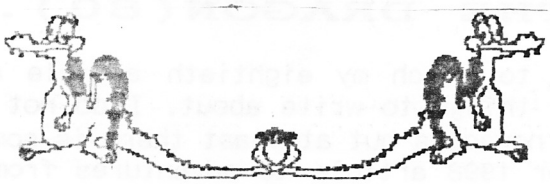
The Newsletter of the National Dragon User's Group

DRAGON UPDATE



CHAIRMAN: *Paul Grade. 6,Navarino Road, Worthing, Sussex. BN11-2NF. 01903-207585*
EDITOR: *Stephen Wood. 52,Downsway, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex.CM1-5TU.*
S/WARE EDITOR: *Mike Stott. 10,Mellor Close, Prescot, Merseyside. 0151-480-7712*

ISSUE 124 *FAT FREE SLIMLINE EDITION!* *APRIL 1999*

THE GAFFER'S BIT .....

And a right boring old bit it is too!. Reason being that I have to repeat what a lot of you appear to imagine is an idle threat .... that if YOU don't write something for publication then Update stops, because I'm damned if I'm going to turn it into the Grade/Stott/Wood Gazette. This issue the master disc consisted of Steve's Editorial piece plus FOUR pages, and two of those were by Mike and Steve. Thank you Stewart Orchard and Clive Scott for your efforts, unfortunately we are going to need more than just the two of you if there is to be another issue, because there is NO reserve stock of material at all now ... what you read is all we've got, and if there isn't any material to make up the next issue then don't complain to me when it doesn't arrive. Final warning. Take it or leave it, because I'm sick and tired of trying to make something out of nothing!.

Now I had hoped to keep things running at least long enough to get us into Y2K, but unless you are prepared to cooperate that isn't going to be possible. Still, if that's what you want, so be it ... but it really would have been more polite to say so.

OK, so what else is new?. Not a lot really, not even the Budget!. Even that was the same old repeats ... I wonder if the politicial prats ever realise that the way they are pushing things is going to result in the sort of economy which usually only exists in countries that have just come off second best in a major war .... where cigarettes and petrol are the monetary standard!. Credit cards?, money?, forget them!, if you want to buy anything try offering two hundred JPS and a tankful of four star leaded!. Still, I suppose it all should do wonders for the security business ... petrol will have to be delivered in fully armoured tankers with a heavy military escort, of course, and there should be quite a market for anti-theft cigarette cases complete with gas and dye units, wrist chains, and locks equipped with an auto-destruct circuit!. Oh well, I always did like the weaponry and vehicles in the old Mad Max series ... time I got the welding gear out and made a start on construction perhaps. Anyway, that's all for now ... don't just sit there, get writing!. Paul G.

That's It, There Is No More...

OK, so here we go. Yes, I KNOW that this is the April issue, etc etc etc, but any mentions in this Update of lack of material and nothing to print are in fact deadly serious.

We now have NOTHING left to use, and therefore nothing left to lose by stating that unless some of you out there would like to write something for us all to read, then there will be NO MORE UPDATE. EVER.

I really can't put it any clearer than that. Many thanks to everybody who HAS written material for us recently, but it is all gone, which leaves us with the choice of either running blank pages next time, or running an Update full of thank-you name-checks for services rendered over the past 15 years. Neither of which is remotely appealing.

But, there we are. Copy deadline is May 10th, 1999. Think about it... but don't think for TOO long!. SW

PEEKING THE DRAGON(80).MIKE STOTT

Well I have managed to reach my eightieth article and am still (just about) managing to think of things to write about. I do not know how readable you are finding the articles nowadays but at least there is something on the page.

