

# The Zero Page

*The newsletter of the Commodore Users of Wichita*  
After the starting, learning and love of Commodore computers



Number 67 April 1999

Next club will be April 10<sup>th</sup> at our regular meeting place 1411 South Oliver from 1 to 5pm.



## MOES SOAP BOX

### By Morris Shouse

Last month Jerry did a fantastic job of putting the newsletter together. I was really glad to see a column from Nate. And I really liked the cartoon on the last page. Just one more person doing a column sure made the newsletter look like it should. It really is not hard to write a column.

I have been doing one for about 2 years or so. Most of the time I spend less than one hour on my column. This is how I do it. I often will think of how I would tell one of guys in the club something, it goes like this. "You have to be sure to get the 5 volts because there is also 12 volts in there. Ect.." So all I do is put it in the computer, then on disk, then get to the newsletter guy. Also the subject does not have to be 100 % computer stuff. It could be about how the computer has changed the way we think or act. Like the story that a friend told me.

He got his new tag sticker in the mail. He looked at the number on the sticker and he thought it was wrong. The number on it should be the year it expires but it didn't look right. Can you guess why it looked wrong? You are right it only had two zeros. It took him a little time to know it was ok, because it expires in the year 2000. That just shows that not only computers think of the year as only two numbers our brains do to.

In my last column I said that I was working on a single button device number changer. Well I have it working right now. I thought it would work with two chips, but the reset line needed a buffer. The push button had way too much noise, and the chip would double trip. It would go from device 11 to 9, it would just jump past 8. I put capacitors all over and could not get it to go from 11 to 8. So I finally gave in and ran the switch through a buffer as well. That fixed it.

This circuit is mounted in a 1571. Four smaller LED's replace the drive light, they show 8,9,10,11. The power led is changed to data light, it shows data going out. The only modification to the outside is one small hole in the bottom of the front panel, for the button. The two main chips are a 74161, 4 bit counter and a 74139, 2 to 4 line decoder. The 74161 does the stepping, it only uses 2 of the 4 outputs. They go to pins 15 and 16 of the 6522 CIA chip on the 1571. This controls the device number. Just like you would have if you put switches on the drive. The 74139 receives the two outputs as inputs and decodes this to four outputs. That drive the four LED's to show 8,9,10,11. The push button is sent to the clock line on the 74161. Well that is the basics of how it works. I plan to have it at the hardware meeting on April 10.

It really doesn't look all that flashy, but it sure is handy. One still has to be sure that you don't have two drives with the same device number

MOE  
HAPPY 8 BYTING

Mr Al Rardin has some Commodore stuff for sell.

One 1541 drive, one 1571 drive.

Two VIC-20's, some tape drives. A printer, one Plus 4. And some software, and lots of disks.

Phone 524-4656.

He is needing some hardware for Ham Radio that will work on Commodore computers.

*What if Dr. Seuss did technical writing?*  
Author unknown

If packet hits a pocket on a port, and the bus is interrupted as a very last resort and, the address of the memory makes your floppy disk abort, then the socket packet pocket has an error to report.

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash, and the double-clicking icon puts your window in the trash, and your data is corrupted cause the index doesn't hash, then your situation 's hopeless and your system's gonna crash!

If label on the cable on the table at your house, says the network is connected to the button on your mouse, but your packets want to tunnel on another protocol, that's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall, and your screen is all distorted by side effects of gauss, so your icons in the window are as wavy as a souse, then you may as well reboot and go out with a bang, cause as sure as I'm a poet, the sucker's gonna hang!

When the copy of your floppy's getting sloppy on the disk, and the microcode instructions cause unnecessary risk, then you have to flash your memory and you'll want to RAM your ROM.

Quickly turn off the computer and be sure to call your mom.



