secret Mission. Hope this helps. Blame Paul/Scott Adams (delete as applicable) if it doesn't.

Stephen.



Buzzing Bertie

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Using Stylo with a printer. B. Neuner.

When using my Dragon as a word processing machine, I always use the Stylograph word processor, running under OS9.

As Stylo uses the wrong codes for my "Epson compatible" printer, two friends of mine wrote "DEC", a filter program to be used together with Mailmerge, which replaces the existing codes.

I didn't really like this solution, as it means that I always have to save my files to disc in order to print them!. So, I took a disassembled version, searched it for the printer routine, and replaced this with my own ... and voila!, Stylo drives my printer correctly now!.

I can send this new version to any legitimate Stylograph user.

To cover my costs, anyone requiring a disc containing the source and the new version should include a small "present" (2.00 should cover) to me at the following address:-

Bernd Neuner, Dina-Ernstberger-Str. 23. D-8524 Neunkirchen-am-Brand 1. West Germany.

The Late, Late Bit

Yes, I KNOW this month's issue is late again, but there's not a lot I can do about it. There's only a limited number of hours in each month, and I have to use quite a few of them trying to make money and sort out my own problems, and recently there's been a shortage of money and a lot of problems, which has left a "time shortage" when it comes to dealing with Group matters. Of course, this could easily be resolved by anyone presenting me with a couple of million pounds or so (don't all rush, please!), but failing that you'll have to put up with late delivery until matters improve. Perhaps I ought to claim to be a political refugee, or a depressed area, or something ... THEY always seem to get money!. Which reminds me, have you noticed that no-one lives in "places" any more, only in "environments"? and that although there seems to be loads of "inner cities" there doesn't appear to be any "outers"? ... who nicked 'em?!. It's getting worse than the weather forecasts with all those "fronts" but no "backs" ... maybe that's what causes all this lousy weather!. OK, OK, I KNOW it's really all down to the hole in the greenhouse allowing the ozone to leak, or something like that, but I don't really believe it, do you?. It's like all this "conservation" rubbish ... loads of panic about aerosole cans, but not a word about the main producers of Methane and CO2 cows produce TONS of Methane, but when was the last time you saw a field of cows all fitted with corks?, and as breathing produces vast quantities of CO2 why don't the politicians and conservationists give it up?.

Oh well, no use hoping, so I'd better change to slightly more practical matters. Firstly, Rob Preston asked me to make it known that there is a general Computer Show at the GMEX CENTRE Manchester from 15th to 18th of March, and that R.Preston Software will be represented there. Then of course there's OSSETT on 21st April, and the Summer Show at Hove on the 2nd June anyone missing THOSE two is really living dangerously!.

Next item is a request for help (OK, not money!) does anyone have a GOOD screen dump for an OKI MICROLINE 82A printer, please? ... I've had an urgent request for one, so if you can help please phone me soonest.

For those of you interested in such things, the current Group status is not too bright last month we lost 26 members who failed to renew, and gained 8 new members, which doesn't exactly balance!. Account stands at appx. 3,600.00 with no debts, which isn't too bad, and membership is roughly 270 down on this time last year. The Copier Fund is low, VERY low, owing to the age and decrepitude of the old Toshiba, but many thanks to all of you who have been rounding up your cheques to help. Much appreciated. Here endeth the news. One final thing this month ... the Group has a large number of Radio Amateurs amongst its members, but we are getting absolutely NOTHING on that subject sent in for publication ... that's a hint! ...CQ, CQ, CQ. Paul G.

HOVE TOWN HALL -- JUNE 2nd. 1990.

GROUP SERVICES.

DRAGONART GRAPHICS LIBRARY. Contains THE biggest and best collection of graphics screens for the Dragon, all available at nominal charges. The Library also wants YOUR original graphics efforts. Full details and list available from:-
The Librarian, 5, Glen Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset.

TX Lo-res screen editor and manipulator. Written by Ian Rockett. Price 2.75 inclusive.
The Librarian, 5, Glen Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset.

