

### EDITOR'S COMMENTS

As this is being written towards the end of April I have realized that it's been a hectic month. Beginning with a journey north of the border to 'Bonnie' Scotland to attend the wedding of my brother. Now we know why it has the title 'Bonnie' what a wonderful country, gorgeous scenery and such warm and friendly people.

It has also been the month of the comet, Hale-Bopp to be precise and I am sure that everyone who ever wanted to see a comet has had the opportunity. In the 30 + years that I have been a casual sky watcher it's certainly the best and brightest comet I have ever seen. A vast improvement on last years week and watery appearance on what we were told would be a comet to brighten up the sky.

I have had a number of inquires as just what The Net holds for the C64 computer user. That I have no real idea of apart from knowing that it will be text only, as I do not have my C128 set up for communications and using a P100 on the WWW is a totally different kettle of fish. So I will call on the help of others to supply the information. I do hope to include something about this in the next issue and will try to cover different aspects of surfing the net in the months to come. I intend to reproduce pages as I view them with a effort to show just how vast it is and the potential that is out there.

See you all in June -- Happy Geosing *Frank*



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*In Our 6th Year of Supporting GEOS and it's users*

# The May Disk Review

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Have a good Easter?, wasn't the weather great for a change. Anyway, it's time once more for me to give you the May Review. As usual, our sincere thanks go to Peter Hunt in Oz, and also to Peter McGuinn, Gordon Turrall, Doreen Horne and Peter Brumaley for their donations. Thank You from all of us. OK, to start with . .

## geoCLUB DISK 522

geoVIEW for the following pics from Peter McGuinn - **BIRDS 1 & 2; AUS ANIMALS; ANIMALS 1, 2 & 3.**

## geoCLUB DISK 523

Carrying on from the previous disk, here's some more excellent pics - **ANIMALS 4, 5, 6 & 7; BOEING 767; TROLL; BARNEY**

## geoCLUB DISK 524

geoVIEW for the following geoPaint files - **MOUSE; MICKEY; MICKEY2; LIONKING; LETTERHEAD 1, 2, 3 & 4; LH 1 to 7; OZ LH 1, 2, & 3; DIY No1, 2 & 3.** When I mention that these have been done by Peter McGuinn & Gordon Turrall you know that they're good.

## geoCLUB DISK 525

The '**BIBLE**', on this disk is a 'Read Me' file, QuickView to look at the following files - **GENESIS, THE FLOOD, COMMANDMENTS, JESUS, FISHES, CRUCIFIED** etc. Also included are the fonts used. Plus there's some more geoPaint files, **DIY 4 & 5**, plus 6 others.

## geoCLUB BASIC 73

**KOALA PICS.** Just load with - **LOAD\*\*\*,8,1** and follow the on-screen prompts. 25 pics in all, **ROBOCOP, ROBIN HOOD, BIG CATS** to

name just a few.

## geoCLUB BASIC 74

As before, just type in - **LOAD\*\*\*,8,1** and away you go. First off you get a 'Paint' programme, which to be honest I can't figure out!!. Also included on the disk are some pics that have been done using this **KOALA** system. Just load in '**ART GALLERY**'.

## geoCLUB BASIC 75

Picture Disk that needs a programme called **AUTOGRAPH** from **Disk 77**. Some file names are - **MEDICINE MAN, CAMERA, STAR 1 to STAR 6** etc.

## geoCLUB BASIC 76

Another great Picture Disk, some titles are - **FISH, FERRET, LIONEYES, EAGLE, CONCH** etc. Also needs **AUTOGRAPH** from **DISK 77**.