**Submitted by Dale Lutes**

RISKS-LIST: Risks-Forum Digest Thursday 1 April 1999 Volume 20 : Issue 26

FORUM ON RISKS TO THE PUBLIC IN COMPUTERS AND RELATED SYSTEMS (comp. risks)

ACM Committee on Computers and Public Policy, Peter G. Neumann, moderator

See last item for further information, disclaimers, caveats, etc.

This issue is archived at <URL: <http://catless.ncl.ac.uk/Risks/20.26.html>> and at <ftp.sri.com/risks/>.

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The Y9Z Problem (Mark Thorson)

Yet another Y2K debacle

(Jon Loux)

Vatican announces all computer systems ready for new millennium (Matthew Todd)

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Date: Sun, 14 Mar 1999 17:20:29 -0800 (PST)  
From: Mark Thorson  
Subject: The Y9Z Problem

In my extensive consulting work on the Y2K problem, a new problem has come to my attention. One thing all of my clients have in common is that we are forbidden from touching the database format -- only the source code may be modified. Further, we use formal methods for proof of program correct-ness, so any change we make actually costs more to verify than to develop the change itself.

Because of these restrictions, all of my clients have opted to allow the date field to roll over from 99 to 9A in the year 2000. But this only buys another 26 years of service.

What happens in the year 199Z (i.e. 2025 AD)?

Only one client (a company with a strong "do it right the first time" corporate philosophy) has opted to follow my recommen-dation, which is that the year 199Z be followed by the year 19A0. This buys another 936 years, to the year 19ZZ (i.e. 2961 AD).

Because of the verification requirement, this is more than twice as expensive as the 26-year fix. Rather than doubling the effort required for the single digit, it's more like the effort squared to apply to two digits.

What year follows 19ZZ? My recommendation is that the year 19ZZ be followed by the year represented by "2000". If we can't fix the problem by then, we deserve the fate of extinction. Hopefully, our bones will serve as a source of calcium for whatever superior species comes along to replace us.

Mark Thorson ([eee@netcom.com](mailto:eee@netcom.com))

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From: Jon Loux  
[JLOUX@UCONNV.M.UCONN.EDU](mailto:JLOUX@UCONNV.M.UCONN.EDU)

Subject: Yet another Y2K debacle

I found this in a respected journal of scientific neat stuff.

Researchers Find Y2K Bug in Human Brain!  
by Natalie N. Quirer

Researchers at the Yale Neuro-logical Sciences Department announced today that they have discovered a millennium bug implanted in the brains of human beings. "The brain is just a big computer, like any other," says Dr. Uri

Ignoramus of the Synaptic Research Lab. "It has to keep track of times and dates. Like when you wake up just before your alarm clock or remember your mother's birthday a day late. Stuff like that."

According to researchers, when the clock strikes midnight in January 2000, power outages and planes falling from the sky will be the least of our worries. Along with such mundane annoyances like frozen bank accounts and nuclear detona-tions, add epileptic like seizures, an uncontrollable desire to watch the Rosanne Show, and suddenly not being able to remember where your keys are or why you are living in the same building with that ghastly person. "Billions of years of evolution," says noted Nobel laureate Albert Bearstein. "You'd think they could have anticipated this sort of thing.

Just how did they manage the year 0 rollover, anyway?"

In anticipation of the impending cranial apocalypse, experts insist that the population stay calm. "There is plenty of time for panic later."

In the meantime, stock up on St. John's wort.....

Jon Loux, Data Administration, University of Connecticut

(The End?)

millennium would begin in MMI. He explained that the zero had been introduced in MCCII by an Italian mathematician called Fibonacci. This explained why there was no confusion at the start of the current millennium in MI.

The church is now considering excommunicating Fibonacci for the confusion he has caused. Subsequently in Washington, a spokesman for US President Bill Clinton said, "we think that it is harsh to pin the blame on one poor Italian. After all, they are Arabic numbers. Clearly we must break all ties with the Arab world until they hand over those responsible."

"In the past, the number zero was known as a cipher. Clearly this shows that strong cryptography is harmful and the Government must retain control."