BACK ISSUE UPDATES. Reprints of all issues of Update (from original master sheets) available at ONLY 95 pence per copy inclusive of postage. 14 page index of Update articles only 2.50. Single articles 50p. each. (See for details). @ Send to Eric Hall, 32, Thackeray Mall, Fareham, Hants. PO16-0PB. Cheques made payable to 'Back Issues Dept. (NDUG)'. ...

P.D. Library. We regret that the PD Library service is suspended until further notice. New arrangements will be made as soon as possible.

GROUP SPECIALS!

UPGRADE MANUAL. Full DIY instructions for upgrading your D32 to 64K. Written by Bob Hall. Price 2.00.

CIRCUIT DIAGRAMS. Available for D32, D64, Dragon DOS controller, Cumana DOS controller, and CoCo DOS. All the same price 1.00 each.

NDUG FORTH O.S. Written by John Payne, the best FORTH implementation available. Includes Turtle Graphics, 80 col w.p. and Assembler.

Available for VI.0, E5/6 and DosPlus. NEW PRICE ONLY 8.00 with comprehensive manual.
Delta version (single or double density), NO assembler. NOW ONLY 5.50 inclusive.

DRAWEEZEE. The best selling Graphics utility program. Written by R.A. Davis. Available on tape at 2.50 inc. or DragonDOS VERSION with FREE 'Mirrorimage' program included (DOS VI.0 or CoCo DOS) only 3.00 inc.

NEWCOPY. Machine code tape utility. Allows copying of headed and headerless programs. Written by Stuart Mills. Price 2.50 inclusive.

DRAGON DOS TO COCO DOS. Want to run Dragon discs on your CoCo? This program written by Chris Rouse allows your CoCo to convert Dragon DOS discs to its own format and retokenise Basic routines. Versions available for CoCo DOS VI.0 and VI.1 Price 5.00 inclusive.

COCO DOS TO DRAGON DOS. Dragon version of the above program!. Allows you to convert CoCo discs to Dragon DOS format. Written by Randy Longshore. Price 5.00 inclusive.

ANY EPROM COPIED TO ORDER!. Send a clean suitable EPROM with the EPROM (or tape) you want copied, plus 3.00.

DISC EDITOR. Utility disc for VI.0. Full view and editing facilities. Written by John Cox. Price 5.00.

FUN DISC!. Over two dozen simple games, quizzes, pix, tunes, utilities, etc, written and compiled by R.A. Davis specially for the Group. DragonDOS disc only 3.50.

'BEST of INPUT'. A disc of selected listings from INPUT magazine produced by permission of Marshall Cavendish Ltd. Price 3.50 inc.

'ANITUNES'. Disc containing a selection of tunes with animated graphics display. Written by R.A.D and Dave Cadman. Price 3.50 inc.

MC TUTORIAL. Machine Code IS Easy with the new Tutorial Disc written by Tony Davis for use in conjunction with the Update Easy

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ALL THE ABOVE AVAILABLE FROM PAUL GRADE @ 6, NAVARINO ROAD, WORTHING, SUSSEX. Cheques payable to N.D.U.G.

GROUP & MEMBERS PROGRAMS etc.

NDUG DESKTOP!. The Group's DTP package. Based on a FALSOFT program (produced under licence) this package is available on either Dragon DOS disc (with Epson type screen dump) or CoCo DOS (with DMP105 dump). Produce your own small posters, advertisements, magazines, program title screens, video title screens, etc. 19 font version 12.50. Orders to:-
Ray Smith, 5, Glen Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset. Cheques made payable to NDUG.

OS9 MODEM PROGRAM. Up & downloading of files, any Baud rate from 50/50 to 9600/9600. (NOT split rates). Up/download buffer from 4 to 32K. All 6551 options supported. Price 8.00.
Phone Barry Knapp on 0932-242800 evenings only.

DELTA DOS UTILITY. w/c utility to copy ALL Basic and w/c files from disc to tape in one operation. Basic listing of loader and Hex dump price 1.00, or on tape 2.50 inclusive.
J. Russell, 33, Tennyson Avenue, Clevedon, Avon. BS21-7UJ.

