

March 1992

Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE NEWDESK ICON CPX V2.0

Software Development Systems is proud to introduce THE NEWDESK ICON EDITOR CPX Version 2.0, the latest upgrade to this popular icon editor available for Atari computers with TOS 2.05 and above.

NIC, which runs using Atari's Extensible Control Panel (available on GENIE or at your local dealer), uses only 1k of system memory when not in use and can be conveniently called from any GEM menu bar. In addition users with a TOS version less than 2.05 can still utilize the 32x32 icon editing capabilities for use in HYPERLINK and any resource construction set.

NIC can load and save GEM .RSC, DC .ICE, .ICN, and .XIC files (our own icon format). Convenient functions such as flips, shifts, rotate, fill, and more are all readily available within our graphic toolbox. In addition, icon color, character position, and title may be modified. Version 2.0 completely supports the Atari Clipboard for interaction with other programs that support this standard. Our clipboard support writes .XIC, .ICN, and .IMG files for manipulation from within other programs.

Preview mode is included to allow you to see your icon as it will appear on the desktop.

Version 2.0 now completely manages the DESKICON.RSC and NEWDESK.INF files. We've even added an expanded install feature from within the program that lets you assign one icon to many different file masks for the greatest flexibility.

As if that wasn't enough the package

also includes .XIC Print, an application to print your icon files to any GDOS/FSM GDOS device, and an icon convertor to convert PD icon files to .XIC. We have also put over 600 PD icons on disk.

The Newdesk Icon Editor Version 2.0 is available now for the retail price of \$29.95 + \$2.50 S & H. Owners of earlier versions can upgrade for \$10.00 + \$2.50 S & H. Contact your local dealer for information or order direct from SDS:

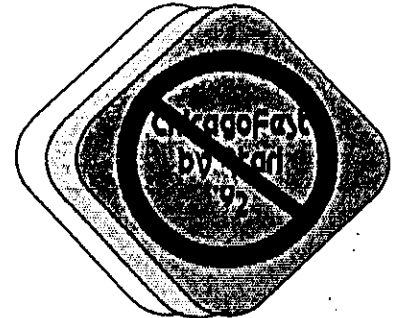
Software Development Systems
996 Redondo Ave. #404
Long Beach, CA 90804
Orders: (800) 237-4SDS
Info: (310) 595-9799
GENie: S.SANDERS2

(COD's accepted, but no credit cards.)

Please note that the above phone numbers will not be active until around March 1st, 1992 due to phone service changes.

ATARI RELEASES POWERBASIC

Sunnyvale -- Atari Computer Corporation announced the release of PowerBASIC(tm) for the Portfolio Palmtop Computer. Within the swelling wake of continued growth and support for the Portfolio, a PC-based portable computer weighing less than one pound, commercial and amateur programmers now have a powerful programming environment specifically designed to take advantage of the Portfolio's versatility and features. Author, Bob Zale, famed for his release of the desktop PC-based PowerBASIC, worked closely with Atari engineers and marketing personnel to refine a development package which offers tremendous flexibility. The source code generated by PowerBASIC is compatible to the compilers on desktop systems, and in fact, may be created on



desktop editors for the convenience of long-term programming sessions. The full-range of commands include support of graphics, file management, and advanced mathematic operands. Users may also use PowerBASIC to make direct BIOS calls as detailed by Atari's Technical Reference Guide. Developers for the Portfolio have found existing desktop-based development packages to be quite functional and useful. Now, with PowerBASIC, addressing Portfolio's specific features is fast, fun and easy. PowerBASIC is a compiler and offers the ability to create run files. PowerBASIC owners are entitled to distribute the run-time library, which operates ingeniously as a TSR, with their products. Also included are sample programs and demos as well as information for serious developers to obtain even greater development support packages.

In the spirit of Atari's tradition of providing exceptional products at the lowest price, PowerBASIC sports a manufacturer's suggested price of only \$99.95. It is available at better Portfolio retailers. The suggested retail of the Portfolio computer is only \$299.95. The Atari Portfolio palmtop computer is supported on CompuServe Information Service and GENie with thousands of forum members and hundreds of file downloads. Atari Computer Corporation is a worldwide manufacturer and marketer of palmtop through desktop computer systems.

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Lake County Atari Computer Enthusiasts

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MEMBERSHIP

Membership in L.C.A.C.E. is open to all individuals and families interested in personal computing. Annual dues are \$20.00 per individual/family and includes a one year subscription to the News Journal, and access to clubs libraries. Membership maybe obtained at the monthly meetings or by calling or writing to the club at the above address.

MEETINGS

L.C.A.C.E. meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month, at the Warren-Newport Public Library, 244 O'Plains Rd. Gurnee, IL. Meetings begin at 11:00 am. We do not require you to be a member to attend our meetings, they are free and open to the public.

NEW JOURNAL ADVERTISEMENT

For information on placing ads, please write our Public Relation Chairman at the above address, or call (312) 587-9157.

ADVERTISING

Rates: Full Page - \$25, Half Page - \$15, Quarter Page - \$10, Business Cards - \$5. Discounts are given for advance purchase of 12 consecutive ads.

Send: Camera ready copy and payment by the 21st of the month preceding publications to above address.

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ATARI DESKTOP PUBLISHING

The L.C.A.C.E. News Journal is produced on an Atari Desktop Publishing System (Mega ST4, Atari SLM804 Laser) using Soft Logik's PageStream. Some of the artwork has been scanned on a HP Scanner, Migraph's Hand Scanner and touched up using Mirgraph's Touch Up and Dr. Bob's MVG program.

L.C.A.C.E. HOTLINE

(708) 623-3815

Python BBS

Official Club BBS

(708) 680-5105

Deadline Approaching For Next Months Articles

Remember, the deadline for all articles submitted to *The News Journal* is the 20th of each month. Send your articles, via disk to the clubs P.O. Box, or upload to **Pegasus BBS (708) 623-9570** prior to this date. Your articles may be edited for length and clarity.



