



The Reflection

September 1991

Volume 2 Issue 10

The Chief Sez

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What is support? Support is being able to get help or assistance with something you have purchased. It can be hardware or software, a new car, a used dish washer or just about anything. Where IMAGE is concerned support means the ability to get help with any problems you may have with your program. That help could be by voice phone, a 'fixed' file or just some words of consolation.

One of the primary sources of support for IMAGE owners has been the NISSA organization. NISSA provides support by fellow sysops who have volunteered to help whenever possible. Many NISSA members are not great programmers, they don't profess to be and they don't have to be. They are folks just like yourself.

Because of the great support and assistance that NISSA has given over the

past couple of years we are going to dedicate this issue to NISSA. We received some really good articles this month and felt they were just too good to not print. They are all NISSA related. We are also printing the latest NISSA Boards list for your ready reference.

Remember that NISSA is a volunteer organization and the NISSA volunteers want to help you whenever possible. NISSA is not meant as a substitution for support from New Image, but rather, is meant to augment the support we provide. It is hoped that the NISSA group will ultimately save time and money for IMAGE owners by providing support at a local level thus saving the cost of long distance calls and possibly provide support at times when IMAGE support is not available.

For all of you that have worked so hard and long in support of NISSA we salute you. This one's for you!

-R-

The Reflection
\$15.00 per year
Not available at newsstands
Subscribe TODAY

<p>News from Nova Scotia</p>

By: Steve Nurse (SHADOW)
The IMAGE NetWork:

Well, it has been quite a struggle for me to get my system connected to the Network. I've been in contact with FOUR BBSes to get connected up. The first never really got off the ground, with my system being down for quite awhile and then his going off-line. My next connect was good for about three weeks, then he dropped off the net completely, not bothering to tell anyone.

It was another call to Fred, to see who else I could connect to. Fred let me know that there was a node or two available, and that if we could work it out, so that the three of us got connected, do so, and let him know. Things went well, and I made a new friend, Sparky. I learned about him, and also was really impressed when I logged into his system, impressive mods. So Sparky and I set things up, and that went OK. Began to send info out to TST and I was quite happy. Except for one thing, I didn't receive any messages from TST. So, I called his BBS again, and checked the Node info in the EMail. SURPRISE! I was connected, not to TST, but to CSO! I called Sparky voice, and he wasn't too sure what had happened, but that isn't the point. I got RoughRider's voice number from Sparky, and off I went to the telephone again! Maritime Tel & Tel, was getting very wealthy off my

long distance calls by now. So, I talked to Clay (Roughrider) and we got things set up on my system, as well as his, and Clay arranged to send up the "nm.U." files to my system to get my lists straightened out. So now, I'm netted into the system, and it is all grand.

Now, I suppose that you are all asking what is the point to this little saga. Well, there really isn't one. It has taken me over 6 months to get finally connected in, and through it, I've spent some dollars on phone calls. I don't mind, because I have made some friends over the phone, and learned a lot from the experiences of talking to people that have been using the net longer than I.

I'm glad in a way that I've had to go through it, because I've learned some patience, and how to pester Fred on the phone as well! Sorry about all that Fred.

So, to wind this up. I'll just tell you folks that it was a long time getting fully onto the net, but from what I've gained, via messages to my BBS and from the personal experiences, it is worth being on the net, so for creating the Network system and maintaining it, my thanks goes out to ALL of IMAGE, NISSA, support boards, sysops, and anyone else who has done something on the net. You've given me a gift!

Thanks, I remain.

Shadow,

SysOp Node #69

Circuit Breaker BBS.

-R-

Ed note: This article was submitted a couple of months ago.

N I S S A N e w s

By: Al DeRosa (BUCKO)

Hello once again from NISSA. Last month I said I was going to take a month off and just put in the latest boards list but I decided to do both instead. I would like this month to reflect upon the time I have been involved with the NISSA Administration.