## geoCLUB DISK 77

**AUTOGRAPH** to view the following files - **GUNICORN, UNTOUCH, UP PERIS, VELOCIPEDE, WARHAWK** plus others.

## geoCLUB DISK 78

**AUTOGRAPH** again to view the following pics - **BASIL, CASTLE, BLISS, BARBARIAN, BMX RACERS** plus others.

## geoCLUB DISK 79

**AUTOGRAPH** again for - **DEVIL, CREEP, SPOCK, ELEPHANT, ESPIRIT, DESTROYER** plus others.

## geoCLUB BASIC 80

To start with a 128 programme from Doreen Horne called **LITTLE RED**

**READER.** Being as I'm using a 64, according to Peter's letter, it will convert Commodore and IBM files, but I'm sure that Sharon will be able to help you out. Also included on this disk is **AUTOGRAPH** again, plus 17 pics, some of which are - **SECT 90, SPIDER MAN, SHILO, SKULL** plus others.

For the month of May, that's it. As usual, if anyone has got anything that they'd like to be included in our library, then please send it to either Sharon or myself. The price of our **double sided** disks remains at £1.30, and this includes the P/P. When ordering any disks, please make the cheque or Postal Order payable to **GEOCLUB**, and not to Sharon or me - Thanks.

So 'till June, it's time to say Good-bye for yet another month. To any of you who are off on Holiday, take care, and send us a card!! Sharon & Terry :-) :-)

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## Did You Know That ...

One thing your C64 can do that your mates £1,000+ PC cannot do at boot up is calculate.

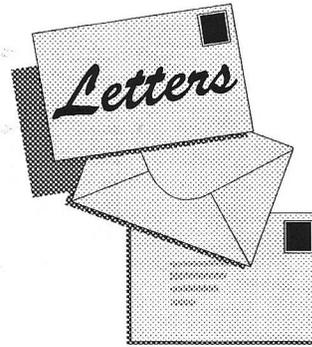
+ is for addition  
- is for subtraction  
\* is for multiplication  
/ is for division

For example.  $2 + 2 = 4$   
 $6 - 2 = 4$   
 $2 * 2 = 4$   
 $8 / 2 = 4$

For more technical calculations it is possible to use the C= ↑(CBM Key and the Up Arrow Key) to get  $\Pi$  (pi).  
Now try ....

Circumference of a circle is given by the formula  $2\Pi R$ .  
Just type ?  $2 * C = \uparrow * \text{radius}$   
eg :  $2 * C = \uparrow * 25 = 157.079$

With this in mind it is possible to do other calculation that depend on pi for and answer also.



To The  
**EDITOR**

Dear Frank,

I recently bought a whole load of C64 stuff at a local car boot sale some of which duplicates what I already have and would therefore like to offer this at 'postage costs only' to any member interested.

GEOS V2.0 System Disk **NO MANUAL SORRY**  
Magpie Database disk and manual  
Easy Calc Result cartridge and manual  
Hes Writer 64 cartridge and manual  
Gemini Office Master Cassette and manual  
Renegade disk and manual ( appear to be copies ?)  
Freeze Frame cartridge & instructions  
All Free to a good home or museum !  
I also have over 500 different games, if any readers require something specific if the contact me I'll see what is amongst them. There are lots of disk and I am still ploughing through them

I also acquired a Modem ( *Oh dear !* )  
It is a Miracom Miracle WS4000, it came with a power pack and an RS232 cable but I cannot see how to attach the cable to the C64. If any member can help with this one I would very much appreciate it. Also any useful telephone numbers

I am also after a copy of Sim City and Nobby the Aardvark

Yours sincerely Geoff Sutton  
Tigh-Na-Sith, Main Street, Guildtown,  
PerthshirePH2 6BS

*Dear Geoff*  
*Well there's an offer not many could refuse and what a kind gesture.*  
*Cannot help with the Modem details but I am sure someone out there can. Once you are up and running do take care, I know 1p per minute sounds like a good deal and it is, but it soon clocks up to a tidy sum.. Regards Frank*