I devoted my December 1998 article to adventures from Adventure Soft (UK) Ltd. and some of this one will be similar. I have now found my original list of the software which they released. I listed 14 Scott Adams adventures but it would appear that there were only 12. THE SORCERER OF CLAYMORGUE CASTLE was available from them but not in the Scott Adams listing. The two missing titles are THE COUNT and THE MYSTERY FUN HOUSE which is what I suggested. WAXWORKS is not listed in the listing of Mysterious Adventures by Scott Howarth or even anywhere on the sheet that I have so where does this title come from?. Does anybody know?. Rob Cleminson suggested to Tim Lees that RETURN TO PIRATES ISLAND was one of the missing titles but this does not appear anywhere. I have not heard of this one, has anybody out there?. If anybody would like a copy of the Adventure Soft list, which gives a description of each adventure and tells you whether the Scott Adams are Beginner Level, Moderate or Advanced, then please send me a SAE and I will send you a copy.

Nobody has responded to my plea for a copy of SPIDERMAN and I would really like one as I still cannot find my copies and I have promised this to Tim Lees.

I have been on two Y2K training courses which lasted for three full days each. The first one involved what could possibly go wrong on a variety of dates, not just January 1st 2000. I found this very useful and was able to return to work and implemented a "Risk Assessment" for the company a lot of which could prove very useful even if disasters strike not related to the Y2K problem.

It was interesting to see how many patches are needed to make WINDOWS 95 compliant and I was astounded to find that WINDOWS 98 is not compliant without the two patches that can be downloaded from the Microsoft Website. The second course was much more complicated and entailed transferring files in a Y2K compliant format from old non-compliant software to newer compliant software in a readable fashion, even from spreadsheets to databases. The hardest part was doing it all within WINDOWS as I am very Dos orientated.

I struggled to keep up with everybody loading the various packages into memory at the same time but then was able to catch up when it came to altering the data within the files that needed upgrading. Very shortly I am going to have to learn even more about WINDOWS as my machine at work (386 under DOS6) is going to have to be upgraded as I deal with very important information which cannot afford to be lost through either the machine or the software crashing.

My next subject is also connected with years. As most of you will know the year is often expressed in the Latin form, especially at the end of television programmes. 1998 was shown as MCMXCVIII which I will break down for the one or two of you who are not conversant with this method. From the beginning: M is 1000; CM is nine hundred (one hundred short of a thousand); XC is 90 (ten short of a hundred); VIII is 8 (five plus three). What I would like to know is what is 1999?. Should it be written as MIM (one year short of two thousand) or MCMXCIX?. I have seen both forms in different places and as it will be forty years in May since I sat my GCE "O" Level in Latin I surely cannot be expected to remember, but I am sure we must have at least one genius out there who will be able to tell us the correct answer. All the paperwork I received on my Y2K courses talked about a MIMPLAN (obviously MIM for 1999) but I think I would favour the second version. Somebody please put me out of my misery and let us know which is right.

Finally this month I return to the subject of the Scott Adams adventures and how to covert the original tape programs to operate from disk. Tim Lees and I are convinced that there is a program called SADAMS.BIN, which we are both sure that we have got somewhere in our collections but neither of us can find our copies. Has anybody else heard of it and do you know how it works?. I would love to transfer my remaining tapes to disk if I only knew how. Maybe someone will write an article in Update telling us how!.

M.S.

DLOAD explained 2.Stewart Orchard

As I hinted last time, DLOADM is more complicated than DLOAD. This complexity gives it power and allows you to load files in ways that are not easily achieved with disk drives.
Recall that the Dragon reads serial files in chunks of 128 bytes, and that DLOAD interprets this data specifically as an ASCII basic program. DLOADM interprets this data as a collection of binary files, each with it's own load address and length. One could, for example, have a text loading screen, some machine code loaded high up in RAM, a graphics display, and an autorun routine all load in with a single DLOADM. It helps to forget the 128 byte blocks for a moment and consider the format of the binary data itself. The first byte is an end of file marker; zero means there is data to follow. The second and third bytes are a 16 bit word indicating the data length. The fourth and fifth bytes are a 16 bit load address and the binary data starts at the sixth byte.
There can be any number of these modules; one follows another until the EOF marker is reached, e.g. to load in a text screen at address $0400, the format could be as follows:

