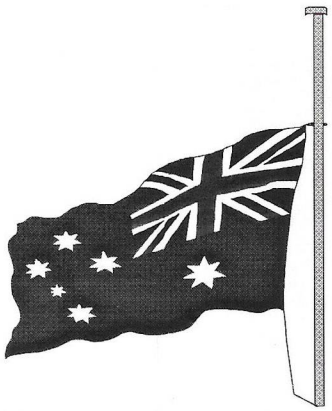
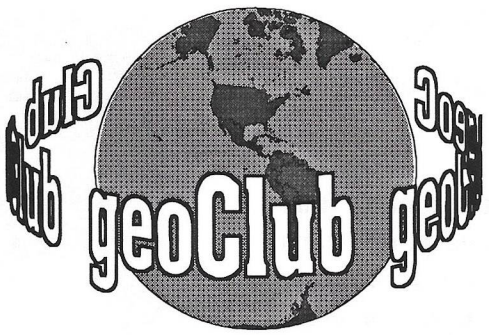
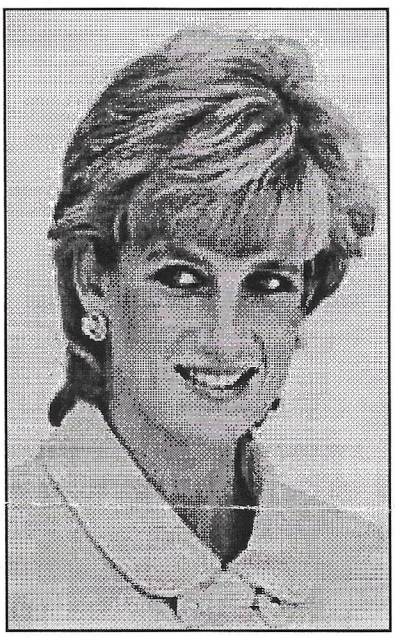




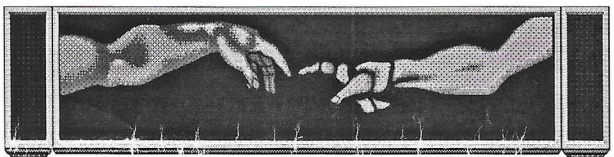
geoNEWS the Journal of geoCLUB **Issue 74** **October 1997**

Diana
Princess of Wales



1961 - 1997

R.I.P.



CONTENTS

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Frank Cassidy
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Manchester
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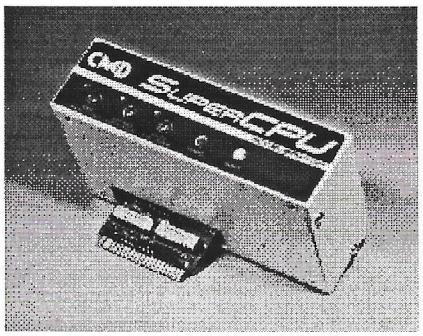
E-Mail f.cassidy@virgin.net

In Our 7th Year of Supporting GEOS and it's users

CDM's SuperCPU

General Information



The SuperCPU is an accelerator module that plugs into the C64/128 Cartridge port. At its heart is the W65C816S microprocessor running at 20 MHz, along with 128K Bytes of high-speed Static RAM (the same type of high-speed cache memory found in 486/Pentium systems), 128K Bytes of
ROM, and a Complex Programmable Logic Device IC (CPLD).

The SuperCPU is contained within an enclosure approx. 6-1/4" wide x 4" tall x 2" deep. The enclosure has an opening for the Cartridge-Port Pass-Thru connector at the rear, in line with the host computer's own Cartridge Port. The main circuit board in the SuperCPU mounts vertically, so as to keep the depth of the unit to a minimum. This helps to prevent devices plugged into the pass-through port on the CPU from extending too far back from the computer. Three easy-to-use toggle switches line the upper front edge of the unit: A Unit Enable/Disable switch; a JiffyDOS Enable/Disable switch; and a speed selection switch. A push-button Reset switch and Turbo mode indicator LED are also provided.

Installing the SuperCPU 64 is simple: just plug it into the Cartridge port. No wiring or jumpers need to be installed inside of the computer, and there's no manual 'fine-tuning' adjustments to be made. (Note: The SuperCPU 128 will require mounting an internal 'daughter-board' in your computer).

Operating the SuperCPU requires no special knowledge. The user can perform all computer tasks in exactly the same manner as with a stock system, while gaining the benefits of accelerated speed. The toggle switches on the unit are clearly labeled, easily accessible, and can be used without having to refer to a manual in order to determine their function.

