

502-968-3713 ♦ wcpat@iglou.com

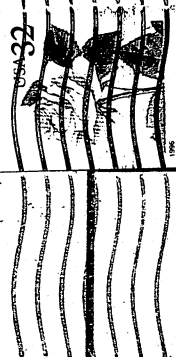
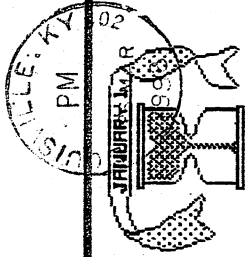
Vol. 4, No. 32: Our 4th Year!
January 1998

GEOS Publications

7969 Woodcrest Drive
Louisville, KY 40219-3859

To:

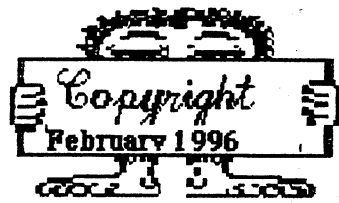
We adhere to the Worldwide Commodore Community with pride and optimism. We look to the future as well as to the past, grateful for the continuing support we have had. Within the wide span of Commodore applications there is GEOS, the Graphic Environment Operating System. It is our aim to pool our resources, ask questions and answer questions, as we discover together what can be done with Commodore GEOS. With our continually improving technology, we are reaching for the stars. Our Phoenix has arrived. WE ARE on the comeback to reclaim our rightful place in the competitive computer world.



Pg 2, GEOS Publication, January 98, Louisville, KY

*Happy
New Year*

C-128 Version



GEOS Publication



Again I want to thank each of you who took the time to send in your reactions to the survey questionnaire. Your opinion is important to me,

and though I cannot please each of you, you have shown me you are behind me, supporting me all the way. Thank you for your votes of confidence.

I have been battling sickness since last Christmas Day. Beginning with severe constipation cramps, followed by a lingering cold/flu, and the Lord has managed to keep me humble. Then, on top of this, the copier would not print on the last page of the December issue, after I was about half-done. My good son Eric, manager of a local country club, came to my rescue and finished the job for me. So, some of you got your December issue a little before the rest of you.

My good wife Phyllis is thinking seriously about getting a newer or new copier, if the price is right. We will see.

I am glad to learn, as I know many of you are, that Maurice Randall will continue to work (as he has time) on Project G and WAVE.

I would be interested to know if any of you in the United States have had mailings from England (or Europe) that have arrived badly damaged or destroyed thru the mail process. I have now gotten two letters from David Elliott that arrived in my mailbox with the envelope in fragments and the contents lost and a letter of apology from the U.S. Post Office. I think I will file a protest with the postal service.

If my revenue keeps coming in as it has in the past two months, I will be able to purchase me a laser printer in another two months.

I am sorry this issue could not be done in C64 mode this issue as I had planned to. Apparently my geoWrite program is not keyed to any of my System disks or CMD self-booting disks. When I finish this issue I will try putting geoWrite under Maverick's "unlocker" and see if that will do it. [With *fear and trembling* !!!]

POLICIES

Rev. Willis C. Patten, Editor & Publisher

This Publication is published on a monthly basis. All U.S.A. subscribers are guaranteed 12 issues for \$14.00; Canadian & Mexican subscribers are guaranteed 12 issues for \$16.00; and all others will be guaranteed 12 issues for \$18.00. Next April be forewarned subscriptions will be \$17.00 US, \$19.00 Canadian, Mexican, & Latin American; all others will be \$21.00.

The last I knew, Commodore product names such as PET, CBM, C128, C64, Amiga, Colt, etc., are registered trademarks of ESCOM GmbH, owner [?] of the Commodore logo and technology.

All documents may be submitted on paper or disk, or via EMAIL on the Internet. All authors, now and in the future, as well as in the past, are always given full credit. You may copy any article simply by writing for permission from me and in some cases the author as well. Some of you have already made mutual agreements with me.

"GEOS" is a trademark of Berkeley Softworks. Creative Micro Designs, Inc., effective Nov. 1, 1993, has been granted an exclusive license to manufacture, distribute and support the English version of GEOS 64, GEOS 128 and its applications.