Text Icon

by Mike Brown (LCACE)

The recent issues of *Atari Interface Magazine*, *Atari Explorer*, *ST Informer*, and *Atari Journal* (German) all contain complementary articles about the recent **Chicago ComputerFest by Atari**. The coverage in *AIM* was particularly complete, with many photographs. I hope that anyone who was not able to attend the show in person (or those who are interested in the views and opinions of others about the show) will take the time to read the show-related articles in the current issue of *Atari Interface Magazine*. Due to my involvement with setup, organization and teardown at the show, I found that I missed a fair amount of show "action", I had to read the various articles to catch what I missed!

Just in case someone missed it, I want to again thank all of the LCACE members and members of other Midwest user groups who took the time to help with the show. The above named articles all mentioned the importance of volunteers in making the show a success. You should all feel proud to have been a part of the ChiFest Team.

Having said that, It is extremely unlikely that there will be a Chicago ComputerFest '92. One of the prime reasons is the resignation of Greg Pratt as president of Atari US. Greg gave the ChiFest project support that is not evident in the current Atari management team. In my opinion, time has run out to do a quality job for a '92 Chicago show. I will not support a repeat of the "last moment" effort that was needed on the part of volunteers to pull off the '91 show. To further dampen matters, there are very few '92 dates currently open at our preferred sites. It is too bad that Atari did not choose to pick a '92 date with the Ramada management immediately following the '91 show. If Atari envisions a '93 Chicago show, they need to make plans immediately if they want LCACE's participation.

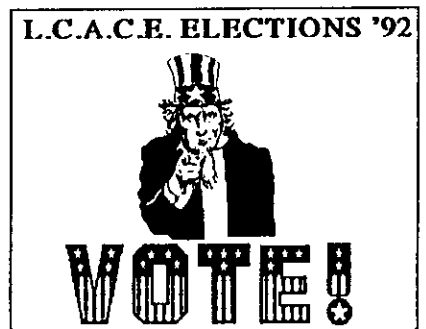
Due in part to the success of Chicago ComputerFest '91, many other Atari-oriented shows are planning to expand, and new shows are on the North American schedule. As usual, check the News Journal and the club BBS for the latest info on these shows. It is a worthwhile experience attending any of the major Atari events; I'd strongly encourage you to make plans to participate during the coming months. In speaking with Dr. Armin Baier of *MilAtari*, it has come to my attention that *MilAtari* is in need of volunteer workers for this year's *GenCon* gaming fair. *GenCon* is North America's largest gaming event, and will be held in the Milwaukee MECCA convention center August 21-23. Considering the

amount of time and effort donated by *MilAtari* members for the Chicago ComputerFest, I would hope that at least an equal number of LCACE members would contact Armin and volunteer to work at *GenCon*. I have helped at *GenCon* for the last 2 years, and found it to be a very enjoyable and rewarding experience- This past year, volunteer workers got a nifty *GenCon* souvenir T-shirt as well as free admission to *GenCon*. Beyond these perks- it is a great experience exposing the general public to Atari computers and game systems. Please give it a try this year and you will be hooked!

Thanks go to JJ for starting LCACE's participation in *Atari Interface Magazine*. I had hoped that some less-burdened LCACE member would volunteer to coordinate our *AIM* participation. It is simply not realistic for the general membership to expect a handful of individuals to perform all of the functions of the group. I can personally attest to the fact that JJ has his hands more than full with the Newsletter (Say Larry, ready to be News Journal Editor yet?) and the PD library. Please consider lending a helping hand if you value LCACE, and have a few hours a month to administer *AIM* subscriptions, or whatever you feel that your talents could be used for in the betterment of the group.

I know that some LCACE members were shocked to hear that I declined the nomination for the LCACE board at the February meeting. Let me make it perfectly clear that I am not in a position personally this year to accept a position on the board. I should not have accepted the LCACE Presidency this past year due to personal problems and situations; I don't feel that I've been able to do a proper job for the membership, and have not been able to represent LCACE adequately. For those reasons, until my personal life stabilizes, I will have to take a lesser role within LCACE, if at all. I hope that you will understand my decision, and will give a little bit more of your time and talents to help take up the slack.

Don't forget that our March 14th meeting will focus on Educational Software and other learning applications of Atari computers. An excellent presentation on Atari 8-bit learning software (from our friends at the Rockford Atari Computer Club) is planned, so please mark your calendar to attend.



UP RAM



by Larry Grauzas

Time to clear the air regarding our agreement with Atari regarding the **Chicago ComputerFest!** As reported in the minutes published last month, there is a piece of equipment that Atari had originally promised but we will not receive. In the rush and confusion in packaging the computers to send back to the west coast, a Mega STe instead of a TT was put aside for the club. This was my mistake not Atari's! Since equipment sales from the show was also included in the show proceeds, the club basically got the financial benefit of the TT but not the machine itself. Atari actually delivered more than the original agreement! We are discussing the possibility of doing another show with Atari in the near future. Our major problem now is finding facilities available that will not conflict with another major show. Also, a show earlier in the year is preferred meaning no possibility of a snow or sleet storm. This might mean that we will not do a show until early 1993, but it is not because Atari was unfair in their dealing with our club.

We did have one bad debt. This was Hybrid Arts. I have tried to call them but they just take a message and never return my phone calls. This is unfortunate since the club did not make a large amount of money from the show and we hoped this could be seed money for future shows. But we did have this bad debt reducing our profit by about 20 percent.

The election for LCACE board members will be held at the April meeting. If you are interested in running for the board, nominations will be held at the upcoming March meeting. All elected board members will fill one of the officer positions. This is a great way to get more involved in club activities. Most of the positions do not require a lot of time, usually a few extra hours a month and an additional officers meeting.