The SuperCPU 64 operates with C-64 and C-64c computers as well as the C-128/128-D in 64 mode. The W65C816S processor supports all legal 65xx-family processor opcodes, providing a very high level of compatibility with existing software -- including GEOS. The C-64 memory map is emulated exactly, and proprietary write-thru logic ensures full compatibility with all VIC graphic modes and memory mapping.

To help achieve a high level of performance, all operating system routines are downloaded into the high-speed Static RAM upon power-up, eliminating the bottle neck caused by ROM-based operating system code (on PC's, this technique is called ROM-BIOS shadowing). 64K of high-speed SRAM remains free for programs -- just like in a standard C-64. In addition, buffered write-thru circuitry (similar to PC cache-controllers) helps the SuperCPU avoid slow downs when writing data back into the C-64's RAM.

Features

JiffyDOS: The JiffyDOS Kernal ROM for the computer is built into the SuperCPU, providing DOS-Wedge commands and enabling high-speed serial transfer rates to and from JiffyDOS-equipped disk drives. A JiffyDOS disable switch is provided so that the SuperCPU can load programs which are not compatible with JiffyDOS. This switch can be used to enable or disable JiffyDOS while the CPU is running, and does not affect the operating speed.

Pass-Thru Port: The SuperCPU includes a Cartridge Port Pass-Thru connector which enables the full use of most plug-in hardware devices such as Commodore REU's, RAMLink, Swiftlink, SID Cartridge, and GEO-RAM. These devices will work with the CPU running at 20 MHz and will not require a slowdown to 1MHz. Most ROM cartridges (generally games) will either force the SuperCPU to 1 MHz mode, or require that you manually switch off Turbo.

REU Compatibility: The CPLD chip in the SuperCPU

includes special DMA transfer logic to provide 100% compatibilty with all types of data transfers to and from Commodore REU's. The SuperCPU does not have to slow down to 1 MHz in order to perform DMA transfers to and/or from the REU.

RAMLink Compatibility: The SuperCPU is 100% compatible with RAMLink, and contains its own version of RLDOS, which will run from the Super-CPU's high-speed static RAM. The faster RLDOS, along with the efficiency of new 65C816 opcodes will enable the SuperCPU to transfer ata to and from all of the memory on RAMLink's RAMCard at speeds which rival the DMA transfer rate of Commodore REU's. Transfer rates to and from CMD HD-Series hard drives connected to RAMLink's parallel port will also be significantly faster.

GEOS: Special features include the necessary Configure and driver software to optimize GEOS for operation with the SuperCPU. In addition, an intelligent write-thru hardware circuit designed especially for GEOS effectively eliminates a major performance bottleneck associated with earlier accelerator designs such as the Turbomaster and Flash-8. This design feature, coupled with the 20 MHz clock speed of the WDC65C816S boosts the performance of GEOS far beyond anything currently possible or imaginable.

Expansion Capability: The SuperCPU is equipped with an internal connector which is to be used for the C-128 option board and for an optional RAM Expansion card (available in late '96). Each of these cards will have on-board SIMM sockets and can contain from 1 to 16 Megabytes of Dynamic RAM (DRAM). The RAM on this card can be used as additional programming space for advanced applications software.

Speed Selection: The speed selection switch provides on-the-fly switching between 1 MHz mode and 20 MHz (Turbo) mode. The 1 MHz option can be used for compatibility with programs (such as some games and cartridges) that may operate too quickly in the Turbo mode. Speed can also be altered via software using a simple POKE command, provided the unit is in Turbo mode. (Note: The SuperCPU performs disk access functions properly in any speed mode.)

All this information was downloaded from CMD's Web site at HTTP://WWW.cmdweb.com. Now turn to PAGE 6 and see how this effects Geos users

VISON PUBLISHING

Vison Publishing
De Fazant 42
7905 HD Hoogeveen
HOLLAND

Dear Frank,

Our magazine, Commodore Unlimited is currently growing extremely. We have several good staff writers but people contiue to ask for GEOS articles. Commodore Unlimited is being sold all over the world from the USA to Australia.

My question to you is : are you interested in writing GEOS articles for Commodore Unlimited ?. If you send in an article each issue you will be sent a copy of that issue If you are not interested but know of somebody then please ask him to contact me at the Vision Publishing address.

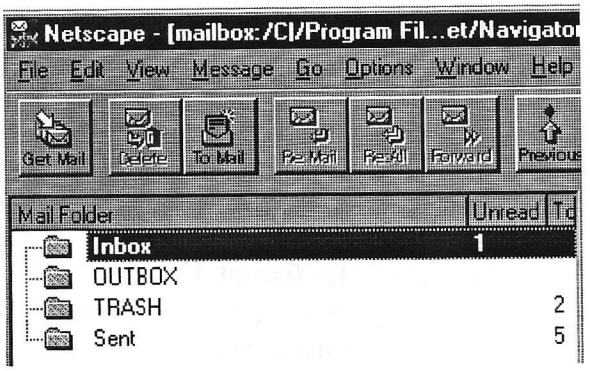
Of course you can also write other articles if you like, but at the moment we prefer GEOS or other 'serious stuff' articles.

