AUSTRALIAN OS9 NEWSLETTER

Volume 7 August 1993 Number 7

EDITOR:	Gordon Bentzen	(07) 344-3881
SUB-EDITOR:	Bob Devries	(07) 278-7209
TREASURER:	Jean-Pierre Jacquet	(07) 372-4675
LIBRARIAN:	Jean-Pierre Jacquet	(07) 372-4675
	Fax Messages	(07) 372-8325
CONSULTANT:	Don Berrie	(079) 75-3537
SUPPORT:	Brisbane OS9 Users Group	

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Editorial Material:
Gordon Bentzen
8 Odin Street
SUNNYBANK Qld 4109

Library Requests:
Jean-Pierre Jacquet
27 Hampton Street
DURACK Qld 4077

AUSTRALIAN OS9 NEWSLETTER
Newsletter of the National OS9 User Group
Volume 7 Number 7

EDITOR : Gordon Bentzen
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SUPPORT : Brisbane OS9 Level 2 Users Group.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE OS-9 WORLD?

Firstly, we have received from the EUROS9 usergroup a further update on the OS-9 "Cooperation" being promoted to benefit OS-9 groups around the world.

The EUROS9 July '93 editorial and "Fest" report by Peter Tutelaers summarised the decisions reached so far.
1. An article "pool" would be formed from all available usergroup newsletters.
2. Each group would publish a list of PD software in their library.
3. A committee would be formed to speak to MicroWare with one voice.

As another point of interest, it seems very likely that MW will make special offers to usergroups in the future. Perhaps along the lines of their CoCoFest offering of OS-9000 at US$350 down from the normal US$995. This would confirm that MicroWare are wanting to support OS-9 usergroups and improve their image with personal users.

EUROS9 USERGROUP FUTURE?

The EUROS9 Usergroup run by Peter Tutelaers - Netherlands and Berghard Kinzel - Germany, may fold.

We don't like to hear of any usergroups closing down and we hope that a way may be found to keep it going.

However, Peter explains that due to a new business venture, with three other partners, he does not expect to have the time to continue the newsletter on his own. He also commented that the last article presented by other than himself or Berghard was more than six months ago.

Their usergroup has a total of twenty-one (21) current members with about six (6) using OS9/68000, the rest use OS9/6809.

One suggestion put forward is that the EUROS9 be split in two with the OSK users joining EFFO (Usergroup in Switzerland) which caters for ONLY OSK industrial users. They have been operating for some time and produce a very professional newsletter. They have mainly corporate members, using OSK all the time and have considerable experience. I am sure that new members would be well supported and benefit a great deal from membership to this very professionally run group. BTW Peter Paschedag attended the Chicago CoCoFest as the EFFO representative.

This then leaves the 6809 OS9'ers. Peter has suggested that they could join us, the Australian OS-9 Usergroup. We welcome any move in this direction and hereby extend an invitation to the EUROS9 members if in fact the group does split up. Other alternatives of course would include one or more of the EUROS9 members taking over the newsletter production. Let's hope that they can find a way of keeping it going!

LATEST NEWS

It also seems that the U.S. OS-9 Usergroup is not without some problems. The latest EUROS9 news disk reports that Jim Destefano, their current president, is not happy with the group and is going to step away from it. Others, including members of the Chicago OS-9 User Group are looking at ways of keeping it going. Let's hope that a suitable solution is found. - That's the way it is reported, no other confirmation received. - Ed.

THE AUSTRALIAN - NATIONAL OS9 USERGROUP

Do you see a pattern here? This edition August 1993 brings us to the end of another subscription year. Yes, it may be a strange month to end a year but that's the way we started out in 1988. **HEY!** that's **FIVE** years we've done.

And YES, subscription renewals are due again. We run September to end August each year. For those new members who have joined us in the past couple of months, we will treat your membership as current to August 1994. Welcome!

THE FUTURE From the above it can be seen that we are indeed intending to continue on for another year. However, the usual conditions will apply. We have stated from the beginning that we must have at least 20 members to make the effort seem worthwhile. Current membership is 63 at last count (I think) and about six renewals have already been received, thankyou.

This time however, we need to apply one more condition. We NEED contributions to the newsletter.

The Australian Usergroup is run on a non-profit basis for a group of OS-9 users and we produces a monthly newsletter aimed at keeping people up to date and to share information of any kind which relates to the OS-9 operating systems in general. We maintain a PD programme library for general distribution and levy a subscription and copy charges to cover direct costs. No labour or time is included as a cost. We source information and PD material from overseas with the "cooperation" of other usergroups and at times from Compuserve and Delphi (expensive downloads). Other sources include the OCN (OS9 Community Network) on the Fido network and Internet, thanks to the unpaid support of a couple of members.