The March meeting will feature educational software for the Atari computers. Programs for both the eight bit and ST machines will be presented. Please bring your favorite educational software so that we may include these programs in our presentation.

Time to start planning for the summer. Our picnic will be held August 8th at the Old School House Forest Preserve in Libertyville. So mark your calendar!

See you at the meeting!



Club News

Atari Interface Magazine Offer

Atari Interface Magazine is a monthly publication that also serves as an official newsletter of several independent Atari user groups and is not affiliated with Atari Corp. Atari Interface Magazine is filled with latest Atari news, reviews, commentaries and Public Domain offerings to keep both ST/TT and 8-bit users in pace with the Atari community.

As a participating club subscriber, you will receive twelve issues of Atari Interface Magazine for only \$6.00 (that's 50 cents per issue) -- a 66% savings off the regular subscription price! And each month your magazine will be delivered directly to your home address.

The AIM ST, 8-bit and Mac Disk of the Month will be made available to the club members at a reduced price. The AIM ST Disk of the Month is a double-sided disk full of ARCed files selected from each month's uploads to the major online services (Compuserve, GENie, Delphi BIX). The AIM 8-Bit Disk of the Month is a single-sided "flippy" disk full of ARCed file selected from the same sources as the ST disk.

For more information, call the club HOTLINE or see the President, Treasurer or Disk Librarian at the next meeting.

Meeting Change??

The Warren-Newport Library will be holding a two-day Used Book Sale in April, and unfortunately the only time they could schedule it is April 10th and

11th. April 11th is the regular meeting day for LCACE. Therefore, the Library is offering us two alternate dates for our meeting which are either April 4th or April 25th - or if we choose, we could cancel our April meeting. The other alternative we have is to make arrangements to have our regular meeting on the 11th at the Waukegan Public Library. A discussion for this change will be held at the March meeting and decision (time and place) will be published in the April issue of the News Journal.

March 1992 meeting Education

Join us to explode the myths about Educational Programs. Hear what students say is important. Learn how to use the computer effectively to help someone learn **Terri The Tutor**

Jake Olbrich
RACC

MAST Show '92

The following message was posted on Pegasus BBS by Bruce Welsch (President MAST) Posted: At 10:38:24 pm On 2/17/92

M.A.S.T. has just finalized plans for a second show in Milwaukee!! The date of the show will be June 14th, 1992 Place; Bowlero Red Carpet Lanes First mailing to vendors have now gone out and we are now awaiting responses from them. The following vendors have already committed; Compu-Seller West, Apple Annie, SK Ware Paper Express, MegaType, MS Design, MissionWare We will be announcing Nationally on wednesday. Ticket Prices

will be 3.00 dollars, Check with your user group about Advance ticket prices. More in the near future

Bruce Welsch
President, M.A.S.T.

MilAtari Ltd News

MilAtari has announced that they will be holding their Annual Picnic on August 15th at the Greenfield Park. Time and area will be announced at a later date.

This year is also the 25th anniversary of GenCon and is scheduled to run from August 20-23 this years show will also be co-sponsored by TSR and Origin. MilAtari will again be hosting the Atari Gaming area.

See you there!

Z*Net & ST Report Online

Pegasus BBS reports that latest Z*Mags and ST-Reports are made available each weekend. Both of these online magazines will be in a ARC or LZH format for downloading and a TXT/ASC formats which can be read online.

AtariUser Magazine

Each member is entitled to a monthly copy of the *Atari User Magazine*. They will be available at the meeting as for they are delivered to us in bulk directly to the club.



PUBLISHER 2 ST

The successor to Timeworks Desktop Publisher

Publisher 2 ST is the successor to the popular Timeworks Desktop Publisher (version 1.12) from GST Software of England.

With Publisher 2ST, everyone can be a publisher. This versatile, value-for-money program gives you the power to design and print professional quality documents at truly low cost - and with no need for previous design or computer experience.

Publisher 2ST's friendly graphics user interface makes it easy to learn and use, with on-screen 'help' to guide you. Using drop-down menus and powerful page design tools, you can build your publication on-screen exactly the way you want it. You can use master pages and templates to create and save standard layouts and design elements on each page, and standardize styles for your text so that all similar elements in a document, such as picture captions, subheads, headlines and so on, will appear in the same typeface and point size. It supports an extended range of text and graphics imports from other popular programs. When working on-screen, you can view your page in six different sizes.

A partial list of features includes:

- * same features as PC version and more; exchange files with PC version and with ST version 1.12
- * full WYSIWYG
- * GEM interface; quick keys
- * 999 pages per document; master pages & style sheets; paragraph tagging; custom page sizes; page numbering
- * multiple frame operations
- * wide range of text imports; retains styling

ABC Solutions has been appointed the Canadian distributor for Publisher 2ST (the successor to Timeworks Desktop Publisher) and First Word Plus.

- * text export
- * more graphics imports: Degas, NEO, GEM, IMG, EPS, PCX, IFF, PIC
- * auto/manual text flow; irregular shape wraparound; search & replace; tables; word processing mode; auto hyphenation
- * 9 typefaces in a variety of sizes & styles (Autumn, Brushwood, Courier, Diamond, Sage, Sans, Serif, Bullets)
- * bullet paragraphs; manual kerning; control over justification, leading, word & paragraph spacing, indents
- * graphics toolbox; scaling, cropping, editing tools; 36 fills
- * improved tab handling
- * autosave, and auto creation of .BAK files
- * 1 Mb recommended, colour or mono
- * TT compatible in medium or high ST & TT resolutions
- * wide range of printers supported including Canon BubbleJet and HP DeskJet; have up to 4

printers installed at once.

* completely new manual

The upgrade from Timeworks Desktop Publisher to Publisher 2 ST is \$89. You must send in the original Master Disk 1 and the cover page from the manual with your order. The non-upgrade price is \$219. Add \$10 shipping and handling.