When Ron, Bruce and I took over NISSA, it was being challenged by AISA, I didn't like the way it was being handled so I spoke up. At the time there was some internal problems with the group, people wanted to be SSB's and there was no real way of doing this other than speaking voice with the person and asking them a few questions, and if answered correctly they became an SSB. NISSA was in need of some sort of test. With the new administration we made that job #1 and got a test out within 6 months, but, because of more internal problems, the test had to be voided. This enraged the folks who took the test honestly, it enraged me. I spent nearly four months putting the thing together only to have to kill it off. Now we are in the process of giving the test differently, it's going to take much longer than a written one or an online one, BUT it'll be a hands on test where the sysOp will have to work to get the status. Speaking of status, what is it that makes you want to be an SSB board? When I became an SSB I thought it was an honor and a way for me to repay the many people who helped me when I needed help

(and God knows I needed a lot!)
What is it for you?

So far the people who have been promoted to SSB have deserved it and can provide the type of support IMAGE sysOp's need, but then I get the letters about Richard Head Envy because someone is SSB and someone isn't and they think that person isn't qualified for it. Come on folks are we a bunch of children? Or do we have some sort of maturity where we can sit down like adults and say "Hey Guy nice job"? We are all in this together, there are many people who are ASSC members right now who SHOULD be SSB, but they don't want it as they don't want to change the way their board is run. There are others who want SSB status just because they think they will get beta files from New Image, or because they think it will boost their caller log. Let me tell you this, I do not get any beta files from New Image unless I am having a problem with a file and Ray writes a fix for it and he wants to test it on my system since I am having the problem, my caller log has not changed at all, I get my usual 10-15 calls a day maybe one IMAGE sysOp if I am lucky. So that goes to prove it won't help that way.

Now some distressing news. NISSA has lost one of it's administration boards, Ron Gray has gone IBM. I would like to wish Ron good luck in the future and let him know he will be missed deeply in NISSA, Ron is a friend and a confidant of

mine, and if all goes well he'll be back in NISSA when New Image finishes the IBM version that is being talked about in the IMAGE Net-Subs. Good luck Ron and keep in touch.

Welp enough of this. In the coming months all of you will be hearing from the Administration. Larry has already contacted most of the south west, Bruce has started contacting many and I will start calling within a couple of weeks, if you have any beefs or complaints tell us when we call about them, it'll only help the group as a whole. Here's the latest Boards List, and I wish everyone a Happy Labor Day.

Al

-R-

In my opinion

By: Wayne Louton (STARMAN)

After reading the article by THE CHIEF on the complaints by sysops due to things like the lack of the published reference guide and information on the light bar, I was somewhat amused.

Sure, I, too, would like to have a handy guide that I could open and find what I am looking for but it is not there. So now what are

we supposed to do? Well, the easiest thing to do is to call another IMAGE sysop and ask. If all else fails, I'm sure that Fred would be more than happy to answer any questions, and yes, there is also the possibility of getting *The Reflection* delivered on a subscription basis.

There are plenty of sequential files on lots of IMAGE boards that go into detail about just about anything you want to know about IMAGE. I have called Fred once or twice myself when I was a "new" IMAGE sysop, and I asked him a dumb question about stack errors. As crazy and simple as that may sound to me now, I was given a layman's answer and that was that. No ridicule, no hassle, just help from THE CHIEF. Now, I answer other questions from other sysops although I still ask my fair share I suppose.

The bottom line? Download some of the info files that are available on other IMAGE boards and on Q-link. Ask other sysops. When all else fails, call Fred. And how about getting the newsletter? I have found plenty of useful information in it every month. Yes, maybe we should have had the reference guide already. Maybe the

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light bar addendum should have been sent out. I can only assume it will be released soon after the next version is bug free and available.

We have what I believe is the finest BBS program on the market for a C64. There's help available. If you really have a problem with not having the guide then I suppose all you can really do is dial 1-800-WHAA! Give me a break!

The Wild Wonderland
708-433-8287

-R-

Ode to a modem

By:
P. Cunningham
(PATSY)

The Monster
Here I am again
With pop and cigarettes in hand
And a feeling of hope and
Great expectations in my heart.

Entering the room
I see my computer -
Monitor gleaming
Keyboard waiting patiently for my
anxious fingers.

I sit down in the chair
And once again look over my do-
main.
There it is - the monster, my drug.
The modem.

