

M.O.T.D.

The OS-9 Users Group Newsletter

Issue #1, 1995

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President's Column

Several major changes have taken place over the past few months at the Users Group. Carl Boll has resigned as President (more later), and Mike Rowen has been appointed as VP OS-9/6809. And for many of you, it is also time to renew your memberships.

Executive Changes

Carl Boll was recently injured in a traffic accident, and between recuperation and his return to school, felt he wouldn't have the needed time to put in as the President of the UG. As per the Bylaws, I have moved from the position of Executive Vice President to President.

Thanks from all of us to Carl for his efforts since the resurrection of the Users Group.

Mike Rowen has been appointed as Vice President OS-9/6809. Many of you know Mike from Delphi and Internet from his OS-9 online conference announcements.

Brian Goers, who was covering both the VP OS-9/6809 and VP OS-9 slots will now be free to focus on just the VP OS-9 job. This encompasses OS-9/68000, OS-9000, and OS-9/PPC.

MOTD Information

The OS-9 Users Group, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization, registered and incorporated in the state of Iowa, whose members share an interest in the OS-9 operating system in all of its various forms.

MOTD is the official newsletter of the OS-9 Users Group, Inc.

The OS-9 Users Group, Inc. has no affiliation with **Microware** or any other organization.

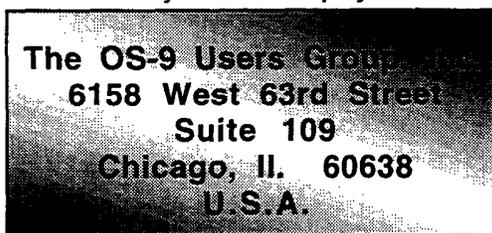
The opinions expressed by the authors of any articles or columns are not necessarily the opinions of the Editor, Publisher, columnist, nor do they reflect the policies of *The OS-9 Users Group, Inc.*

The **MOTD** will be printed a minimum of four times per year.

To receive **MOTD** you must be a member in good standing of *The OS-9 Users Group, Inc.* in accordance to the bylaws.

To become a member in good standing you must pay the yearly dues of \$25.00 US funds (\$30.00 US funds if you live outside the US and Canada) and obey all of the membership rules set forth in the Constitution of The Users Group and the bylaws.

Dues may be made payable to:



Memberships run for one year from the date received by the Users Group. Send a SASE for a membership kit which will include a membership form and information about the Users Group.

Please remember that this is a self help organization, and also a non-profit organization incorporated in the state of Iowa and as such it is directly governed by the laws of that state as well as all federal laws. Accordingly, dues are non-refundable in accordance with both state and federal law.

Reprints or back issues of the **MOTD** are available to members in good standing at the cost of \$1.50 each plus \$0.50 shipping (US funds). Please send a SASE and a list of the issues you wish sent to you.

Here is a short list of current officers:

Position	Name
President	Colin McKay
Executive Vice Pres.	* vacant *
Director	Ed Grasic
Director	Eddie Kuns
Director	Ken Scales
Vice Pres. (Comm.)	Paul Jerkatis
Vice Pres. (OS-9)	Brian Goers
Vice Pres. (OS-9/6809)	Mike Rowen
Secretary	Howard Luckey
Librarian	Zack Sessions
M.O.T.D. Editor	Joel Mathew Hegberg

MOTD Contributions

Articles, editorials, "letters to the Editor/Board of Directors", personal ads, graphics, or columns may be submitted by using the following means:

E-mail to JoelHegberg@delphi.com, E-mail to 'Sysop' of SandV BBS [(708) 352-0948], E-mail to the OS-9 Users Group os9ug@sandv.chi.il.us or by mail to *The OS-9 Users Group* address in Chicago. All submissions should be in pure ASCII format.

The submission of material does not guarantee publication. All publication of material is subject to review by the Board of Directors and the MOTD Editor, and must not be in conflict with the stated purposes of the Users Group as defined by the constitution and bylaws of the Users Group. The Board of Directors may also establish additional guidelines for acceptance to publication. Submission deadlines are four weeks before actual printing of the **MOTD** issue. *All printed material is subject to nominal editing by the MOTD Editor for clarity.*

Criticism towards making **MOTD** a better publication is welcome. Letters may be addressed to the MOTD Editor and mailed to the Users Group address or sent directly to JoelHegberg@delphi.com. E-Mail can also be sent to the following Delphi members: MITHELEN, CBJ, LUCKYONE, BRIANGOERS, EDDIEKUNS, and COLORSYSTEMS. You may also sent E-mail to os9ug@sandv.chi.il.us.

MOTD Advertising

Commercial advertising is available in **MOTD**. Please send a SASE for current rates. All ads should be submitted as a camera ready copy. We reserve the right to limit the size and quantity of ads.

SandV BBS (708) 352-0948

The SandV BBS is a BBS being maintained by Paul Jerkatis to provide Internet access.

Joel Hegberg has assumed full responsibility for printing the MOTD. While this will be slightly more expensive for copying the newsletter (as Carl had contacts in the printing business), hopefully it will improve the timeliness of each issue.

Membership Renewals

Starting with this issue, your membership expiration date will be printed on the mailing label of your MOTD. Please check the label, and renew if your membership has expired or is about to expire.

Bylaws

Several changes in the Bylaws have been made by the Board of Directors (BOD) over the past year, primarily related to the internal operations of the Executive. However one change that will affect you is the change in membership duration. These previously ran from 1 January to 31 December, but now run for one year from the date the membership is accepted.

No more major changes are planned for the Bylaws, which will free the board to get other projects started on behalf of the Users Group. Anyone wishing a copy of the Bylaws can contact me on Internet as cmckay@northx.isis.org. Or send a disk with a self-addressed returnable mailer to the UG address. The Bylaws may also appear on some of the popular information services.

Elections

Elections will be held in Chicago at the Annual General Meeting on 29 April 1994, to be held at the Chicago Fest. The following positions are open for nominations:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>	<u>Term</u>
President	Colin McKay	2 years
Executive	VP Vacant	1 year
Director	Ken Scales	3 years

Anyone interested in running for any of these positions should submit their nomination in writing. Full details on elections are covered in Article IV. of the Bylaws. In summary:

- Individual members in good standing 21 years of age or older may run.
- Nominations must be submitted in writing to the Secretary prior to the meeting.
- Nominations must be signed by the candidate and two (2) nominators who are also members in good standing.

Chicago Fest

The Fourth Annual "Last" Chicago CoCoFest is scheduled for the weekend of 29-30 April 1994 in Elgin, Illinois. Though officially a fest for users of the Tandy Color Computer 3 (both Disk basic and OS-9 Level II), there is also a growing number of OS-9/68000 personal users and vendors at the fest. More details will be printed in the next issue.

OS-9/6809

Mid Iowa & Country CoCo (MI&CC) stated several times in their November Issue that the OS-9 Users Group is an OS-9/68000 only organization. Given that many (most) of us (myself included) run OS-9 Level II on Color Computers, and that the Groups constitution requires that the Users Group support OS-9 in all its forms, I can only state that MI&CC is wrong.