ABC Solutions
4040 Creditview Road
Unit 11-151
Mississauga Ontario
CANADA L5N 5L3

We may also be contacted at:
(416) 824-8484
GEnie: ABC.SOLN

ABC Solutions is a new company specializing in productivity software for Atari ST/TT computers. We also represent RPM Software's First Graph, the first professional graphing package for the ST/TT. Watch for more exciting announcements in the coming months.

"ABC Solutions ... We don't play games."

PACKARD BELL
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Buy
Goodrich
AT&T
SYLVANIA
American!
Powermate
BUREKA
Sunbeam

By readers of the News Journal

ATARI-TALK and Tips

I have another compatibility story for you this month. But this story concerns in'TRA manufacturer compatibility, not in'TER manufacturer compatibility--and have no fear Atari buffs, the company is NOT Atari. But the company is well-established; I was a bit surprised. I was also surprised when my Atari ST came to the rescue, thanks to its ability to read "MSDOS"-formatted disks; maybe some of you readers wouldn't be so surprised, but I was. Also delighted.

I recently bought a sleek, lightweight, semi-memory-rich (640K + 20 meg hard disk) Tandy 1800HD Notebook. I installed their (other-company-supplied) memory manager which recovered 288K from unused program areas, so now I have about 0.925 meg of RAM. I know--I'm a traitorous wretch, but I like this machine; besides, it was on sale for a good price (Tandy is dumping its 286 line I guess). And as some of you may have guessed over the issues, I'm an Atari/Tandy-Shack person anyway. I hear that Tandy makes computers for the space shuttles--and they bought Grid Systems. I'm doing this piece on my new toy right now, checking it out. I like the snap feeling to the keyboard, similar to the Atari keyboard.

I ran the tutorial, installed the memory manager, bought an MS DOS manual and formatted some disks. Then I wanted to transfer my writing files from the 600 disks to the 1800 disks--the real beginning to this story...finally.

I ran into the living room (as I said once before, you should see me "run"), grabbed my writing disks (Of course Tandy would support upward compatibility!), back to the kitchen table, disk in, copy, open file, GARBAGE. What did I do wrong? Nothing that I know of--just tried to read a 600-formatted disk with the 1800. Didn't work.

Idea. I took the 600 disk into our office, fired-up Mr. Atari and copied my files onto his hard disk with DCOPY36. Then I switched disks to the 1800-formatted disk and copied the files back to that disk (this was all done on 720K-format). Then I again "ran" to the kitchen where I copied all my files onto the DESKMA'TE (word processor, etc.) area of my Tandy hard disk. When I opened all of my files, they looked alright. Any comments out there?

Reading the "Year in review" article in the Jan. NJ makes me wonder if Atari has it all together yet in the U.S. I guess everyone's a critic these days. Maybe 1992 will be the year that Atari really does well in the U.S.; with the economy going the way it is, people may realize that power without the

usual price is really true. I wouldn't get rid of my Atari for any other machine on the market. It always comes through for me in my type of use-- "Works for me."

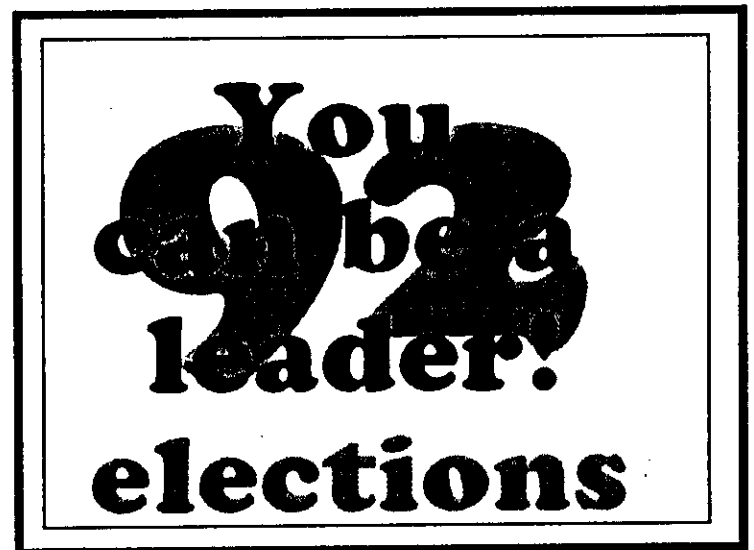
I recently downloaded a neat desktop accessory (.ACC file). I always like to expand my screen to maximum when using WW ST but can never see the CAPS indicator button because of it's being covered up. The NCAPS.LZH on Pegasus is the definitive answer! It puts a CAPS indicator in the upper right corner of the screen; a small square that blackens when you lock caps. You can always see your CAPS status.

JJ sent me an Official Program and Directory from the Computerfest and as I look at the seminar schedule, I see several I wish I'd attended. If any of you have handouts, etc. I'd like information on *Atari Inc. - Tech Topics/IOS; Atari/Motorola - 680xx internals; and What's New from Atari*. Copy it and mail it to me--I'll return your postage. Or, if you want to, send it Pegasus F-mail if there's not a lot of keying involved.

Next time I'll tell you of my first "crash" with my new notebook computer--actually my first really stupid...

I know someone found those jellybeans...

...Vic



Minutes - February 8, 1992

The February meeting of LCACE was brought to order at 12:01 P.M. by President Mike Brown. The meeting was held at the Warren/Newport Library, in Gurnee, Illinois.

Vice President Larry Grauzas began the officers' reports by confirming that LCACE WILL NOT be receiving the TT which was previously promised by Atari Corporation and Bob Brodie, for our efforts in organizing and staging the recent **Chicago Computerfest**. The recent departure of Gregg Pratt and a shortage of TTs was the reason given for Atari's failure to live up to the agreement. Larry once again mentioned that Hybrid Arts has still not paid the \$425.00 owed to LCACE from the Computerfest. Bob Brodie said to Larry that he would try to enlist Atari Corporation's aid in collecting the overdue debt from Hybrid Arts.