## **NEWS FROM**

## **AMERICA**

**CMD Launches The SuperCPU.**

**LOADSTAR Still Going Strong.**

**LOADSTAR Testing New SuperCPU.**

**Reports No Compatible Problems.**

**Geos Zooms.**

**Geos Publication Reports That GeoWrite**

**Update By Robert W Kribs Is Nearly**

**Completed. At Present Being**

**De-Bugged.**

### **COMMODORE HACKING REPORTS.**

**ACE Release#15: Ace15 Programmers Ref Guide**

**By Craig Bruce is now available.**

**[http://ccnga.uwaterloo.ca/\(tild\)csbruce/mycommie.html](http://ccnga.uwaterloo.ca/(tild)csbruce/mycommie.html)**

**NOVATERM 9.6: Will be on disk(1541/81) and not  
on Cartridge as previously stated.**

**Price \$29.95 .**

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**U.S.A.**

**Issue 1**



# BIG BLUE READER

SOGWAP Software

by Michael R. Miller

## Part 3

### HELP AND TROUBLESHOOTING:

Continuing.....

4. Big Blue Reader sends a lot of information between the Commodore 128/64 and the 1571/1581 disk drive. Occasionally, the 1571/81 disk drive may get confused and fail to operate properly. Most often, this is because you may have inserted the wrong disk, removed the disk at the wrong time, or possibly a disk error has occurred. First try pushing the RUN/STOP key. Next try resetting your disk drive by turning it off and on again. If the computer is still locked up then you may need to reset your Commodore 128/64. Reset you 128 system by turning it off then on again by using the power switch.

5. Big Blue Reader 64 takes less than 10 seconds to load (with its fast load). The Big Blue Reader 128 takes about 20 seconds to load on the 1571/81 drive. If it takes longer than 20 seconds to load the BBR 128 program, your 128 is not using burst mode and you will encounter other problems (See also #3 above). NOTE: MSD drive users be sure that the 1571/81 drive is the first drive on the 128 serial bus. The MSD drive has a non-standard serial bus and will not allow burst mode communication to pass.

6. BACKUP important disks! If a disk has important data which is non replaceable, BACK IT UP! Also use write protect tabs. Don't wait until it's too late!

7. It is suggested that you write MS-DOS files to newly formatted MS-DOS disks. Remember you are dealing with two different disk drives from two different computers, the Commodore 1571/81 drive and the IBM PC compatible MS-DOS disk drive.

8. Some programs may produce files which are incompatible with any other than itself. In this case you may then need to use a different Commodore

or a different MS-DOS program to handle the job.

9. BBR handles disk errors in a similar way that MS-DOS or Commodore-DOS would. When a disk error is encountered you are prompted to Retry, Ignore or Abort read or writing.

10. Using Big Blue Reader 128 you may print the directory of a disk in memory by pressing the <CTRL> and <P> keys simultaneously.

11. The Commodore 1571 disk drive is not designed to read or write high density 1.2 Meg disks. Likewise, the Commodore 1581 disk drive is not designed to read or write high density 1.4Meg disks.

12. Pocket Writer 2 for teh Commodore, is one of the most versatile word processors for file input/output options. This WP can output files as text, sequential, or printer files. Also this WP can handle both Commodore ASCII and Standard ASCII files.

13. Both "PaperClip" and "Pocket Writer" word processors normally use screen code files ("PRG" file type). Both can easily output SEQuential files for conversion to MS-DOS.

14. To transfer Multiplan files between Commodore 64/128 and IBM MS-DOS change the files to "SYLK" files.

15. Use WordStar in non-document mode to import and export files to Commodore 128/64 mode.

16. IMPORTANT: Avoid using the ASCII translation and/or adding line feeds when transferring Commodore files over 50K with BBR 128 or over 32K with BBR 64. Long Binary files transfer fine.

### CONVERSION TIPS:

Converting Word Processing files: Use Commodore SEQuential files with Commodore 128/64 programs and standard ASCII files with IBM MS-DOS programs. If your word processing program cannot handle these generic files, you should probably get one that

does.

**Converting Database files:** Commodore database files normally need to be converted to SEquential files before converting to MS-DOS. Like wise MS-DOS database files normally need to be converted to Standard ASCII files. NOTE: Database programs use various file and record delimiters. Commas, quotation mark, and carriage return are common.