$00, $02, $00, $04, $00, 512 bytes of screen data, $FF, $00, $00, $00, $00, $00

Note that the length and address fields still have to be present for the EOF record, even though the information is discarded. Also, the last byte sent is a dummy data byte, required due to the way that the load routine works.
That's the binary format - all the server has to do is chop the resulting file into 128 byte blocks and send them as described previously. A minor quirk of DLOADM is that an EOF block is not required as it uses the EOF marker in the data.
A few notes on writing server software; it can be as simple or as complex as required. I have written a program in QBASIC for my PC which sends a file specified at the PC end and ignores the filename sent from the Dragon. This is useful for transferring files that are more easily prepared on a PC e.g. text files and graphics. Once could be more ambitious, however, and write something that behaves a bit like a Commodore 64 disk drive. You could have, for example, a directory listing load onto the text screen in response to DLOADM "DIR" and then load the required file with DLOAD(M) "filename". With a bit of cunning, it is quite easy to save BASIC programs too: POKE 1023,1 to select the serial printer port. Type PRINT#-2 "SAVE:filename" to prime the server, LLIST to send the program, then PRINT#-2, CHR$(255); as an EOF marker.
There, that's the main issues covered. If anyone would like any advice on serial leads or baud rates and things, drop me a line and I'll be happy to assist where I can. Stewart Orchard.

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Year 2000 Reliant....?

Is it just me, or does this whole "Year 2000 Compliance" thing smack just a little too much of being one huge scam?. Namely, one to keep bored programmers in clover and in work by insisting that every single bit of code every written needs to be examined at great length in order to check whether or not it can add up - which, frankly, was the whole purpose of original 'computers' in the first place, Pentium floating point scams notwithstanding.
Just wondered... SW.
**** Whatever makes you think that, Steve? ... haven't you seen all those dealers wandering around the Web with pages round their necks all exhorting you to "Buy a new Y2K compliant P3/600 ... Repent your Sins, Cast out those old heretical MMX and P2 systems before 'tis too late!!!!. Only those who possess a complete new P3 system will be saved at the Coming of The Terrible Millennium Bug.". P.G.*

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Office Of The Future.Clive Scott

As a mature office worker, I have experienced many changes in the office e.g. computers, fax machines, answer-phones etc, and I wonder what the office of the future will look like. The possibility of a paperless office has been mooted for many years, but modern computers seem to generate more paper than ever before. Things could change with the increased use of e-mail and the electronic transfer of documents that this permits. There is now no need to produce them in hard copy, documents can be shared between people without ever printing them. With the cost of electronic storage dropping daily, it is far cheaper to store documents electronically than in filing cabinets. If you deal with large companies like Marks & Spencer, then all purchase orders, invoicing, etc, will be done electronically using the EPOS system. The stock and customer accounts on your computer will be updated automatically when deliveries are made. The company's records at the other end will also be updated without any human intervention.

Switchboards are becoming more and more automatic, and whilst they can be very irritating, it is the way things are going, and soon switchboard operators and receptionists will be redundant. Modern digital networks enable us to introduce video conferencing so that you don't even need to travel to attend meetings. I am sure company executives with their expense accounts will resist that change but will probably introduce it for their staff.

More and more business will be done over the internet, which means that companies will be able to cut down the number of salesmen and marketing executives. If BT can be persuaded to cut their costs, working from home will become a realistic option by connecting to the office network from home using a fast modem and a home computer. Files and correspondence could also be transferred via e-mail. Hardcopy could be transferred by providing a cheap scanner at either end and attaching the scanned file to an email, or faxing it.

There is even less need to use money, which can be expensive to transfer, especially abroad. Most banks now have on-line facilities and you can not only transfer money between your own accounts, but if you have the bank details you can make payments anywhere around the world. If you give your customers your bank details, you can receive payments in the same fashion.

