



UpTime

The newsletter for:
RS-DOS, OS9, OSK,
CoCos, and 68xxx's.

Volume 1, Issue 9

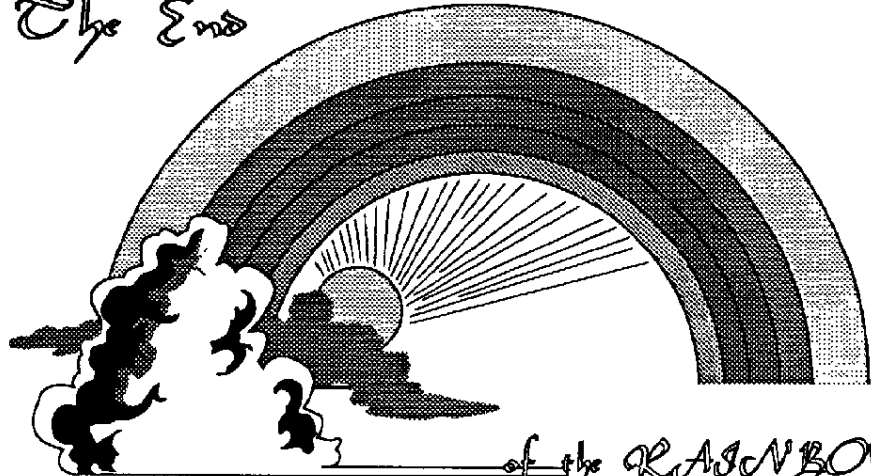
May 1993

Overview

Some say that change is the only constant in the universe. Whether that is true or not, things are continuing to change here in *UpTime*! Starting this month, we have moved into a 16-page format! In addition, we will be picking up some new regular columns, starting this month with *Introducing GENie*. In addition, we have a guest editorial this month by Timothy Johns, a Fest Report of the Mid-Iowa & Country CoCo Fest, and a new dealer products section listing programs, descriptions, and hardware requirements along with dealer addresses. If you are willing to write a column for *UpTime*, please let me know!

And once again, I would like to mention that the last issue of *Rainbow* has been sent. It is a sad day for many who have been with the CoCo for many years, but the CoCo Community will still carry on with other smaller magazines and Festivals. I would just like to

The End



of the RAINBOW

take a second to make a comment about some of the new newsletters/magazines that are starting up with the passing of the *Rainbow*. First, it is *always* good to give a new startup a chance, although many people have complained about getting "burned" by some past experiences with a magazine going under and taking their subscription with it, such as the *OSKer* and more recently *OS-9 Underground*. Get a statement from the publisher that he *will* promise to fulfill your subscription or that he *will* refund your money if the magazine terminates. I would like to mention that *UpTime* does not spend your subscription credit until the magazine is sent out, so that we *can* refund your money in the event of termination (and I would like to say that we have *no* intention of termination at any time in the near future!).

There is also a mini-Fest coming up in Seattle sometime in

June. We have not received any other information about the Fest, but see the advertisement elsewhere in this issue for a more complete description.

I still have not been able to get a hold of anyone at Interactive Media Systems, maker of the MM/1. As soon as I find out any information, you will see it first here.

And to end on a positive note, Alan Huffman of Sub-Etha software has announced that a 1-800 CoCo support hotline we be installed at Sub-Etha containing information about Fests, products, and much more. For more information or to make donations, write Alan at the addresses listed in the Fest report or *GENie* article. This is really a great idea, and I hope we can show some support for this project! Watch here for more information.

-Jordan Tsvetkoff

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UpTime

Editor: Jordan Tsvetkoff

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Purpose: To provide information about products, services, and activities relating to the **Tandy Color Computer** and **OSK/68xxx-based machines**.

Submissions: Submissions of any form can be sent to *UpTime Submissions*, **JWT Enterprises**, 5755 Lockwood Blvd., Youngstown, OH, 44512. Please note that article/editorial submissions are preferred, although short program listings will also be considered. If reimbursement is requested, please indicate in writing with the initial submission.

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Youngstown, OH 44512.

You will be billed for the second installment of \$7.50. Canadian orders, \$9.00 installments. Foreign orders, \$11.00 installments. Ohio residents add 6% sales tax.

Guest Editorial

There are many things that people take for granted in this world, in particular the fallacy that the best product is the standard—it does not work that way. If it did, MS-DOS would not be the de-facto operating system for personal computers. As a Computer Science Major at a mid-sized university, it seems that the people here, in particular the Computer Science Majors, refuse to acknowledge the existence of operating systems other than DOS (or Windows). DOS will eventually go by the wayside, but it will be a good five years or so.

There is a great deal of code out there that is designed to run under DOS, which makes DOS a usable tool, but we should not use that as an excuse to keep from using something better. OS-9 is a prime example, as well as the operating system of the Amiga. Both of these are extremely good operating systems that are real-time and multi-tasking. OS/2 is also a good example, as it has been available even to

PC users for several years, and it has not revolutionized the market. Eventually, however, someone is going to want to do something that their computer or operating system (DOS in particular) simply *cannot* do, and unless they know that they can get a computer to do it, they will just be frustrated and continue to use what they have.