Approximately 2 month in advance I will send out subscription renewal reminder notices for subscribers.

I charge \$15.00 for checks not having sufficient funds in the bank from which they are drawn to cover them. I also ask you not to post-date your checks.

I am indebted to those who contribute letters and articles for use in this Journal. Also to Exchange Newsletters and other newsletters from which I may draw literature, and other material I am access to, such as other newsletters, magazines, and the Internet.

Last but far from least I am in debt to my wonderful wife Phyllis who has encouraged and supported me in this endeavor, been patient with me, and who I love very dearly.

I extend a hearty "Welcome Aboard" to all of you, and God be with us all! Amen.

CLASSIFIEDS

TERMS

PLEASE READ!!!

All Classified Ads cost \$3.00 per ad or \$5.00 per page [over 1/2 page], each month. Cash in advance. I will use at present three categories: Software, Hardware, & Services. PLEASE divide your items for sale according to category.

Hardware will include all peripherals such as cables, interfaces, cartridges, drives, printers, computers, monitors, magazines, books, etc. All commercial software programs must be the original disk you bought so as to eliminate any chance of piracy. Services includes services performed using your Commodore System.

In all cases the advertiser is solely responsible for all items put up for sale. Be sure to have replies sent to you with your name and address.

* A-1 Easy Working: The Writer, The Filer, The Planner; by Spinnaker for the C64. \$7.00. Write GEOS Publication, 7969 Woodcrest Drive, Louisville, KY 40219-3859.

* A-2 PET EMULATOR. Original CBM Software. Manual & Disk, \$5.00. Write GEOS Publication.

* A-3 CMD's Perfect Print LQ, Disk 1 thru Disk 5; Printer

drivers, Font Editor, System & Utilities. LQ Font Collection 3, Disk 1 & 2; Border Font Collection 1. All Original. Manual included. All for \$25.00. Write GEOS Publication.

Page 6, GEOS Publication, January 1998, Louisville, KY

Peripherals, Mags, Etc

- * B-1 Internet World Mags, July 97 thru Jan 98, \$1.58 each.
Write GEOS Publication.

SERVICES

- * C-1 A 2 or 3 page flier, THE SELF-ESTEEM COMPASS will be tentatively made available to the public by ENHANCER PUBLICATIONS this coming March, 1998. If you are interested, write me or EMail me. You may send an advanced subscription (\$6.00 a year) which I hold & NOT deposit until next March. May I hear from you?
=====

Help Department

- * H-1 **WANTED:** For Commodore 128
* CMS- General Accounting System-
complete set or manual only.
Denny Smith, Rt 2, Box 141; McBregor, MN
55760. 218-768-3909
- * H-2 **WANTED:** * For Commodore 64
CMS- General Accounting System-
Manual only.
Denny Smith, Rt 2, Box 141; McBregor, MN
55760. 218-768-3909

Michael Rothman, MD--

Thought for the Day

[Internet]

Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one.

Malcolm Forbes

Mike

EMAIL ADDRESSES

NOTE: I try to keep this listing up to date and updated. If any of our members or exchange subscribers know of any errors or additions, please either snail mail me or EMAIL me.

Adams, Tom (C= Mailink)

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Prez, Meeting 64/128 Users Thru the Mail

Berry, Paul D.

pdberry@pinehurst.net

Brain, Jim B.

Jimhttp://www.jbrain.com/caboom/

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<http://www.jbrain.com/vicug/>
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Weaver, Donald A.
k0jpw@micoks.net

Zimmerman, Bo
bo@prismnet.com

Geos DeskTops

by Rev. Irvin J. Cobb
Omaha, NE

----- From: irv_cobb@sr.nadiks.net (Irv Cobb)

