NATIONAL

OS9

NEWSLETTER

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NATIONAL OS9 USER GROUP NEWSLETTER

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SUPPORT : Brisbane OS9 Level 2 Users Group.

OS9 is alive and well!!

After a six month hiatus, the National User Group Newsletter is back and coming to you live from the deep North. Well, almost live anyway.

Some readers will have received a letter from Graeme Nichols outlining the demise of the National Users Group, together with a refund of any subs owing to them. If you have a question about your previous subs, please contact Graeme directly.

Because we still have a continuing interest in the system, we have decided to try to keep the newsletter going. We think that OS9 still has a bright future and that the Tandy CoCo is an affordable vehicle upon which to run the system. Sure, the CoCo has its shortcomings, but until something better comes along, it is easily the best supported 'cheap' OS9 machine available in Oz. While we do not intend to limit participation to those possessing CoCo's, obviously most of our expertise has been learnt on and from that machine. We do however, have the where-with-all to read from and to write to most common types of OS9 disks.

Because of the problems in publishing the newsletter in the past, we intend to make some changes. We cannot however, afford to publish it without the support of the recipients, both in monetary terms, and in terms of input. Therefore, if you like the sound of what we intend to do, we would ask you to subscribe at the normal rate. (ie $1.50 per month). This issue, incidentally, we are providing from our own resources.

There are many exciting things on the OS9 horizon. New hardware in the shape of hard disks, no halt floppy controllers, hardware clock modules, parallel printer ports etc are just becoming readily available. The prices are discouraging, but nevertheless they are there. New software to exploit the system is already here, but someone soon will really appreciate the OS9 windowing system and finally write some software designed to run on other than a 128K CoCo. Then things will really start to happen.

As far as the horizons of this newsletter are concerned, we plan to include a mixture of some very interesting home-brewed Basic09 software, patches to make the system better, and the source code for new device drivers and descriptors.

We will have the source-code for a Level 2 disk zapper which uses windows, and includes all the necessary tools to get into the real meat of your disks. An editor (mouse driven) to edit or create new icons for Multivue will be included in a future issue. We will present some Basic09 code to allow you to use the high-level windowing calls from the Windint module. There is plenty of scope.

We hope to be able to provide new device drivers and descriptors for both a parallel printer port and a real time clock and hopefully to provide details of the necessary hardware.

We cannot, however, continue without your support. This issue is gratis, however to receive the next issue, we ask that you forward to Gordon Bentzen, whose address is on the front sheet, $18 for a 12 month subscription. ($10 for a 6 month subscription is acceptable.) While we have a commitment to OS9, we have decided that, unless we get these subscriptions from 20 or more people, we are not prepared to devote the effort necessary to ensure the success of the newsletter.

Even if you do not choose to support us, we hope that the next couple of pages of information are of some use to you. You never know, they might just prompt you to submit some material of your own.

RAMDISK DESCRIPTOR

The following source code, when assembled will provide a new device descriptor to operate with Kevin Darling's RAMMER device driver, a public domain virtual disk for OS9 Level 2. The descriptor which is provided with that driver cannot be successfully formatted using D.P.Johnston's SDISK3 utility, sformat. As an added bonus, the disktype utility, also included with the SDISK3 package will work using this descriptor. The default setup will give the equivalent of a 35 track, SSDD Color Computer disk in ram. Just the ideal thing to make all those TANDY supplied programs run that much faster, and you can use the BACKUP utility to put them there.

```
 nam R0                                       ¦ fcb DescName-*-1 Bytes of options
 ttl Descriptor Module                        ¦ fcb DT.RBF,Drive RBF device and drive number
****************************                   ¦ fcb 0 StpRat
*                                             ¦ fcb DrvTyp
* Virtual Drive Descriptor Module             ¦ fcb Density
*                                             ¦ fdb Cyls Number of Tracks
* Ramdisk Descriptor for                      ¦ fcb Sides
*    Rammer.dr                                ¦ fcb 1 Verify=ON
*   Allows the use of                         ¦ fdb SecTrk
* sformat and disktype                        ¦ fdb SecTr0
* as supplied in the                          ¦ fcb 3 Sector interleave offset
*   SDISK3 Package (*)                        ¦ fcb 8 Sector allocation size
*                                             ¦ fcb 0 Reserved
* (*) (c) 1987 D.P.Johnson                    ¦ fcb 0 Reserved
                                              ¦ fcb #10 sector/track offset
 use /d0/DEFS/defsfile                        ¦DescName equ *
Type set DEVIC+OBJCT                          ¦ fcb 'R,'0+Drive+$80
Revs set REENT+1                              ¦DscMgr equ *
 mod DescEnd,DescName,Type,Revs,DscMgr,DscDrv ¦ fcs 'RBF' Rbfman
 fcb DIR.+SHARE.+PREAD.+PWRIT.+UPDAT.+EXEC.+PEXEC. ¦DscDrv FCS /RAMMER/
 fcb $07 port bank                            ¦ emod
 fdb $FFE0 port address                       ¦DescEnd equ *
Drive set 0 Drive number                      ¦
DrvTyp set $20 5" DDens Track 0               ¦
Cyls set 35 Number of tracks                  ¦
SecTrk set 18 Number of sectors per track     ¦
SecTr0 set 18 Number of sectors/track (Tr 0)  ¦
Density set 1 1=48 tpi DDens                  ¦
Sides set 1 Single sided                      ¦
```