The CoCo, the Commodore 64, the Atari 800, the Timex-Sinclair 1000, and even the old TRS-80 Model I have seen their fame. They will, however, never "die." They are all excellent machines that are all very usable. All of these computers suffer from a lack of new applications, however, and no one is going to write any. Too many programmers need to eat. However, I know of one of each of the above machines (at least) that is still in operation



Icon Basic09

The next programming language for OS-9!

Icon Basic09 is a graphical user interface (GUI) to Basic09, which will make programming easier than ever! Icon Basic09 takes an innovative approach by using graphic representations, or icons, to represent statements and keywords for writing Basic09 programs and procedures. Instead of constantly typing while writing a program, the user can simply point & click to choose the desired statement!

Icon Basic09 can also be very useful in studying procedures and programs written by others to learn how they operate. The package contains a full set of icons...or, you may edit or create icons using the included icon editor. Icon Basic09 requires a CoCo-3 with at least 256k, mouse or joystick, and OS-9 IV 2.

\$20

Dual hi-res joystick adapter (Tandy/Colorwriter/16-res)	\$40
Hi & Lo-res joystick adapter	\$27
HAWKsoft keyboard extension cable	\$25
Domination (Risk-like wargame!)	\$18
MyDOS full-featured DOS extension	\$15



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today, and will be for many years. I just do not know of tens of thousands of them, because they just are not there anymore.

If it works for you, *use it!* If you want something else, *get it.* Sooner or later everything that is popular will become obsolete in the eyes of the status quo. This should not discourage those people who are still using CoCos from continuing to use them. I still have a 128k CoCo III with no hard drive, and I use it every day. It does what I want it to, right now, but I want, and I will get, more, most likely an MM/1 or Kix30 until the Sun Microsystems SPARC based machines are in my price range. Eventually the Suns will be in my price range, or some better machine

will be available in my price range (let's see those IBM/Apple/Motorola Power PCs!), but I want an MM/1 now, and I am not going to sit here waiting for the "very best computer ever" to come out. There will never be a "very best computer", because someone will always bring out another, better machine, until computers themselves become obsolete.

I think the best way to view the computer market is to recall that computers are tools. Just like a wrench, the tool will do its job when you need it to unless you break it. If you work on one car all of the time (or just keep an inventory database), you only need the tools for that car (or you only need the machine your database

was set up on). If you get a new car (you have new things you want to do with your computer), the old tools may or may not fit everything you need anymore. Instead of replacing the nuts and bolts that your tools will not fit anymore, you get some new tools. Some tools are very flexible and can be used for many different things (like a crescent wrench, an MM/1, a Macintosh, a PC Clone), but are therefore less appropriate than some other tools for specific things (like the Amiga for communications video). You can draw many, many analogies from the computers=tools view.

Don't sweat it if your friends move on, but don't be afraid to tell them that your CoCo still does

**UPGRADE National Diskletter! From: Mid Iowa & Country CoCo
We are a national reachout!**

Our "UPGRADE" newsletter mailed on Disk, has become a real hit with MAX III graphics accompanying articles. The articles from RSDOS Basic programming, and hardware, to OS-9 by James Jones of Microware; dump to screen (TV, Mono, or RGB) or printer. Sometimes with the news before the big mags, and editorials you will not see in the commercial magazine. With many user tips and ideas.

Our Power Packed Domain Library, is purposely small relative to thousands available; because the few hundred disks there are carefully selected as "The Best Available"! Public Domain, Shareware, OS-9, & previously big named Orphanware programs.

We also have a "Christian Software Sub-chapter". Which simply offers Christian oriented software and listings for those interested.

Where can you buy? Or sell that equipment you've just upgraded from? Your free ads will be in the middle of the community.

Be in touch for Middle America's Fest '93 in Des Moines, IA.

Have you noticed the 3rd part market producers (i.e. support) dropping like flies in late fall? The shrinking Rainbow? The support of your CoCo is rapidly being left up to YOU! As third party decreases; belonging to a CoCo group is your only support. Radio Shack and a long list of magazines have folded it in. If one more magazine folds, where will you look next month?

Our eight year record speaks very well to reaching out and serving members. A strong treasury assures confidence of delivery. Most members are out of town or out of state! Presently we have paid memberships in 23+ states and 3 provinces of Canada. Plus five clubs, and some dealers. Our 90% renewal rate says most all feel M&CC is very worthwhile. Join up and see why: even user groups by vote; sign up with a paid membership!

Your membership will bring you all Newsletters, Library, Voting, and other privileges, for a year. (\$3 Sample disk)

Mid Iowa and Country CoCo (non-profit group)
"Gathering the CoCo community!"
Do you want support tomorrow?

Then stay with a group that keeps you in touch!
Annual Membership: \$16.00 US - \$21.00 Canada

Say, "I saw it in **UpTime**" and receive...
an UPGRADE Disk plus added bonus disk via return mail

Terry Simons (M&CC Treas.), 1328 48th St.
Des Moines, IA 50311 (515) 279-2576 after 8:00 PM

News Release! News Release! News Release!

Here's the five W's:

Who: Glenside CoCo Club of Illinois

What:: Second Annual "last" Chicago CoCoFest!

When: May 1st and 2nd, 1993

Where: Holiday Inn Elgin (a Holiday home recreation center)
345 West River Road (a city block from I-90 & Illinois 31S)
Elgin, IL (18 minutes driving time from the
"fest" location of the 1980's)

Overnight room rate \$52 (plus 10% tax)

Call (708) 695-5000 for reservations.