Subject: Re: **Geos DeskTops**

On 12 APR 1997, Adam Vardy wrote: I wonder for any advice on Geos desktops? What's the one to use? There's no set answer for this. None are perfect, and no one will do everything. &qt; In most cases, I've noticed most people who have a lot of Geos stuff, &qt; they seem to use Gateway. But that is darn expensive. I'm sure it must &qt; do a lot, I don't know. And it comes in separate versions, and you buy each if you want them. Gateway was designed to work with the CMD devices and arguably does the best job of any DeskTop alternative of managing/supporting them. It provides text directory list (no icons). It is relatively slow, can be difficult to get working, especially on less expanded systems, and suffers from keyboard shortcuts that are different from the "standard" set by the BSW DeskTop. For users with the CMD devices who want a GUI, it is (AFALK) the only choice. Then there is Geoshell. This is a cli, and I guess it offers different sort of options. GeoSHELL is probably the most sophisticated and flexible DeskTop available. As is usually true, with sophistication and flexibility comes complexity. So GeoSHELL requires a pretty major amount of time to learn. Its disadvantages are the CLI (not everyone sees this as a disadvantage) and the amount one has to learn/remember in order to use it. It supports all devices for which Geos device drivers have been written, so expanded systems benefit greatly from it. Also, I just flipped through some issues of CW. And in issue 13 it mentions another program. Page 12 it mentions some guy from Europe made another shell program, and it says there that this is outselling Geoshell. It doesn't give the author Joseph Gaudl's e-mail address, so I can't ask him why he likes it. Someone else will have to comment on this. I have heard a bit about it, but haven't seen or used it. Other possibilities I have used are TopDesk and DualTop. TopDesk provides a DeskTop style interface, with icons. It supports up to four drives and display up to four directories at a time in resizable windows. It also provides emulated subdirectories, so that files can be placed in folders even on 1541 disks. The version I have does not support the CMD devices particularly well. As I recall it gets really confused by native partitions. There is a newer version (3.0) available, but AFALK it is in German only. TopDesk is a great choice for Geos users who have only stock CBM equipment. DualTop is the fastest DeskTop replacement I have used. Like Gateway, it does not display icons, just directory listings. It is easy to use, easy set up, and does things like copying and scratching files faster than any of the others. The version I have does not support the CMD devices, but I have used it in conjunction with GeoSHELL and been very pleased. (Used GeoSHELL to move around on the HD or RL, then jumped back to DualTop for the actual work I needed to do. There is a newer version

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of DualTop available, but I have not seen it. I believe it is CMTD device compatible but I'm not sure. The major disadvantage is the lack of icons. DualTop (newest version) is available from Parsec, Inc., which may be a disadvantage as well, if some of the talk on the newsgroup here is accurate. I personally haven't done business with them in years.

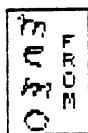
=====
irv_cobb@radiks.net http://www.radiks.net/irv_cobb
=====

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

(Internet)

From:	"Michael Rothman	M.D."
<MRothman@Radiology.AB.UMD.EDU>	Subject:	TFTD
While there is a lower class I am in it....	While there is a	soul in prison I am not free.
Mike	Eugene Victor	Debs
U		

Dave Elliott geoClub- England



Having previously explained what you get for your money when purchasing Geo-Basic, I will now give you a short essay on how I have progressed.

Rolodex is a very straight forward Database only god knows why the Americans call it rolodex. Having studied the program via hard-copy it is very easy to see that with out any great programming skills it could be adapted to suite many needs, for example I soon created databases for books, videos, cassettes and of course a normal address one.

The PRINTING routine is as the docs stated very basic and although I have played around with the routine, I have not yet managed to get the print out I want on different printers.

All the bases I created had one drawback only four fields. Creating a 5th field was fairly straight forward(using the hard copy again). Getting it to work was another matter. No matter what I did and I did a lot but it just would not work. After consulting another member of the GeoClub, he showed me where I was going wrong.

Having mentioned the hard copy on a few occasions the one thing that I missed was the upper case and lower case used in the commands, I.E. Menu, Open, Close and not menu, open and close. Once the necessary changes had been made the new program worked.

The next alteration was the print routine, it would only print all records. Handy if you wanted them all(a maximum of 127 records allowed). Not so handy if you only wanted one or two. So with a little bit of trial and error I managed to create a single record print out. Sprites next, the program came with an aeroplane flying across the screen at random intervals. I changed the sprite to GeoClub and had it controlled by the joystick button.