**Converting Spreadsheet files:** Although file compatibility is some times limited, many spreadsheet programs can convert their files to "DIF", "SYLK", "Sequential" or "Standard ASCII" format; allowing these files to be interchanged between Commodore and MS-DOS.

Almost always you can interchange data files for any program running under MS-DOS with an analogous Commodore 64/128 or C128 CP/M version of the same program.

#### ASCII FILES

ASCII Stands for "American Standard Code for Information Interchange". It is the standard for computer communications. True ASCII which uses the ASCII standard is simply referred to as "standard ASCII".

IBM PC compatible computers use Standard ASCII characters for the first 128 characters, CHR\$(0) through CHR\$(127). The last 128 characters, CHR\$(128) through CHR\$(255), are special characters that make up an extended ASCII character set. The extended ASCII character set is used for either, special formatting of text, or IBM's own special graphic character set. Big Blue Reader when asked to translate "Standard ASCII to Commodore ASCII", translates CHR\$(128) to CHR\$(255) as the equivalent CHR\$(0) to CHR\$(127), thus stripping the high bit.

When the Commodore 128/64 is in its text mode (upper/lower case, with limited graphics), the character set diverges noticeably from the ASCII standard. Numeric characters and much of the punctuation corresponds, but ASCII uppercase alphabetic codes match the Commodore's lowercase codes. Commodore's uppercase alphabetic codes are now completely out of the range of the ASCII range, since ASCII is a seven bit code.

Because of the differences in ASCII codes, Commodore ASCII codes require conversion before they can be used with standard ASCII, and vice-versa.

A few C128 word processors, such as "Superscript 128" and "Wordwriter 128" use "standard ASCII" files. Such files do not require an ASCII translation to and from MS-DOS. Also "PaperClip III" and "Pocket Writer" can optionally input/output Standard ASCII files directly.

Many Commodore programs use "screen code" files ("screen code" files have a PRG file type). Commodore screen code files must be converted to Commodore SEquential files before transferring to MS-DOS.

Some word processing, database and spreadsheet programs may use unique character codes or embedded formatting commands, which make it difficult for conversion to any other program. Most programs that utilise such files usually have a way to output SEquential or ASCII files, or a conversion program is often available.

NOTE: Some Commodore programs may optionally use standard ASCII files. Such files do not require an ASCII translation to and from MS-DOS.

**Regarding Line Feeds:** MS-DOS programs normally divide a text file into lines by marking the end of each line with a carriage return and a line feed. Most Commodore programs however use only a carriage return. Therefore when an ASCII translation is made to MS-DOS you will normally want to add line feeds also.

Use the Big Blue Reader PRINT option to read questionable text files. If you can read a file with the PRINT option you more than likely can transfer that file to another format with no problems, keeping in mind that you may need to do an ASCII translation.

The Basic Rule when transferring word processing and text files with Big Blue Reader is to use Commodore SEquential files and

MS-DOS Standard ASCII files.

Big Blue Reader, MS-DOS, and Commodore 1541/1571/1581 disk formats.

Big Blue Reader 128/64 is a unique and powerful utility for use with the Commodore 1571 and 1581 disk drive. The program takes advantage of the advanced hardware and software designs of the 1571/81 disk drives.

Copying between two entirely different disk formats such as the IBM PC compatible MS-DOS and standard Commodore disk is no easy task. The Commodore 1571 and 1581 disk drives can however handle multiple disk formats and data transfer rates. Disk formats range from single sided, single density to double sided, double density.

The Commodore 1571 disk drive supports several floppy disk formats: GCR and MFM. The 1571 GCR format is identical to the single sided commodore 1541, except that the 1571 is a double sided drive. Basically all Commodore 64/128 software uses the 1541/71 GCR format. The Commodore 1571 can also read and write industry standard MFM disk formats. The MFM format is used by MS-DOS and most CP/M computers. Note: The Commodore 1581 uses only MFM format.