I urge you to read the transcript of the town meeting that was held on Delphi recently, and is printed in this issue. The BBS listings, vendor lists, and the Periodical listings all include OS-9 Level II sources.

Check out the next issue of the MOTD as well -- the SFTHM column deals with OS-9 Level II on a CoCo being used in a printing business. Not a corner-store operation either.

Remember, the MOTD is a newsletter. As OS-9 related things come to our attention, we will report on them. Your membership fee isn't a subscription to a magazine, but rather helps support the activities of the members of the Users Group. The MOTD helps to keep you informed of these activities. Just like the National Geographic Society, only without the glossy covers!

Several projects are underway right now by UG members, and as they are completed, they will be covered in the newsletter. This includes OS-9/6809, and all other forms of OS-9 as well.

Anything Else?

Got a beef? Got a question? Got a comment? Something you would like to see (or not see)? Drop us a line. And send in your membership renewal!

Colin McKay,
President

Editor's Log

What a great year we had! I'm very encouraged by the work and cooperation experienced within the *new* OS-9 Users Group over its first year. We're seeing action taking place in many areas of OS-9, and the Users Group is actively keeping pace thanks to some very active members and officers.

The OS-9 Users Group attended the 1994 Atlanta Fest this year where lots of exciting OS-9 products were on display and available for fair prices. Aside from the fantastic products available from vendors, exciting ideas and personalities were there as well. Kevin Darling made a rare appearance at the show, delighting many many OS-9 enthusiasts. Boisy Pitre showed how an ordinary CD-i machine could be turned into a virtual computer system easily via software, and how the future of OS-9 could very well lie in CD-i. In addition, a new cooperative group (**the OSK Developers Group**) was formed, headed by David Graham, to help forward all areas of OSK development.

Some exciting people in attendance: Kevin Darling, Eric Crinchlow (author of Gold Runner 2000), Vaughn Cato (of OSTerm and "bouncing ball" fame), Allen Huffman and Terry Todd of Sub-Etha Software, Tim Johns of Jota, Boisy Pitre and James Jones of Microware (but not representing Microware), Frank Swygert as editor of 68'Micros magazine and owner of Farna Systems, Chris Hawks of Hawksoft, popular network enthusiasts Scott Griepentrog and Paul Jerkatis, David Graham of BlackHawk Enterprises, Colin McKay and Ken Scales from Northern Xposure, Nick Johnson, Bill Whittman Jr. getting people exciting about a new OS-9 computer to debut shortly, Zack Sessions of ColorSystems, and so many more that I'm ashamed to admit forgetting. In short, **OS-9 star-power** was definitely there!

The next show will be Chicago 1995 in April, and it's generally the case that Chicago shows tend to be even bigger than Atlanta. The OS-9 Users Group will most certainly be in attendance, as will a wide variety of OS-9 hardware and software vendors... a virtual OS-9'ers paradise! I hope to see you there! Until then, thank you for supporting the OS-9 Users Group and entrusting us to pursue the goals that are important to all of us.

Sincerely,

Joel Mathew Hegberg
MOID Editor

PS: One of our main goals is to stay in touch with you, the valued member. We are constantly seeking new ways to maintain open channels of communication between the membership and the elected officers. We have our P.O. Box for snail-mail and an e-mail address, both listed on the inside front-cover. Recently, we held an on-line Town Meeting where members could ask officers questions and bring forth any issues on their minds. Be sure to read the transcript of the meeting found in this issue! We are also exploring other means of communications which may be announced in the coming months.

Straight from the Horse's Mouth

by Colin McKay

This issue's article first appeared in *Volume 2, Issue 1* of *Real Times*, a trade-show magazine. It is reproduced here in its entirety with the permission of the author.

It was written by Kurt Papke, the Director of Software Development at Sanofi Diagnostics Pasteur, Inc, in Chaska, Minnesota.

Sanofi Diagnostics Pasteur, Inc Access Immunoassay System

Real-Time Operating System Automates Immunoassay Testing

The accuracy of a medical diagnosis often depends on the results of blood tests that used to involve time-consuming manual procedures, but can now be performed automatically in minutes. A key to the improvement in both test speed and accuracy is the use of **immunoassay technology**. In general, an immunoassay consists of exposing blood, or other bodily fluid, to a specific antibody, observing the resulting reaction and comparing the result against established benchmarks. This comparison provides an accurate indication of disease or other systemic abnormality, or the measure of a body function, such as thyroid activity.

When performed manually, an immunoassay requires a skilled laboratory technician with the accuracy of the results dependent on the technician's consistent execution of complex procedures. As medicine came to rely more heavily on immunoassays, laboratories found themselves under pressure to increase the number and types of assays performed each day. However, the resulting increase in volume soon exceeded the abilities of the existing pool of trained laboratory technicians.

Sanofi Diagnostics Pasteur Inc's approach to solving the problem was to develop an automated system that combines an *IBM-compatible, 386SX-based* assay controller running the *OS-9000 realtime operating system* with a complete chemical processing plant. The new system significantly increases immunoassay throughput, while maintaining a high degree of accuracy.

The Chemiluminescence Process

First and foremost among the challenges faced by the system's designers was identifying a single detection method that could be applied across the board to the numerous tests amenable to immunoassay. After considerable research, **chemiluminescence** (production of light from a chemical reaction) was found to be the best choice. Its three major strong points are that it is isolated from the assay process itself, is a quantitative measurement well suited to digital processing, and is extremely sensitive.

Chemiluminescent immunoassay is a straightforward process. Small magnetic particles coated with a test-specific antibody are exposed to a sample of the patient's blood and possibly other non-magnetic reagents in a small test-tube like reaction vessel (4). Being coated with an antibody, the magnetic particles capture and hold the specific chemical for which they are intended. After the period of time required to complete the reaction elapses, the blood sample and, if present, the other reagents are removed. This is accomplished by exposing the reaction vessel to a strong magnet (B) that holds the antibody-coated magnetic particles in place and then flushing the vessel several times with wash buffer.

At the completion of this washing cycle, the reaction vessel contains only the antibody-coated magnetic particles and the chemicals they captured. The reaction vessel is then filled with a *chemiluminescence substrate* that reacts with the chemicals held by antibodies to produce light. Since the amount of light produced is proportional at the volume of chemical captured by the antibody particles, it is also proportional to the concentration of that specific chemical in the patient's blood stream.

A *luminometer* is used to count the number of photons liberated as a result of the chemiluminescent reaction. This count is then subjected to processing by the computer in accordance with an algorithm that reflects a corresponding *analyte-specific dose-response curve*. The result is a measure of the chemical's concentration in the blood, or other bodily fluid, being analyzed.

After the detection method was selected, designers were faced with the challenge of maximizing throughput. Although an automated system could perform an immunoassay more accurately than a technician, meaningful improvements in throughput required *simultaneous processing of multiple tests*. However, simultaneously processing multiple immunoassays is not a trivial matter.

"The easiest way to meet this challenge was to implement a graphical user interface (GUI) built around easily recognized icons. Fortunately, OS-9000 comes with a graphical toolbox, called RAVE."