Please send a letter (and perhaps including a GEOS article) as soon as possible. I am looking forward to hearing from you very soon.

Yours Sincerely
Peter Staaks

Well I'm quite flattered that someone should ask me to do some GEOS articles for them but really I just do not have the time.

Is there anyone out there who is prepared to commit some spare time and also make a name for themselves. If so then contact Peter directly at the above address.



From the E-Mail 'In Box'

Subject:
TIFCU The Internet For Commodore Users
Date:
Tue, 9 Sep 1997 18:21:51 +0100
From:
Jim <jim@jkindon.demon.co.uk>
To:
Frank <f.cassidy@virgin.net>

Hi Frank,
Hope all is well I have been in contact with David Burgess and have a solution for his problem, printing from Basic, a Centronics cable, so he shoud be OK now.

I e-mailed Gaelyne with a congrats on her article about the Internet Myths and asked her if she could do a follow up on what hardware/software was needed for a C64/128 user to be able to do this and she pointed me in the direction of her web page which had some
details on this.

She gave me the URL http://video-cam.net.au/tifcu and http:// videocam.net.au/ ~gaelyne/getstarted both of which were thrown out by my provider, if you wish to look at her web page leave out everything after and including the first slash, this will let you in, well it let me in ok, interesting. Gaelyne said in a reply to me that it was OK for the club to use any items on the web site for the geoNEWS so I clip one page
for your perusal and the interest of the Commy users who are not yet Net connected.

The Internet for Commodore C64/128 Users, 2nd Edition by Gaelyne R. Gasson
Published by VideoCam Services
ISBN: 0-646-32207-9

Welcome to The Internet for Commodore C64/128 Users Home Page. As you may have heard, this is a book written specifically for C64/128 owners who want to use their computers on the Internet. It can also be used by anyone using any computer platform that can use a terminal program with VT100 or ANSI emulation.

The 2nd Edition book contains 296 numbered pages and spans 17 chapters covering everything from connecting a modem to your Commodore, finding an Internet Provider and what you can do once you're online. It also includes an extensive glossary, index and resource list. To see all the topics covered in the book, check out the Table of Contents page.

The Internet For Commodore C64/128 Users is in A5 format, which means it's 5.5 inches wide by 8.5 inches high. It has a PVC cover for durability and plastic comb binding. This type of binding lets you leave the book open to the page you require while using your computer.

The book is packaged with Novaterm v9.6 Lite by Nick Rossi. This is a demonstration program of the commercially available term program. It includes ANSI and VT100 emulation, and an easy to use configuration program. It has the latest serial drivers (including the new Turbo232 Cartridge) for use with high speed modems. Novaterm 9.6 Lite can be used
by both C64 and C128 users - and allows C128 users to use their familiar 80 column screen when online.

-

Order your copy of The Internet for Commodore C64/128 Users today!

Subject:
Citizen 240C printing from the Commodore command line
Date:
Tue, 9 Sep 1997 18:22:36 +0100

From:
Jim <jim@jkindon.demon.co.uk>
To:
Frank <f.cassidy@virgin.net>

Hiya Frank,
first let me say congratulations to you for the technicolor geoNEWS, did you do it yourself?, printing all the News sheets or did your usual printhouse do it, anyway it's sure brightened things up I bet the rest of the club will be as pleased as I am, and is it as long a time as that?, 6 years ?, well congrats again and HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

OK then, down to the nitty gritty and Dave Burgess's query. It would seem to me that as Dave says he is using the Star NB-15(GC) driver then he could be using a Geo-cable as well, would I be right in thinking this ?, if so then, the Geocable being a parallel cable then he'll find, as I did, that the Geocable will not work from the Commodore command line, he would need to get a Centronics parallel printer cable and thedriver that goes with it to get the printer to work, the two cables are not usable on the two different systems. This is called learning the hard way.

If he needs a Centronics parallel cable I have one that I don't use including the supplied software on tape and a leaflet with a basic program to try things out, all this came from Datel Electronics and as I understand no longer available. Cable and software is as new, I used it just once to do a job from Mini Office 2.

I can't help with the graphics problem, I've always thought the Geos paint prog as being rubbish, and Advanced Art Studio as just passable, I tried GeoCanvas and didn't think much of that either, the trouble is I've been spoilt by the stuff available on the PC :-)

Regards to all at home Frank
Jim
Member of GeoClub UK.
PC Geos Ensemble User.
* I do not do business with EMail or News Group Spammer

David Hunt, son of Peter founder of geOzClub

Another Message from the E-Mail 'IN-BOX'

Managed to scan a Pic of my son David. Printed out passportsize. I managed to printout OK. But still need to work out how to enlarge to A4 size. I can save the graphics in jpg, which compresses to a small size to less than 1 Meg.
Attached Photo of my son David.jpg file.Taken when he was at school.