Besides the different disk formats involved (GCR & MFM), both Commodore and the MS-DOS Disk Operating Systems (DOS) are radically different. The DOS is the software that provides an interface between the host computer and the drive's internal mass storage devices and disks. The DOS keeps track of the file management details necessary to create, modify, and delete files. It also monitors the amount of free space on a disk, keeps track of the file names in a directory, and remembers where each is so that the files won't overlap.

The reason the Commodore 1571 was designed to read and write IBM System 34 MFM disk formats, is so that it can access CP/M disks from such computers as KayPro, Osborne, Epson, etc. Although the physical format (MFM) of these disks is the same as used by MS-DOS, the logical formatting of CP/M disks is entirely different from MS-DOS. NOTE: The C128 1571 CP/M disk format use standard Commodore GCR format, and not MFM.

In order for the 1571/81 to read or write MS-DOS or any CP/M disks for that matter, the drive must be under control of the host computer. BBR emulates the MS-DOS and CP/M disk structures, controlling the 1571/81 drive, reading and writing Commodore, MS-DOS, and C128 CP/M files.

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## Printers

by Richard Wagner

*This article on Printers comes to you via Geos Publication( Willis Patten),Louisville Kentucky,by Richard Wagner of Overland Park Kansas.*

*The article is in response to fellow subscribers(Geos Publication)that are wondering how they can upgrade their printing, especially when it comes to 24 pin colour dot-matrix and inkjet printers.*

First lets discuss dot-matrix printers, these are good for general printing. I use a Commodore MPS-1000 for printing labels with the program DweezilLabel128 by Dave Ferguson (Quincy Softworks).

{ \*\*Just butting in Frank has the soledistribution rights for Quincy in the U.K. }

This program does a good job and I highly recommend it if one has a printer with tractor feed. One thing about dot-matrix printers is that you get a print out made up of a bunch of dots stamped on to the paper. One can enhance their printout with multi-pass printer drivers but they are slow.

The other option is to get a ink-jet printer and most of them are colour capable like the Cannon colour bubblejets and Epson inkjets. You may wonder why I do not include Hewlett-Packard inkjets. For one reason they can't print in colour if you have a Commodore computer( I can second that). See when one prints in colour you

have to be in graphics mode and that means the colour messages from the computer to the printer can only be understood if the printer is Epson Colour Compatible. No one has yet written an Epson Emulation driver that will work with colour printing on a Hewlett-Packard printer. Also HP printouts are 75 dpi and are not 80 dpi like most printers do. It is because HP's are 300 and 600 dots per inch printers and they can only print out 75 dpi because of the reduction from their high resolution to our low resolution Commodores.

Cannon Bubble Jets are very Commodore Compatible because they can operate in Epson and IBM(sneer) mode. Epson mode works with both colour and black and white printing. Wait a minute you may ask, what is the IBM mode used for.

The answer is that the Geos program available from CMD called Perfect Print works best inkjets if you set up the software in IBM-Mode. If you buy a Cannon Bubble-jet make sure it has dip switches on it so you can set dip switch 12 either off or on to select which mode you want to be in. If the Bubble-jet has no dip switches then it is designed to work with Windows 95 software where the dip switches are replaced with an internal memory chip that allows a Windows 95 computer to set the printer memory up like it is using dip switches, but only electronically.

Epson printers work only in Epson mode, the newer ones might work with Perfect Print with an Epson based perfect print driver but I am not sure yet. Black and white and colour printing are no problem as I have stated before it is Commodore Compatible.

**FOOTNOTE :** ( Dave Elliott)

Now if you buy a either a Cannon ,Epson inkjet or 24 pin dot-matrix printers, you will need a Geos Driver to operate with !! I have four public domain black and white and two colour drivers that will work with these printers in Epson mode only(hopefully when you read this they will be with Terry). They are as follows. EPSON 1500-LQ. works with printer interfaces like super graphics etc but only black and white.

EPSON LQ(GC). works the same as above but geocable driven.

