The Dispatch Disk

Southern Districts Commodore Users Club inc. News Paper.

March 87.

COMMITTEE - 1986/87.

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Next meeting : MONDAY 27th April at 7:30 pm.

Location : Salvation Army Hall Elizabeth Rd. Morphett vale.
Subject : 1. Viatel
        2. Music Shop

        May Apple demonstration
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Disclaimer : The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the writer/writers, and are not neccessarily of the club's committee members.

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WORD PROCESSORS ON THE COMMODORE 64 / 128

What is a Word Processor

A word processor is a programme that lets you type in text, which is then displayed on the monitor, and then modify it. This text may be for example a letter or report. After the document is typed in it may be saved to tape or disk and then printed if desired. If you wish to change this document it is then a simple matter of reloading the original off tape or disk and then modifying it and saving it.

This can be used to write similar letters to all of your aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters etc. while you are on holiday!

Features of Word Processors

Nearly all word processors have :-

1.   Insert or delete characters.

2.   Cut and Paste - A section of text can be marked to form a block. This block can then be moved copied or deleted.

3.   Search and replace - Search for a word, with the option to replace that word with other words e.g. type WP in this document and when finished do a search for WP and replace with WORD PROCESSOR.

Most word processors have the following features.

1.   On screen formatting - What you see on the screen is what is printed. This is ideal, but the standard forty column display on the Commodore 64 looks a little strange on a page which could take eighty columns. Most word processors have some method of previewing in eighty column mode.
     Easyscript does not use on screen formatting but has a 'preview' facility. This gives a reasonable idea of what the printed page will look like. It shows the whole page as a rectangle with dots to represent the letters. People who use easyscript a lot soon learn to interpret this preview page.
     Paperback Writer has the option of typing your entire letter in eighty column mode by redefining the character set to be readable at eighty columns.
     Jane (Commodore 128 only) allows screen displays of forty, sixty five or eighty columns using the composite video monitor connector.
     Wordstar (Commodore 128 only) allows display of eighty columns using the RGB (high resolution) connector.

2.   Move cursor by word, line, sentence, paragraph or page.

3.   Delete word, line, sentence, paragraph, page or marked block.

4.   Mail merge - Using a list of names, print a number of copies of a standard letters, one for each name in the list.

5. Formatting of the printed output by
setting the left hand margin,
                    right hand margin,
                    line spacing,
                    lines per page,
                    left hand justification,
                    right hand justification,
                    centered justification.

Print features;   bold,
                    underlined,
                    italics,
                    subscript and superscript,
                    header - page top,
                    footer - page bottom.
Automatic page numbering.
Printing selected pages only.
Inclusion of margin notes.
To my knowledge only Paperback Writer has all of these
features, but you may not need all of the options.

6. A spelling checker is great for people who can't spel (or is
that spell?), but they do tend to be a little slow.

7. Some wordprocessors accept information from spreadsheets or
databases. This allows reports to include tabulated data or
information direct from the spreadsheet or database. Jane
(Commodore 128) includes a database, spreadsheet and word
processor, and transfer is quite easy using this programme. If
you wish to use this feature be wary of salesmen's statements
such as "Sure it will work. My brother in laws cousin's next door
neighbour does that all the time."

So! Which is the best wordprocessor? .... The answer is
IT DEPENDS. There is no perfect word processor. It depends on
your needs, how much time (and money, ed.) you want to spend
getting up to speed on the programme. There are four distinct
categories:
    1. Professional author.
    2. Professional typist.
    3. Casual user.
    4. Computer freak.   (???)

The professional author wants a programme that does not
interfere with his creative flow, but would be happy to spend
some time learning the system. This programme would then be
transparent to him. A system such as Wordstar which uses
keystrokes to operate would be appropriate here.

The professional typist is also prepared to spend some time
learning, and would not mind shuffling disks and extracting parts
of letters from many different sources. His main objective is to
finish the job as soon as possible.

The casual user does not want to spend a lot of time
learning the system, and certainly does not want to be constantly
referring to the instruction manual. He needs a system that is
easy to learn and remember. Paperback Writer and Jane are both
easy to operate. Paperback Writer has a command field across the
top of the page and has an extensive help feature. Jane uses
ICONs or screen based graphics to identify the various conmmands.

For example, cut is seen as a pair of scissors and past is seen as a paste jar.

The computer freak will quite happily spend hours rummaging through the manual and fiddling on the screen with the most complex system he can find! That is fine, he appreciates the esoteric (Thanks to Sam H. for that word) (and to Ken for the meaning ed.) niceties of the programme and enjoys the challenge of getting the programme working successfully. Wordstar would be my choice for these guys although I accept that Wordstar and dBase II were the two programmes that that established personal computers in the marketplace.

