The Monitor

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Obligatory Stuff
CUGS
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If you have any questions about CUGS please feel free to contact any of the above executive members.

The Monitor is published monthly by the COMMODORE USERS' GROUP OF SASKATCHEWAN (CUGS), Regina, Sask. CUGS meetings are held the **FIRST WEDNESDAY** of every month (unless otherwise noted) at Miller High School. The next meeting will be held: **February 3, 1993 from 7:30 - 9:30 P.M.**

CUGS is a non-profit organization comprised of C64, 64C, C128, and 128D users interested in sharing ideas, programs, knowledge, problems and solutions with each other.   Membership dues are pro-rated, based on a January to December year.

Anyone interested in computing is welcome to attend any meeting. Out of town members are also welcome, but may be charged a small ($5.00) mailing fee for newsletters. Members are encouraged to submit **public domain** software for inclusion in the **Cugs Disk Library.**   These programs are made available to members. Any member is entitled to purchase disks from our public domain library for a nominal fee. Programs are "freeware" from computer magazines, or the public domain. Individual members are responsible for deleting any program that he/she is not entitled to by law (you must be the owner of the magazine in which a particular program was printed). To the best of our knowledge, all such programs are identified in their listings. Please let us know if you find otherwise.

The Presidents Message

Hello there and welcome to another edition of the CUGS newsletter. Last month due to a family illness, Garth was not able to do his demo as planned so he will do it this month. The following month, Tristan Miller has volunteered to show the System Operators veiw of running a BBS. Tristan has been an avid BBser (no pun intended) for over a year now and has spent untold hours of fun and enjoyment (and a few frustrations as well, eh) in keeping his BBS up and running smoothly. If you are thinking of setting up your own BBS in the near future, this is one meeting you will not want to miss.

As you read this, the Feburary Computer Fest will have come and gone. Stay tuned at the club meeting for info on how the show went etc.

The newsletter editors job is very easy at the present time as he has not received any material to put in it. The common response I hear is that people feel they do dot know enough about something to write about it. Hoq-wash. Anyone can write one. Write about things that are of interest to you. If you have a word processor that you love/hate to use, then write about it. Or, how about that game you just finished playing? Or that neat utility you downloaded off of a BBS system. Anything, people reading this newsletter want to read about a variaty of things. Use it or lose it. You can submit an article on paper, disk, BBS or in crayon, it does not really matter as long as it gets to Garth Strawford our Newsletter Editor. If you submit an article on disk, let Garth know what word-processor you wrote it on so he can quickly convert it to a format he can use in the least amount of time. Or better yet, save the files as a sequential ASCII text file with the right margin set to some rediculously high number like 2000. Just about any word processor worth it's salt can save files in a seq ASCII file format and most can read those files in. I mentioned about the right margin set to 2000 because the word processor I use can save a sequential ASCII file but adds in a carrage return where the right margin was and causes some problems when loaded into another wordprocessor and the margins changed. At any rate, don't worry to much about the format of the article, above all just SUBMIT one.

News in the computer new products front includes the new Intel Pentium CPU (aka the 586 or the P5). This is suppose to be a much faster CPU than the current hotshot CPU 486. The CPU is rumored to be a 64 bit internally and 32 bit external (486 is 32 bit and

the 64 is an 8 bit) running at or near the 100Mhz clock speed. It is not known if this is the actual clock speed or if it is a clock doubled CPU simulating the 100 Mhz processing speed.

I'll inject my 2 cents worth and start my own rumors here. From what I have hear and read about the new chip it will be $$$ expensive and designed for heavyduty applications like Lan Servers, CAD work stations, multiuser node server etc. The initial talk is that the business users will be the intended market for the new High power CPU. Just remember that's what they also said about the 286, the 386 and the 486 and in less than a couple of years, the CPUs are now common in home users computers. The 486SX is considered the entry level processor of choice. I'll stick my neck out and say the Pentium will be found in home computers in about 2-3 years and will push the 386 out of its current workhorse status to that of a door stop. The 286 is now considered to be among the ranks of the 8088 and the 8086 door stops.

I admit it, I have been looking at the IBM Mags in the stands and have been flabergasted by all the new super speed CPU, megga memory, giga byte CD/Optical drives, Super VGA, VESA local bus and expensive IBM compatable computers out there. As you read the following, keep in mind that this is just a tongue-in-cheek comparison and meant for amusement only.