It seems to become more difficult to come up with interesting material to fill each newsletter, particularly when it is left to one, two or three people at the most.

We do want to maintain interest in our presentation to members and the ONLY way that can happen is through member contributions.

This year we will NEED a commitment from at least three members to contribute articles on a regular basis OR all subscriptions will be returned and we will fold.

Hey! We have a lot going for us, and apart from the U.S. Group, we must be the largest OS-9 Usergroup in the world! In fact we may soon need to change our name to **"The World OS-9 Usergroup"**. It's over to you to tell us that you want to continue as a usergroup. We look forward to hearing from you.

Cheers, Gordon.

```
   __  /\
  /  \_/  \
 / OZ - OS9 \
 \ RiBBs 2.1 /
  \_-----\_/
         o
```

The National OS9 Usergroup
(07)-200-9870
300/1200/2400 baud.
20:00 to 22:30 HRS.(AEST)
(8N1)

Co-ordinator: Bob Devries (07)-278-7209
Sysop: Rod Holden

This is (RiBBS).... A Tandy Coco Based BBS program.
This BBS is accessable to Usergroup Members ONLY!
Feel free to look around , and test out the options.

OS9 for Ever !!!!

Hi, this is your Sysop once again letting you know what type of software is available. Here is a colourful utility called JTree which is located in the OS9 Files area on the BBS. This utility is quite good when you use the options mentioned below. There is only one draw back to this utility is that it leaves you in a different colour window, so you have to use the 'display 1b 24' command to reset your screen. Here is the document for JTree.

```
PROGRAM:  JT_Color Tree V1.1   by Jim Hollier 1989

SYNTAX :  JTree [path] [options]
path   :  Any legal OS9 path.
          Will use current directory if not used.
options:  -a  display all files in directories
              defaults to displaying only directories.
          -f  adds file fragmentation count to File listing.
          -c  disables Color Output
          -r  disables Recursive Listing

EXAMPLE:  JTree
          JTree /dl
          JTree -a /dl/MYFILES
          JTree -c -f /d0 >/p
          JTree -cf /d0 >/p
```

Suprise Suprise

I have just received a copy of RiBBs Version 2.1 which will be placed in the ribbs directory on the BBS. There are two files for Ribbs 2.1 which are called rb210doc.lzh and ribb210s.lzh. I would suggest that when you unpack these files that you make yourself a cuppa because there are archives inside archives. I am running version 2.1 with some minor bugs but this should not effect anyone from logging on.

If any user is running a BBS, could you please send me your details and I will make up a list and place it on the OZ-OS9 BBS, remember users only. To date I have not received any info on other OS9 BBses operating in Australia or any picture files from other users. Sorry if I sound a bit rude but if users have something that other users might not have well then let's share the software and knowledge to help one another. See you in the bit stream, Happy CoCoing.

If any user has any hardware (or software) for sale, or is looking to buy some, please send the information to me via the BBS, or to Gordon Bentzen, who will then pass it on to me.
Sysop, Rod Holden

A Basic09 menu programme
A PD programme from the Library
by Henry Melton

I was having a bit of a browse through our PD library today, trying to think of something to write in the newsletter, when I came across this little gem. It is a programme, written in Basic09, which will let you do things from a menu which is described in a text file (much like a script file). It is quite a good example of Basic09 programming, so have a look at it. I feel that some of you may share the author's reasons for wanting a menu programme. Here are his comments

MENUS -- by Henry Melton 71545,1042

Menus is a BASIC09 program designed to give a quick and easy way to generate menu-driven applications for an OS9 system. It is a weekend project that seems to work pretty well. I needed something to help Momma and the kids navigate around in a 20m hard disk that is getting close to being full.

Pack MENUS and call it with the filename of a menuscript file as its only parameter. The menuscript is a simple text file. Any lines beginning with a colon ":" are treated as command lines. Everything else is just displayed as it is read.

The commands are as follows:

:display hh hh hh hh

Display works much like the OS9 command by converting pairs of hex characters to characters and displaying them. It is good for clearing the screen and positioning the cursor and such things. Non-hex characters on the line are ignored. The hex values must come in pairs -- use 0c not just c.

:shell command

Shell passes the remainder of the line to be processed by the BASIC09 Shell command. It is executed when the line is encountered in the script file.