EPSON 24 pin. works with printer interfaces again and black and white only.

EPSON 24 pin(GC). works as above but again geocable driven also works with Epson and cannon inkjets.

EPSON 24 pin colour. works with printer interfaces. Prints in black and white or colour and also works with cannon and Epson inkjets.

EPSON 24 pin colour(GC). works as above but geocable driven. Also drives Epson and cannon inkjets.

*Richard goes on next about 8 pin colour which I am fairly sure will be in the library. So I have skipped past that little bit. I hope you found the above article informative as I did. As I have already said previously most of the drivers that Richard has should be available via the library but the most important one is the geocable 24 pin colour.*

*\*\* I do have sole UK rights to sell Quincy Softworks Software but have not sold any for quite some time. Anyone interested please drop me a line and I'll be happy to send information regarding what is available. I still use Dweezil Lable128 for geoClub mailing labels as I have to be honest and say I have found it to be the very best and the fact that it allows 6 fields for the address rather than 3 as used in American addresses was a facility added just for me by Dave when he re-wrote the program for the 128 version.*



Grumpy  
P.J. McGuinn New Zealand

# RAM Test

Author Unknown

This file will instruct you on how to modify the 1764 RAMTEST program to test all 512K of your REU. This, of course, would only apply if you have added the additional 256K to the 1764. Please read that file in this library for instructions on that procedure.

First, "1764 RAMTEST.BAS" is a BASIC loader for the program "1764 RAMTEST.BIN" which is a machine language program that does the actual testing of the REU. Second, I will outline three methods of modifying your program to test the entire 512K.

**METHOD ONE** - Load the program "1764 RAMTEST.BAS". List the program and look at line 500 on up. Make the following changes to your program:

```
500 :  
510 REM LINES 520 AND 530 TEST 512K  
520 POKE 33093,7:POKE 33099,33  
530 POKE 36003,53:POKE 36004,49:POKE  
36005,50  
40 :1000 SYS 32768: REM WE WON'T BE  
COMING BACK!
```

Then save this new program back to disk by first scratching the old program and then saving the new. This modification merely pokes new values to the mentioned memory locations after the program "1764 RAMTEST.BIN" has been loaded into memory at location 32768. The ramtest program will now test all eight banks of memory.

**METHOD TWO** - Using a Disk Editor program (such as Di-Sector) load Track 20, Sector 6 (the 2nd sector of the program) of "1764 RAMTEST.BIN". Change relative byte 75 from \$03 to \$07. Change relative byte 81 from \$11 to \$21. Then write this sector back to disk. Now load Track 20, Sector 15 (the 13th sector of the program) of the same program. Change relative bytes 191, 192 and 193 from \$32 to \$35, \$35 to \$31 and \$36 to \$32, respectively. Write this sector back to disk. There is no need for the revised pokes in the BASIC loader program if you use this method. I feel this is a better way to modify this program.

**METHOD THREE** - Using an Assembler/Monitor

load "1764 RAMTEST.BIN" at location 32768. Then change memory locations as follows:

```
POKE 33093 with $07  
POKE 33099 with $21  
POKE 36003 with $35  
POKE 36004 with $31  
POKE 36005 with $32
```

Then save this program back to disk.

Whichever method you use is your choice. All three will provide you with the means to test all 512K of your expanded 1764 REU. Good luck!

geoClub cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions in this article. Nor for any problems whatsoever occurring as a result of anything read within this publication.

( When sending in articles PLEASE put you name some where within the article either at the begining or the end so even if the disk with the file on and the authors name is mislaid it can still be indetified and full credit given as to the source. Thank you Frank Editor )



*P. J. McGuinn  
New Zealand*

April 21st - May 21st

## A Blast from the Past : 2

Continuing from the January 1997 geoNews

Downloaded from the Geos Forum of Q-Link in 1986 giving an insight to how it was in the beginning.