Be sure to ask for the "Glenside" or "CoCoFest!" rates!

- Why:**
- to provide vendor support to the CoCo community
 - to provide community support to the CoCo vendors
 - to provide educational support to new users
 - **TO HAVE AN OUTRAGEOUSLY GOOD TIME!**

And now the 'H' word, *how much?*

- admission will be \$10 at the door
- two day pass only (sorry, no one day passes!)
- advanced ticket sales, \$8 plus SASE or \$8 plus 50¢ P&H

Ticket Contact:

George Schneeweiss
RR2 Box 647
Forrest, IL 61741-2629

General or Exhibitor Contact:

Tony Podraza -or- Carl Boll
119 Adobe Circle (Vice-President, GCCI)
Carpentersville, IL 60110-1101 (Glenside CoCo Club of IL)
Voice: (708) 428-3576 Voice: (312) 735-6087
BBS: (708) 428-0436 BBS: 312-735-3355



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Optimize Utility Set 1:

- Optimize your floppies and hard drives quickly and easily! → Includes utility to check file and directory fragmentation.
- Works alone or with Burke & Burke *repack* utility. → One stop optimization for any Level 2 OS-9 system.

\$29.95; Foreign Postage, add \$3.00

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Independent program
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Optimize
UP TIME
NINE
TIMES

UpTime:

In each issue:

A monthly magazine for CoCo's and OSK machines.

- ☛ Find out about new products and upgrades for your favorite computers.
- ☛ Learn about what new technical breakthroughs are on the horizon.
- ☛ Discover what programs really can do and what they cannot.
- ☛ Published monthly in newsletter format.

One Year Subscription, two installments of \$7.50;

Canadian Orders, two installments of \$9.00; Foreign Orders, 2 X \$11.00

Can also be paid in one installment

Back-Issues:

From September 1992. Limited supplies.

\$1.50 each; Foreign Orders, add \$1.25 each

Bulk orders of six or more, \$1.25 each; Foreign Orders add \$1.00 each

Nine-Times:

In each issue:

The bi-monthly disk magazine for OS-9 Level 2.

- Helpful and useful programs
- C and Basic09 programming examples
- Hints, Help columns, and informative articles
- All graphic/joystick interface
- Can be used with a hard disk or ram disk

One Year Subscription, \$34.95;

Canadian Orders, add \$1.00; Foreign Orders, add \$8.00

Back-Issues:

From May 1989. Write for back issue contents.

\$7.00 each; Foreign Orders, add \$2.00 each

Bulk orders of six or more, \$5.00 each; Foreign Orders, add \$1.50 each

Magazine Source:

Full Basic09 code and documentation for the presentation shell used with Nine-Times.

\$25.95; Foreign Orders, add \$5.00

Technical Assistance & Inquiries:
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JWT Enterprises
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Youngstown, OH 44512



Foreign postage excludes U.S. Territories and Canada. These products for OS-9 Level 2 on the CoCo 3. Sorry, no C.O.D.'s or credit cards; Foreign & Canadian orders, *please* use U.S. money orders. U.S. checks, allow 4 weeks for receipt of order. Ohio residents, please add 6% sales tax.

everything you want it to. If you want to do more than your CoCo will do, don't feel tied to it too deeply, and remember that it is okay to acquire another machine *in addition to* your CoCo. Physical space may eventually be a problem, in which case you will have to make some choices, but that situation seems remarkably like a description of life in general.

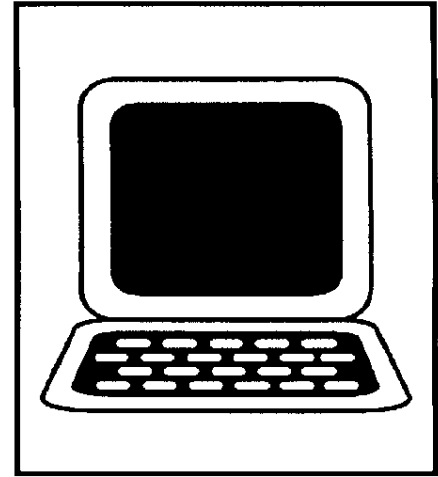
OS-9000 is arguably (and certainly in my opinion) the very best operating system that there is for Intel 386/486/Pentium based machines, followed closely by the UNIX clones, especially linux, which is free. The Intel machines have traditionally been unpopular with programmers (myself included), especially assembly

programmers, but to high-level language programmers and users, the problems inherent with the Intel architecture are minor and pretty much hidden. I have hung a few OS-9000 posters here and will continue to preach its superiority. The only argument I have is the price of the software, especially the OS (until now!) itself and Ultra-C, MShell, and Gwindows. Everything else about OS-9000 kicks total butt (although there are a few additional things a lot of us would like to see written into the kernel, such as threads).

Keep in mind that in 50, 25, even 15 or 10 years, OS-9000 will be surpassed in cost and quality by some other operating system. *But don't let that keep you from getting*

it now! Some day someone's going to build a better car than the '93 models, but people are going to buy '93 cars to drive, and drive the heck out of them!

-*Timothy A. Johns*



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ROCK YOUR SYNTH - Volume 1 \$ 9.95

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PIANO SCORES:

The following scores were arranged for 3 or 4 Channel MIDI keyboards. All arrangements were scored in the standard 2 or 3 stave format. However, each disk is **LOADED** with **GREAT** sounds.