Voice recognition software will do away with the need for secretaries since dictating and producing copy will be combined in the same operation. This can be done remotely, of course, over a telephone line or by mobile, so correspondence can still be dealt with when the manager is out of the office. They will have to find somebody else to have an affair with! Help and support can be provided through the company's web site using hyperlinked databases. Any answer not immediately available can be dealt with by leaving your query and your e-mail address and the answer will get back to you in due course.

I could go on, but what are the advantages to the modern business? Well, cost reduction for once, since fewer staff will be required, and those required could be less skilled and therefore lower paid. Offices are expensive to maintain, especially in city centres, and offices could be smaller or almost dispensed with totally, with huge cost savings. The time that staff spend travelling to work will be reduced dramatically with reductions in costs, environmental benefits, and more free time for the staff. Staff can choose the times they work. People could work in areas where houses are cheaper to buy or are less crowded. There will no longer be the need to live close to where you work.

The disadvantages are isolation of staff; working has a lot of interaction between staff and has a social aspect to it. Stress levels with staff working at home could be higher because they have little support and are left to their own devices. Distractions from other family members and private matters could reduce productivity e.g watching The Vanessa Show. It can be hard to get motivated when working on your own at home. The cost of equipment will be high, expensive to maintain, and keep up to date.

There are already many people working from home, apart from housewives of course, and this is bound to increase over the years. C.S.

CLICK <here> TO OPEN CAN OF WORMS

Deary, deary me. Well, last issue seems to have inserted a large blunt instrument into a house full of buzzing things and given it a damn good twist. It would seem that an overwhelming majority of our remaining members passed right over Tim Lees' skit on women and computers without so much as a raising of the eyebrows. Not so for one Daniel Hodson, however, who had this to say:

"In the February edition of Update you printed an article by Tim Lees which ended 'Sexist? Maybe , but who gives a damn?'. Unfortunately, I give a damn, and I won't be renewing my subscription."

Fair enough, we have yet to reach the stage where we are forced to apply projectile weapons to people's foreheads in order to get them to renew their dues - although that's probably coming up sooner than you think. In an attempt to maintain a balance, though, this dissatisfaction was passed on to Tim Lees, who by return of post had this to say:

"It has been brought to my attention that I may have offended someone with my little piece on women in computers. I was astounded that anyone could take offence. I showed it to my girlfriend, two other female friends, and a woman at work, none of whom were upset by it in any way. The only comment I received was that it was written by someone who knows women. Any man who has spent time with a woman will see the truths in what I wrote. If you ask a man what he did in the morning he will say 'I went shopping'. Ask a woman, and she will tell you what time she left, what she was wearing, how she got there, what she went for, what the weather was like, etc etc. Obviously there are exceptions both ways, but as a general rule, that's how it is. It's not a criticism of women, just a fact of life, as are the other comments I made. I have been out with a lot of women over the years and I think I have had enough experience to know. I think that the only men who could take any offence at what I wrote are those with little or no experience with women or the real world. I suggest the best answer for anyone in that situation is - get a copy of the book 'Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus', and then give it a rest, get a girlfriend, and join the real world!'

Both sides of the story, for your perusal. Personally, I think that it is a shame to lose a Group member over an issue such as this, particularly when there are other much more worthy debates to be fought - for example, is the Lime Green edition the best looking of the new-issue iMacs, or not?. However, at this stage, it would seem appropriate and fitting to remind you all of the Update mantra, which read "The opinions expressed within are not necessarily those of the publishers" and, more importantly, "Everyone is entitled to their opinions, except where those opinions differ from those of the people in charge". The more astute amongst you may have realised by now that the unnecessarily wordy style featuring on this page does in fact carry a hidden message. We could leave you in suspense and tell you to wait until the next issue to find out what it is, but the point is that there very well may not be a next issue, and that what we are now reduced to is regurgitating members' personal disagreements in order to fill up pages. I wish it had not come to this, but the previous methods - such as, for example, asking for articles to be sent it - appear to have failed, so it is this hoped that this last ditch attempt may generate some response, and we can all be back in June with some computer-related matters to discuss.