Question: Is it possible create a WORKING backup boot disk. For BACKUP purposes only? ...I plan to use it at work and at home and want 2 working originals! ... REAL backups that are bootable and not just system backups ????

Brian Doc: You can create a complete back-up but it won't boot because there is a special key track on the...boot disk that is checked during booting. If you are a registered GEOS user (i.e. you sent in the warranty card in the back of the manual), then you can obtain a back-up key disk from Berkeley Softworks by mailing \$10 (plus \$2.00 shipping and handling).

EDITOR'S NOTE: You can remove all of the copy protection from the 'boot disk' by using the parameter buster by the name of 'Kracker Jax v3.0'. Then you can put the boot programs on any of your disks as you should be able to!

Question: Will GEOS support two drives????

:) Brian Doc: As Sylvester Stallone would say "Absolutely"! :)

Question: When you first turn on the 64. are you in geos...or basic?

Brian Doc: You start out in basic as usual and load GEOS the same as you would any application, then WE TAKE OVER THE WORLD.

Question: Is the color version available yet? If it is, what is its designation and price?

Brian Doc: Good to have you back from Pluto, we've been shipping the V1.2 for a month, this includes support ... for color in geoPaint.

Question: Can geoWrite be made to access the NLQ.. or any of the other printer functions. If GeoPaint can't give you a full screen color picture and GeoWrite can't print nlq aren't they rather limited?

Brian Doc: Well NLQ is a purely text mode and GEOS is based on graphics mode printing. That's why there's... no NLQ support in the current product. We have had enough request for NLQ printing that we are... working on NLQ support, stay tuned...

Question: Are there any plans to update geoWrite?

Brian Doc: Yes, there is a super write package under development with every word processing feature you... ..could ever imagine included.

Question: What will be the next major application for GEOS from BSW or 3rd party?

Brian Doc: Berkeley Softworks has a number of neat products coming down the line. In Aug. we will release Font Pak - 20 additional fonts for use with any GEOS application - and Desk Pak - a graphics grabber that allows you to convert Print Shop, Print Master (which we programmed during our consulting days) and News Room graphics into photo scraps for pasting into GEOS applications. Desk Pak also includes a calendar desk accessory, an icon editor, a black jack game desk accessory (DA) and a number of new input drivers (light pen, mouse, graphics pad, etc.) and printer drivers. Those are the immediate new products More are under development: e.g. an enhanced write program with keyboard short cuts, left right, and full justification, search and replace, superscripts and subscripts, you name it geoCalc - a full fledged spread sheet, geoFile a data base program, and geoPublish a complete object oriented desk top publishing program complete with laserwriter support. All these and more will be introduced between now and January.

Question: Will GEOS update disks be made available allowing for selection of more printers or peripherals?

Brian Doc: Actually new printer drivers and input drivers will be available for free over Q-Link as we ... ..develop them. There will also be improved versions of GEOS developed and upgrades will be sold at a significant discount to existing owners.

Question: Do you mean I can draw a picture and paste it to my letter, print it out, and save it as a file with all the pasties in place?? ;)

Brian Doc: You Bet!

Question: Are you working on a spread sheet module?

Brian Doc: Yes, called geoCalc appropriately enough, should be out just after Christmas.

Question: Will GEOS remain strictly for Commodore, or will additional versions come out for other systems?

Brian Doc: The crystal ball is hazy at this time.

Question: Is GEOS being designed for desk top pub?

Brian Doc: Not exclusively, but that was clearly one of the main design goals. Wait till you see our... geoPublish product. PageMaker stand aside!

Question: How will new additions to GEOS be updated on Q-link?

Brian Doc: Only printer drivers and input drivers are currently planned for downloading over Q-Link. They ...will be in the GEOS SIG area shortly. (NOTE! they are currently available in the GEOS FORUM library)

For some additional information on GEOS, be sure to check the GEOS SIG, located in the Questions, Answers and Comments... area of the Commodore Information Network. SysOp "GEOS MIKE" of Berkeley Softworks... will answer your questions and provide you with the latest updates on GEOS. Also, GEOS is still on sale in The Mall...Berkeley is offering a savings of \$15... exclusively to members of Q-Link.