What gets me is that the industry seems to be self perpetuating. The software out there wants/needs/abuses the hardware requirements of a computer. Some software just will not run on some economy size computers out there anymore. IBM/compatable standards for hardware, forget it, no such thing. There just is too many variables, everything including the power supply is an option. I also know from first hand experience that an IBM compatable computer is not worth anything without a Hard drive installed in it. Each software application out there now require an average of 5-10 Meggabytes of disk storage. Run those off a floppy?, absolutly forget it. The operating system alone to RUN the computer takes up a whole floppy formatted at 1.44 megga bytes with several features stripped off. Room for other software, not a chance. You would have to resort to disk swapping, load in the O/S, swap disks and run the application software, assuming of course you can find software that can run with less than one meg of disk space. No, its a nessessity to have a HD nowadays on an IBM.

CPU Speed? If you are on the market to buy, you are generally advised to buy as fast a system as you can afford seeing that the system you do buy will be too slow to run future releases of software that will no doubt be released 6 months after you buy it. Windows 3.

(same type of O/S as GEOS for the 64/128) is the single most biggest hardware hungry O/S I have ever seen. As soon as you mention a graphic user interface like Windows, your reasonable hardware resources for DOS could easily be increased by a factor of 10. The smallest recommended hardware to run windows is said to be 4 megabytes of RAM on a 386DX running at 33 megahertz with 100 meggabytes of HD space. For each windows application you can buy outside of the basic O/S, you should use a rule of thumb of 10 megs of disk space for each application. There are several dozen applications and games for the windows environment and the average user would eventually want or get at least 10. 3 or more games, a word processor, spreadsheet, database, a utility tool box etc plus all the data files that each will create. A 100 meg drive will start to look small very quick. Software costs are mind boggling, how about 495.00 for a wordprocessor or 295.00 for a utility package or 795.00 for a middle of the road graphics or CAD program.

The Commodore 64 on the other hand is an older well known operating system that has, for all intents and purposes, not changed since the unit was released. The 1541 disk drive or one that can emulate and the never changing 64K memory and operating system is about the only thing the softaware publisher has to worry about. The cost of the software sold for the 64 even during it's hey days rarely cost more than 100.00.

General purpose home computing can and still is being done on the 64. If the primary uses of the machine does not change past general everyday things, then the usefullness of the machine is still of signifigant value.

Till next time, have a good one.

Editors Message
by Garth Strawford

Hello again all you faithfull readers of the clubs newsletter. I hope that this issue looks a little more appealing to you all. I have made what I hope are a few improvements. I would like to thank Barry and Colin for submitting a couple of articles, all we need now are a couple more good authors and we should be having a surplus of articles. Oh well enough begging. Hey wasn't that a great computerfest, I hope so because as of this moment it has not occurred yet (I am writing this article 4 days before the event). Well as this is only my third or fourth article I have ever written I have run out of things to babble about. So for now I will bid a fond farewell.

Wanted

New or Used Heavy Duty Power Supply for C64
Stereo Sid Cartridge
Contact Tristian at 586-2036

Bulletin Board List
(Area Code 306)