THE BEATLES - Volume 1 \$ 12.95
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UltiROCK - Volume 2 \$ 12.95

SERIAL TO MIDI CABLE \$ 19.95

UltiMusE III

VER: 4.8.0

The Ultimate MIDI Music Notation Editor for the
ColorComputer-3

\$54.95

UltiMusE-III and UltiMusE/K are the most complete MIDI Music Notation Editor for either the 512k ColorComputer-3 or the new OSK machines. Compose detailed music scores to simple piano runs or just mouse in your favorite sheet music score. The UltiMusE system is perfect for the novice music lover to the professional musician.

It just doesn't get any better than this!

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The Ultimate MIDI Music Notation Editor for the
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DataDex

The first FREEFORM database for OSK. Allows variable length files, searching, customizable editor, selection of file security settings from inside the DBM, addition of customized functions and much, much, more!

Single User - \$130

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VPD - Version 2.01

The finest editor for OSK just got better. Integrated spellchecker checks for mistakes AS YOU TYPE! Multiple buffers with cut and paste! Now includes the MVIEW environment file editor for custom keyboard setup and all new manuals! Yours for just \$59.99.

VPRINT

Simply the BEST OS-9 print formatter EVER!

Fully programmable with an extendable command set VPRINT is all the formatter you will EVER need. Single or multiple column printout, support for 36 fonts including proportional and extended character sets.

This one must be SEEN to be believed! Yours for just \$59.95 - Call TODAY!

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The C Compiler for the CoCo has finally arrived...

CoCo-C

CoCo-C is a complete RSDOS based C development package for the Color Computer not requiring the OS-9 Operating System. CoCo-C consists of the following programs:

Text Editor

A full featured screen oriented line editor for the CoCo 3 developed by Bob van der Poel. Powerful editing and cursor commands with auto-indent and user defined macros make this a great editor for writing C or assembly language programs. A less sophisticated version for the CoCo 2 is also available.

C Compiler

The CoCo-C Compiler is a full featured K&R style integer compiler specifically designed for RSDOS based systems. It has assembly language output, position independent code and can output ROM-able code if desired. Added features allow you to mix C, assembly language and BASIC commands within your program!

Assembler

This symbolic assembler is capable of assembling files as large as available disk space. It supports a Motorola style syntax and outputs standard binary files ready for LOADM and EXEC. Options include list file output and generation of symbol table file.

Library/Linker

The Library Linker is a utility which links the CoCo-C's 90+ function library with your compiled binary file, creating a stand alone executable ML file.

Command Coordinator

The Command Coordinator is CoCo-C's main program. Its user friendly menu driven screen smoothly switches back and forth between the Editor, Compiler, Assembler and Linker.

The CoCo-C Compiler package includes BOTH CoCo 2 and CoCo 3 versions of ALL the programs listed above plus MORE! (Min req 64k)

Never before has there been an offer like this for the Color Computer!

Only **\$59.95**

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INTRODUCING: INVESTING LEVEL 2

Use your CoCo to keep track of your investments.

This package can deal with stocks, bonds, and mutual fund investments. It can calculate your real returns, keep track of costbase, capital gains, etc. All you have to do is enter the actual transactions with an easy to use point and click interface.

If you want to dig deeper, you can also keep track of stock, bond, and mutual fund prices, market indexes and other indicators. Also included are a trend analysis program and graphing capabilities.

Requirements: CoCo 3 with one disk drive and OS-9 Level 2. Most programs work on a 128K machine but 256K or more is recommended. A printer is also recommended, setup files for several popular printers are included.

Since the package includes a 20+ page manual that also explains the meaning of the printouts, this could be your best investment yet.

only \$29.95

Also available:

Accounting Level 2 \$34.95

Tools 3 version 1.1 \$29.95

Quickletter version 2.0 \$19.95

(upgrades \$5.00)

Chris Dekker
RR #4 Centerville NB
E0J 1H0 Canada
(506)-276-4841

Pricing policy: all prices quoted in US dollars. Shipping and handling US/Canada \$3.00, all others \$5.00. Send cheque or money order— sorry, no CODs.

Product Hotline

This section is a new addition for *UpTime*. Listed here are products and their features from various distributors. This information and their comments are taken directly from the distributors and *not* independent reviews. Every effort has been made to insure the accuracy of the material in this section; however, if there is an error, please let us know. If you would like to have a product listed here or remove a product from these listings, please notify us in writing. This section will be displayed in its entirety approximately every three months, and new items will be listed monthly. Note that most prices are for the U.S. only. Foreign orders should contact the dealer for extra shipping costs.