Maintaining Identity

The biggest challenge is maintaining patient identity as his or her blood is subjected to multiple assays along with those being performed for other patients. The underlying problem is that immunoassays for different blood components require different processing times, reagents, and procedures. Thus all of the assays to be performed for a given patient may begin at nearly the same time they will be completed at different times. Thus, for example, of 100 immunoassays completed during a given period of time, only the first, 18th, 35th, 64th and 100th may have been performed for a given patient. Even so, the machine must be able to identify those results as being for that specific patient and no other.

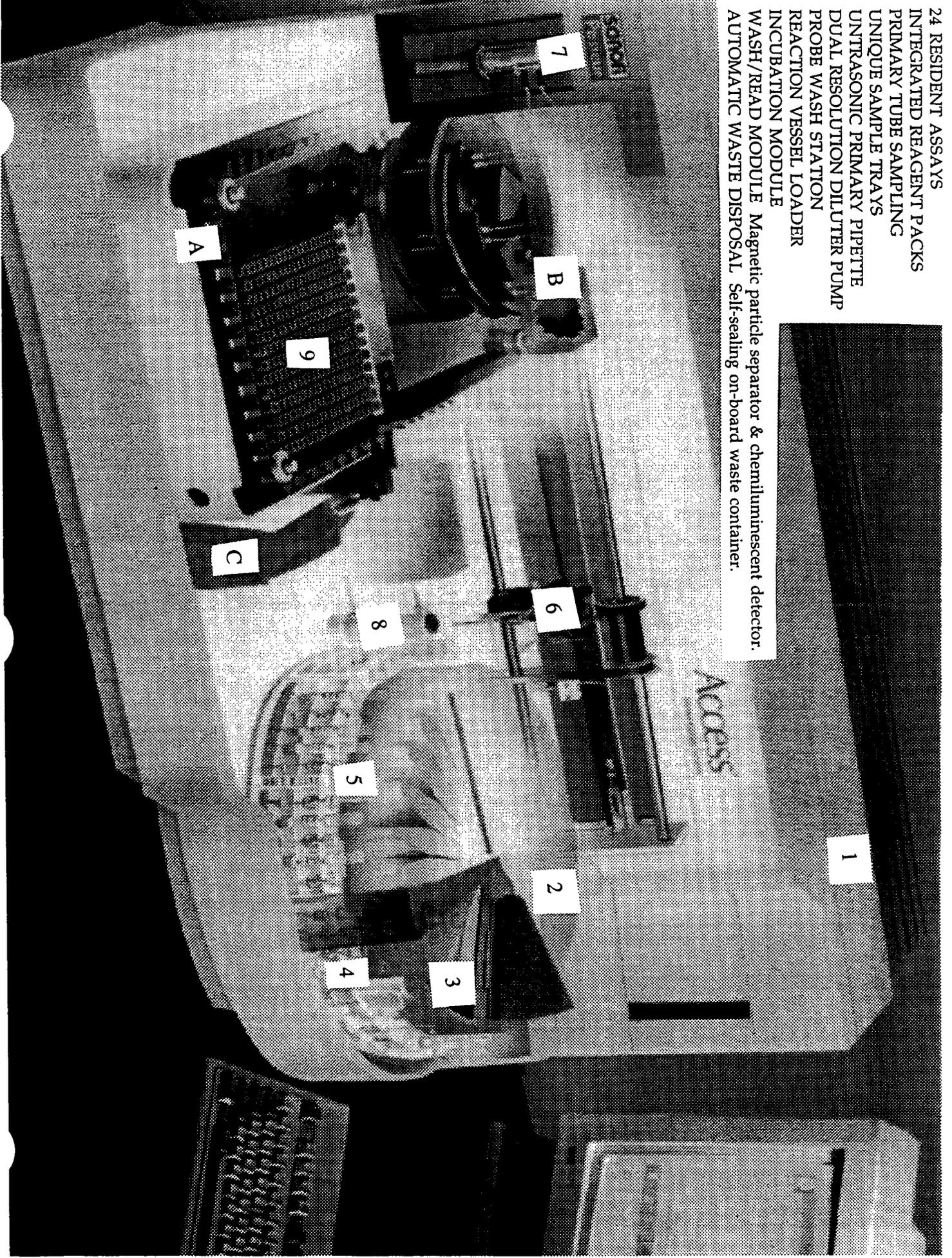
Keeping track of what patient's blood is being subjected to which assay is only part of the problem. The machine must also keep track of which assays from a suite of perhaps 24 are to be performed for each patient. And the machine must then make certain the correct antibody and other reagents are mixed in the correct proportions with the correct patient's blood. In addition to performing the tasks directly associated with the immunoassay procedures, the machine must keep track of inventory, which is being continually expended as the assays are being performed.

Automating the Process

The internal controller in the Sanofi Diagnostics Pasteur immunoassay system is an *IBM-compatible 80386SX* single-board computer running the *OS-9000 real-time operating system*. The 80386-based controller, together with the complete chemical processing plant, is housed within an enclosure measuring approximately 39"W x 24"D x 18"H.

Blood samples are introduced into the machine by means of sample trays (5), each able to hold up to ten samples (4). Barcodes are used to identify each tray, and, if present on the sample tube, the corresponding patient. If the blood sample is not barcoded, the patient's

24 RESIDENT ASSAYS
INTEGRATED REAGENT PACKS
PRIMARY TUBE SAMPLING
UNIQUE SAMPLE TRAYS
ULTRASONIC PRIMARY PIPETTE
DUAL RESOLUTION DILUTER PUMP
PROBE WASH STATION
REACTION VESSEL LOADER
INCUBATION MODULE
WASH/READ MODULE Magnetic particle separator & chemiluminescent detector.
AUTOMATIC WASTE DISPOSAL Self-sealing on-board waste container.



-- Press Release --

Glenside to Sponsor Fourth Annual "Last" Chicago CoCoFest!

Here are the 5 "W's":

WHO? The Glenside Color Computer Club of Illinois presents
WHAT? The Fourth Annual "Last" Chicago CoCoFEST!
WHEN? April 29th & 30th, 1995 (Sat. 10am-6pm; Sun 10am-4pm)
WHERE? HOLIDAY INN ELGIN (A Holidome Indoor Recreation Center)
345 W. River Road (A city block from I-90 & IL-31S)
Elgin, Illinois (Same great location as last year!)
Overnight room rate: \$55.00 (plus 10% tax)
Call 1-708-695-5000 for reservations.
Be sure to ask for the "Glenside" or "CoCoFEST!" rate.

>>>> YOU MUST REGISTER UNDER COCOFEST TO GET THIS RATE <<<<<

WHY? A. To provide Vendor support to the CoCo Community
B. To provide Community support to the CoCo Vendors
C. To provide educational support to new users
D. TO HAVE AN OUTRAGEOUSLY GOOD TIME!!!!