Hi Pete
It looks OK to me . The problem was that , when viewed with Graphics Workshop it looked like a small picture on an A4 sheet but when I then 'cropped' it and saved it as "David.BMP" it imported to MSPub97 about twice the size you see it here. I'd be quite happy with pics scanned in this size. Viewed in Corel Photo-Paint it looks perfect but imported into MSPub97 the quality does not look as good nor does it print out as good as it looks on the screen. I'm sure there are some perfectly good technical reasons for this. To try and improve the print out quality I did convert it to Black & White first.

Now it may well be that David won't be too happy with me publishing an old school-days picture, but Andy Warhol did say that everyone should have at least 15 minutes fame, and David, this might be it, so make the most of it.

FRANK

CMD'sSuperCPU

GEOS Information

The SuperCPU was designed with GEOS users in mind. In fact, the SuperCPU has a special optimization mode supplied intentionally to help speed GEOS operations. Before using GEOS with the SuperCPU, however, users need to run the GEOS SuperInstall program supplied with the unit. SuperInstall automatically installs options on your GEOS boot disk that are necessary to use the SuperCPU with GEOS. The additions and modifications made by SuperInstaller are as follows:

Modifies your 'GEOS' boot file so that it will force the SuperCPU to 1 MHz while the initial load is taking place

Creates the SUPERGEOS auto-exec file which installs the SuperCPU GEOS Kernal patches during booting

Determines if you're using a CMD SmartMouse, and creates the SuperSmart driver if you are. If you're using some other mouse, SuperInstall will instead default to the option that creates a Super1351 mouse driver. If you have only a joystick, no driver will be selected.

Complete step-by-step instructions for using SuperInstall to modify GEOS boot disks are included in the SuperCPU Users Guide. Once the patches and additional files have been installed, you'll be able to boot GEOS in the same manner in which you have always done. In addition, your GEOS boot disk will continue to function properly whether the SuperCPU is present or not -- the new routines automatically detect your hardware configuration while booting.

SUPERGEOS AS AN APPLICATION

While SUPERGEOS functions mainly as an auto-exec that installs SuperCPU patches during the boot process, it can also be run as an application. When operated in this manner, it presents a representation of the SuperCPU front panel controls, but with one additional switch on the far right, labelled 'GEOS OPTIMIZE'. While the UNIT and JIFFYDOS switches shown on the displayed control panel do nothing, clicking on SPEED or GEOS OPTIMIZE switches changes these functions within the SuperCPU itself (as well as on the screen). This control panel can thus be used to change the speed of your SuperCPU, or to disable the GEOS Optimization mode which is normally turned on during the boot process.

SUPER MOUSE DRIVERS

The two Super mouse drivers have been specially designed to make mouse input devices operate smoothly at high speed. To facilitate this, one of the mouse buttons has been programmed to switch TURBO mode off while the button is held down. The following shows the button assignments for the two drivers:

SuperSmart Driver
- Left Button: Turbo Single-click
- Center Button: Normal Single-click
- Right Button: Turbo Double-click

Super1351 Driver
- Left Button: Turbo Single-click
- Right Button: Normal Single-click

ADDITIONAL NOTES ON GEOS

Due to the use of the GEOS Optimization mode built into the SuperCPU, GEOS applications are able to operate at a highly efficient speed. In addition, thanks to the expertise of GEOS programmer Maurice Randall, the provided GEOS patches deliver an extremely high level of compatibility. GEOS programmers, however, just like many other Commodore programmers, don't always follow conventional standards -- even Geoworks' (formerly Berkeley SoftWorks) programmers would occasionally throw caution to the wind and break some of their own guidelines in writing GEOS applications. While every attempt has been made to assure that things will work smoothly, there are bound to be some oddities lurking about. The SuperCPU enables GEOS to run at speeds many times faster than the original authors could have ever foreseen possible. While we can't guarantee every problem can be resolved, we will investigate and attempt to duplicate and resolve all problems which are reported and properly documented.

That aside, the following are a few notes about various GEOS attributes with respect to the SuperCPU and SUPERGEOS patches:

After installing the GEOS patches on your boot disk, it can still be used to boot your system without a SuperCPU as well as with one.

The GEOS patches can be applied to GEOS boot partitions on CMD devices that were created with geoMakeBoot.

For guaranteed results, the GEOS patches should only be applied to original GEOS boot disks and disks or partitions created with geoMakeBoot. Other boot disk creation methods may be compatible, but we cannot guarantee it.