Word Processing:

Name: Window Writer
Version: 1.1
System Req.: Window Master w/512K
Description: Point & click word processing, supports proportional printing, very user friendly
Distributor: Cer-Comp
Cost: \$49.95

Name: Window Writer/W
Version: 1.1
System Req.: CoCo 3, disk, 512K
Description: Same as Window Writer above, except intended for non-Window Master owners
Distributor: Cer-Comp
Cost: \$79.95

Operating Systems:

Name: Window Master
Version: 3.0
System Req.: CoCo 3, disk, 128K (512K rec.), hi-res j/s or mouse
Description: Windows operating environment/operating system, provides user friendly point & click

operation
Distributor: Cer-Comp
Cost: \$69.96

Name: ADOS
Version: 1.02
System Req.: CoCo 1 or 2, 64K
Description: EPROM-able enhanced RSDOS. Double-sided drives, 35 or 40 tracks, fast step rates, RUNM, lowercase, keystroke macros, ROM-to-RAM, repeat/edit of last command, list text files, auto line numbering, ML monitor, ON ERROR GOTO, and more
Distributor: SpectroSystems
Cost: \$14.95 + \$2 s/h

Name: ADOS-3
Version: 1.01
System Req.: CoCo 3, 128K
Description: EPROM-able enhanced RSDOS, all features listed for ADOS, plus 35/40/80 tracks, FAST command for 2 MHz with disk and printing, configure default baud rate, screen width, colors, and startup message, arrow key program editing, and more
Distributor: SpectroSystems
Cost: \$24.95 + \$2 s/h

Name: Extended ADOS-3
Version: 2.00.00
System Req.: CoCo 3, 128K, ADOS-3 (512K w/ramdisk)
Description: Adds more features to ADOS-3: arrow key file-selection for run, copy, kill, etc., ramdisk (512K), key repeat, fast backup, wild-card copy, file dating using manually entered date or real-time clock, up to 3 DS drives, and more
Distributor: SpectroSystems
Cost: \$29.95 + \$2 s/h, \$49.95 + \$2 s/h for ADOS-3 and Extended ADOS-3

Language/Compiler:

Name: EDT/ASM III
Version: 1.7
Previous name: EDT/ASM
System Req.: CoCo 2 or 3, disk
Description: Editor, assembler, and debugger for creating machine language programs from assembler source
Distributor: Cer-Comp
Cost: \$59.95

Name: CBasic II & III
Version: 1.xx
Previous name: CBasic
System Req.: CoCo 2 or 3, disk
Description: Creates complete machine language programs from basic

programs, supports disk, graphics, serial port, etc.
Distributor: Cer-Comp
Cost: \$149

Name: Icon Basic09
Version: 1.9
System Req.: CoCo 3, 256K, OS9 Level 2
Description: Interface to Basic09, replaces keywords with icons for program editing and reviewing
Distributor: Hawksoft
Cost: \$20

Name: Icon Basic 68000
Version: 2.4
System Req.: MM/1 or compatible, OSK/68000, K-Windows, Microware Basic
Description: Interface to Microware Basic- replaces keywords with icons for editing and reviewing
Distributor: Hawksoft
Cost: \$25

Utility:

Name: The Source III
Version: 1.1
Previous name: Source
System Req.: CoCo 2 or 3, disk
Description: Disassembler, converts machine language programs into assembler source code listings
Distributor: Cer-Comp
Cost: \$49.95

Name: CoCo Tools
Version: 1.2
System Req.: CoCo 3, 128K, disk, 80-column display
Description: Complete disk utilities package including lost file recovers, copy and backup of damaged disks, disk archiving, and more
Distributor: Cer-Comp
Cost: \$49.95

Name: Patch-09
Version: 1.1
System Req.: CoCo 3, OS-9 Level II, minimum of 1 40T/DS drives
Description: 2 double sided 40 track disks with the most common, needed patches and additional commands, auto-installs with minimum of 2 40T/DS drives (80 track will work)- \$5.00 with Quick Reference Guide
Distributor: FARNA
Cost: \$7.50

Telecommunications:

Name: Deluxe Terminal

Version: 1.1

System Req.: CoCo 3, 128K, disk, 80-column display

Description: Terminal communications program, phone directory/configuration, automatic log on scripting, text editor, X/YMODEM file transfers, macros, supports all serial ports and paks

Distributor: Cer-Comp

Cost: \$44.95

Database:

Name: **Omega File**

System Req.: CoCo w/64K, disk

Description: Programmable database, menu driven, up to 16 fields with a maximum of 255 characters each

Distributor: FARNA

Cost: \$24.95

Name: **Keep-Trak**

System Req.: CoCo w/64K, disk

Description: Double entry general ledger accounting system; accounts receivable module \$10 w/K-T, \$20 alone; accounts payable should be set up with database

Distributor: FARNA

Cost: \$24.95

Name: **Little Black Book**

Version: 1.0

System Req.: CoCo w/64K, disk

Description: Address and phone number database, print lists and labels, 50 entries per file, \$12.50 with Video Tape Organizer

Distributor: FARNA

Cost: \$7.50

Name: **Video Tape Organizer**

Version: 1.0

System Req.: CoCo w/64K, disk

Description: Video tape database, print lists and labels, 50 entries per file, multiple files, \$12.50 with Little Black Book

Distributor: FARNA

Cost: \$7.50

Name: **OS-9 Invoice/Inventory Manager**

Version: 1.0

System Req.: CoCo, disk, printer, OS-9 Level I or II

Description: Multi-user invoice/inventory system, Basic09 source included, liberal upgrade policy of one free upgrade, \$5.00 for subsequent upgrades

Distributor: FARNA

Cost: \$29.95

Name: **CoCo Family Recorder**

Version: 1.1

System Req.: CoCo 3, 2 disk drives, 80-column display

Description: Genealogical database system, complete person, marriage, family, and family tree records and reports, fast operation

Distributor: FARNA

Cost: \$24.95

Books:

Name: **OS-9 Quick Reference Guide**

Version: 1.0

System Req.: OS-9 Level I or II

Description: 4.5" x 8.5" book, 42 pages, has command syntax, system calls, error codes, and more, great for beginners to intermediate users and programmers

Distributor: FARNA

Cost: \$7.95

Hardware:

Name: **Rascan Digitizer**

Version: 2.4

System Req.: CoCo 3, 128K

Description: Video digitizer, B&W and color (color requiring 512K and color filters), images can be exported to CoCoMax 3, Color Max 3, Max-10

Distributor: FARNA

Cost: \$175.00

Publications:

Name: **UpTime**

Description: Monthly newsletter featuring current information and products, programming, and classifieds sections—keep up with the CoCo Community in one compact source of information

Distributor: JWT Enterprises

Cost: \$15/yr, two installments of \$7.50

Name: **68Micro**

Description: Newsletter published every six weeks featuring various columns and features, including a hardware corner, C programming, Q&A, and classifieds, starting with the August 1993 issue

Distributor: FARNA

Cost: \$23/yr

Name: **OS-9 Underground**

Description: Newsletter dedicated to OS-9 products and information, published sporadically, would recommend contacting the dealer for more information

Distributor: OS-9 Underground

Cost: unknown

Name: **MOTD**

Description: Newsletter of the OS-9 user's group, current publication status unknown, recommend contacting the group for more information

Distributor: OS-9 user's group

Cost: unknown

Name: **MI&CC Diskletter**

System Req.: CoCo 3, 128K

Description: Newsletter on disk for Mid-Iowa and Country CoCo Club, features articles and graphics from various authors

Distributor: MI&CC

Cost: Free with membership (\$16/yr)

Name: **Glenside newsletter**

Description: Newsletter of the Glenside CoCo Club

Distributor: Glenside CoCo Club of Illinois

Cost: Free with membership

Name: **CoCo Friends Disk Magazine**

System Req.: CoCo 3, 128K, RGB monitor

Description: Bi-monthly magazine on disk dedicated to RS-DOS, 8-15 new programs per issue, articles, and graphics

Distributor: Rick's Computer Enterprise

Cost: \$30/yr

Name: **Nine-Times**

System Req.: CoCo 3, 128K, OS-9 Level II

Description: Bi-monthly magazine on disk dedicated to OS-9, programs and articles from various contributors

Distributor: JWT Enterprises

Cost: \$34.95/yr

Clubs and Dealers

Terry Simons

Mid Iowa and Country CoCo

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Tony Podraza

Glenside CoCo Club of Illinois

119 Adobe Cir.

Carpentersville IL 60110

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Mid Iowa Fest Report

Hmmm... there seems to be a trend here. The less perceived support for our beloved computer, the more festivals we have. This festival was first offered as a rumor at the '92 CoCoFest 3 in Atlanta, and it must be said that the Mid Iowa & Country CoCo Club did a great job in turning this rumor into a reality. So, let me get on with it!

Where? The TravelLodge Inn in Des Moines, Iowa (a few blocks away from the offices of Microwave, creators of OS-9). Why? because the good members of the Mid Iowa & Country CoCo Club thought it would be a good idea! How? In full Fest flair with complete booths with backdrops in a nice hotel with *very* affordable rates. About the only thing lacking were "real" name badges and booth signs. At this Fest, a printed square safety-pinned to your shirt served as an entry badge.

There was not much of anything to do on the first night. I was a bit upset to find this Fest area providing backdrops after I spent so much time creating the "Mach II" version of our "PVC Nightmare" backdrop we used at the Atlanta CoCo Fest 3. We set this up and wandered around chatting. Not really much to say, except that I spent most of the night printing out banners for the Saturday show and chatting with various Fest people.

Twelve vendors were scheduled to attend, but only eleven booths were manned. Without CoCoPro, many classic "expected" items were not there. Without Burke and Burke, Zebra, and Sundog, many other items were sadly missed. Here are the vendors that were exhibiting:

ACS, Inc. Used Equipment: The Atlanta Computer Society came down to check things out and see if interest would remain this year for a fourth CoCoFest in Atlanta. They sold various pieces of hardware and software

including an American made CoCo and cases, etc.

Mid Iowa & Country CoCo: Taking memberships and showing off their Upgrade National Diskmagazine, a really *nice* looking disk-based newsletter with plenty of graphics and humor.

Sub-Etha Software: There we were with our normal line of software including MiniBanners, Checkbook+, InfoPatch, N*Johnson Software, Carl England Utilities, and the new OSK products such as Etha-GUI and the new Write-Right WYSIWYG "what you see is what you get" word processor which was the big hit for us.

Burke & Burke: They did not make it. I heard it was due to a canceled flight. It was said, though, that PowerBoost 2.0 is out, which patches OS-9 to run in *native* mode on the 6309 and is also more "stable". Pity, as I want something to take advantage of the 6309 I have in my machine.

Dave Wordell: ...along with Lee Veal (proud owner of the original CoCo 1) was there with two tutorial video tapes, one on getting started with OS-9 and the other on installing a 6309. This new tape was very well put together and showed up-close how to remove the 6809 and install the new chip. Also of interest was the Planet Engine for OS-9. It is a CoCo planetarium with *amazingly* nice graphics. If you are a star buff, *buy this now!* Very professional and pretty fast, too!