:getkey

Getkey loops on Inkey until a character is typed that matches one of the ones set up by the :at key commands, and then it executes the command set up by the :at key command.

:at key char command

At Key takes two parameters, a single character and a command to be executed when the :getkey command sees it. The special command END terminates the MENUS program and is the only "legal" way out. Anything else is passed to the BASIC09 SHELL command for processing.

:nokeys

Nokeys clears all previous key definitions.

:restart [menuscriptfile]

Restart is used to switch to other menuscript files, or to start the current one over. Notice that and end-of-file is the same as a :restart on the current file. In other words, a menuscript will loop until an :at key command with the END option is selected.

That is all the options, for now. Menus can be chained by the :restart command and nested by using an :at keys command.

I have included a couple of sample menuscripts with this package. I'm sure they won't do anything useful for you, but they are included as examples that work. I call my mainmenu from my startup file.

Here is the source code:

```
PROCEDURE menus
 0000      (* MENUS -- A Menu Script Interpreter *)
 0028      (* ----------- Version 1.0 by Henry Melton *)
 0055      PARAM script:STRING[80]
 0061      DIM scr:INTEGER
 0068      DIM keyline(24):STRING[100]
 0079      DIM mline:STRING[255]
 0085      DIM newscript:BOOLEAN
 008C
 008D 10   (* Begin Script file processing *)
 00B2      LOOP
 00B4        maxkey=0
 00BC        OPEN #scr,script:READ
 00C8        newscript=FALSE
 00CE        WHILE NOT(newscript) AND NOT(EOF(#scr)) DO
 00DE          READ #scr,mline
 00E8          IF LEFT$(mline,1)=":" THEN
 00F8            GOSUB 1000
 00FC          ELSE
 0100            PRINT mline
 0105          ENDIF
 0107        ENDWHILE
 010B        CLOSE #scr
 0111      ENDLOOP
 0115      END
 0117
 0118 1000 (* Process command lines *)
 0136      GOSUB 1500
 013A      IF LEFT$(mline,8)=":display" THEN
 0151        GOSUB 2000
 0155      ELSE IF LEFT$(mline,7)=":getkey" THEN
 016E          GOSUB 3000
 0172        ELSE IF LEFT$(mline,7)=":at key" THEN
 018B            GOSUB 4000
```

```
018F          ELSE IF LEFT$(mline,7)=":nokeys" THEN
01A8              GOSUB 5000
01AC            ELSE IF LEFT$(mline,8)=":restart" THEN
01C6                GOSUB 6000
01CA              ELSE IF LEFT$(mline,6)=":shell" THEN
01E2                  GOSUB 7000
01E6                ELSE
01EA                  PRINT mline
01EF                ENDIF
01F1              ENDIF
01F3            ENDIF
01F5          ENDIF
01F7        ENDIF
01F9      ENDIF
01FB      RETURN
01FD
01FE
01FF 1500 (* Lower shift the command line *)
0224      FOR i=1 TO LEN(mline)
0238        c$=MID$(mline,i,1)
0247        IF ASC(c$)>64 AND ASC(c$)<92 THEN
025C          mline=LEFT$(mline,i-1)+CHR$(ASC(c$)+32)+RIGHT$(mline,LEN(mline)-i)
0285        ENDIF
0287      NEXT i
0292      RETURN
0294
0295 2000 (* Display hex codes to screen *)
02B9      hex$="0123456789abcdef"
02D0      mline=RIGHT$(mline,LEN(mline)-8)
02E0      hflag=0
02E8      hval=0
02F0      FOR i=1 TO LEN(mline)
0304        c$=MID$(mline,i,1)
0313        IF SUBSTR(c$,hex$)>0 THEN
0323          IF hflag=1 THEN
0330            hval=hval*16+SUBSTR(c$,hex$)-1
0349            PRINT CHR$(hval);
0351            hflag=0
0359            hval=0
0361          ELSE
0365            hflag=1
036D            hval=SUBSTR(c$,hex$)-1
037D          ENDIF
037F        ENDIF
0381      NEXT i
038C      RETURN
038E
038F 3000 (* Get a key and process it *)
03B0      done=0
03B8      WHILE done=0 DO
03C5        SHELL "tmode .1 -echo"
03D7        mline=""
03DE        WHILE mline="" DO
03EA          RUN inkey(mline)
03F4        ENDWHILE
```

```
03F8        SHELL "tmode .1 echo"
0409        GOSUB 1500
040D        FOR i=1 TO maxkey
041F          IF mline=LEFT$(keyline(i),1) THEN
0433            done=1
043B            mline=RIGHT$(keyline(i),LEN(keyline(i))-2)
0453            mline=TRIM$(mline)
045C            IF mline="end" THEN
046B              PRINT ""
046F              END
0471            ELSE
0475              SHELL mline
047A            ENDIF
047C          ENDIF
047E        NEXT i
0489      ENDWHILE
048D      RETURN
048F
0490 4000 (* Assign a run string to a key value *)
04BB      maxkey=maxkey+1
04C7      keyline(maxkey)=RIGHT$(mline,LEN(mline)-8)
04DC      RETURN
04DE
04DF 5000 (* Remove all key definitions *)
0502      maxkey=0
050A      RETURN
050C
050D 6000 (* restart this or some other script file *)
053C      mline=RIGHT$(mline+"  ",LEN(mline)-9)
0551      mline=TRIM$(mline)
055A      IF mline>"" THEN
0566        script=mline
056E        newscript=TRUE
0574      ENDIF
0576      RETURN
0578
0579 7000 (* Process shell command *)
0597      mline=RIGHT$(mline,LEN(mline)-7)
05A7      mline=TRIM$(mline)
05B0      ON ERROR GOTO 7010
05B6      (* run shell command -- trap errors *)
05DC      SHELL mline
05E1 7010 ON ERROR
05E7      RETURN
```