You shouldn't create geoMakeBoot disks after booting from a patched disk. Boot with a stock GEOS disk, create a geoMakeBoot boot disk, and then apply the patches to the newly created boot disk.

SUPERGEOS should always appear on your boot disk before Configure, especially if you use a RAM device with the RAM Reboot option selected.

A portion of the GEOS patches reside in the SuperCPU itself, in a new RAM area reserved for system use. If a program happens to trash that area -- however unlikely this is -- you may experience problems performing a RAM reboot (RBOOT) using power- or battery?backed RAM devices. The odds of this happening are slim, but it's possible.

To avoid areas that other programmers might use within applications, the GEOS Kernal routine 'ToBASIC' has been patched and partially relocated into the SuperCPU. We don't expect this to create any compatibility problems, but programmers may want to be aware of this.

The GEOS patches applied to the 'ToBASIC' routine also make GEOS perform a better reset. This means that all JiffyDOS commands work correctly now when exiting from

GEOS. Programs such as 'CleanReset 64' are no longer required.

Don's Digest

by Don McManamey

Recently, I had been thinking about prophecies. No, not the biblical kind. Well, OK, that is where it started but this is not the forum for that and not what I wanted to share today. I am referring to prophecies of the future of computers and computing.

In the fifties, computers were large and small. That is to say that while they filled large rooms they had very little memory. These computers employed vacuum tubes as did the radios and TVs of the day.

In the sixties, transistors were used to greatly reduce the size and increase the power but they were still big, slow and not too powerful. Now somewhere along the way, it was foreseen that computers could be used in the home as a resource in a magnitude never before imagined. Because of the vast size and cost of computers, it was predicted that there would be terminals in each home much like having a phone or TV set. These would be connected to a central computer, perhaps downtown.

The space program accelerated the miniaturization in the sixties and seventies when along came the micro chip. By the late seventies or early eighties, micro computer technology had advanced to the point that anyone with just a few thousand dollars could own a 16k or 32k computer. Add to that data storage and a printer and you had as much invested as in a good used car. Along came Commodore and the introduction of the Vic-20. From this point on it seems the power got greater at an ever increasingly fast rate. Drives could hold more, computers got faster and more powerful and the price held steady or dropped slightly.

When the nineties arrived, micro computers had been around long enough that one could buy good used systems for not much at all. The power of programs such as The Print Shop and GEOS, along with data bases, spread sheets, word processors, and of course games, was now available to almost anyone. Well so much for the Idea of a large central computer with terminals scattered around in homes across America, right?

Wrong! Somewhere along the way came this thing called the Internet. The Internet is in many ways the embodiment of the original idea of one large main computer except it isn't a large central computer. You see, there was concern that a large central computer would be vulnerable to sabotage in time of war or the like and this would disrupt the communications of this country and its allies. So the way it was handled was to have a network of computers. The electric company has a grid or web of power lines all across the country. If one line fails power can be routed around the problem. The phone company has a similar system. Now to complicate things, the web is set up in such a way that even a short piece of e-mail is broken down into several small pieces and each piece is sent on different paths and reassembled at the end.

With the Internet you can access all kinds of information including things such as a search of people with your last name (very helpful when you have a name such as McManamey.) If you are a small business you can pay as much as $1400 to have a web page created and be put on the Internet. No one knows what the future of the Internet is, but a small mom & pop company can buy a web site and suddenly have a global market. Now remember those terminals? They now have what is called Web TV. For just a few hundred dollars you can buy a machine that will hook up to your TV set and give you access to the Internet. Wow, what will they think of next! One thing is for sure, when you try to predict the future you had best be careful. That is some mighty dangerous ground you're treading on. Well, until next time try not to get caught in the web ;)

The Internet for Commodore Users

by Gaelyne R. Gasson

The Internet is a big place and it's not always easy to find all the in's and out's about taking advantage of its features when checking it out for the first time. There's a lot of Commodore specific information available on the Internet, but you have to know how to get the information an that can be a Catch-22.

How do I get on the Internet? What term programs can I use? What the heck is FTP? Can I browse the World Wide Web with my C64?

Gaelyne Gasson (formerly Gaelyne Moranec), former editor of CEE-64 Alive!,has been writing about Commodore computers and modeming for several years, with columns and features in Commodore World, and BBS Magazine. She has also written about Commodore computing for other publications such as: C=Hacking, Commodore Network, and Loadstar. After answering countless letters helping others learn the ropes of telecommunications, she's written a book The Internet for Commodore Users
(continued from page 2)

specifically for Commodore Users who want to take advantage of the Internet.

The Internet for Commodore Users is to be packaged with a special version ofNovaterm v9.6 Lite by Nick Rossi.