NDUGSOFT!. The former Pamcomms programs are now available from the Group.
Formula One ... 7.95; Disk-Kit ... 8.50; Sourcemaker ... 8.50; Lightpen (disc only) ... 2.50. @ We can also offer the Malcolm Cowen programs, Colossal Cave Adventure and Adventure Writer. Available on cassette only Colossal cave is 5.00 and Adventure Writer 7.50. (Disc version of A.W. now available at the same price!).
NDUGSOFT (MW). 52, Downsway, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex. CM1-5TU.

Data & Loader Printer. Turns w/c into Basic loader and data statements. Writes to printer OR tape for hard and soft copies!. Price only 3.00.

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Dragon Graphics Studio PLUS: Updated version of the well reviewed DOS. 6.99 on disc. Printer Control/Desktop Fonts: Twenty fonts for these popular MacGowan w/p's. 4.99 on disc or tape. Text Screen Printer: Print text screens with graphics etc. 2.49 on disc or tape.

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17'A TASK!. The classic. Adventure that got rave reviews everywhere!. Play the part of Herculese as you clear up the Ancient World badies!. Usual price is 3.00, but Special Offer to NDUG members of 2.50 inclusive. If you haven't tried this adventure yet you haven't lived! Orders to:-
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FOR SALE: B44 with PSU, manual & leads. Full working order. 59.00 + postage. Replacement PSU transformer for 32/64 13.00. Tandy DMF110 printer with serial & parallel ports, NLQ, Italic, etc. With 3 ribbons and manual 98.00. Cartridges: Handyman, Bridge Tutor, 7 card stud. (with manuals) 6.00 each. OS9 originals with manuals RMS, Cash/VAT, Basic07 10.00 each. Tandy deluxe joysticks, adjustable 7.00.
Phone David Rothery on 0457-853912.

EXCHANGE!. Radio Shack TRS80 manual (232 pages of instructions, data, programs) will exchange for ANY Dragon software.
Write to John Brown, 45, Marlborough Avenue, Falmouth, TR11-4HS.

Dragon 32 with Peaksoft power supply. Spare Dragon 32 with PSU but no top cover. Dragon Data twin disc drives. Brother HRS printer. Four joysticks. Tape & disc based software plus books and magazines. Complete outfit 250.00 plus delivery.
Phone Nigel Bird on Swansea (0792) 290966.

WANTED!!!. RACE ELECTRONICS RS 232 INTERFACE. Will buy, swap, or barter!. URGENT!.
Phone Alan Swift on 0909-477734.

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Dragon 32 complete with power transformer etc. 30.00. Dragon 32 fully screened and perfect for radio work 35.00. Two replacement Dragon keyboards 10.00 each. Tandy 105 dot matrix printer plus paper 80.00. Composite video monitor 50.00. Dragon Data single disc drive and Dragon DOS cartridge 85.00. "Computer Programmer" data recorder 10.00. Full two volume computer course and very comprehensive selection of tape and disc based software, various books etc. Sensible offers, please. All prices "o.n.o", postage extra on large items.
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Any particular requests?, the above were written to order. Also available, Home Accounts program 3.50, and Facts of the Worlds Countries (also on tape) 3.50. Please specify format when ordering. Details (see please) from:-
Graham Strong, 78, Coleridge, Crescent, Boring-by-Sea, Sussex BN12-6LT. (Phone 0903-485751).

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PLEASE NOTE!. Anyone wanting their early version of Data Loader and Printer upgraded to the NEW V2 version should return their ORIGINAL TAPE, plus return postage, for FREE UPGRADE.
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Sutcliffe Electronics, 15, West Street, Hothfield, Ashford, Kent. (0233-634191).

WANTED FOR GROUP USE!. Shinwa CP80 Mk1 printer. MUST be Mk1 ONLY, and reasonably priced. Paul Grade.

Helpline List

If you have queries on any of the subjects mentioned here, write to the appropriate volunteer, enclosing a stamped envelope for reply. If you need help with a subject that isn't included in the list yet, or you aren't satisfied with the reply that you get, then contact Paul Grade as usual.