Turning everything on
I watch the lights on the modem
blink
As if to say "Trust me!"
I'll do right by you this time.

The term is in
The disk drive is running

And the monster
Is smiling at me.

My fingers hit the keyboard
Anticipating a first try connection...
Two tries... three
And the monster is smirking.

Two packs of cigarettes
I lost track of the Diet Pepsi
The monster and I
Are still together.

It's four-thirty in the morning
I've been here since seven.
One more time! I say
The monster blinks in agreement.

A new day is here.
I'm home from work - in my chair.
And the monster says "Trust me!
I'll do right by you this time."

Patsy
-R-

The Southwest Regional Report

By: Larry Hedman (X-TEC)

People come and people go and so it is in NISSA. Al Bruce and I have been busy calling around to the registered NISSA boards and, not to our surprise, there are many former NISSA boards that have either shut down, switched to another system, or have sold their IMAGE to someone else. We're always sorry to see a NISSA board leave but on a positive note we gladly welcome new NISSA members.

This month we have five new ASSC's Underground HQ 313-754-0199; The Wolves Den 602-783-

5598; The Eclipse 404-945-9730; Coyote's Gamehouse 602-290-8599; and Commodore Edition (Under new ownership) at 619-463-1355.

So what's new in NISSA? Monthly NISSA updates for one thing. Last month all NISSA boards were sent the August NISSA Update. It's something we just started and so far has been received with much interest. Just another way that we're trying to keep in touch with our members. Additionally all Southwest NISSA boards received a few extra files including the latest NISSA Boards update and four of the newest NISSA-Tested files. One thing I'm trying to get started is The Calling Tree. Al, Bruce and I like to call around to other NISSA boards and pass along files and information but doing so is becoming quite a pain in the WALLET. Long-distance phone bills are costing us plenty. As NISSA grows it's apparent that we personally will not be able to continue sending out files and updates every month to each and every NISSA board. So in an effort to continue sending out the files and to ensure that every NISSA member gets their monthly copy the Calling Tree is necessary. Here's how it will work. Admin is the trunk of the tree. We will compile the monthly updates. They will include a newsletter, the latest NISSA Boards list, new NISSA plus files and anything else that we consider worthy of sending along. Admin will send the files out to four branches (Regional Support Boards) and from there each board will forward the files to one subsequent connection in the tree. One call per

month is all any board will have to make so that way it's no great burden on any sysop. I've taken on the job of assigning all the connections so I need your help. Please leave me a message either by netmail or on my board and let me know if you're interested in participating in The Calling Tree.

Another concept that we're ready to announce is Local NISSA Groups. Certain areas of the country have more IMAGE boards than others and if you live in a city where there are other NISSA boards you may be able to start your own Local NISSA Group. If interested contact Al, Bruce or myself or read the guidelines in the August NISSA Update letter.

October 1st is the deadline for the NISSA Plus-File Contest. We have two entries now but there's still time. Get your entries uploaded to the special contest UD on Port Commodore, Wrong Number][or Commodore Image.

Things are changing in NISSA and I like what I see. Use to be all ya heard was "What will I GET out of NISSA?" But now more and more sysops are saying I'd like to help. Just let me know what I can do. There's plenty that anyone can do. Programmers write those plus files and then send them in to NISSA. The NISSA Beta-test program will help get your files tested on just about every type of system. When your program is ready for release NISSA will help get your program distributed to other NISSA boards. Help get the IMAGE Boards list updated. NISSA is asking every member to validate the

IMAGE boards list in your area code. Send your updates to Port Commodore, Wrong Number [], or Commodore Image. Communicate! We want to hear from you. Let us know how we're doing. Are we on course? Is there something else you'd like to see? Are my articles too long? Welp better wrap it up then. Laterz!

Larry Hedman (X-TEC)

NISSA Administration
Commodore Image BBS
(619-429-8192)

Image Net Node 67 @ CIB

-R-

RSSB

By: Mike Laponis
(ROADMASTER)

"NISSA, A Region Of Support"

Most of us are familiar with NISSA and its purpose and goals. For those that aren't, NISSA provides sysop support for those running IMAGE BBS's. NISSA helps sysops run and maintain their boards. They promote and protect better plus files. NISSA helps raise the quality of BBS's through mods, advice, exchange of ideas and support.