The Internet for Commodore Users covers the following subjects:

* Hardware Basics
* Terminal and Modem Basics
* Finding an Internet Provider
* Getting Online and Signing Up
* UNIX Shell Account Basics
* Welcome to the Internet
* Email
* Text Editors
* Newsgroups
* Telnet, Rlogin and Other Utilities
* FTP and Archie
* World Wide Web
* Gopher
* Internet Relay Chat (IRC)
* Advanced Email Topics:
* Offline Mail Reading
* Sending and Receiving Files
* Mail Lists
* Using Email to Access FTP, WWW and Gopher
* Changing Your Online Environment
* Dealing With Files
* A comprehensive Glossary
* Commodore Term Program Key Equivalents
* Products Source List
* Internet Resource List

The Internet for Commodore C64/128 Users has a PVC coated cover for durability and a plastic comb binding. The book is being published by VideoCam Services and should be ready for worldwide distribution by about the 11th of April.

VideoCam Services is a registered Australian business (0323082E) owned by Rod and Gaelyne Gasson.

Ordering Information:

(All prices given below are subject to change)

The Internet for Commodore C64/128 Users
ISBN: 0-646-31615-X
$36.95 Australian plus shipping

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Orders can be accepted through postal mail, Email, or from the World Wide Web at http://hal9000.net.au/~moranec/bookord.html. Phone orders will also be accepted.

The prices above are for single copy orders and subject to change. Please contact VideoCam Services for bulk pricing.

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gaelyne@hal9000.net.au

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75, Rush Hill
Bath
Somerset
BA2 2QT

Cautious Market Decisions

The Third and Final Part of Dale Sidebottoms CMD Series.

Author's Note.

Commodore once referred to Commodore Business Machines Inc.(CBM)

Since they went bankcrupt,the word Commodore as used in this article,never refers to the Commodore business. It always refers to the Commodore 64/128 in their various forms or to the Commodore community enthusiasts throughout America and around the world.

Announcer/Host :

Hello, everyone and welcome to our show. Cautious Market Decisions is the program that discusses the buying decisions you REALLY care about ! Our guest today is Patricia, who is agonising over a seriuos computer purchase. Patricia, for the sake of our audience, please tell us your problem.

Pat: Well I own a Commodore and....well...
Host: My, that is a problem!
Pat: No, No! You don't understand! I love my Commodore and would like to keep it!
Host: Well then, what's the problem.
Pat: I've had it for over 10 years! I have never even owned a Car for 10 years. Maybe it's time for a change.
Host: I can see that this is a serious dilemma and to helpyou resolve it, we have with us the world-renowned Dr Fielbutter an I.C.U. specialist.
Pat: I.C.U.?
Host: Yes, he councils, INDECISIVE COMPUTER USERS
Pat: That's me I...I guess
Host: We'll go directly to his office and you can begin your session immediatly.
Doctor: Hello, Patricia. Please be seated. How can I help you ?
Pat: Dr Fieldbutter, I've owned my Commodore for many years and in many ways it's like an old friend. I used to be thrilled by everything it could do. Nowadays, I sit down already thinking about the things I want to accomplish. I boot up my first program and while my disk drive is going...grind...grind...grind..., my mind is going zip...zip...zip. I don't know whether the problem

is me or in my computer. I am so frustrated that I am seriously thinking about switching to MS-DOS.

DR: I assure you that you are not the problem, but it might be your computer. Is it slowing down? Does it seem to be weraing out

Pat: Oh no, Doctor. It is so dependable. It works as if it were new!

Dr: If that is so, then your dissatisfaction appears to stem,not from a decrease in performance but rather from an increase in expectations. This is quite natural in an experienced user.

Pat: Oh thank you Doctor. What should I do about it ?

DR: Well if you are going...grind...grind...grind...and you want to go zip...zip...zip, I suggest that you buy a Commodore compatible hard drive.

Pat: But Doctor, that costs nearly $300! That's a lot to spend on a... She was interupted by loud laughter. The good doctor was holding his sides as tears rolled down his face. He struggled to gain his composure.

Dr: You are so funny!

Pat: I am?

Dr: Oh yes, first you said that you were seriously thinking about buying an MS-DOS computer. Then you pretend to believe that $300 was a lot to spend on your...(more laughter) I must write this down. I want to remember to tell it to Dr. Doss!! Patricia tried to pretend her humour had been intentional;yet she still wanted to defend herself.

Pat: But doctor, if I am going to upgrade my commodore, I should also purchase a SuperCPU to speed up my programs and a Ramlink to provide extra memory that I will need. However all three of these items would cost nearly $750!. I just don't feel comfortable spending that kind of money on a computer I may be selling.

Dr: How long have you contemplated buying an MS-DOS computer.