Otherwise, Daniel Hodson may turn out to be very astute by not renewing, as there will be nothing to renew to...

SW.

**** I think I ought to stay out of this debate ... with my well known flair for tact and discretion the rest of the Group would probably quit if I decided to take part. However, has anyone ever got around to considering what computers would have been like had they been designed by politicians?. For a start they would only work on a pre-payment basis, ("enter credit card number to boot system"), charge you for not doing the job they were paid to do, and then charge you again for the transaction. It would be useless to look for a file, they would deny it was ever written, and insist that even if it was it must have been written by a totally different system without their knowledge!. Ain't we lucky they were only designed by people?.*

P.G.

Eddie Stainer.

As some of you will already know from Ray Smith, Eddie Stainer died suddenly at the end of January this year. Eddie had been a Group member for around eight years, and was one of the real Dragon enthusiasts, who gave a lot of help to other Dragon owners, and who will certainly be missed by many people on the Dragon scene.
Eddie had a very comprehensive collection of Dragon equipment, complete 32 and 64 systems, triple 5.25 and 3.5 inch drives, printers, plotters, and a lot of "home brew" add-ons, as well as literally hundreds of discs, tapes, books, magazines, etc, and his daughter Doreen Robinson has the unenviable task of disposing of this collection. She would prefer, for obvious reasons, to dispose of everything as one lot, and is willing to do so for a nominal forty pounds to anyone who can collect or arrange collection. Even for anyone outside the area, this HAS to be the biggest bargain they are ever likely to find ..... even at current prices this is less than a fifth of the actual value, so it would be well worth the journey to Poole to collect it.
I trust that anyone interested will take the circumstances of this sale into account when contacting her, and NOT attempt to "cherry-pick" what they think are the best items .... it goes as one lot, hopefully to someone who will make good use of it, so any prospective "vultures" need not apply.
If you are interested telephone Mrs.Doreen Robinson on (Parkstone) 01202-743348.
(I will be repeating these details on the ads pages). Paul Grade.

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Freebienet - - - - - - - - -

I've had several queries recently about "free" ISPs, particularly about whether it is possible/practical to sign up with them without corrupting an existing account such as Compuserve, AOL, etc. So, at great cost in time and temper I have been experimenting with Win 311 and 95/98 to find some answers. The results are less than conclusive, I'm afraid ... most ISP software seems to be based around Internet Explorer, although the versions used vary wildly, as do the completeness of them, which makes it difficult to give any definite facts, especially as IE claims to be capable of handling multiple accounts but often confuses them to such an extent that dialling in to a particular account can be more a matter of luck than anything else!. The Win95/98 versions (usually v4.0 or 4.01) seem VERY prone to this, much more so than the Win 3.11 versions (4.01 or 3.03) that I have tried, so I would advise anyone thinking of adding a "Freebie" to their existing account NOT to install the software provided if it is the same version as they are already using, but to install a different browser, either an alternative version of IE or preferably a completely different one such as Netscape or one of the Shareware ones, and use that for their new ISP connection. Ideally the same should apply to Win 3.11 if you want to be sure of avoiding conflicts, but a FULL copy of IE4.01 (311 variant, downloadable from Microsoft.com) can cope if you are careful, so long as you do NOT attempt to install the software supplied by the Freebie ISP over it!. For what is's worth, Netscape seems totally incapable of handling two accounts without falling over in a big way, but there may be a later/better version about than the one I was using. How to sign up? ... well the two I was using as test subjects are easy ... BT Clickfree is on 0845-7576333, and both User Name and Password for signup are BT Clickfree. Freeserve are on 0845-0796699, the User Name is Freeservesignup and the Password is Signup .... dial in and take it from there!. The alternative is to install their complete packages entirely separate from your existing one ... different directory, different group, etc ... and manually change the path lines in your autoexec file to allow BOTH diallers to be found by their respective programs ... simpler on 3.11 than on 95, I admit, but possible on either. If you do this, do make a point of checking through your WIN.INI and SYSTEM.INI files though, just in case any conflicting instructions have been added!. It's best to make a backup of both of these before you start, just in case of accidents!. Paul Grade.