Having used the DEBUGGER and removed all the bugs(a fair few) I came to what I thought would be the easy part. Just clicking on make application and hey presto! GeoBasic would convert my program. Not true and really this is where Basic falls down, the conversion is very unpredictable. It does not always give you a crash proof working program. After taking an 11K program, adding all the routines required you end up with a monster 43K program. It is when adding these needed routines the conversion faults occur.

Still on the bright side I have created programs. Altered and moved sprites, icons etc.

GeoBasic is no match for the full bloodied Geoprogrammer package but if you want to learn to program in Geos then it is a step in the right direction.

One GOLDEN RULE not mentioned in the instruction book is that whilst in the EDITOR never update your working program. Always quit to the Desktop to update.

Since I originally wrote this article I have now progressed to being able to program in Geos using Geoprogrammer, even now when I come across a command or phrase I can recall first learning about it with GeoBasic. I am by no means an expert; still very much the learner and have a few people to thank for my progress to date.

ENGLAND.

Ian Swain GeoClub for his help in testing out my first

programs.

Terry Watts GeoClub another guinea pig.

U.S.A.

Dale Lutes of the Commodore Users of Wichita who has helped enormously and has finally convinced me that I should stop programming on the fly and put comments where comments should be. THANK YOU ALL GENTLEMEN.

D.G.Elliott
geoClub
England.

Ken Bronson

Sun City Center, FL

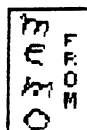
Dear Willis,

Well, this ole retiree finally gets around to writing another letter to one of the best publications known to man. I kind of fell off the computer wagon for awhile there; busy with family matters and health problems. Now I have been rekindled by the growing popularity of the Internet and World Wide Web.

I ordered and received from CMD: Zoom Fax Modem with Turbo 232, EX3 Cartridge Port Expander, geoFax software, and JiffyDOS for my 1541 and 1581 drives. All is well, except, the small pamphlet accompanying the EX3 is not very helpful in setting up my geoRam REU and Turbo 232 interface to work in harmony. In fact, I cannot even get the C=64 mode blue screen to appear! The small paragraph on L/O Jumpers and how they work, is not at all clear. There are three toggle switches and not a word on what they do or how to operate them! I would certainly appreciate any help from any of our GEOS'ers that might have experience with the EX3.

Your Publication continues to be fun to read and very helpful in so many ways. I wish that many others, using GEOS, could know of this Publication and avail themselves of it. I think that your twenty pages is just fine.

I read somewhere that CMD is possibly considering the manufacture of a new computer that would be compatible with all the present Commodore software. What a boost that would be for us all!



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Following are some items from my "FOR LATER" file. . .

1. Is there any ANY GEOS or BASIC program that can convert FGM graphics DIRECTLY to GEO PAINT?
2. Trying to learn GEOS 128 . . . Manual says, "Never boot GEOS 128 2.8 with more than one disk drive on" ? ? ?
3. I use a big red marker pen to put "red" color on all four corners of a stack of computer paper (on tractor part only !). Then in printing anything over one page, to prevent continuous printing right over the perforations, I watch for the red colored corner; hit the printer's ON LINE button to stop printing momentarily, move the paper up to the next page and hit the ON LINE to continue on.
4. Is there any way to convert the IBM-formatted Set-Up 3.5 disk that comes with my panasonic KX-P2135 Printer, to use with GEOS?
5. The C-64 was mentioned favorably in the Computer Game Section of June 16, 1997 Tampa Tribune !

Well Willis, it is about time for ole Ken to quit this rambling on; print this letter and get it over to the mailbox. Glad that you folks are all settled in your new Louisville location. GOD BLESS YOU BOTH! GOD LOVES US BYE!

GEOSmail,
KEN BRONSON

Ken
As far as having more than one drive with GEOS 128 2.8 is concerned, this may be correct. However, with a hard drive and/or RAMLink, there are 2.1 configurations that allow this to be done with no problem. In fact, I inter-change 4 drives, using 3 at a time, using the configuration file. Someone else may wish to comment.

I have not used a Panasonic Printer, so I do not know what printer driver is best to use. But I suspect that a different printer driver might make your print a little smaller and reduce the number of lines to a page and skip the perforation properly. If you use Perfect Print, check your manual and your accesory files to help correct your page length. I use an Epson Printer and I use an Epson LQ (6C) printer driver with no problem. Any other comments?