Mid Iowa & Country CoCo Library Booth: Hundreds of club disks for sale at \$3/each including interesting "Orphanware" items. I had no idea they had that much RS-DOS software!

Sundog Systems: The remaining premier game company for the CoCo's software did not arrive in time, so all that was running was a demo of the much-awaited Contris game, and it looked very nice. If you have seen the Nintendo version, I think you would find the CoCo version quite acceptable, with two player mode and everything. Like two-player games? Well, what are you waiting for?

Zebra Systems: Also did not make it.

Andy LaVelle: SBUG was there with new/used disk drives, Radio Shack software, carrying cases, mini-paper shredders, disks, etc., etc., etc. He will probably be selling the Sub-Etha products at the Seattle mini-Fest planned later this year. (I bought a 3.5" drive w/adaptor for less than \$40) He also had some modified 12V CoCo disk controllers modified to handle the 1.44 Meg floppy drives. How come no one told me we could use these high density floppy drives with only minor modifications to our controllers?

DS-69B Digitizer Booth: A MicroWorks digitizer was hooked up to a laser printer and snap-shots were taken. Apparently the old HP Ink Jet printer driver works fine on this laser printer. Later, M. Hawkings and T. Earls, who were two of the guys who worked on Super Extended Color Basic, made an appearance. You could have your picture taken with them and a disk would be sent later for \$3 with the file on it. This basically let you be the "third" mugateer from the Ctrl-Alt-Reset picture hidden inside the CoCo 3.

Glenside Club & Chicago Fest: Glenside was there with Carl Boll and his hacked CoCo in tower case and a terminal feeding off of Scott Griepentrog's MM/1 around the room. They were talking up the Chicago Fest, which promises to be one heck of a show.

Sportsware, Inc.: T. J. Clemmens was there making custom Fest t-shirts on the spot. Instead of printing up hundreds of single color white shirts, Mid Iowa had a nice four color transfer made which was pressed onto shirts as you requested. Kind of neat and a NICE looking shirt for \$12. They were heavy duty gray shirts, and possibly the best shirts at any Fest in recent years.

StG Net: Scott Griepentrog and Paul Jerkatis hung around running two extra terminals from Scott's MM/1 as they worked on code for the StG BBS

package version 4 to be released within the next few months. Some of the beta modules looked truly incredible. Is it just me or were there a lot of MM/1's at this show?

The Seminars

I did not get to see any of them, but here is what the show guide reported:

Saturday:

- 11 a.m. - "OS-9 & OSK portability"
James Jones, Microware
- 1 p.m. - "RS-DOS Assembly"
Gene Lund, Sec. of MI&CC
- 3 p.m. - "HAM Radio"
Ed Bassick and "a friend".
- 6 p.m. - "Town Meet"

After the shut down of the Fest, we all gathered in the seminar room to talk about what we were going to do with ourselves. The major discussion was about all the people who got burned by past attempts at publishing CoCo magazines. A

new magazine, "The World of 68 Micros", is due out soon to take up the slack that Rainbow is leaving. Other subjects discussed dealt with keeping CoCo Clubs in touch with each other.

Sunday:

- 11 a.m. - "OS-9 C Assembly"
Boisy G. Pitre, Microware.
- 2 pm. - "CoCoMax Graphics"
Terry Simons, MI&CC

Summary

A good show. Small vendor participation and a basically pathetic turnout, but somehow it was still very much fun. Nothing new was shown off except seeing Planet Engine for the first time, the new "Installing the 6309" video tape tutorial, and Joel's MM/1 Write-Right program, and getting to see, feel, and touch a "floptical" 21 Meg 3.5" diskette. And yes, it looks just like a regular disk. Amazing how it

works. Apparently they coat the backside with a pattern that a laser reads to track it!

Money wise, we had the very best first day at any Fest we have attended thanks to the sale of Joel's OSK MM/1 word processor. Amazing that OSK "carried" the show for us. One thing, though, is that this Fest felt good, relaxed, friendly, and inviting. Unfortunately, this was the first Fest that did not pay for being there.

Rumors

In the works: Write-Right "add-ons" with names like "Spell-Well" and "Grammer-Hammer". A potential CoCoFest 4 in Atlanta (October) if turnout is decent at Chicago, which I am sure it will be. EthaSampler, the STEREO eampler for the CoCo (RS-DOS and OS-9) playing back via the Orch-90 Pak and supporting sound sequencing plus lots more. A new "pull-

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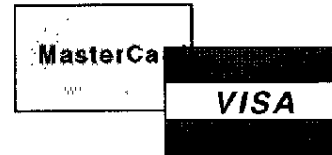
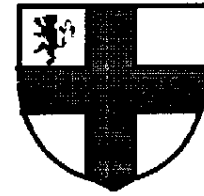
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down" text based interface for OS-9. *C developers, contact me ASAP for FREE development stuff for this!* And, well, a few other things that cannot be mentioned.

The Return

To say goodbye—we packed up, said our final farewells, and made plans to meet in Chicago. Before leaving, Scott McGee, with James Jones in tow, allowed us to have a quick tour of Microware. We saw powerful workstations, "next generation" CD-I machines with 3.5" floppy drives built in, a Japanese "m68000" machine with OS-9 in *Japanese* and some neat games, plus their box of CoCos that they used to develop CoCo OS-9 on. Of interest, we saw Hawkins' and Earls' offices, and one programmer had a CoCo 1 motherboard attached to his doorway—some kind of silent tribute to the past? It was monumental. This alone was almost worth the 16 hours of driving, though I don't think I would come back just for another tour... well, maybe I would!