Treasurer and Python sysop Steve Kostelnik said there is a balance of \$1,194.51 in the LCACE account. There still have been no successful connections at 9600 baud on Python. Steve is trying to borrow another 9600 baud modem in an effort to solve the unknown problem preventing communication on Python at 9600 baud.

Dwight (JJ) Johnson, Newsletter Editor and LCACE Librarian, said that his copier is down which prevented him from having additional copies of the newsletter and PD News Journal available. New additions to the library include *AHDI 5.0*, Atari's latest version of their hard disk utilities, and the latest version of *STWriter Elite*, which also includes Spanish and German versions and full documentation. Many new demo programs too numerous to list have also been added to the library and on Pegasus BBS (708-623-9570) for which JJ is sysop.

Membership Chairman Steve Yeaton had one membership renewal and solicited contributions for the club's 50-50 raffle, (later won by Dennis Renner from the Rockford Atari user group).

8-bit Chairman Lawrence (Mr. 'G') Grauzas, showed a prototype DC converter for XE game machines which were

purchased without a power supply.

Jake Olbrich donated to LCACE six 8-bit educational disks he obtained from a California user group. Jake will be assisting at the March 14, 1992 LCACE meeting demonstrating educational programs available for the Atari computer. Dennis Renner will be demonstrating the Migraph scanner and OCR (Optical Character Recognition) as well as a scan tray available from Chet Walters at Wiz Works.

Nominations for the board of directors of LCACE for '92-'93 were opened. The following individuals were nominated:

- 1) Mike Brown (nominated but declined)
- 2) Larry Grauzas
- 3) Steve Kostelnik
- 4) Dwight (JJ) Johnson
- 5) Steve Yeaton
- 6) Joe Julian
- 7) Lawrence (Mr. 'G') Grauzas
- 8) Dave Moriarity
- 9) Walt Schaff

Nominations will again be opened at the March general meeting of LCACE with elections to be held in April.

Mike Brown adjourned the meeting at 12:24 P.M.

Joe Julian
Secretary LCACE

Calendar 1992

07	March	SCAT Meeting
07	March	TrekFest (Ramada Ohara)
14	March	L.C.A.C.E. Meeting
15	March	M.A.S.T Meeting
21	March	MIIAtari Ltd Meeting
04	April	SCAT Meeting
06	April	COMDEX/Spring '92
11	April	L.C.A.C.E. Meeting
12	April	M.A.S.T. Meeting
18	April	MIIAtari Meeting
26	April	Computer Central
09	May	L.C.A.C.E. Meeting
10	May	M.A.S.T. Meeting
16	May	MIIAtari Meeting
30	May	CES Trade/Consumer Day
31	May	CES Trade/Consumer Day
31	May	Computer Central

Lake County Atari Computer Enthusiasts

Next Meeting

14 March 1992

Eye of The Beholder II

The Legend of Darkmoon

For IBM and compatibles
VGA and Music Card
HIGHLY recommended
Reviewed by Brett Gaskill

SSI has done it again, with their legendary Dungeons and Dragons games. This is their latest in the Legend series, following hot on the heels of the original. If you did not like the original Eye of the Beholder, but are looking for something vastly different, than I would not suggest buying this. It is however, quite improved over the original.

If you are not familiar with the original, then I must explain it. This is a Dungeon Master type game, based on the second edition Advanced Dungeons and Dragons role playing fantasy game system, from TSR, Inc. It provides a stunning first-person perspective, in which you look out of your character's eyes in all three dimensions. They attempted to add the fourth dimension, of time, but did a very poor job. Everything else does not wait for your actions, which does provide realism, but the problem I discovered was that it would not allow you to dodge enemy fireballs or attacks, like Dungeon Master did. It locks you up and forces you to take the blow; this proves to be very frustrating, especially considering the tremendous speed and dexterity given to the monsters. Other than that, everything else was very well done. Certain character classes will tell you different things about traps and puzzles. Most of it is just useless chatter, but some can be very valuable. You may also need special races to comprehend the writings on walls, because many of it is foreign to the human mind. You can touch and use anything you see. Breaking down walls, moving loose bricks, and forcing doors are all

included. Everything you find, including rotten food, cursed weapons, and rocks (hint hint) will probably have some sort of benevolent application.

By now you, you probably know how the game is supposed to work, so I will get to the fun part--actually experiencing it. The graphics and sound are just about as good as we can get with present day technology. You start out the game in the forest outside of Darkmoon. The graphics here are quite nice, especially the gravesites that you can actually dig up, but I did not really get a feeling that the designers put too much effort into designing this. The trees clearly looked like the walls they were designed from, which really seems unrealistic. Once in the castle, the true power of this program's graphics will reveal itself. The graphics appear to be totally redesigned in this sequel. A castle, catakomb, and three towers are all to your disposal. This game is considerably larger than the original, not necessarily in space, but in content. Another nice addition is that you will actually meet and talk to many more people and monsters than before, adding to the overall realism. The sound-effects are very well done, even though I had hoped for better. The eerie tones from spells and the distant footfalls of a monster are a vital part to this game.

They made some interesting changes to this sequel, most important of which is the fact that you can now save several positions instead of just one, and you can even name them to help you remember exactly where you were at the time of the save. This is a very helpful feature. I was also glad to see that they decided to put an animated ending to this one, so when (if) you complete the game, you will get a better reward than just a screen of text.

Other than this, no other important technical changes were made, other than some new spells and weapons.

Overall, I would recommend this program to any role-playing-game enthusiast. It contains all the characteristics needed for a great game. And for those who have played and loved Dungeon Master, you are going to love this one. The seven years between the release of the two really makes a big difference. Let me say again, that if you do not have a VGA or an equivalent graphics card then you are truly wasting your money. Some sort of music card would also be very nice, though not as important. If anything, this game is showing us that we have achieved just about as much as we are going to, with the current hard drive technology. Imagine the possibilities with a 680 megabyte CD ROM. The monsters would walk smoothly and realistically, everyone you meet would actually talk, not just print information on the screen--we will see this fairly soon. But for now, we have to use what we have, and this [game] is certainly one of the best.