<u>Here is the first of two sample scripts for menus:</u>

```
:display 0c 07
Main Menu -- Type a letter
:shell calendar
:shell date t

Games Spreadsheet Pictures Quit
Tsedit BibleSearch Databases
```

```
ViewBills
:at key g menus("/h0/etc/gamesmenu")
:at key s /h0/etc/calc
:at key p menus("/h0/etc/picsmenu")
:at key q end
:at key t /h0/etc/tsmenu
:at key b /h0/etc/bible
```

```
:at key d /h0/etc/db
:at key v /h0/etc/vb
:getkey
```

Here is the second script:

```
:display 0c 07
Game Menu -- Type a letter
:shell date t
Winnie-the-Pooh Koronis-Rift
Rogue   Fractalis(Rescue)
Carmen-Sandiego  MainMenu
:at key w /h0/etc/winnie
:at key k /h0/etc/rift
:at key r /h0/etc/rogue
:at key f /h0/etc/rescue
:at key c /h0/etc/carmen
:at key m end
:getkey
```

6809 OS9 System Utilities
From the PD Library
by Ron Lammardo

These utility programmes are written in assembler by Ron Lammardo, who also wrote Shellplus, which we all use. Well, we do don't we? The utils are:

LINK LOAD UNLINK SAVE MERGE DEL MAKDIR

Here's Ron's own instructions:

This archive contains a set of utilities which are enhanced to provide detailed error reporting, correct skiping of spaces/commas between names on parameter line and other features documented below.

The enhanced error reporting consists of displaying the parameter line from the spot where the error took place. If you were trying to do a "load utils1 utils2 utils3 utils4" and the file "utils3" did not exist, the message

```
Error Loading :utils3 utils4
Error #216                     would be printed.
```

The following modules are included in this archive:

DEL -
LOAD - Now uses F$NmLoad call,allowing you to load more than 48k worth of modules at once.
LINK - Now uses F$NMLink call,allowing you to link more than 48k worth of modules.
MAKDIR -
UNLINK -
SAVE - Allows overwrite/append of output file by prefixing with -/+ .

```
    Examples :
       save  /h0/utils1 load link  ..creates file /h0/utils1
       save -/h0/utils1 load link  ..overwrites /h0/utils1
       save +/h0/utils1 del        ..appends del to /h0/utils1
```

MERGE - Supports input from standard input path with use of the -z option, with file names one to a line.

```
    Examples :
       merge load link >utils1     ..merges load & link into file utils1
       merge <utils1.list >utils1  ..merges files named in file utils1.list into file utils1
```