System Name	Number	Bps	Protocol	SW	CPU	NETS	Flags
Adult Superboard	789-8682	14.4	3b,4b	PB	P	F	$1
Alpha Colony II	545-8342	2400	None	SU	P	FI	Q1
Apocalypse Now	584-9169	14.4	3b,4b	RA	P		$
Atmospheric Env.	780-6049	9600	3,m	WC	P		$
Beach House	729-4185	2400	None	Vi	P	FV	Q
Crystal Visions	586-6790	2400	None	RA	P	F	
C.U.G.S.	543-7683	2400	None	EB	C		
DLC-WEST (Hi Speed)	352-9390	16.8	H,3b,4b	P	F		$
DLC-WEST	352-9378	2400	None		P	F	L$
Double Check	525-0807	14.4	H,4b	SN	A	F	Q1
Extreme Outer Limits	545-0417	2400	None	*WC*	P	F	Q
Fact	924-8774	2400	None	WC	P	F	LQ$
Fernandos Retreat	585-0298	9600	H	OP	P	F	
Fourth Floor	352-0472	2400	None	Sy	P	DFP	Q
Green Zone	789-7652	14.4	H,3b,4b Mx	O	F	Q1	
Holistic	789-9909	2400	M	Fi	P	F	
Ieee South Sask.	586-1939	9600	3	Ra	P	F	
Impossible Missions	569-9705	2400	None	*Su*	P	FIW	
Lost BBS	525-4700	14.4	3	Ma	P		$
Micro City	757-0088	2400	None	Ma	P	R	$
MEBBS II	775-1437	2400	None	TA	A	F	
Missing Link I	775-1511	14.4	H,3,4b	PB	P		
Missing Link II	775-1512	14.4	H,3,4b	PB	P		
Polestar	586-1551	14.4	H,4b	RA	P	FGM	BQ
Pool Hall I	586-8490	9600	H,4b	PB	P		1
Pool Hall II	586-0922	14.4	H,4b	PB	P		1
Q-COMM Data Service	584-2916	2400	None	LN	P		
Rat III	949-6105	14.4	H,3b,4b	Tr	S	FN	Q
Reflex Point	586-9571	9600	3	WC	P	A	Q
Regina Fido	777-4493	14.4	H,4b	TB	P	F	LQ
Ronchys Pleasure Dome	949-8486	16.8	H,3b,4b	*RA*	P	F	$1
Scouts Own	777-2998	9600	3	RA	P	F	B
Shadowland	*789-1899	9600	H	RA	P	F	
Skywatch	569-0581	14.4	3b,4b	TR	P	F	Q
Snake Pit	924-0773	14.4	3	GT	P	FR	
TeeWunKay	779-1237	14.4	H,3b,4b	Mx	O	F	Q
Titans Realm	949-8692	16.8	Z,3b,4b	Mx	P	F	Q
Total Chaos	584-2051	2400	None	Mx	P	F	Q
Tower Of High Sorcery	545-0801	14.4	3b,4b	Vi	P		
TTL Computer	522-3233	16.8	H,3b,4b	RA	P		B
Unibase	789-0709	9600	3,M		U	U	$
USS Galifrey	949-6032	14.4	H,3b,4b	RA	P	F	BQ1
Wedge Net BBS	352-3434	14.4	H,3b,4b	*WC*	P	F	Q1$

Total Systems: 40

Systems with a * before phone number designate new entry

KeeKeeBuu.   525 - 9637

Dataswitches & Dial Ports:

System Name	Number	BPS	Flags	Notes
Datapac	565-0111	300		Async (ITI)
Datapac	565-0181	1200		Async (ITI)
Datapac	565-6000	2400		Async (ITI)
Datapac	522-6379	9600		Async (ITI MNP)
Regina Public Library	347-0463	9600	7	GEAC Catalog Only
University of Regina	586-5550	2400	7	8N1 after Develswitch

Operating Defaults: 24 hours, 8-N-1 (Differences noted in "FLAGS" field)

Protocol:

3 - v.32	4 - v.42	C - CSP	M - MNP
3b - v.32bis	4b - v.42bis	H - HST	Z - Zyxel

SW Definitions:

CB - C*Base	Ma - MajorBBs	RA - RemoteAccess	TB - TBBS
EB - EBBS	Mn - Minibaud	SN - Star*Net	TR - TriBBS
Fi - Fido	Mx - Maximus	Su - SuperBBS	Tr - ///Turbo
GT - GT Power	Op - Opus	Sy - SynchroNet	Vi - VirtualNet
LN - LNA	PB - PC Board	TA - TransAmiga	WC - WildCat

NOTE: Software surrounded by * (eg: *RA*) are running dual software pkgs.
The software listed is primary, BBS also operates RoboBBS using a
software carosel for EGA/VGA systems.

CPU Definitions:

A - Amiga	C - C64/128	O - OS/2	P - MS-DOS
	S - Atari ST	U - Unix	

Networks:

A - AdultNet	G - Gatenet	N - NeST	U - UseNet
D - DoveNet	I - IMex	P - PlayNet	V - VirtualNet
F - FidoNet	M - MufoNet	R - RelayNet	W - WorldNet

Other Flags:

$ - Pay for Use	L - Rotary Switch Lines
B - Blue Wave Offline Mail	1 - Minimum 1200 bps login
Q - QWK Offline Mail	7 - 7,E,1 modem settings
9 - Minimum 9600 bps login	

NOTES:

* Updates should be sent to Allan Finkas on USS Galifrey (Fido 1:140/1701)
* All Numbers periodically verified
* Private and part-time systems will not be listed
* Want everyone to know about your BBS? Advertise it on a Saskatchewan
  FidoNet BBS carrying the echo conference NET140.BBS.ADS