And now, the "H" word:

HOW MUCH? Admission:
\$8.00 at the door, 2-day pass
\$5.00 at the door, 1-day pass

Advance ticket sales:
\$5.00 + SASE for the whole show, or
\$5.00 + \$0.50 postage & handling
Children 8 and under are FREE

Contact: George Schneeweiss, Treasurer
Glenside Color Computer Club
RR#2 Box 67
Forrest, IL. 61741-9629

For further information, general or exhibitor, contact:
Tony Podraza, Fest Chairman
708-428-3576, Voice
708-428-0436, BBS

identity is entered into the computer by the operator via the keyboard.

Within the machine, mechanical equipment transfers the required amount of a blood sample into a reaction vessel (9) and adds the required antibody and other reagents. The reaction vessels are then transferred to an incubation chamber (A) where they remain for the period of time required to complete the antibody reaction.

As the reaction in each vessel is completed, the machine automatically transfers it to a wash station (B) where the blood, reagents, and residues are removed and the chemiluminescent substrate added. The vessel is then moved to an intermediate station where the chemiluminescent reaction proceeds. After a predetermined period of time elapses, the vessel is transported into the luminometer chamber where the light generated by the chemiluminescent reaction is quantified. After the measurement is completed, the vessel and its contents are deposited into a hazardous waste bag (C) for safe disposal.

Instructions about which assays the machine is to perform for each patient can be entered by the operator via the keyboard. However, many laboratories have a computerized information system that tracks each patient's history and logs tests ordered by the patient's physician. The Sanofi Diagnostics Pasteur immunoassay system is equipped with an *RS-232C serial port* that provides an interface to the laboratory's information system computer. This permits assay instructions to be automatically downloaded into the machine and the assay results to be automatically uploaded into the laboratory's patient database. Thus, the only operator action required to perform a complete immunoassay is to transfer the patient's blood sample into the machine via a sample rack and press **RUN**.

Although the actions required of the operator to initiate and control the immunoassay process are minimal, they are nevertheless important. However, because the system is intended for use throughout the world, including those areas in which *pictogram-based written languages* are used, training operators can be a significant challenge.

The easiest way to meet this challenge was to implement a graphical user interface (GUI) built around easily recognized icons. Fortunately, OS-9000 comes with a graphical toolbox, called **RAVE** (*Real-time Audio Video Environment*), that permits the creation and integration of a customized GUI. Using RAVE, a set of graphical menus was created that provides a language-independent user interface. Thus, any laboratory technician familiar with blood chemistry workups can quickly and intuitively learn how to enter instructions and obtain results from this immunoassay system.

CD-i Newsgroup on the Internet

A new CD-i newsgroup on the Internet has passed the call for votes. The new group, **rec.games.video.cd-i**, should be available by the time you read this article.

CD-i players connect to your television and stereo system to handle audio and Photo-CD disks, but are primarily used to run CD-i game and movie disks. Rock-solid freeze frames and top quality production values make CD-i machines well worth exploring as a home entertainment appliance.

The heart of CD-i is its operating system, CD-RTOS, or *Compact Disk Real Time Operating System*, which is in reality OS-9/68000 v2.4 with some extra bells and whistles.

The new group will provide a forum for the discussion of CD-i topics, with emphasis on games. Since this is the first CD-i related newsgroup, any discussion of issues relevant to CD-i users (such as Video CD or technical matters) will be welcome unless a more appropriate forum for their discussion is available.

Introducing...

Interviews with OS-9 leaders...

by Joel Mathew Hegberg

A short while ago, I was thinking to myself about all the interesting people we have using OS-9. They have so many diverse backgrounds, interests, and beliefs, yet they all love OS-9. I know most of them pretty well, since I talk to many of them rather frequently. Yet, I'm sure many people would be very interested to read an interview of their favorite OS-9 personality, which is how this article has come into existence. If you have a particular OS-9 person in mind whom you would like to see interviewed, please send me a letter (mail or e-mail) and I'll see what I can do!

Introducing... Allen C. Huffman, President of Sub-Etha Software.

Accomplishments: Midi Librarian software for Color Computer, MiniBanners for OS-9/OSK, Towel disk utility, Fest Graphics Adventure, Invaders09, co-author of Multiboot; President of Sub-Etha Software.

Q: You've been using computers for a long time. What was your very first computer system and when did you get it?

A: *In junior high, a guy in my English class got me into computers. We'd go down to Radio Shack and type in programs on the TRS-80s there. The first machine I actually owned, though, was a Commodore VIC-20. My dad got it for me when it first came out. It was \$299.95 and seemed like an unbeatable deal at the time. I never planned to own a computer, though. I really wanted a Coleco or Intellivision as an upgrade from my old Atari. A year later I would buy a Radio Shack Color Computer hacked to support 64K. To answer the question I guess it was about 1981. Back when having a computer was a big deal.*

Q: What do you enjoy about computers the most?

A: *Being able to make them do something. I stayed up all night learning to program the VIC. Simply making the screen change color or print my name was amazing.*

Q: Why did you get into the OS-9 operating system, and how has it affected your life?

A: *I played with OS-9 Level 1 over a modem back in about '83 but it didn't interest me. Too cryptic. Later on I worked for Radio Shack and got a deal on Level 2 for the CoCo 3. At the time it was just a plaything. I did nothing more than make a custom boot disk and look at it. In 1990 I cofounded Sub-Etha Software and we went to the CoCoFest in Atlanta. There, many people told us that they would buy our products if they ran under OS-9. This would be the main reason I got into it. I ported a Disk Basic program to Basic09, and quickly became one of the OS-9 snobs I previously despised. Now I can't use a computer unless I can switch to another task without having to abort what I am working on. I'm very spoiled.*

Q: Allen, I've had the pleasure of working with you in the OS-9 arena for a few years now. Sub-Etha Software has done much for the OS-9 community, both OS-9/6809 and OS-9/68000. What was your main goal in forming Sub-Etha Software, and do you think you've fulfilled your goal?

A: *Well, honestly the main goal was to market two programs my partner, Terry Todd, had written. We wanted to also license old CoCo software and bring it back out. Dave Myers of CoCoPro! started doing this as well and since he was doing such a great job, we never carried*

on with those plans. In that aspect, Sub-Etha is nothing like we planned. However, I'd say it is something much more special. As far as goals, I don't have enough hours in the day to complete all the things I'd like too. Instead, we do everything we can to support our Community.

Q: Do you wish to mention how you chose the name "Sub-Etha Software" and how it relates to your peculiar clothing at computer fests?

A: *<laughs> The name for the company was inspired by The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, by Douglas Adams. It's a sci-fi comedy seen in book, radio, tv, and video game form. We had planned to be called Forty-Two Technology and I still have the dot-matrix microfont business card sized ad we planned to run. Somehow we decided on Sub-Etha Software, based on all the references in the book. Sub-Etha net, Sub-Etha sense-o-matic, Sub-Etha radio... The bathrobe and towel I am always seen in are based on the wardrobe our hero, Arthur Dent, has on. It's a long story - five books actually - so all I can say is read the books.*

Q: I know you enjoy writing software. Do you believe your programs contain a unique "personal touch" which makes them distinctive?