Pat: I've been wrestling with this decision for about two years. I'ts driving me crazy!

Dr: Let me see if I understand you fully. For two years you have held off upgrading your commodore because at any moment you might decide to move over to MS-DOS.

Pat: Yes, that's it exactly.

DR: I see! Yes I think we have found your problem. It is a condition common to eight bit users. In the medical profession we callit MS-DOS MYOPIA.

Pat: What's that

Dr: It is near-sightedness produced by a misunderstanding of the MS-DOS market.

Pat: But Doctor, what is the cure ?

Dr: The best cure might be to talk to one of my patients He is paying me $100 per session to pour out his frustration because the computer he's already purchased has again decreased in price another $1000.

Pat: Doctor, what are you saying.

Dr: That for MS-DOS users, spending $300 on something that will be relatively worthless in six months to a year is as common as rain.

Pat: I'm feeling worse not better.

Dr: Patricia,let me tell you about my nephew, he is also a Commodore user. His name is Dale Sidebottom.

Pat: Yes,I've heard of him. Recently he's been writing a series of articles on the relationship between the Commodore community and CMD.

Dr: That's the one. Well recently his eleven year old son askedhim to buy a REAL computer so that he could do his homework like other kids in his class.

Pat: Doesn't Dale use a laser printer with his Commodore ?That should make the homework look nearly professional.

Dr: Well, that's what he thought too. But his son informed that other kids did their homework in color!

Pat: Really !

Dr: My nephew explained to his son that if he wanted a new computer, it would have to come from money set aside for his education. For about $3000 they'd be able to gey him a computer equal to his classmates.

Pat: That should have pleased his son very much.

Dr: Not quite! His son shot back, Yes and in seven years when I get to college, it will be as out of date as your Commodore. No thanks Dad. I'm saving my money for college !!

Pat: Smart kid! I guess today even an eleven year old realizes that any computer with a few years on it is in the same boat as the Commodore. The big software companies are all writing programs for people willing to

spend big bucks!

Dr: Precisely!

Pat: Doctor, I just want to make the right decision.

Dr: My dear, how can you possibly make the WRONG decision Will the world be saved or lost if you choose Commodore over MS-DOS or Macintosh over Amiga ? Every computer has adventages and drawback. What is important is that you make the right decision that is right for YOU. Remember that when i asked you about your problem, you never mentioned anything that your Commodore couldn't do. If you want something

that your present computer cannot give you, then you should consider changing platforms. On the other hand, if your main concern is simply for greater effiency then you should seriously consider upgrading!

Pat: But it all seems so complicated.

Dr: Then let me simplify it. Lets say you own a Cape Cod Home It has become too small for your needs. You can either remodel it or buy a new one! Either choice is RIGHT, but which is RIGHT for you!!

Pat: If I really love the home I live in then it would be best to expand it. Cheaper, too!

Dr: Then your decision is made much easier. Your very fortunate that you now HAVE A CHOICE. Until recently a Commodore REMODEL option simply did not exist.

Pat: You must be kidding.

Dr: Prior to august of 1996, I would never have recommended an expierenced user should upgrade a Commodore. But now with the SuperCPU, you have all the tools needed to create an significantly advanced home computer system. You also have the possibility of an even greater compatible computer in the near future ??

Pat: I feel very lucky. this is a great time to own a Commodore But I was surprised when you suggested that I buy a hard drive. Do many MS-DOS computers have hard drives ?

Dr: Nearly 100%. The same is true of Macintosh and Amiga.

Pat: It may sound crazy but I've owned a Commodore for ten years and no one ever told me that it needed a hard drive. In fact I was always told the opposite. It seems like Commodore users just don't buy hard drives.

Dr: On the contary, they buy millions!. They buy MS-DOS hard drives and Amiga hard drives. But true to early training they seldom buy hard drives for their Commodores.

Pat: That is so sad. Why do you think this is happening.

Dr: I beleive there are two practical reasons. First of all, even determined DINOSAURS like my nephew beleived that one day the Commodore would die. After all, if all the old ones are wearing out and non are being born then it must eventually disappear. Why push higher priced hardware on those who must ultimatly switch to another platform anyway.

Pat: But that's no longer true! CMD's new computer venture is successful, then the C64 could live for another generation.

Dr: Yes, but this unexpected turn of events is so recent and radical that perhaps some of those DINOSAURS are having difficulty negotiating the turn.

Pat: That's understandable, what's the second reason.

Dr: Imagine you are greeting a new user who just bought a complete system for $50 at a yard sale. At what point in time do you inform him that he needs a $300 hard drive.

Pat: Ouch! I see what you mean. If i were an officer in my user group, could you give me any advice that might use to turn him in the right direction.