Classified Ads

FOR SALE: NEW Hewlett Packard Think Jet printer. Still in original box, all documentation included. If interested contact: Dwight (J.J.) Johnson (708) 623-3815, or leave E-Mail on Python or Pegasus BBS.

FOR SALE: Atari 520ST Color System - 520ST Computer (unmodified), SC1224 monitor, SF354 (S/S) disk drive. Excellent condition \$300.00. If interested call: Eric Nutt at 708-249-0240 (before 1 am).

FOR SALE: Radio Shack 64K Directory Scheduler Organizer (Phone Directory, Calendar, Memo Pad, World time/alarm clock and Optional PC Connection), NEW CONDITION (less than 2 months old) Sales for \$139.00, asking \$100.00 or best offer. If interested contact: Dwight (J.J.) Johnson 708-623-3815 or leave E-Mail on Python or Pegasus BBS.

Confession of a Dastardly Downloader

By Walter A. Cole

(Reprinted from Current Notes June 1991)

The Devils Toy

I sometimes think my modem is an instrument of the Devil! I am hooked on bulletin boards and I can't shake the urge to download every likely-looking file I find. I now have 40 disks full of ARC'd files of utilities, applications, games, languages, operating systems and communications programs. God knows how many megabytes are encoded there! Let's see: 40 times roughly 720 k equals...

These have been unARC'd into 39 disks of utilities, accessories and applications, 10 disks of games (I've had to rein in my impulse on games because I'm so busy downloading and sorting, I don't have much time to play games), six disks of telecommunication stuff and 12 disks of language programs and related files. All of this is strictly PD and shareware. I also have piles of commercial programs, of course.

Smoking Your Print Head

Oh, how I love to print long .DOC files! My poor Panasonic printer has gone through a veritable mountain of paper and worn out countless ribbons. I'm probably pressing the upper limit of the print head which is good for millions of characters.

Midnight Madness

Because I'm a decent and considerate chap in most ways, this has lead me to work the BBSs in the middle of the night in order not to hog the precious telephone lines during busy periods. What a thrill to download a whopper like Uniterm or Aladdin!

Modem madness is not limited to downloading files--they have to be unARC'd, dumped on to the appropriate floppy and run through my favorite cataloguer. Then if the file looks promising, I have to print it out and then file the hard copy. This leads to a hacker's version of Parkinson's Law: if you have enough ARCD and unARCD file to maintain, you can spend all your time doing just that and not have time to do anything else.

Working the BBSs is not limited to downloading files. No Sireel Reading and leaving messages is just as addictive. Just about any subject under the sun is fair game (and some of it gets pretty gamey). When things have gotten dull, I've been known to feed in some irritation message, leading to a delightful spilling of spleen. A sly note left here or there can give rise to an avalanche of responses. How our users do rise to the challenge.

User to the Rescue

But more than a place for spirited discussions, the BBSs are a place to get sound advice on all manner of problems concerning hardware or software. This is particularly true of the National Capital Atari Users' Group (NCAUG, Ottawa, Canada). One cannot but be impressed by the way users leap to the aid of someone in need of help. And the advice is almost always very sound.

We modem manipulators are a hardy and persistent lot, to be sure. Many's the time we are unable to con-

nect to our favorite BBS--nothing but irritating "BUSY" or "NO CARRIER" messages on our scintillation screens. Then, we are often asked to re-register because the poor sysop, the sucker who minds the BBS store, has inadvertently wiped out the user files. Or even more fun, the BBS owner decided to change the BBS software and we live through the agonies of the Sysops and their little helpers trying to get the bugs out. And boy, do they have bugs!

Wiped Out

In the olden days--a couple or three years ago--it was not uncommon for the sysops to wipe out all the file; not on purpose, you understand. I had the dubious honor and obligation of using my collection of ARC's file to help restore file sections of more than one BBS to some semblance of its former glory. I still keep my clutch of ARC-filled floppies in the vain hope that, once again, I may be called to render yeoman service.

Well, what's to become of me and my mad passion? I guess I'll have to continue to feed my insatiable longing for new and different PD and shareware files. I might point out that my deep sense of obligation has cost me a pretty penny in money orders to shareware authors. Many of their offerings are excellent and worthy of our support.

Patron of Shareware Authors

So all you CompuServe, GEnie and Delphi watchers...keep watching and posting new stuff on our local BBSs. We desperate downloaders have to be fed regularly, or we may wilt and fade away to the big trashcan in the sky. Happy downloading, everyone!

Pegasus BBS
(708) 623-9570

Your online resource for
the latest Atari News

STReport CONFIDENTIAL

"Rumors Tidbits Predictions Observations Tips"

STReport 806

- Ann Arbor MI

AIM HITTING THE "BIGTIME!"
AIM magazine's distributor has recently succeeded in placing the Atari dedicated magazine in approx 250 ADDITIONAL Walden Bookstores.

- Littleton, CO

SST IS SHIPPING

Gadget's SST shipped at the beginning of this week in quantity. Shipped were the bare-board, Option A, B, C, and C&D configurations. The unique packaging sports an eye catching box with an SR-71A Blackbird Stealth Spy Plane on its cover.

- Lake Oswego, OR

PHANTOM OF THE LASER "POPULAR"

There is an affordable, high quality product known as the "Phantom of the Laser". The device permits the user to turn off the SLM 804/605 Laser Printer. This is accomplished by the device supplying the power to the interface that was previously supplied by the printer. Works Perfectly, I've been using one from my days with an '804' and now, with a '605'. It can be obtained from Widgets by Decker, 2399 SW Palisades Crest Dr., Lake Oswego, OR 97034-7519, 503-638-3940.