A: *Yes, actually. I think programming is an artform. I am not the best artist, but I feel I have a certain style. A lot of that comes from laziness - I tend to do the same things the same way so I don't have to reinvent the wheel each time. Internally I am happy with how my programs are laid out. I tend to write things the way I want them, then I hope I get feedback later on so I can add things others want. If only we got more feedback.*

Q: Where do you get your programming ideas from? What types of programs do you enjoy writing the most... games, applications, utilities, etc.?

A: *My ideas come from a need. MiniBanners came from me, for some reason, wanting to print a banner. I had a program in BASIC that did it, but it had square O's. I was going to modify the character set but then decided to use the CoCo 3's internal fonts. It evolved from there. Most everything I have done starts from me hacking out a quick routine to accomplish something - MiniBanners was originally a two line program - then I polish it later. I am starting to get into game programming, but generally I seem to like utilities.*

Q: Can you name a couple people who you admire in the OS-9 community?

A: *Oh man. Well, always Kevin Darling. I've learned so much from his writings. Others like Alan DeKok, Scott Griepentrog, Vaughn Cato, and Robert Gault come to mind. These are some of the people who have taken the time to answer questions for me and, in many cases, provide sample code. This is tough. There are so many great people in the community. <laughs> You too, Joel.*

Q: What do you think about the future of OS-9 in general?

A: *We are very excited about the possibility of turning the CD-i players into personal OSK machines. If we had a keyboard and disk drive for them, we'd suddenly have a massive potential market. Imagine selling a word processor CD or creating small products that would run just from a disk. This could be a very big thing. CD-i players are just about everywhere, even here in East Texas. Without something like this, though, I feel OS-9 will continue to be pursued by hobbyists with no significant future other than the industrial applications. Sure, we might someday see set top boxes in every house running OS-9 internally, but that doesn't do me or my company a bit of good. A CD-i future could, though.*

Thank you for your time, Allen!

UG Activity

Town Meeting Prelude by Joel Mathew Hegberg

Night. A dimly lit room. Light rain tapping against a glass window. The lights on my modem twinkle as I soundlessly slip into cyberspace. The soft blue glow of the computer screen illuminating my hands as they reach for the keyboard. They begin weaving the familiar gestures which transport my cyber-self to a new location. A momentary pause. I find myself in the cyber-city of the oracle -- Delphi.

Excitement runs through me. I see my cyber-friends arriving into the conference area. They are from everywhere, but here we are neighbors. Our speed-of-light messages echoing through vast web-like networks around the world, we meet together to discuss our common goals; our common interests; our common concerns. From differing backgrounds to differing perspectives, we unite in the intangible meeting room of the OS-9 Users Group Town Meeting.

On August 25, 1994, the new OS-9 Users Group held its first electronic Town Meeting in the OS-9 Online area of Delphi. We had quite a turnout! This was an opportunity for members to meet live, electronically, with officers of the OS-9 Users Group. An edited version of the transcript appears in this issue of the MOTD, thanks to Executive Vice President, Colin McKay.

One topic which came up was the illusion of more OS-9/68000 support vs. OS-9/6809 support coming from the OS-9 Users Group. The Users Group is committed to supporting all of its OS-9 membership, irrespective of the versions. From the very beginning, we saw a distinct need for OS-9/6809 support and created a special position (Vice President/6809) to act as liaison for OS-9/6809 members. If you read the transcript of the Town Meeting, you will note the group has been active in its support for OS-9/6809. But support only flows through the Users Group... not from it.

Currently, OS-9/68000 members are the most active in the OS-9 Users Group, and thus the facade of greater group support for OS-9/68000. I challenge 6809 users to become self-dependent and use the Users Group to its fullest. Join, attend meetings, and most importantly -- communicate with other users. Communication is the key... communication is support. Share your knowledge with others via the MOTD newsletter. That is what it is for... to aide in the free transfer of knowledge amongst the various groups of OS-9 users. Take the time to reveal your thoughts, ideas, and opinions to other members, and send the file in to get published in the MOTD.

It has been many years since President John F. Kennedy's famous speech, yet it rings ever true. *"Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."* Working together, all of us using OS-9 can create a fresh spring of support for all to enjoy. I say in paraphetic closing, *"Ask not what the Users Group can do for you, ask what you can do for the Users Group."*

OS-9 Users Group Town Meeting

Note: The following article contains highlights from the OS-9 Users Group Town Meeting held in conference on Delphi, August 25, 1994. Large sections have been deleted to save space. The complete text is available on Delphi as "OS9UG TOWN MEETING: 94/08/24", or on Internet from cmckay@northx.isis.org.

OS-9 Users Group Executive Members present:

Colin McKay.....Executive Vice President	Ken Scales.....Director
Eddie Kuns.....Director	Joel Hegberg.....MOTD Editor

Thanks from all involved to Joel Hegberg for setting up this conference and ensuring its success.

** Joel_Editor is now the group moderator **

Joel_Editor> Well, over the past few months, the UG officers have maintained close contact and have been working to strengthen the group. Anyone have any questions regarding the OS-9 Users Group?

.jb> about the lib.. can we get a listing and in what format is disks available?

.Colin_ExecVP> Yes, that can be done. Disks are available in pretty much any format. It is all older software. The library itself has become less of a priority since the coming of services like Fidonet, Delphi, CIS, and Internet.

.Boisy> Ok, I have several questions, but I'll spread them out over the course of the meeting. The first one... What is the status of the UG's plan to visit Microware?

.Colin_ExecVP> No invitation from Microware - no visit. There was no response to the letter sent back in March.

.Boisy> Did the letter explicitly ask for an invitation?

.Colin_ExecVP> Yes, as I recall it said that we would like to meet with Microware.

.Boisy> Ok. Thank you.

.Colin_ExecVP> I'm going to list a message out that should answer some general questions, and raise some others.

From: Colin McKay <cmckay@northx.isis.org>
Subject: Re: More UG info
To: MROWEN01@delphi.com
Date: Wed, 24 Aug 94 10:54:03 -0400

Hi, Mike.

> Is the OS9 UG in contact with all of the on-line services? In some

Yes, with the possible exception of Genie and AOL. Fidonet, Delphi, CIS and Internet all have exec members on them.

>discussions on Delphi, many seem to believe that the UG is OSK only

As for the group being OSK-only, read on...

>Is there a sizable number of Level II / Coco members or are
>the numbers laughable? I'm not really sure what users are looking for

The majority (I think, but would have to check to be absolutely sure) are CoCo 3 owners. The really active ones do seem to be the OS-6/68000 users these days, though.

>but they don't seem to feel that the UG really serves to bring Level II
>user together. I know that the UG is for ALL flavors of OS9, but level II
>users are murmuring gruin need of some kind of cohesive group. What role

The level II types are divided into five groups right now -- Fidonet, Delphi, CIS, Internet, and those who aren't on any service. There is some overlap, but not much.

>does/can the UG play in providing nurturing communication between Coco
>Level II users? I still have not joined the UG, but I am interested in

The OS-9 Users Group is an umbrella organization -- it covers all aspects of OS-9. What that means to the Level II crowd is that the UG is there as a tool to be used. That brings up the question "How can we use it?" That's up to you. Leave it alone, and the OSK'ers will come along and steal it. Share it, and we can take advantage of each other.