Yes, if you have a FD-2800 (which I see by your file you

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do have) use the CMD Utilities Disk to reformat them. It does a good job. I have close to a dozen IBM formatted disks I have gotten in the mail and converted to Commodore format nicely, with 2 partitions each. (3.2 megs)

Tom Bourque
Brown Mills, NJ

FROM
TOM
B

Rev Patten

I don't know if my dues are due at this time, all the rest are so so I'll pay them anyway. I will fill out your questions about the mag. later.

May you and yours have a nice thanksgiving and a SUPER XMAS and NEW YEAR!

TomB

Larry O. Victory

FROM
LARRY
O

Victoria, TX

Hello Willis,

The main problem I have with GEOS is getting it to boot from my RAMLink. Tried several times. No luck. Just use a boot disk for now. Larry

Larry,

Use CMD geoMakeboot files from CMD. This is what I use and have no problems with RAMLink or my HD. Any other comments?

Kenneth Crowe

FROM
KENNETH
C

Scottsville, KY

Enclosed is a copy of your survey. If you want to increase the size and subscription price of GEOS Publication I think most subscribers would stay aboard. I personally have enjoyed GEOS Publication in whatever form you choose. Just keep on as long as you are enjoying what you are doing and not going broke.

Also enclosed a check for \$3.00 for Roger Long's Commodore Resource list.

THANK YOU
Kenneth Crowe

Carolyn Snyder
Massena, NY

MEMORANDUM

Happy Thanksgiving, Willis and wife.

I sent my E-Mail address to you a number of months ago and have not seen it in the GEOS Publication. I would like to be included, please.

I look for each month's arrival and read it immediately.
Carolyn Snyder

Carolyn,
Apparently I owe you an apology. Your name is now included in this issue. I am delighted that you enjoy reading GEOS Publication.

Rev. David Burkett
Cairo, MI

MEMORANDUM

Keep up the good work. God bless you and yours,
with good health and a hope-filled Christmas & New Year!



From Courtesy of Virgil Leisure Cyprus Heights, CA

[INLINE]

[INLINE]

SPECIAL REPORT

[INLINE]

Wolfgang Grimm Markus Kanet A new team of specialists from Germany, namely Wolfgang Grimm (TopDesk, decoder for T-Online, an online service provided by the Deutsche Telekom) and Markus Kanet (GeoDOS), has rewritten the complete GEOS-kernal, which was real hard work. Thanks to the ambition of these two programmers now a much improved version of the GEOS-kernal is available. Below

you can find the improvements compared to the old GEOS-version. MegaPatch V3.0 requires a RAM-expansion, no matter which type. Due to copyright reasons, the new GEOS-kernal probably will only be offered as a patch-version. But the patching of the old

GEOS-kernal is so easy that there won't occur any problems. The MegaPatch V3.0 was specially designed to support most configurations and hardware expansions. The new Mega-Editor, which replaces the

outdated Configure-program, offers a vast number of configuration and setup options (for example TaskSwitcher, drives, partitions and more). The new kernal recognizes all CMD-hardware and supports it as much as possible. MegaPatch V3.0 makes fundamental changes to the

GEOS-kernal. Many mistakes and bugs were removed and other parts were replaced by completely new developed routines. Until final completion (around spring 1998) a completely new desktop will be developed. This desktop will set new standards in matters of comfort and functionality. The price for the MegaPatch V3.0 including manual

will be around 60 DM.

* File Selector box:

[INLINE]

* *start with a double-click,

* * up to 255 files in the file selector box,

* * filename also selectable via keyboard control,

* * sorted display of filenames,

* * make/delete/change directories,

* * move around the file list with the scrollbar,

* * everything in full color in all (!) applications.

* Adjustment for SuperCPU:

* further speedup by 25% compared to CMD's SuperCPU patch.

* Printer driver constantly in memory:

* The printer driver will be hold constantly in memory, like in GEOS128. No more loading from disk!

* No more swap files:

* Like in GEOS128, when using accessories no swap files will be generated. The data will be transferred into a connected

RAM-expansion.

* Screen Saver: (included in the kernal)

Oh My!
Really ?!!