In a separate development, Prime Minister Vajpayee of India pointed out that "actually, the number zero was invented in India in about 876AD. Clearly the Arabs and the West have no concept of nothing. Only South Asians can really understand what it means."

It is unclear whether he was trying to say that only the Indian software industry could solve Y2K. It is thought that a case may be brought to WIPO concerning the loss of intell-ectual property suffered by India for the last DCCC years. Damages could run to billions of dollars.

(The End?)

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From: "Matthew Todd"

<[matthew@mail.cmb.ac.lk](mailto:matthew@mail.cmb.ac.lk)>

Subject: Vatican announces all computer systems ready for new millennium

Rome, Washington, London and Delhi, 1 Apr (Routers) A spokesman for the IT department of one of the world's smallest states, the Vatican City, announced yesterday that all computer systems of the Roman Catholic church world-wide were now ready for the next millennium.

Asked what solution had been used to combat the so-called "Y2K problem", he said that the solution had been simple. "All we did was to revert to the Roman numbering system. This makes the current year MCMXCIX. Next year will be MM. Since this is shorter than the current representations there will not be a storage problem. Also, since there is no zero in the Roman number system nothing will reset."

The spokesman also pointed out that the absence of a zero also categorically proved the new



Your Steering Committee at Work!!

If you would like to join us in this very hard work just let me (Jerold Shook) or Morris Shouse know and we will do our best to let you know when the next meeting is. The more the merrier.



Jerry's corner  
By Jerold Shook

Sorry that I don't have more pictures or cartoons this time, but to be honest the time to get this newsletter done slipped up on me. Take notice that we only have two contributors this time, and that makes for a slim newsletter. Maybe next time. In the mean time keep an eye out for any cartoons or jokes that we can use, and it would be nice getting something original also.

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The Commodore Users of Wichita is a club dedicated to "the sharing, learning, and love of computers." Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month from 1-5pm at 1411 S. Oliver, one block north of the corner of Harry & Oliver. Anyone who owns or uses a computer system is welcome to attend.



The Helping Hand

This column lists those users willing to share their experiences and knowledge with other club members.

Robert Bales           831-0008

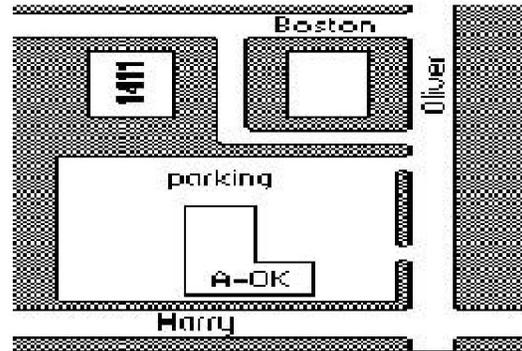
Telecommunications, Internet,  
CMD HD and FD drives

Dale Lutes   721-0835  
GEOS, Programming, Word  
Processing, Desktop Publishing,  
CMD FD drives and RAMLink

Don McManamey       265-2560  
Word Processing, Print Shop,  
Printing

Jerry Shook 776-2683  
Databases, Label Making, Word  
Processing, Printing

Let us know if we may include your name in future Helping Hand listings. If we don't have a category for you already, we'll add one!



### REDNECK DAD

In the back woods of West Virginia, the redneck's wife went into labor in the middle of the night, and the doctor was called assist in the delivery. Since there was no electricity, the doctor handed the father-to be a lantern and said, "Here, you hold this high so I can see what I'm doing." Soon, a baby boy was brought into the world.

"Whoa there," said the doctor. "Don't be in a rush to put the lantern down...I think there's yet another one to come."

Sure enough, within minutes he had delivered a baby girl.

"No, no, don't be in a great hurry to be putting down that lantern...It seems there's yet another one in there!" cried the doctor. The Redneck scratched his head in bewilderment, and asked the doctor, "Do you think it's the light that's attractin' 'em?"