The Users Group offers for Level II Users:

- Non-profit educational and scientific organization status. While not difficult to set up, it is an additional hassle that most groups don't want to go through. This status offers legal protection to its members for things done by the group.
- A (regular) newsletter, as a means to communicate information to all its members. Not as regular as we'd all like at this point, but that is being worked on. While we encourage our members to support the currently existing magazines by submitting articles to them, articles that are submitted to the UG will be published in the MOTD. [Subject to certain restrictions as per the Users Group Constitution and Bylaws.]

- A Vice President OS-9/6809 for the OS-9 Users. Currently this is Brian Goers, but he wishes to step aside to pursue his OS-9/68000 interests.
- Potential financial support for purchasing items of use to the group as a whole, or significant portions of the group. For example, to purchase copies of standards.
- As an information resource.

The biggest misconception is about the purpose of the UG's Executive. It is used to run the group -- not to set up projects. That's up to the members, communicating through the appropriate Vice Presidents, or to the UG Exec directly at the Internet or mailing address.

The other purpose of the Exec is to stop the group from doing things that are either impractical, unrealistic, or illegal.

>helping if I can. I will probably join when I get paid next. If this role
>is beyond the scope of the UG, what can the UG do to help me and others
>create a level II organization?

The Users Group exists -- all you have to do is make use of it.

TTYL. Colin.

.Boisy> The idea of an OS-9 Conference/Symposium/whatever has been talked about from time to time. Does the UG have any plans for supporting, or partially hosting such an event?

.Colin_ExecVP> Well, we haven't been asked by anyone yet (re the Dallas Fest), although I have been talking with David Graham privately about it. There has been some discussion, but we don't currently have the financial resources to pull it off by ourselves. There was also some discussion with the Atlanta Group, but their current President is still convinced that it is a CoCo fest, rather than an OS-9 dominated event. (By CoCo here, I mean Disk Basic.)

.Boisy> I don't advocate taking away the CoCo Fests, but I think OS-9 users need their own conference. Would the UG be open to outside funding of such an event?

Joel_Editor> We would like to support an OS-9 only event in the future, definitely. Funding is the main sticking point... what outside funding would you be referring to?

.Boisy> Funding in the form of investment capital with an expected reasonable return.

.Colin_ExecVP> The only way that would happen would require industrial users, and they won't come unless Microware is there.

Joel_Editor> As Colin mentioned, Microware's backing would help things out tremendously... Any OS-9 Symposium

.Boisy> So we're waiting on Microware?

.Colin_ExecVP> Nope, we're waiting for somebody to do something – like David Graham has begun.

.Ken_Director> Funding is certainly a necessary factor, but is not the only one that must be considered. To organize a successful event would require some very dedicated effort, and likely a local "presence" in the hosting location. (i.e., people on the spot who can work out the details and handle the logistics.

Colin_ExecVP> Time for the second letter I mentioned. Here it comes...

From: Colin McKay <cmckay@northx.isis.org>
Subject: Re: OS9UG feedback...AGAIN!
To: mrowen01@delphi.com
Date: Wed, 24 Aug 94 18:11:20 -0400

Hi, Mike.

>with. I am willing to spend time to do this. If there are five
>different groups of users, how can they be connected? Is this
>something the UG has addressed?

From my point of view, there is only one way that the UG can help tie the different groups together -- bring in a strong, active, and enthusiastic VP OS-9/6809.

TTYL. Colin.

.Joel_Editor> Anyone have additional questions? Let me say that I would love to see more activity in all parts of the OS9UG from it's membership – both OS9 L2 and 68000.

.jb> Any info about the industrial end being contacted ???

.Colin_ExecVP> Nothing along the lines of taking out ads in the trade magazines, or writing letters to the companies saying send us your money.
There has been contact with those OS-9 Users on Internet, and those I've contacted about my column. That answer your question, John?

.jb> yea.. looks like we need a OS-9 Fest.

.Ken_Director> Also, we have created a "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ) file describing the Users Group, which will be posted to "comp.os.os9", which is read by many of the industrial users, and should help make them aware of us.

.Joel_Editor> Good point, Ken... we also need an OS-9 ONLY internet list to conduct our communications regarding OS-9 on. You won't find industrial users on an list named "COCO" trying to find out OS-9 information.

MROWEN01> Thanks. Colin; in my response to you, I stated that it might help myself & others if I knew about some of the successful experiences that the UG has had. You said that the OSK users are doing some things. Maybe this will give me some idea as to HOW to use the UG. What do you think? Can you give examples or ideas that have no people to complete them?

.Colin_ExecVP> Mike, if you mean what has been accomplished by the UG in the past, that goes to how it was composed. Primarily, it was run by some of the stronger OS-9 programmers, such as Kevin Darling, and as such could be said to have accomplished much, in terms of programming, but little in terms of organizing the community. The current group, as I mentioned earlier, is set up, deliberately, as an umbrella organization. What happens beyond that is up to the members. You want something, then it is up to you to do it. Not the Exec. Likewise, the Exec won't come up with all these wonderful ideas -- that isn't the job of the Exec. (Please note that that does not mean that individuals on the Exec can't come up with their own ideas.).

.Joel_Editor> The OS-9/68000 members have been much more active... they submit small mentionables to the MOTD, make a few suggestions as such. That's primarily where the difference has been so far.

MROWEN01> How do I involve the UG then?

.Colin_ExecVP> Write, ask etc. But address it to the UG... The big thing is you can't sit back and expect the UG Exec to decide on the kind of cake, cook it, and serve it. We will let you use the kitchen, though.

.Ken_Director> The executive is also keeping its "ear to the ground", watching for initiatives from individuals in the community that might be good things for the UG to become involved with, and support.

JEJONES> Thanks. (All opinions here are purely my own, of course...) What the UG has to offer industrial users, potentially, is communication. How many of them are working away by themselves, reinventing the wheel, and potentially could share software and help one another if they just had the means to communicate. Heck, a classified ad section would be helpful. <ga>

.Colin_ExecVP> Yeah, I know what you mean, James. All those I've talked to feel extremely isolated, as do the people I've talked to at Microware, who seem to get no feedback from the industrial users.

.Ken_Director> One difficulty that industrial users have to deal with is confidentiality and security agreements associated with their jobs... this can limit the freedom with which they can share their info.

.Chris> I've had an idea brewing for a while now...Is it likely we can compile a list of general computer fairs and conventions over the country? We could use this list to pick shows that UG reps could attend each year.

.Colin_ExecVP> Are you volunteering, Chris?

.Chris> I would be interested in taking part in the process, but it will take more than one or two people to compile a nationwide list.

.Colin_ExecVP> OK, Chris. Assemble your team, compile a list, and submit it to the Exec on a regular basis. Send a copy to

Joel, for publication in the MOTD – that way you'll be able to find people in all the different areas.

.Chris> I can definately poke around and get information related to New England area shows, plus seek as much outward as possible. I just have no idea how much I'll be able to compile beyond New England.

JEJONES> (Could monitor news.announce.conferences, too.)