- * Different Screen Savers with various graphical effects. * Additional effects may be programmed.
- * TaskSwitcher: (included in the kernel) [INLINE] * Up to nine (9) applications can be opened at the same time (as long as sufficient RAM is available, since each task uses a RAM-bank of 64K).
- * *With a keypress you can jump from an application to the TaskSwitcher and start another application or change to another one already loaded.
- * *ScreenShot-function grabs a copy of the current screen and saves it as GeoPaint picture. * *Change the printer driver, even when you are inside an active application.
- * Mega-Editor: [INLINE]
- * This program completely replaces the old Configure. * * configure drives, up to four drives at the same time are possible.
- * * select boot-partitions on the RAMLink
- * * switch SuperCPU speed
- * * switch SuperCPU optimization
- * * control GEOS menu functions
- * * configure TaskSwitcher
- * * install screen-saver
- * New device drivers:
- * * driver for RAMLink upspeeded
- * * bugs in 1581-driver removed
- * * new drivers for CMD Native Mode
- * * extended functions for developers like changing partitions, directories...
- * New DeskTop: [INLINE]
- * New DeskTop, handled similar to Windows 95. Icons on desktop, QuickStart-Menus. Delete/rename files etc. via "Windows". The new desktop of course also uses the extended functions of the MegaPatch V3.0 kernel.
- * A special add-on:
- * Possibility to exchange files with MS-DOS PC's using 3,5" disks. Application for copying/converting MS-DOS files to/from the C64/128 is shipped with the new GEOS system.
- * Graphic routines:
- * *automatically sets color in dialog boxes.
- * *icons within dialog boxes also in color (i.e. "OK", "Open", "Disk", but also user-defined icons)
- * *faster pop-up of dialog boxes and faster screen redraw through improved graphic routines
- * *"PullDown"-menus improved (leaving menu at the bottom not possible, current selection is highlighted to increase visibility)
- * *improved routines for entering text - cursor upspeeded, insert/delete of characters always possible

* *many bugs in the graphic routines of the original kernel were removed

* Misc.:

* *supports all kinds of memory expansions (Commodore REU, GeoRAM/BBGRAM, RAMLink, SuperCPU+RAMCard) * * free

chooseable backdrop images

* *new start-/reboot-program for GEOS (automatically detects the current RAM-expansion, a start-disk is usable for all kinds of RAM)

* *adjusted to SuperCPU - RAM-drives will not be slowed down, printer connected to userport now always works with 20 MHz enabled

* *MoveData-routine to move around memory areas improved for SuperCPU (16Bit-mode, moving of data at least as fast as with a Commodore REU, around 1MB/sec)

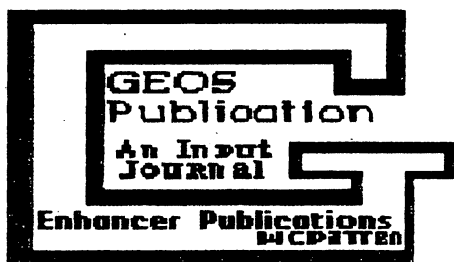
* *DeskTop starts from drive A: to D:

* *extended functions in the kernel for developers - jump table extended, now includes all functions like color-setting and so on...

Exciting! I wonder if this, like Project G, will enable us to enhance graphics on the Internet?

Commodore Closing

Just as when the sun sets we look forward with confidence of its rising on the morrow with a new day dawning, so, we now put this Issue of GEOS Publication to rest until the dawning of our next issue. With it comes new knowledge, new ideas, pride for our Commodore System and all that it can do. God bless you all!



WE ARE COMMODORITES

When some outfit closes it's doors on us, remember Roger Long-- he, as CMD, believes in the future of Commodore. And so do countless others. So do I. Let us hold our heads high, realizing that for the amount of money we have invested in our system and software, we have so very much going for us! Think of the number of user groups, the growing size of the Commodore Ring on the Internet, the existing support we DO have [See Roger Long's Commodore Products Source List], and pride will swell within you! We are far more than "Die-Hards"; we are more than survivors. We are Commodorites on the come-back trail. We are a proud breed, and rightly so.