There are many BBS's that make up NISSA. They are divided into different classifications. There are NISSA Administration Boards. They organize, and implement the NISSA organization, as well as provide support. There are NISSA SSB's, and NISSA ASSC boards that all provide support for the IMAGE SysOp.

There is also a classification called NISSA Regional Support Boards. These are NISSA SSB's that have been designated as the board in a particular geographic area to provide quick dissemination of information and to help alleviate unnecessary calls to the voice support line. These boards are the communications link between NISSA boards and NISSA Administration. The country has been divided into four regions:

NORTHEAST-served by Enchanted Forest, run by Dr. Bob at 215-825-1136. Part of Image Net, this board is Node 15, EFB. This region serves Connecticut, Indiana, Maine, Mass., Michigan, N.Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island.

SOUTHEAST-served by The Codex, run by Cregan at 404-473-6173. Also part of Image Net at Node 40, CDX. This region serves Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, N.Carolina, S.Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and W. Virginia.

NORTHWEST-served by Alternate Realities, run by Mr. CTA at 206-848-3209. Part of the NAIS Net. This region serves Alaska, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, N.Dakota, Nebraska, Oregon, S.Dakota, Washington, and Wisconsin.

SOUTHWEST-served by The Crossroads, run by RoadMaster at 714-944-8665. This board is Node 55, CRO in the IMAGE Net. This region includes Arizona, Arkansas, California,



**PFile Writers!
Remember
The deadline
for the NISSA
Pfile contest
has been set
for
OCTBER 1st.
There is still
time to write your
Pfile and get it entered.
Upload it to PCM,
WN2
or CIB NOW!!**

Colorado, Hawaii, Kansas,
Louisiana, Missouri, Nevada,
New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Tex-
as.

The Regional Support Boards, and the other SSB's (as well as many of the ASSC's) offer quite a bit in the way of files and support. Call on them for help and information. Many of them are part of IMAGE Net, giving you direct access to the IMAGE and NISSA support subs. In addition there are SysOp Help subs that are operated by the SysOps and other NISSA members.

NISSA Advisories are published from time to time. These regional support boards have the advisory files up for you to read and to download so you can pass along the information to IMAGE Sysops that may call your board. In addition, these boards keep

current lists of registered IMAGE owners and current lists of NISSA Boards. Most of the time, they are in their TF area as well as available for download. It is a great way for you to keep your IMAGE and NISSA files up-to-date!

Many sysops are looking for mods and files to improve or spice up their board. The regional support boards offer extensive IMAGE/NISSA UD support. In fact, there is a UD sub that offers files that have been NISSA Verified as to be working files adhering to good IMAGE programming standards. Some very nice additions to your board are offered there all for the cost of a phone call.

The SysOps of the regional support boards have had a great deal of experience and may be able to offer hardware advice, and other sysop support. The idea of the regional support is to spread out the calls and needed support so not all the calls go to one or two boards. This way, help and information is nearby, and if the sysop is unable to help, they ALWAYS know which direction to point you in to get assistance. NISSA Regional Support is just a phone call away. Utilize the regional support board to keep up-to-date with what is new with NISSA, what is going on in IMAGE, and keep your board looking fresh with new mods and plus files. Just part of the way NISSA helps keep your IMAGE strong.

-R-

MOD

Perhaps one of the most requested "mods" has been the "nm.wall header" for the netwall. We have held off on this "mod" pending the release of the new network files but, since that may still be a ways away, I've decided to include it here. This "mod" is not for everyone and can only be accomplished if you have access to a RENUMBER program like "renumber.49152", available on Q-link and many of the support boards. There are other renumber utilities available, such as POWER64, METABASIC and so on. The Lt. Kernal renumber will not work because there are some out of range line numbers used.

That said, here is how to proceed. First, we are using the "+.on.netwall" dated 07/16/90 found on PF5. I believe this is the same netwall found in the last network release. Renumber this program with an increment of 2 starting with the first line number (800).

