



MICROWARE Pipelines

The OS-9 Quarterly Update and Report.

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ACU RATES SMOKE SIGNAL AND MICROWARE HIGHEST

December's Benchmark by the Association of Computer Users (ACU) Research and Education Division gives Microware and Smoke Signal the highest ratings of any of the 12 systems tested so far. In the vital area of business software, Smoke Signal and Microware lead the pack with the execution of an accounts receivable test in an astonishing 1.37 seconds. This benchmark was the latest in a series of Benchmark Reports covering single user systems costing less than \$25,000. The Basic09-based system outperformed by a wide margin such well-known machines made by Data General, Cromemco, Texas Instruments, North Star, Vector Graphic, Alpha Micro, Apple, Radio Shack, and DEC.

The benchmark program set was composed of a series of tests that dealt with speed, "real life" problems, and ease of use. The Benchmark Report states that "the speed tests were both CPU and I/O intensive jobs of varying parameters" that "were designed to test the speed of specific computing tasks that used repeated, short, individual operations". The "real life" problem benchmarks were designed to test a system of linear equations, the relationship between production cost and profit over time, and accounts receivable generation. The ease-of-use tests were concerned with the editors of the systems tested, and involved the creation of a nine line file and its manipulation. The ease-of-use tests also counted the number of keystrokes necessary to complete the benchmark.

The Benchmark Report noted in its section on user comments that users described Basic09 as "very powerful", and "easy to operate". One user commented that OS-9 increased his productivity as a programmer, and that "memory modules, I/O redirection and stack orientation makes OS-9 outstanding." Others noted that OS-9 was fast, easy to use, and efficient.

In its conclusion the Benchmark Report stated that "The Chieftain is among the fastest tested in this series..." and "...the Basic09 language that runs under the OS-9 operating system has some very nice features. These include structured flow of control statements, the ability to execute operating system commands from a BASIC program, and the TYPE statement (as in Pascal) which allows the construction of complex data structures. The operating system and Basic language were specifically designed to take advantage of the unique characteristics of the 6809 microprocessor."

Copies of this report are available from:

the Association of Computer Users
P.O. Box 9003
Boulder, Colorado 80301

BIG USER SEMINAR SCHEDULED

Microware will hold its first annual OS-9 User's Seminar on May 14-16 at the Des Moines Marriott. This seminar is designed to provide the opportunity for the users of OS-9 to meet with the architects of the OS-9 software family for briefing and training sessions. The seminar will also be highlighted by exhibits of major 6809 hardware manufacturers and the software houses that develop applications software in the OS-9 environment.

The seminar will begin on Friday, May 14, with a reception/dinner starting at 7 PM, giving participants a chance to meet and exchange ideas.

Sessions will be given by both the designers of OS-9 and key figures in the 6809 industry, and will commence Saturday, May 15, at 9 AM and run throughout the day. Instruction and discussion will include a variety of subjects such as OS-9 Level Two and the new OS-9 programming languages. Hospitality suites sponsored by Microware and other companies will open at 8:00 pm on Saturday night to provide an informal atmosphere for discussion.

Sunday morning at 10 AM, there will be a farewell brunch featuring guest speakers including Mr. Terry Ritter, designer of the 6809, and Mr. Don Williams, publisher of 68 Micro Journal. Afterwards, there will be an organizational meeting of an OS-9 Software Exchange under the provisional chairmanship of Mr. Brian Capouch.

Persons interested in attending the seminar should contact Ms. Jeanne Tunis at Microware as soon as possible for further information and registration materials. Registration must be made in advance. The registration fee is 75 dollars per person.

VIDEO-BASED OS-9 FOR GIMIX COMPUTERS

GIMIX, Inc., and Microware have developed a version of OS-9 for use with the GIMIX 80x24 Video Board. The system uses a "Window Processor" which allows the user to divide the screen into separate display areas called "windows". Users can dynamically define or redefine each window's size and position on the screen. The driver can be purchased separately and used with existing systems.

Each window acts as if it were a separate display, and control functions such as scrolling, screen clear, etc., only affect the specific window. This permits different tasks to simultaneously display data on different areas of the screen at the same time, which is ideal for real-time status displays.

The Window Processor can be used in totally video-based systems, or on systems that have both video and standard serial I/O. The video-based system is available directly from GIMIX.