- Alan C. Huffman

Owner, Sub-Etha Software, COCO-SYSOP on GENie, SYSOP@DELTA on StG Net, COCO-SYSOP@GENIE.GEIS.COM on Internet, or P.O. Box 152442, Lufkin, TX 75915 / (409) 560-9696 (days)

Introducing the GENie

With our last large-scale support magazine, The Rainbow, now gone, Color Computer enthusiasts have only a few choices for keeping in touch and informed: CoCo clubs, newsletters, and on-line services. It is the latter that I wish to discuss at this time.

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Allen Huffman and I am currently the "COCO-SYSOP" on GENie, the General Electric Network for Information Exchange. Currently,

Delphi is the premier online service for Color Computer support. However, there are many places that simply do not have access to Delphi without long distance charges. GENie is proud to boast more local dial-up lines than any other national service. With the addition of access through the SprintNet network, GENie has expanded their access even further. There are access numbers in Canada, Hawaii, and even Japan, so it is truly a worldwide network. If you want a way to stay in touch on a national level but cannot find a service in your area, check into GENie.

GENie pricing is one of the overall lowest in the industry. There is no signup fee. You pay a GENie*Basic fee of \$4.95 a month for "unlimited non-prime access (6pm-8am)" of over 100 services including mail, shopping, educational services, and general message areas. Computer-specific messaging, downloads, multi-user games and conferencing is billed at a reasonable rate of \$6/hour. The Tandy area is under this \$6/hour price scheme. Please note that some local dial-up numbers (and SprintNet numbers) do carry an additional \$2/hour surcharge. Also, for those who don't have a GENie number in your town, GENie now offers 1-800 access for an extra \$6/hour! Now you can access GENie from *anywhere* in the U.S. toll-free. To top it off, GENie even offers a money-back guarantee. If, during your first month, you decide not to continue with GENie, they will refund your first month's \$4.95 charge.

But what does GENie offer in the way of Color Computer and OS9/OSK support? Quite a bit, actually. There are over 600 files available and several CoCo vendors are online to offer support. We are currently working to bring more vendors and CoCo clubs online. If you are a vendor and would like to offer product support through GENie, please get in touch with me! If you are already using Delphi, there is probably no reason to want to "switch" to GENie. But, if you do not have access to Delphi, GENie truly makes an excellent alternative. Besides, you might find enough "free" services to

keep you happy and exploring for years!

Hopefully I will be able to provide more specific comments on GENie's Color Computer/OS9 support in future issues of *UpTime*. Until then, if you would like to find out more about GENie, call voice at 1-800-638-9363. From there you can request information, obtain access numbers, or just talk to a representative if you have specific questions. I would really like to see you online. It is more important now than ever before to stick together and stay in touch!

GENie Technical Notes: After obtaining a GENie access number, set your terminal parameters to 8 Bits, No Parity, 1 Stop Bit and use Half Duplex (self-echo). Dial into GENie and after you are "CONNECTed", type "HHH". (This "wakes up" GENie and lets it know what baud rate you are calling at.) You will then see a "U#=" prompt. At this prompt, type "SIGNUP" then follow the instructions. Have a major credit card or checking account information ready and soon you will be set!

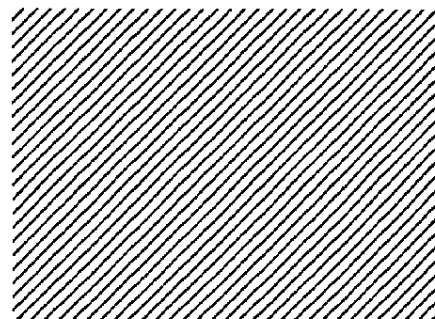
Note: If you prefer to use full-duplex operation with GENie, at the "U#=" prompt, type Ctrl-R first. For the duration of this call GENie should echo characters back to you. Officially, though, GENie recommends half-duplex.

Good luck and I'll see you there!

- Alan C. Huffman

Owner, Sub-Etha Software, COCO-SYSOP on GENie, SYSOP@DELTA on StG Net, COCO-SYSOP@GENIE.GEIS.COM on Internet, or P.O. Box 152442, Lufkin, TX 75915 / (409) 560-9696 (days)

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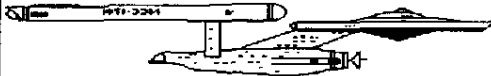
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Utilities 1-9
1-3 Programs Back, UI-UM Backup Disk
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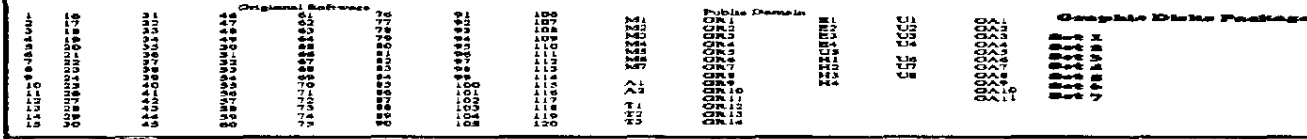
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