After renumbering it the rest is quite simple. Change line number 804 to 803, 806 to 804, and 808 to 805 (be sure to delete 808 after changing so that the line beginning with x=4 only appears once.)

```
Now add line 806 and 807:
806 dr=2:a$="nm.wall header,s,r":
gosub1011:h$="":ife%then810
807 &,2,2:iflen(a$)+len(h$)< 254
thenh$=h$+a$+r$:on-(st=.)goto807
```

Next you must change line 820 and make it 821. Make this change to the new line 821:
821 remove the "£q0" from the end of the line. Now, to the beginning

of line 822 insert:
822 print#2,"£q0": (and the rest of the line remains the same)

```
We now add a new line 820:
820 ifh$< > ""thenprint#2,h$:
print#2,"By: "na$" @ "nn$:goto822
```

This "mod" will permit you to make a graphic header for your netwall using the IMAGE editor. The header is limited to 254 characters but some very fine headers can be created within that limitation. Remember that that is total characters so if you go into the editor and set your column width to 80 column to allow for all of the color and reverse codes you can be limited to as few as 3 lines or so. The header for PCM is four lines. but with the judicious use of MCI commands and color codes it is only 105 characters in length.

ENJOY!

-R- :

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0991

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TODAY!**

N I S S A

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 215-825-1136 ENCHNTD FOREST A0008
 216-746-0942 INSTANT INSANITY G0531
 313-453-2576 LYON'S DEN EAST A0003
 404-473-6173 THE CODEX G0482
 616-784-4841 DAG NASTY B0010
 619-429-8192 CMMODORE IMAGE G0041
 714-944-8665 CROSSROADS G0002
 801-423-2734 PORT COMMODORE A0001
 914-328-9078 WRONG NUMBER II G0001

ASSC BOARDS

201-388-9161 DUCKTALES BBS G0942
 201-828-2367 EAGLE'S NEST BBS G0543
 201-870-0852 CITY LIGHTS G0536
 215-551-7295 CLUB MED RETRT G0130
 215-724-6912 LAST WIZRD'S RLM G0729
 215-755-6052 GATES OF DEATH G0516
 216-232-1716 TITANIC RESORT G0375
 216-386-9524 THE OTHER SIDE G0938
 216-544-1508 TWILIGHT ZONE G0727
 216-882-8189 MONOPOLY BBS G0955
 218-626-1560 THE CPT'S TABLE C0001
 219-534-6424 DEATHSWORD G1008
 302-475-9523 ELIMINATORS BBS G0518
 303-375-9556 REGIMENTAL HQ G0024
 307-328-1923 FTW BBS G0341
 312-237-6560 THE DARK REALM G1024
 312-243-9321 MSTR CHIN'S ACD. G0913
 312-927-0055 QURTRML STRTCH G0778
 313-457-5453 WIZARD'S CASTLE G0145
 313-754-0199 UNDERGROUND HQ G0454

313-994-4468 GLXY FEDERATION B0009
 315-737-7284 NINJA'S KINGDOM G0722
 404-439-7350 M.A.C.K.'S KLUB G0470
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 414-835-2252 LOST IN SHADOW G0981
 416-654-1856 THE OUTER LIMITS G0469
 501-835-6065 ELYSIAN G0430
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 607-324-0197 THE CIA G0170
 609-451-7485 CIA HDQUARTERS G0548
 609-858-2033 LANKHMAR G0572
 616-458-8767 NETHERWORLD G0069
 617-354-6073 CMMDRE 64 HOTEL G0327
 619-271-8666 CLUB MED G0693
 619-437-1189 COMM. DISCOVERY G0826
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 703-992-5338 RLMS OF ADVNTRE G0654
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 708-537-4663 RADIO HILL G0705
 716-652-6722 TCHNLGY STATION G0234
 716-675-4917 POLAR CAVE G0999
 716-934-3474 THE TRUCKSTOP G0540
 717-236-1596 ALPHA CENTAURI G0800
 717-540-5771 PHANTOM ZONE G0746
 718-359-8491 UNKNOWN CAVE G0084
 804-456-5201 NEW FRONTIER G0031
 807-623-1031 CMPUSOFT-ONLINE G0466
 815-923-2382 USS MENAHGA II G0753
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