Boot Stepper.
OR
How to get that DOS command to step at 6ms.

How often have you cursed at the 30 ms stepping of the boot loader of OS9? Well here's the patch. At offset $17C of BOOT there is a byte of $13 which can be changed to $10. don't forget to verify or use modpatch. Perhaps an easier way is to modify the boot sector at track 34 of the boot disk. Track 34 sector 3 has the needed byte. It's at offset $AC of the sector. Also change the CRC at offset $FD, FE and FF to $8D, 04 and 96 respectively. These changes refer to OS9 level II only. I did the changes to both a 40 track and 80 track boot disk.

OFFSET	OLD	NEW
017C	13	10

Here's a patch to stop the RGB monitor and some TV's from scrolling when you boot OS-9. At offset $27 in REL is the byte that is copied to the GIME chip's register at $FF98. Change this byte from $00 to $08 and the 50 Hz will be selected instead of the 60 Hz. Don't forget to verify the module and then use Cobbler to resave it.

```
         OFFSET    OLD   NEW
           27      00    08
```

Here's a Disk Basic programme to modify the two (selectable) modules and change their CRC's to suit for those who find it easier this way.

```
10 'PATCH FOR OS9 LEVEL 2 BY BOB DEVRIES PH (07) 3727816 THIS IS PUBLIC DOMAIN !
20 CLEAR1000
30 CLS:PRINT:PRINT" DO YOU WANT TO PATCH FOR "
40 PRINT:PRINT"(1) ANTI-SCROLL, OR"
50 PRINT:PRINT"(2) 6MS STEPPING, OR"
60 PRINT:PRINT"(3) BOTH"
70 PRINT
80 INPUT TP
90 PRINT:PRINT "INSERT DISK IN DRIVE 0 "
100 LINEINPUT" AND PRESS <ENTER> ";A$
110 IF TP<1 OR TP>3 THEN 30
120 ON TP GOTO 150,240,150
130 PRINT:PRINT "DONE....":SOUND 200,10
140 END
150 DSKI$0,34,1,A$,B$
160 MID$(A$,46,1)=CHR$(8)
170 DSKO$0,34,1,A$,B$
180 DSKI$0,34,2,A$,B$
190 MID$(A$,46,1)=CHR$(177)
200 MID$(A$,47,1)=CHR$(248)
210 MID$(A$,48,1)=CHR$(108)
220 DSKO$0,34,2,A$,B$
230 IF TP=1 THEN 130
240 DSKI$0,34,3,A$,B$
250 MID$(B$,45,1)=CHR$(16)
260 MID$(B$,126,1)=CHR$(141)
270 MID$(B$,127,1)=CHR$(4)
280 MID$(B$,128,1)=CHR$(150)
290 DSKO$0,34,3,A$,B$
300 GOTO 130
```

                    Regards,

                    Bob Devries.

This newsletter is produced with the Stylograph word processing system Version 3.4 running under OS9 Level 2 on a CoCo3 Color Computer. The files produced by all previous versions under OS9 Level 1 are compatible with this version. If you wish to submit material for inclusion in future newsletters, it will make it easy for us if you send a disk in any OS9 format, 35,40 or 80 track, Stylo files or any ASCII file without formatting commands.

We find Stylo to be a very good word processing system for the CoCo running OS9 and include a brief summary of Stylo for those who may be interested.