FORTH: John Payne, 3, Sibland Close, Thornbury, Bristol.

DOS PROBLEMS: Phil Scott, 4, Badgerwood Drive, Frimley, Camberley, Surrey GU16-5UF.

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES AND STRUCTURED PROGRAMMING METHODOLOGY: Stan Davies, 153, Allestree Lane, Derby DE3-2PG.

GAMES SOFTWARE (MAINLY ARCADE BUT SOME ADVENTURES): Stephen Wood, 52, Downsway, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM1-5TU.

MIC (EXCLUDING FLEX & OS9): DRAGON MUSIC; ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE; "C" (UNDER OS9): Chris Jolly, 4, Pinehurst Walk, Orpington, Kent.

GENERAL HARDWARE AND UPGRADE CONVERSION PROBLEMS: Bob Hall, 22, Cumbria Close, Thornbury, Avon BS12-2YE.

WORD PROCESSING & GENERAL BASIC PROGRAMMING: F.J. Fisher, 29, Thornham Road, Gillingham, Kent.

SPREADSHEETS: E. Freeman, 80B, Main Road, Old Dunston, Northampton NN5-6RA.

MODEMS, BASIC ELECTRONICS, ADD-ONS, and FLEX: Tim Hayton, 36, Laurel Drive, Willaston, South Wirral L64-1TW.

DELTA PROGRAMMING: Stuart Mills, 49, Templegate Crescent, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS15-0EZ.

DRAGON HARDWARE PROBLEMS AND REPAIRS: Alan Butler, 16, Barnstor Green, Barnston, Great Dunmow, Essex.

COMPOSER PROBLEMS:- Dave Cadman, 32, Breckon Hill Road, Derby DE3-6TG.

DRAGON/DELTA DOS PROBLEMS; OS9, BASIC 09, AND GENERAL BUSINESS SOFTWARE

APPLICATIONS: M.A.A. Abba, 127, Ankerdine Crescent, Shooters Hill, London SE18-3LE.

DMP 110 PRINTER PROBLEMS/SCREEN DUMPS ETC.: Dr. J. Hatton, 48, Wern, Llanfairpwll, Anglesey, N. Wales.

EPSON COMPAT. PRINTER SETTING UP & GENERAL PRINTER PROBLEMS. Gareth J. Sims, 24, Logwell Court, Standens Barn, Northampton NN3-3TN.

RADIO AMATEUR PROBLEMS, INFORMATION & ADVICE. Fred Hopewell, 48, Gladstone Street, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11-1NS.

GENERAL PROBLEMS AND MOST REPAIRS. Steve Tate, 22, Fairfield Drive, Wormley, Broxbourne, Herts. EN10-6DY.

CO-CO HARDWARE & SOFTWARE PROBLEMS: Chris Rouse, 18, Gregson Close, Bridgemary, Gosport, Hants.

BASIC PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY USE OF GRAPHICS FROM BASIC, EPSON COMPAT. PRINTER (SOFTWARE) PROBLEMS, SIMPLE PASCAL: Steve Knight, 76, Etwell Road, Hall Green, Birmingham.

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"SYMONDE
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March 5th 1990.

Dear Paul,
CROSSWORD NUMBER 50.

1A. Ghostbusters.	A2. Cairn.
2A. Cartoon.	A7. Rubik.
2I. Wish.	B1. Hangar.
3H. Holmes.	B9. Flint.
4I. Shire.	C5. Ruminant.
5B. Arkaansas.	D1. Stack.
6B. Rucksack.	D8. Kong.
7A. Romance.	F1. Bosun's chair.
8E. Shell.	I5. Skeleton.
9E. Saucer.	J8. Trent.
10C. Antidote.	K6. Friesian.
11A. King.	L1. Sherlock.
11F. Radon.	L9. Menu.
11K. Ant.	M1. Reservoir.
12A. Entrance.	
13A. Stradivarius.	

Kind regards,

Eddie Freeman

Mr. P. Grade,
6 Navarino Road,
WORTHING,
Sussex.