- Sunnyvale, CA

IS IT TOS 2.06 OR 2.07 OR WHAT!
It seems now, that the word is out that the NEWDESK TOS 2.05 was going to be called 2.07 after being fixed.... The "powers that be have now decided to call it 2.06 after all! Apparently, the 'fix' to the bug introduced when the fix to the double scrolling bug was fixed was not serious enough to warrant a name change. Wonder if the SERIAL PORT PROBLEMS have been fixed and the FLOW CONTROL "features", have they been refined? Is

it is....?? OR is it ain't?! Who's on first? :-)

STReport 807

- Sunnyvale, CA

NAMM SHOW PRODUCES SUPER RESULTS!

The level of sales volume, the number of new dealers signed on and of course, the response from the professional entertainment world has been acclaimed the highest, most positive since Atari's acquisition by the Tramiels. By any standard of measure, J. K. Grunke, Corporate Director, International Music Markets, has brought to Atari a level of professionalism, recognition and enthusiasm the likes of which have not been enjoyed in a number of years. This year's show marks a quantum leap in the proper direction for a soundly producing division of Atari's Professional Systems Group.

- Jacksonville, FL

PORTFOLIO TO STRUT ITS STUFF FOR FUZZ!

In an upcoming convention, Charles Hill will be demonstrating the power of the Atari Portfolio to the Nation's Police Chiefs. Hill, whose company provides a large segment of the software used throughout the nation's Law Enforcement community, plans to demonstrate the powerful uses the Portfolio can provide to the "cop on the beat". He plans to emphasize the versatility of the Portfolio when used in taking Crime scene reports, Accident Reports and all other memo book entries. The ram cards used with the Portfolio are recognized as ideal for storing pre-prepared forms of all types. Hill also mentioned the graphical capabilities they were interested in, he said they wanted the ability to show suspect's "mugshots" to crime scene witnesses before the real vision faded from their memory. When coupled to

the home precinct via telecommunications, the officer could be "patched through" and have the entire "NCIC system" in either his pocket or the compartment in his clip board.

ST-Report 808

- Chicago IL

LCACE MEMBERS NOT PLEASED!

Of note, from the LCACE newsletter, listed in the minutes of the General Meeting posted in their February, 1992 issue, it states;

"All bills have been paid for the Chicago Computarfest by Atari, Hybrid Arts still has yet to pay the club the \$425.00 it owes from the Computarfest. This is the only bad debt from the show. The Club is still short the TT system promised us by Atari. It may never be delivered. Larry has said that Bob Brodie has talked of LCACE doing another show at the same location in July or August of 1992. We shall have to receive the TT and resolve other issues prior to discussing a future show. There was a lengthy post mortem of the Computarfest. It seems everybody had something to say about the show both positive and negative."

Why? Why must so successful a show be marred by the obvious "dropping of the ball" at Atari? Who were the key liaison personnel involved in organizing the show. Perhaps, by this time next week, "Mr. Usergroups" can make sure LCACE, a very active Usergroup, is taken care of and satisfied.



The Great Piracy Questionnaire

By Robert Pecora (CACE)

([Rekeycd] from AIM March 1991)



After reading several articles this past year on software piracy, the thought occurred to me that maybe part of the problem is not that there are so many dishonest people out there, but people just aren't educated about software piracy.

So, in order to better bring the problem to life for each user, I sat down and wrote the following questionnaire covering several real-life situations. I hope that for each of us, it will stir the imaginations, as well as the conscience.

The following are situations that you may encounter as a computer user, followed by questions about the situations. The results of these questions will define whether you are an upstanding and responsible member of the computing community or you need to clean up your act!

1. A friend approaches you and says "For being such a good friend and helping me with the computer problem I had the other day, I'm letting you have a copy of Calamus." You then:

- Say, "No, thank you. you keep it."
- Accept the program and add it to your library of marvelous titles.
- Accept it and format over the diskette when you get home.
- Accept it with the idea that you probably will not use it, but keep it "just in case" you decide to buy it later.

2. You are on a bulletin board and are scanning the FILES area for a program to download [and] you notice that some of the files are commercial pirated programs. Do you:

- Download the files for your use, telling yourself the responsibility belongs to the BBS sysop?
- Leave a message to the Sysop of your suspicion and names of the files?
- Just download the upgrades to the program that you already own and legally purchased?
- Upload a Virus program to the BBS?

3. A friend gives you the telephone number of a "pirate" bulletin board in the area and [tells you] of all the great new commercial programs that you can get for free! Do you:

- Call the bulletin board and download all of your favorite programs before the law finds out and shuts it down?
- Notify the authorities?
- Download your favorite files for yourself, then notify the authorities?
- Ignore the fact that there is a pirate BBS in your area.

4. You owe a friend a favor and the friend asks you for a copy of a commercial or copywritten program that you purchased. So, you:

- Make him a copy of the program and promise yourself that it will be the last time you make an illegal copy.
- Tell your friend that you don't think that would be the ethical thing to do.
- Make him a copy as a backup disk since he promised to purchase the program as soon as he gets the money.
- Give him a copy because he is poor and can't afford to buy any good software.

5. You are at a computer festival/show and are delighted at all the new stuff for your computer. You are just about to buy a program from a vendor for a good price when a friendly guy takes you aside and says "Let's pitch in together and buy the program, then I'll make us both a copy. It'll be like getting it half-price!" Do you:

- Agree and do as your new friend proposes?
- Tell him "No offense, but I'd rather not."
- Go see if you can find a third person to go in on the deal?
- Try to get it for free from your friend who already has it?

6. You download a "shareware" program from a local bulletin board. The document file asks for a donation of \$20 "if you like the program and use it." So you:

- Send the \$20 to the author.
- Decide it's not worth \$20 and send the author \$10 instead.
- Decide that you don't want it, but keep the file in case someone else wants it.
- Use it and promise yourself to send the money later when you are not so busy.