.Chris> Yeah, I start compiling the local list, and will send out seekers for volunteers from other areas of the country. Through the net

.Joel_Editor> Great! Thanks everyone... remember to try and stay involved, and make the most of the UG. *Looking forward to the future!*

<EOF>

More OS-9 Conferences!

OS-9 Late Night Conference with Chris Perrault
Delphi

SPECIFIC TOPICS HAVE NOT YET BEEN RELEASED FOR PUBLICATION

Special guests for January & February 1995
Dates & times posted in Delphi Conference area

Coco Real Time Conference
Genie

Every Sunday - Open discussion forum 7-8PM ET

ATTENTION

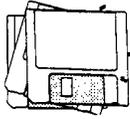
If you know of other conferences or events that are taking place on other on-line services (AOL, Genie, CIS, etc.) please send mail to me at either address listed below. I will post any information I receive to Delphi as well as Usenet and the OS9ers and Coco lists.

Mike Rowen
(mrowen01@delphi.com)

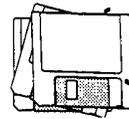
Vendor Listings

The MOTD carries vendor names, addresses, and phone numbers as a service to both our readers and OS-9 vendors. If you are a vendor of OS-9 related hardware or software, you may request to be listed by simply sending a letter to the editor at the Users Group address. There is no charge for being listed in this area. (Vendors who are members are underlined.)

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
<u>AniMajik Productions-Software</u>	<u>4650 Cahuenge Blvd; Ste #7; Toluca Lake, CA 91602</u>	<u>(818) 761-4135</u>
<u>Ark Systems USA</u>	<u>P.O. Box 23; Santa Clara, CA 95052</u>	<u>(408) 244-5358</u>
<u>Blackhawk Enterprises</u>	<u>P.O. Box 10552; Enid, OK 73706-0552</u>	<u>(405) 284-2347</u>
<u>Bob van der Poel Software</u>	<u>P.O. Box 355; Porthill, ID 83853 or</u> <u>P.O. Box 57; Wynndel, BC, Canada V0B 2N0</u>	<u>(604) 866-5772</u>
<u>Burke & Burke</u>	<u>P.O. Box 733; Maple Valley, WA 98038</u>	<u>(206) 432-1814</u>
<u>ColorSystems</u>	<u>P.O. Box 540; Castle Hayne, NC 28249</u>	<u>(919) 675-1708</u>
<u>Computer Design Services</u>	<u>2550 Sandy Plains Road; Marietta, GA 30066</u>	<u>(404) 978-2170</u>
<u>Collect</u>	<u>449 South 90th Street; Milwaukee, WI 53214</u>	<u>(414) 258-2889</u>
<u>Delmar</u>	<u>P.O. Box 78-5238; Summit Bridge Road; Middleton, DE 19709</u>	<u>(302) 378-2555</u>
<u>Dirt Cheap Computer Stuff Co.</u>	<u>1368 Old Highway 50 East; Union, MO 63084</u>	<u>(314) 588-1168</u>
<u>Disto</u>	<u>1710 Depatie; St. Laurent, Quebec, Canada H4L 4A8</u>	<u>(514) 747-4851</u>
<u>Farna Systems PB</u>	<u>P.O. Box 321; Warner Robins, GA 31099-0321</u>	<u>(912) 328-7859</u>
<u>Frank Hogg Laboratories</u>	<u>204 Windemere Road; Syracuse, NY 13205</u>	<u>(315) 469-7364</u>
<u>Hawksoft</u>	<u>244 S. Randall Road; Elgin, IL 60123</u>	<u>(708) 742-3084</u>
<u>JWT Enterprises</u>	<u>5755 Lockwood Blvd.; Youngstown, OH 44512</u>	<u>(216) 758-7694</u>
<u>Ken-Ton</u>	<u>187 Greenacres Road; Tonawanda, NY 14150</u>	<u>(716) 897-9168</u>
<u>Microware Systems Corporation</u>	<u>1900 N.W. 114th Street; Des Moines, IA 50322</u>	<u>(515) 224-1929</u>
<u>Northern Exposure</u>	<u>7 Greenboro Cres.; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1T 1W6</u>	<u>(613) 736-0329</u>
<u>'09 Online</u>	<u>221 E. 17th #31; Marysville, CA 95901</u>	<u>(916) 784-4264</u>
<u>Peripheral Technologies</u>	<u>1480 Terrell Mill Road #870; Marietta, GA 30067</u>	<u>(404) 978-2156</u>
<u>StrongWare</u>	<u>P.O. Box 361; Matthews, IN 42957</u>	
<u>Sub-Etha Software</u>	<u>P.O. Box 152442; Lufkin TX 75915 or</u> <u>936 North Twelfth Street; DeKalb, IL 60115-2516</u>	<u>(815) 748-6638</u>
<u>Windsor Systems</u>	<u>2407 Lime Kiln Ct.; Louisville, KY 40222</u>	



BBS Listings



<u>BBS Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Baud Rates</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
<i>Applied OS-9 BBS</i>	<i>Florida</i>	<i>300-2400</i>	<i>(407) 327-6346</i>
<i>Atlanta Computer Society BBS</i>	<i>Atlanta, GA.</i>	<i>300-2400</i>	<i>(404) 636-2991</i>
<i>ChiCoCo</i>	<i>Chicago, Il.</i>	<i>300-2400</i>	<i>(312) 735-3355</i>
<i>Citadel BBS</i>	<i>Pennsylvania</i>	<i>300-9600</i>	<i>(717) 871-9543</i>
<i>Color Galaxy Milky Way</i>	<i>California</i>	<i>300-14,400</i>	<i>(415) 883-0696</i>
<i>Crystal Palace</i>	<i>Michigan</i>	<i>300-14,400</i>	<i>(616) 979-1858</i>
<i>Cup of CoCo</i>	<i>Carpentersville, Il.</i>	<i>300-2400</i>	<i>(708) 428-0436</i>
<i>Erie County CoCo Club</i>	<i>Buffalo, NY</i>	<i>300-2400</i>	<i>(716) 649-1368</i>
<i>Golden CoCo BBS</i>	<i>Houston, TX</i>	<i>300-2400</i>	<i>(713) 941-1542</i>
<i>KZIN BBS</i>	<i>Surrey, BC, Canada</i>	<i>300-2400</i>	<i>(604) 589-5545</i>
<i>Ocean Beach BBS</i>	<i>San Diego, CA</i>	<i>300-14,400</i>	<i>(619) 224-4878</i>
<i>Rainbow Connection</i>	<i>New Jersey</i>	<i>300-14,400</i>	<i>(201) 967-1061</i>
<i>SandV</i>	<i>LaGrange Park, Il.</i>	<i>300-9600</i>	<i>(708) 352-0948</i>
<i>Southern Alberta Bulletin</i>	<i>Alberta, Canada</i>	<i>300-2400</i>	<i>(403) 329-6438</i>

OCN (OS-9 Community Network) BBS sites:

<i>Dave Spicer</i>	<i>Ft. Rucker, Al.</i>	<i>300-9600</i>	<i>(205) 598-2100</i>
<i>Mark Johnson</i>	<i>Long View, WA.</i>	<i>300-2400</i>	<i>(206) 425-5804</i>
<i>Newton White</i>	<i>Atlanta, GA.</i>	<i>300-14,400</i>	<i>(404) 636-2991</i>
<i>Chas Stokes</i>	<i>Coraopolis, PA.</i>	<i>300-9600</i>	<i>(412) 264-9787</i>
<i>Brian Steward</i>	<i>Jacksonville, FL.</i>	<i>1200-16,800</i>	<i>(904) 771-4779</i>
<i>Kerry Kowalski</i>	<i>Whitelaw, WI.</i>	<i>300-2400</i>	<i>(414) 684-4115</i>
<i>Ken Patience</i>	<i>Toronto, ON, Canada</i>	<i>300-9600</i>	<i>(416) 469-0611</i>
<i>Harold Kistner</i>	<i>Springfield, MO.</i>	<i>300-14,400</i>	<i>(417) 887-6048</i>
<i>Dennis Mott</i>	<i>Spokane, WA.</i>	<i>300-2400</i>	<i>(509) 325-6787</i>
<i>Tim Jones</i>	<i>Austin, TX.</i>	<i>300-9600</i>	<i>(512) 280-6578</i>
<i>Ken Flanagan</i>	<i>Prince George, BC, Canada</i>	<i>300-9600</i>	<i>(604) 564-8869</i>
<i>Jim Sartain</i>	<i>Minneapolis, MN.</i>	<i>300-2400</i>	<i>(612) 869-7795</i>
<i>John Reece</i>	<i>San Diego, CA.</i>	<i>300-2400</i>	<i>(619) 272-3643</i>
<i>Terry Goode</i>	<i>Huston, TX.</i>	<i>300-2400</i>	<i>(713) 941-1542</i>
<i>Doug James</i>	<i>Midlothian, VA.</i>	<i>300-2400</i>	<i>(804) 744-9260</i>
<i>John Wight</i>	<i>Honolulu, HI.</i>	<i>300-9600</i>	<i>(808) 735-3776</i>
<i>Ed Jones</i>	<i>Mobile, AL.</i>	<i>300-2400</i>	<i>(205) 341-1616</i>
<i>Norman Rheaume</i>	<i>Mobile, AL.</i>	<i>300-2400</i>	<i>(205) 661-5298</i>

OS-9 Periodicals

by Ed Jones

<u>MAGAZINES</u>	<u>PUBLISHER</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
The International OS9 Underground	Alan Sheltra	\$18.00 USA \$23.00 Canada (12 issues) (one year)	Fat Cat Publications OS9 4650 Cahuenga Blvd. Ste#7 Toluca Lake, CA 91602 (818) 761-4135 (voice) (818) 365-0477 (Fax) (818) 769-1938 (Modem)
Metamorphosis (Previously the NoName Mmagazine)	Mark Griffith	\$24.00 USA \$32.00 Canada (12 issues) (one year)	Dirt Cheap Computer Stuff 1368 Old Highway 50 East Union, MO 63804 (314) 583-1168 (voice)
The World of 68' Micros	Farna Systems	\$23.00 USA \$30.00 Canada (8 issues) (one year)	Farna Systems PB Macros P.O Box 321 Warner Robins, GA 31099- 0321 (912) 328-7859 (voice)
Up Time	JWT Enterprises	\$15.00 USA \$18.00 (12 issues) (one year)	JWT Enterprises Canada 5755 Lockwood Blvd. Youngstown, OH 44512 (216) 758-7694 (voice)
<u>DISK MAGAZINES</u>	<u>PUBLISHER</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
The Upgrade Diskletter	Mid Iowa and Country CoCo	\$16.00 USA \$19.00 Canada (6-8 issues) (one year)	The Upgrade Diskletter Terry Simons, Editor 1328 48th Street Des Moines, IA 50311
MicroDisk	Farna Systems	\$40.00 USA \$44.00 Canada	Farna Systems PB Warner Robins, GA 31099- 0321 (912) 828-7859 (voice)
<u>NEWSLETTERS</u>	<u>PUBLISHER</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
MOTD (Message of the Day) * Price includes membership fee	OS-9 Users Users Group, Inc.	\$25.00 USA and Canada. * \$30.00 others (6 issues/yr)	OS-9 Users Group, Inc. 6158 West 63rd Street Suite #109 Chicago, IL 60638
OS9 Newsletter	Bellingham OS-9 Users Group	\$10.00 USA (12 issues) (one year)	OS-9 Newsletter 3404 Illinois Lane Bellingham, WA 98226- 4238
CoCo 1-2-3	Glenside CoCo Club	\$15.00 USA (membership) (6 issues) (one year)	Glenside CoCo Club RR#2, Box 67 Forrest, IL. 61741-9629 (708) 428-3576 (voice) (708) 428-0436 (modem)

Dear members of the Users Group,

There are many reasons that this MOTD is so very late in getting to you. I take full responsibility for its lateness. The Fest in Atlanta was only one small reason among many more personal reasons.

Before I go into these reasons though I must announce my resignation as President of this fine organization. Colin McKay will assume the Presidency and I'm sure he will do a fine job. It is with much regret and soul searching that I made this decision. It was not easy to make. I'm very glad that I had the opportunity to meet and work with so many fine people as the membership of this group. I've made many friends through the group and have only good things to say about the group, its officers and the Board of Directors. As I said before all of the reasons I must step down are personal.

Some of you may be aware that on October sixth I was involved in a traffic accident. I suffered what can be considered minor injuries in light of the accident. My Toyota pickup truck was hit and totaled by a Semi that ran a red light. I saw him coming at the last minute and managed to hit the brakes thus avoiding him hitting the passenger compartment. If he had done that I wouldn't be here typing this. I suffered various "minor" injuries including a torn groin muscle and badly banged up left knee. There were other injuries such as a badly sprained left hand and thumb, a nice bump on the head with some of the scalp missing, etc. The worst or should I say the longest lasting injury though is the groin muscle.

This muscle is one of the largest in the human body. I could not lift my leg forward at all. There was also injury to the hip and knee. This necessitated the use of a cane for walking and since I had no vehicle also the use of public transportation. I won't bother to go into long detail about everything that has conspired to get me so far behind other than to say imagine the amount of time you would lose if your travel time was increased by 2 hours every day, you suddenly had to shop for a new vehicle, had to visit a doctor twice a week, had to go to therapy, etc., etc.

The amount of personal time I've lost due to this accident is unbelievable. Unfortunately I've allowed my duties as President to be neglected because of the accident. I apologize for this. Part of the problem also has to do with the various medications I've had to take. They cause lethargy as well as exhaustion. I had hoped to catch up on the work for the Users Group but I now realize that this is impossible.

Thus it is with much regret that I resign. I will continue to help the Users Group in any way that I can. I wish the Board and officers the very best and to the members of the group I also wish my best as well as my thanks for ~~being a part~~ of my life. I hope to see all of you in April in Chicago if at all possible.

Sincerely,

Carl J. Boll