Just a suggestion .....

Over the past few months several people have suggested that it might assist with keeping interest in the old Dragon alive if "someone" were to make available a list of Dragon related Web sites, especially as there are now so many people who use a PC for "work" tasks and still keep their Dragon as their preferred "hobby" machine.
Another suggestion which has started coming in is that Update should print a "register" of Dragon users who have e-mail addresses.
I can't see any real objection to either of these ideas, if enough people would be willing to co-operate in compiling the relevant data. There must be plenty of dedicated "Web Surfers" (horrible term!) out there who know all the available Dragon related Web sites and where to find them, and if anyone cares to let me have a comprehensive list I am quite willing to print them. As to the "E-mail Register" idea .... it would certainly be a good way of keeping Dragon owners in touch with each other without raising the old problem that some people, quite understandably, are reluctant to have their addresses and telephone numbers made public. Of course, this rather limits things to those who own both Dragon and PC, (OK, or iMac etc.) but that does seem to include quite a lot of people these days, so again I don't see any reason why we shouldn't try it if enough of you are interested.
I understand that Ray Smith has received some similar hints, and I am sure that he will have come to a similar conclusion. So, if you have an e-mail address and would care to have it made known to other Dragon users, let me have the details and we can try to compile a useful list ... I'll pass on details to Up-2-Date as well of course if Ray likes the idea. Likewise, if you would care to let me have details of any Dragon related Web page addresses and content, these also can be given some publicity.
On the subject ... I see that Ray has blown my cover and included a couple of my e-mail addresses in Up-2-Date, so, I suppose if anyone wants to save the cost of a stamp to send details on either of the above matters, they might as well make use of them if they wish ... paul@grade1.freeserve.co.uk or grade1@Bigfoot.com will do, although please note that ANYTHING else for publication MUST be sent direct to Stephen via the Post Office Snail. OK?. Must admit that I much prefer conventional post though ... it may well be slower, but is still definitely more reliable. Paul G.

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Scrounge time ....

On the grounds that I seem to have had to write most of this issue, I reckon I'm entitled to a few lines for my own "Wanted" advert .... Does anyone have drivers for an elderly Diamond Viper (PCI) video card?. Willing to pay a couple of quid for same, plus postage. Also would like to find copies of the driver software that went with the old Dragon "Snapdragon" (remember those?), not that I've GOT a Snapdragon, but I do have a couple of ideas for adapting the software for other purposes, and I'd like to see if they work. Paul G.

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Up-2-Date...

It would seem that Up-2-Date is suffering from the same complaint as Update ... acute lack of contributions!. I know Ray would much prefer to make up the discs with 100% original material from subscribers rather than have to rely on odds and sods gleaned from magazines and 'Net gossip, and Up-2-Date could most certainly be more interesting and Dragon relevant if (a) more Dragon owners subscribed, and (b) more subscribers wrote something!. So why don't you DO something instead of sitting back and waiting for Update and Up-2-Date to disappear for ever?. You learned how to write at school, so why not show us that you can still do it?!.

The Late, Late Bit .....

Yes, I KNOW there ought to be another two pages in this issue, but you forgot to send them, so they aren't here. Sorry, and all that, but if you can't be bothered, why should I?. With only TWO contributions this issue other than "staff" stuff, you're lucky to get this much!.