7. You go to a user group meeting and at the meeting everyone is trading copies of the hottest game on the market! Do you:

- Take a copy because everyone else is doing it?
- Take a copy because you did not actually make the copy of the disk yourself, so you aren't guilty?
- Refuse a copy and mention the activity to the club president?
- Quit going to user group meetings?

8. You buy a copy of a commercial program and one day discover that the diskette no longer works in your computer. A friend offers you a copy of the program that he pirated. What do you do?

- Accept the pirated copy from your friend?
- Refuse the copy and send the original diskette to the publisher for a new disk?
- Pay your friend for replacing your bad diskette?
- Go out and buy the program again from the local store?

9. You are the system operator of a local bulletin board system. You get a message one day from a user that there is some pirated software on your BBS. Do you:

- Forget about it? You didn't put them on there!
- Take the software off the BBS and use them yourself.
- Remove the programs from the BBS and discard them? Then, send a message to the uploader warning him of the consequences of doing it again.
- Try to encourage the practice so that everyone will like your BBS more than all the others?

10. You have just sold some legitimate commercial software that you purchased [from] a friend. What do you do with any backup or hard drive copies? Do you:

- Give the backup copies to your friend and delete the files from your hard drive?
- Keep the backup copies in case you need them

someday?

C. Sell the backup copies to someone else and make more money?

D. Continue to use the H.D. copies.

End of Test

Now, let's find out how you did on the test. The answers for the questions are as follows:

1. The correct answer is "A." "C" may also be an acceptable answer when confronted with a person who insists that you have it and doesn't understand the meaning of "NO". However, you will have the appearance of being a pirate to those who know of the exchange.
2. If you picked "B," you are correct! Don't be fooled by "C." Unless the company where you purchased the software offers free upgrades you are obligated to pay the upgrade price required by the company or vendor.
3. This question has two possible answers. If you are the type to not sit idle while a crime is being committed, you may decide to choose "B" and report the activity to the authorities or call the Piracy Hotline set up by the Software Publishers Association. However, if you are the meeker type and don't want to "get anyone into trouble," you may choose "D" and ignore the BBS and discourage its use among your friends.
4. "B" is the correct answer here. With "A" and "C" you are only fooling yourself and if you are the easily fooled, I have some swamp land for sale. "D" is a two-edged sword, used by both givers and takers. The truth is; being generous with stolen pirated software does not make you a good Samaritan.
5. The correct answer is "B." Let's face it. Going together with a friend and sharing the price of software is dishonest. If you get to keep the original disk does that make the other guy the thief or are you both half-thieves? The fact is that if you made the bargain to share the price of the software, you share ownership 50% by the deal struck. This makes you a half-thief which is a whole lot like being half pregnant! These mind games that we play make it all the harder to run a clean software library. Pretending to not understand the legality of the act is denying the truth to yourself and is no excuse for theft.
6. "A" and "C" are proper choices for this question depending upon whether you like the program or not. Since the software author wants the program to get around to as many people as possible, whether by downloading from a BBS or from a friend, "C" is acceptable as long as you do not use the program yourself. "D" is a trap that many of us tend to fall into. We all procrastinate or "put off" things and forget about them. Self-discipline is in order here. When you decide that you like a shareware program, immediately write the check and put it in the mail! There! You did it and it's over with!
7. Let's go for answer "C" for this one. If the activity is not condoned by the user group and the club officers are

unaware of the activity, tell them about it and state your misgivings. If the activity is open and everyone knows it, it would be better to choose "D" and not be a part of a "den of Thieves." Join another user group or create your own to establish good ethical standards in your community. It would probably also be a good idea to contact Bob Brodie at Atari about the club's practices.

8. The best answer would be "B," although "A" is OK as long as it is the same version as the copy that you already own. Many software vendors replace damage diskettes for free or a small fee so if in doubt, go "B."
9. The answer is "C." Even though you did not put illegal copies of commercial software on your bulletin board, you as the SysOp are legally liable for any pirated software on it. The authorities can confiscate your computer hardware, fine you in court, make you pay damages to the software developers and more! Don't fool yourself here. The lesson you learn can be very expensive.
10. "A" of course is the answer. When someone buys a legal copy of a software title from you, he should get the original and he legally is entitled to owning a backup copy now and not you. You should, therefore, delete any copies that are in your possession no matter where they may be stored.

Well, how did you do? You may want to know how this test is scored before you can decide how well you've done. Unlike other tests that allow you to get some of the questions correct to pass, if you have answered any of the previous questions incorrectly, you are a Software Pirate! Sounds a little unfair you say? Think about how unfair it would be if you were working for someone and he refused to pay you for your hard work. If this were to happen to you, you would find no deaf ear to your pleas of injustice.

Why should it be any different for software developers? The fact is, it isn't any different! Maybe because of the fact that it is so easy to steal software, and not many people so far have been prosecuted for piracy, pirates have the feeling that "if I can't get caught, it's OK."

Computing should be an activity governed by good ethical conduct. For the Atari ST community, it is much more vital that we understand the obligation that we are under.

We want respect from all other computer communities, but do we earn any respect?

We want more and more titles to be made available in our computer format, but do we encourage it by stimulating the market demand?

We want more users to join the Atari ranks, but do we foster a good healthy environment for growth?

We want other ST users to be our friends, but do we have to make friends by Stealing?

The Atari ST is a powerful and pleasurable piece of workmanship. Let's be the first to give it and the people who really support it the respect and support they deserve!

[And finally from your friendly NJ proofreader--whew... and Amen. Let's all try to live up to this!]

**Support your club, and
buy public domain
software!**

**Lake
County
Area
Computer
Enthusiasts**

**Next
Meeting**

Saturday, 14 March 1992

Warren-Newport Public Library
244 N. O'Plain Rd. Gurnee, IL


For More info Call
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