Question: I know that you can alter the pointer, but does it have a 'hot spot' that can be adjusted?

Brian Doc: Sorry, the upper left corner of the mouse pointer is always the active spot.

Question: Will there be a input driver for the Tech Sketch light pen?

Brian Doc: We will constantly be adding new input drivers, it only takes a few hours to a few days to write ...a new input driver. When the programmers reference manual comes out we expect there to be tons ...of input drivers in the public domain and available for download over Q-Link.

Question: When do you expect GEOS to be available for the c128?

Brian Doc: Sometime this fall

Question: How can GEOS files be transfered between computer over phone lines?

Brian Doc: This is in the Que, we actually have been talking to the Quantum folks about helping us with this ...stay tuned.

Question: I currently use Easy Script & a CBM DPS

1101 daisy printer. When will interfaces come out for these items?

Brian Doc: Support for daisy wheel printers should be out by October. A text converter to let you convert ...most existing WP files to geoWrite should appear in the same time frame.

Question: I created a one-page data file. By mistake, I added an extra page, which is blank. How do I get rid of Page 2?

Brian Doc: Go to the bottom of page 2 and start deleting, eventually you will delete the page break.

Question: Will there be an 80 column format for the 128?

Brian Doc: Sorry, not in the 1st release

Question: What do you mean by a "true" mouse, as opposed to the one that commodore has out now?

Brian Doc: The current Commodore mouse (1350) actually generates joystick directions. They have a new mouse ...that actually generates proportional movement info and inputs it through the pot inputs. ... We have written a driver for this mouse and it works as well as the Amiga mouse on GEOS... The mouse should be out some time this fall.

Question: How do you pronounce GEOS? Gee-Ohs? or Gee-Ahs?

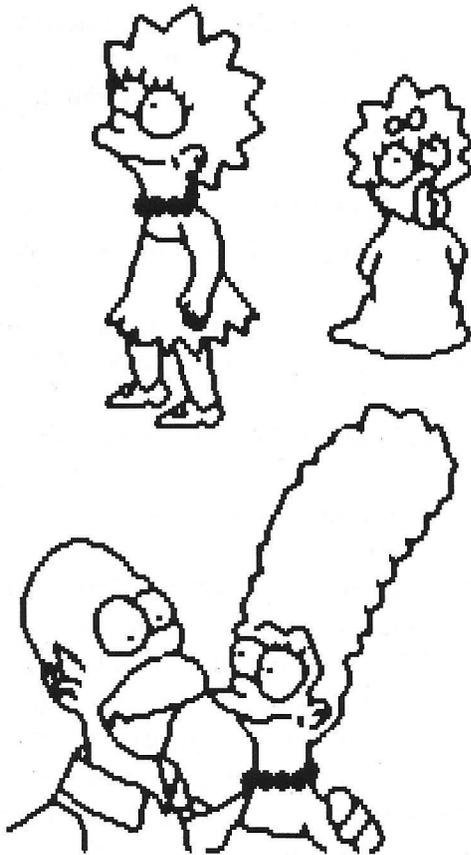
Brian Doc: GEE OHS!

Question: Why wasn't GEOS put on a ROM chip in the new 64C instead of coming on disk, if it's the official operating system? Or at least a cartridge?

Brian Doc: We have thought about putting part of GEOS on ROM but we don't think it makes sense to put the... whole thing on ROM since it then becomes hard to upgrade.

Question: When do you expect the programmer's reference guide to be available, and what will it contain?

Brian Doc: We have a draft of the programmers reference manual which is going into final editing shortly. The manual will be published by Bantam Books and should start appearing in book stores sometime after Christmas(1986). The manual contains everything you ever would want to know about programming under GEOS. All of the font, window, menu, icon, and diskTurbo routines are accessible through a jump table and clearly documented in the manual complete with examples and a sample application.



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