STYLOGRAPH WORD PROCESSING SYSTEM

The Stylograph word processing system is made up of Three basic stand alone programs which are compatible with the Stylo ASCII files produced.

[1] Stylo - the main word processor
[2] MM   - the Mail Merge program
[3] Spell - the Spelling checker

The disk provided contains a CMDS directory containing the above programs plus other Utilities (covered below) and the basic OS9 commands used by Stylo.

The other directory STY is necessary for Stylo and contains stylo help files, dictionary file and Supplementary dictionary file, along with a couple of sample text files.

directory of STYLO DISK
==
letter   names   OS9Boot   startup   STYLO_DIR

CMDS *****
    attr   backup   copy   date   deiniz   del   deldir   dir
    display   echo   edit   error   format   free   gfx   gfx2
    grfdrv   help   ident   iniz   inkey   link   list   load
    makdir   mdir   mfree   MM   montype   shell   Spell
    Spelladd Spellcom Spelldcm Spellsub Styfix   Stylo   unlink
    wcreate   xmode

STY *****
    Dict   intro   intro_BAK letter   Print_sty Styhlp1   Styhlp2
    Styhlp3   Styhlp4   Styhlp5   Styhlp6   styps   Styps_b   Styps_d
    Styps_i   styps_star.dot   supp   Term_sty

==

COMMANDS

Styfix - configuration program for all Three (3) main programs.

i.e. Stylo, MM, Spell

[1] OS9 System disk with STYLO installed in /D0
[2] OS9: chd /d0/STY (most important that current data dir is STY)
[3] OS9: styfix /d0/cmds/stylo

  For other programs MM   Spell, substitute for stylo

  Styfix will allow you to configure the Terminal Parameters from several options. CoCo Level II /w 80 col window
is listed.

  Styfix will allow you to configure Printer from several options included OR configure to suit your printer codes.

Spellcom   - will compress a std ASCII list of words to about 50% its original size. The dictionary file **Dict** in
the STY directory is in compressed format.

OS9: spellcom dict4 dict5
   - This will cause the ASCII file "dict4" to be compressed and output to the file "dict5"

Spelldcm   - will decompress a file and output a standard list of one word per line in std ASCII format.

OS9: spelldcm /d0/sty/dict
   - This will list all words in the dictionary to be listed to std output screen.

OS9: spelldcm /d0/sty/dict >/p   - output to printer

OS9: spelldcm /d0/sty/dict >/d1/dict1 - output to disk file "dict1"

Spelladd   - Used to add words to the Standard Dictionary if the Supplementary dictionary "supp" gets too large.
"supp" dictionary created by Spell will always be in ASCII format , and will take longer to read if too large.

rename "dict" to "dictold"

OS9: spelladd dictold supp dict

The **"dictold"** file MUST be a compressed file,which should be in alphabetical order. The **"supp"** file MUST be an
ASCII file which may be in any order. All the characters should be in upper case and be alpha chrs "A" to "Z" only.
Any other characters will cause problems. e.g. "ALPHA-BETA" will appear as two separate words in the dictionary
"ALPHA" "BETA".

  The list of words in the **"supp"** file should be no more than about 3,000 words. If the program terminates in an
error , split the file into smaller files.

Spellsub   - Used to remove words from the Standard Dictionary.

  rename "dict" to "dictold"

OS9: spellsub dictold /d1/mydir/wrong dict

This will cause all words in the file **"wrong"** to be taken out of the file **"dictold"**. The file **"dictold"** must be
in compressed format. The third filename **"wrong"** must be list of ASCII words separated by carriage returns. The
last filename **"dict"** will be the name of the new dictionary file in compressed format with the words in **"wrong"**
omitted.

NATIONAL OS9 USER GROUP APPLICATION FORM
****

Surname : _____   First Name :_____   Title (Mr.,Dr.,etc) : ____
Street : _____
Suburb : _____   State :___ Postcode : ____

Home Phone :_____   Business Phone : _____

Do you run OS9 Level 1 [_] and/or OS9 Level 2 [_] (please tick)

Type of Computer for OS9 :_____Type of system :_____

Diskette Size (inches): __   Number of Cylinders (tracks per side): __   Sides:__   Number of Drives :__

Printer Type: _____

Modem Type : _____

Other hardware : _____

Special Interests : _____

_____

Can you contribute articles to this Newsletter :_____

Date : __/__/__   Signature :_____

Amount Enclosed: $ __.__   ($18-00 will cover you for 12 months)

Please Return Completed Form to :-

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