Personally I think that Paperback Writer is an excellent starter programme. It has many of the features listed earlier, is presented in a businesslike manner and more importantly, as you gain experience the system does not slow you down too much. By deleting all the help files from the work disk you can store fairly long reports. In my estimation Paperback Writer would suit the majority of users. If you have mastered everything about Paperback Writer, then you are in a good position to judge for yourself which word processor to buy next.

So there you are Easyscript users. Perhaps there is a better word processing package. Before I close I would like to point out that Easyscript can do all that Paperback Writer can do, it is just that Paperback Writer is easier to use.

K. P.

NOTE:
Next month we hope to bring you a summary of a number of different word processors. There are already a couple of submissions. If you have a favourite then scribble a few words about it on a piece of paper and give it to John or Peter for the next Despatch Disk.

There was an error in last months article on Commodore drives. The SFD 1001 drive is available in Australia for about $550 plus about $150 for an interface for the C64 or 128. This drive will provide 1M capacity on a 5 1/4 in. floppy disk.

GLOSSARY OF WORDPROCESSING TERMS

ASCII   American Standard for Information Interchange. This is an international standard code used to store text information such as letters or documents. Word processors that are called ASCII editors use this form of storage. Most word processors use this code for storing text.

Control Characters
               The first 32 ASCII characters do not represent printable letters or characters. These are called control codes. They are used to send commands to some device such as the printer or screen. ASCII 7 will ring a bell. ASCII 10 will cause the device to move down one line. ASCII 13 will move the cursor or carriage to the

beginning of the line.

Control Keys

These are keys that are produced by holding down the CONTROL key while pressing the required letter or character. This may be written a number of ways; ^E, <CNTRL>E, <CONTROL>E, CNTRL E or CONTROL E. These may also indicate control codes (see above). There are often tables of control codes and their ASCII equivalent in computer manuals.

Cut and Paste

Cut is where a portion of the document is sectioned off for copying, deleting or moving. Pasting is moving that portion of the document.

Database A programme used to systematically store a large amount of data for later recall or printing.

Editor A programme that allows the user to input information, this may be text or a programme, and allows the user to modify this information. All home computers that start up in BASIC such as the C64 comes with a screen editor. This allows the user to type in and change basic programmes. All word processors are editors.

Footer A line that may be printed at the bottom of the page.

Format The appearance of the final output.

Header A text that may be printed at the top of the page.

Integrated Package

Several programmes, usually including a word processor, spreadsheet and database. These programmes are written in such a way as to allow information from one to be used in any of the other programmes.

Justify To align the left (left justify) or right (right justify) margins. This text is both right and left justified. Centre justify is to centre all text with ragged right and left margins.

PET ASCII This is not ASCII. This is only called ASCII because the control codes are similar to those in true ASCII. This is the way text is stored in Commodore computers. Conversion tables between PET ASCII and true ASCII are available in some books on the Commodore computers.

Spreadsheet

A programme used to store a number of arithmetically related figures in the form of a large sheet, similar to a large sheet of paper with rows and columns. This is used for such things as budgets, expense accounts and price lists.

Word Processor

A programme that allows the user to enter and modify text. It also formats the printed output.

J. H.

Well by now you should know all about PEEK's and POKE's.
These are the building blocks of any serious computing
work that you may do.
However we need to know one more thing before we can
really start diving into our computers. These are TWO BYTE
NUMBERS.
If you have been following so far you will realise that
PEEK's return a number less then 255 and that we can not
POKE an address with a number greater than 255.
So, how can we POKE an address with a number greater than
255?
What we do is to split the number into two parts....
Say we wanted tO POKE the number 64738 into location
818...
We would divide by 256.... 64738/256=252 remainder 226
The result (252) is the HIGH BYTE
The remainder (226) is the LOW BYTE.
So we POKE the LOW BYTE into the desired location and we
POKE the HIGH BYTE into the next highest ADDRESS.
SO...POKE 818,226
      POKE 819,252
If you do this you will find that if you try to SAVE a
program the computer will COLD START.
Please re-read this and if you are sure you know about TWO
BYTE NUMBERS, PEEK'S and POKE'S you will be well prepared
for next months installment of putting PEEK'S POKE'S and
TWO BYTE NUMBERS together.

MEAN-WHILE

If you are having trouble with the timer in some of your
commercial programs in that the clock seems to run slow
try this...
POKE 56334,PEEK(56334)OR128

128 Owners only...
SYS 65341   COLD START
SYS 32800,123,45,6   Peace message & Credits!!
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<u>FOR SALE / WANTED</u>
For sale : The Final Cartridge Mk2. $110.00
           Geos V1.2 $100.00
           See Gary wilson.
Give away: one new ribbon for 801 Printer
           See Austen evens.
Wanted   : Any public domain programs.
           A list of original software from all club members.
           See John Hancock.

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