Dr: Simply plant a seed! Tell that new user, YOU HAVE A TERRIFIC SYSTEM, AND IT WILL SERVE YOUR NEEDS FOR YEARS TO COME. However i must warn you that the time will come when your THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE will be replaced by a THIRST FOR ACCOMPLISHMENT. When the day comes you will have grown into an experienced user. I want to reassure you that for a resonable investment your Commodore can grow right along with you. Anytime you'd like to know more, i'd be happy to share it with you.

Pat: I can do that. Buy how do i convince them that it is a reasonable investment.

Dr: Patricia, what happens if you invest fifty cents in a candy bar and eat it? Now your money is gone and your candy is gone. Have you wasted you money?

Pat: No, the enjoyment was worth fifty cents, especially if it was chocolate. If not I wouldn't have made the investment.

Dr: Precisely, but did you know that a computer purchase works the same way? Nothing lasts forever! It will either wear out or more likely, be superceded by a similar product This is why we refer to computer purchases as a DEPRECIATING investment. Now in order for you to feel good about such an investment you must come to terms with its temporary nature. You need to decide what you will allow for depreciation I recommend to my patients that they use a personal depreciation allowance of at least a dollar a day.

Pat: How does that work ?

Dr Let's say you decide to buy a SuperCpu and use it for depreciation allowance of at least a dollar a day.

Pat: How does that work ?

Dr: Lat's say that you decide to buy a SuperCPU and use it for a little over six months. You bought it for $200 and used it for 200 days. If you then decide to change platforms, you have wasted nothing! By your own accounting your investment has depreciated to zero. But, if you keep your Commodore, you'll be usung the SuperCPU for FREE!

It's all ICING ON THE CAKE!

Pat: What do I tell a member who says that no matter how much we upgrade, the Commodore will never be as powerful as MS-DOS?

Dr: Funny you should ask that. My greatest criticism of the MS-DOS market is that it forever encourages prolpe to hunt rabbits with cannon!

Pat: Sorry, Doctor but you lost me!!

Dr: Does your husband hunt?

Pat: Yes he does and I hate it. Every year he goes rabbit hunting with a gun thet he inherited from his grandfather.

Dr: Let's say that he decides to upgrade his firepower and buys a small cannon.

Pat: Let me see if I get the picture. Instead of sending his dog into the thicket, he just blows the whole thicket to hell!! If a rabbit dashes across the field and he can land a volley within 30 yards, that hare is HAMBURGER.

Dr: Precisely

Pat: But thats rediculous! My husband would feel silly doing such a thing.

Dr: Yet, that is what MILLIONS of Americans are doing. They buy high-priced high-powered, high-end business machines designed to HUNT BIG GAME and then take them home to chase RABBITS.

Pat: Yes, I see what you mean, but a friend of mine recently bought a complete MS-DOS system with a pentium chip and all software she needed to get started for $1500. Is that a good price?

Dr: Probably so, but remember that is simply where her investment started. if we are to apply the depreciation allowance of a dollar a day, it would require four years for that investment to depreciate to zero. Do you think that system will satisfy her needs for four years?

Pat: Probably not.

Dr: It is also interesting to note that the market depreciation is usually 50% in the first year. So the market value of her MS-DOS system will probably drop $750 in the first year alone.

Pat: Do you mean that I can fully upgrade my Commodore for the same amount that SHE will loose in the first year market depreciation on an MS-DOS STARTER KIT.

Dr: I might have expressed it differently but let's remember that the computer should be VIEWED neither as a TOY nor as a TROPHY but rather as a TOOL which we should seek to use wisely. On the one hand, some might say that operating a Commodore without hard drive will waste resources; on the other hand so will....

Pat: Hunting rabbits with a cannon.

Dr: Precisely.

Pat: Oh,thank you Doctor. Youv'e helped me so much.

Host: Patricia, what have you decided?

Pat: I'm going to upgrade my Commodore and wait and see how CMD makes out. If I decide to leave Commodore after 2 years, I can do so knowing that my investment has depreciated to zero. If on the other hand, my new purchases can be used with CMD's new computer(??), I will feel like a genius. I really think that I will be using Commodore and CMD products for many years to come.

Host: Thank you for being today's guest on CAUTIOUS MARKET DECISIONS.

Pat: Thank you for having me.

Host: Dr. Fieldbutter, do you have any last thoughts to share with us as we close today's show.

Dr: I recall the words of wisdom spoken by the great CONFUCIUS OF CYBERSPACE in regard to homes having more than one computer.

Host: And they are?

Dr: WHERE YOUR HARD DRIVE IS, THERE WILL BE YOUR HEART ALSO.

Host: Words to live by certainly! Thank YOU Doctor.

That wraps up our show for today. Thank YOU for being with us. GOODBYE EVERYBODY.