Ron Lammardo 75706,336

Here's the source code for the first one:

```
         nam   Link
         ttl   Enhanced Link command by Ron Lammardo
         ifpl
         use   /dd/defs/os9defs
         endc
typelang set   prgrm+objct
attrev   set   reent+revision
revision set   1
         mod   Eom,Mname,Typelang,Attrev,Start,Datend
mname    fcs   /Link/
         fcb   1
xsave    rmb   2
         rmb   256
datend   equ   .
errmsg
 fcc 'Error Linking :'
errsz  equ *-errmsg

start
 stx <xsave save start of name
 clra any type/language
 clrb
 os9 F$NMLink try linking module
 bcs link020 if error...go print it

link010
 lda ,x+ get next character
 cmpa #', was it a comma
 beq link010
 cmpa #$20 was it a space
 beq link010
 cmpa #$0d was it a <cr>
 beq clrexit yes..done
 leax -1,x
 bra start else get next module

link020
 pshs b,cc save message
 leax errmsg,pcr  get address of error message
 ldy #errsz get size off error message
 lda #2 std error path
 os9 I$Write send it
 bcs link030 if error..dont print rest
 ldx <xsave get start of module in error
 ldy #200 max size to send
 lda #2 std error path
 os9 I$WritLn send it

link030
 puls b,cc
 bra exit exit with error

clrexit  clrb
exit     os9   F$exit


         emod
eom      equ   *
```

```
         nam   Load
         ttl   Enhanced load command by Ron Lammardo
         ifpl
         use   /dd/defs/os9defs
         endc
typelang set   prgrm+objct
attrev   set   reent+revision
revision set   1
         mod   Eom,Mname,Typelang,Attrev,Start,Datend
mname    fcs   /Load/
         fcb   1
xsave    rmb   2
         rmb   256
datend   equ   .
errmsg
 fcc 'Error Loading :'
errsz  equ *-errmsg

start
 stx <xsave save start of name
 clra any type/language
 os9 F$NMLoad try loading module
 bcs load020 if error...go print it

load010
 lda ,x+ get next character
 cmpa #', was it a comma
 beq load010
 cmpa #$20 was it a space
 beq load010
 cmpa #$0d was it a <cr>
 beq clrexit yes..done
 leax -1,x back up and point to char
 bra start else get next module

load020
 pshs b,cc save message
 leax errmsg,pcr  get address of error message
 ldy #errsz get size off error message
 lda #2 std error path
 os9 I$Write send it
 bcs load030 if error..dont print rest
 ldx <xsave get start of module in error
 ldy #200 max size to send
 lda #2 std error path
 os9 I$WritLn send it

load030
 puls b,cc
 bra exit exit with error
```

```
clrexit  clrb
exit     os9   F$exit

         emod
eom      equ   *
```

```
         nam   UnLink
         ttl    Enhanced   unlink   command  by  Ron
Lammardo
         ifpl
         use   /dd/defs/os9defs
         endc
typelang set   prgrm+objct
attrev   set   reent+revision
revision set   1
         mod   Eom,Mname,Typelang,Attrev,Start,Datend
mname    fcs   /UnLink/
         fcb   1
xsave    rmb   2
         rmb   256
datend   equ   .
errmsg
 fcc 'Error UnLinking :'
errsz  equ *-errmsg

start
 stx <xsave save start of name
 clra any type/language
 os9 F$UnLink unlink it
 bcs unlnk020 if error...go print it

unlnk010
 lda ,x+ get next character
 cmpa #', was it a comma
 beq unlnk010
```

```
 cmpa #$20 was it a space
 beq unlnk010
 cmpa #$0d was it a <cr>
 beq clrexit yes..done
 leax -1,x back up and point to char
 bra start else get next module

unlnk020
 pshs b,cc save message
 leax errmsg,pcr  get address of error message
 ldy #errsz get size off error message
 lda #2 std error path
 os9 I$Write send it
 bcs unlnk030 if error..dont print rest
 ldx <xsave get start of module in error
 ldy #200 max size to send
 lda #2 std error path
 os9 I$WritLn send it

unlnk030
 puls b,cc
 bra exit exit with error

clrexit  clrb
exit     os9   F$exit

         emod
eom      equ   *
```

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH....... Save, Merge, Del, Makdir.

NATIONAL OS9 USERGROUP - AUSTRALIA

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL / APPLICATION

Subscription Renewal [__]   New Subscription [__]

Surname: ________________ First Name :______________ Title : ____

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Age Group (please tick) Under 18 [__] 18-25 [__] 26-35 [__]
36-45 [__] 46-55 [__] over 55 [__]

Do you run OS9 Level 1[__] OS9 Level 2[__] OSK[__] OS9000[__]

Type of Computer for OS9: ___________________ RAM __________K.

Diskette 5.25 Number [__] Tracks [___] Sides [__]

Diskette 3.5 Number [__] 720k [__] 1.4meg [__]

Hard Drive Meg [____] Controller Type _________________

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Special Interests ____

____

Can you contribute articles to this Newsletter ? _______

Date : ____/____/____ Signature :_____________________________

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