Anyway, I thought you might like a tale of woe about the trials and tribulations involved in the Wonderful WOrld of PC Machines, just so you can appreciate how lucky you are to have a Dragon!. A couple of weeks ago I decided to put another spare PC together ... plenty of boards, cards, etc, even a suitable case and PSU, so what could be simpler?. So, one stuffs a suitable board into the case, adds a DX2/80, sets the appropriate jumpers, fit a handful of SIMMs, sound and video cards, a 540 Seagate and a 1.4 sloppy, plus an elderly CD, and all is ready to work, no?. Well, initially yes, the beast fired up OK, everything checked out, and I stuck MS-DOS 6.22 on the thing ... all still well, so I decided to add Win 95 .... three days later I was STILL getting "Cannot decode file SODU2" or whatever, followed by the inevitable "GPF" and crashout!. Get a little peeved, so run all the diagnostic software I can find, which tells me that all is well!. Change CD drive, no difference. Change hard drive, no difference. Change main board ... still the same results!. Get distinctly peeved!. Machine couldn't care less!. Try installing very early version of 95 ... same results. FDISK and reformat and try 98 ... no change!. Reinstall DOS and add Win 311 ... all works perfectly!. Try adding 95 upgrade over 311, and get an immediate return to the "Cannot decode ... etc" messages!. So, last resort, as the only things I haven't changed are the colour of the case and the SIMMs, remove all SIMMs and replace with a couple of "Fastpage" 4 Meg ones ... the only other known good ones I had handy. Try again .. 95 sails in with no trouble at all and even works (as well as 95 ever does)!. Shut down, change back to original SIMMS, and the lot crashes!. Now there is nothing wrong with the SIMMs, they work perfectly on that board with anything except 95/98, and they work with anything at all in other machines, so if anyone knows the answer please let me in on the secret!. Still, fun doesn't end there! ... having replaced the pair of Fastpage 4s, 95 picks up again and all is well, so I decide to add a modem (external) and see if the heap feels like being sociable and having a chat down the phone line. Like Hell it does!. Check modem ... fine!. Check software and drivers .... fine. Put a loop connector on the COM2 connectors on the board and run all available tests ... perfect!. BT may know that "It's Good to Talk", but the bloody machine doesn't believe a word of it!. Eventually get brilliant idea, why not try rodent on COM2? .... result one dead mouse!. Can't blame the cat, there wasn't one around, so eventually decide to try a different "D" socket and lead from the board ... Mouse suddenly springs to life!. Change rodent back to COMM1, stuff modem back on COM2, and suddenly the beast gets talkative! .... will chat to anyone or anything!. Turns out that the "standard" serial connector and lead aren't standard at all ... one of those damned variants that are wired base over apex!. So, eventually have a fully operational PC ... or do I? .... 95 flatly refuses to recognise an ALS 007 Sound card!. Says it isn't there, and when I eventually convince it that the thing does really exist, tells me it hasn't got the drivers that I loaded an hour earlier!. Reinstall drivers ... or try to ... 95 insists that drivers are already installed!. Eventually persuade it to accept drivers for an ALS 100 card, which I know will work OK with a 007, and behold, Glorious Stereo Noises all over the place. Well, it works now, but I never had all this trouble with the old Dragons!. To be fair, I slapped an old Opti Viper/P75 setup together in less than a couple of hours, with absolutely no problems at all, but that is the exception rather than the rule. Which reminds me, does anyone know WHY all Intel CPUs run hot?, and IBM/Cyrix ones run equally hot and slower than their specified rating?, yet AMDs run faster than rated and almost cold?!. Odd, ain't it?, when you consider that IBM/Cyrix and Intel spend millions in advertising their grotty over-priced chips, but AMD never bother and are considerably cheaper!.

Well, that's it for now. Time you got that article written and in the post. P.G.

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ALL CHEQUES PAYABLE TO N.D.U.G, OF COURSE.

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THE DRAGON PD LIBRARY

A FULL LIST OF AVAILABLE SOFTWARE CAN NOW BE OBTAINED FROM THE PD LIBRARY. (SAE WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED).

ALL ORDERS AND ENQUIRIES TO: KEITH NASH, 16 LANSDOWNE STREET, WORCESTER WR1-1QD.

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WANTED!

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