HawkAtari iratakwaH

The Cedar Rapids
Iowa City
Atari User's Group
Newsletter

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 524
NOV 13 1987 PM

USA 22 GREETINGS

HawkAtari
c/o Paul Maternowski
1635 Park Towne Lane #22
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

SLCC JOURNAL

P.O. BOX 1506
SAN LEANDRO CA 94577-0374

Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 17,1987
7:00PM

Cedar Terrace Mobile Home Estates Recreation Room

Minutes of the October 20,1987 Meeting
Discussion of problems of demostrating or having lessons on programming etc. Wide variety of interests and capabilities. Discussion on possibly forming special interest groups to handle this.

Discussion of backup storage of the club's 5-1/4" library. Paul Maternowski to archive these files on 3-1/2" double-sided Twister formatted disks and will be reimbursed for disks used.

Annual election (railroad job) completed as usual. Present officers will stand with the exception of Theodore Webster as Vice President. Moved by Merrill Grove, seconded by George Levy. Unanimous.

5-1/4" Disks
By the time of the meeting our order of disks should have arrived. We should have plenty on hand if you need any. Cost? 25/$10.00 10/$5.00

AModem 7.5 by Trent Dudley

Reprinted from Twin Cities Atari Interest Group

AModem 7.5, for those of you who don't know, is the offical Fixed version of Trent Dudley's AModem 7.44 which had a few bugs, and which many people 'fixed' themselves with varying degrees of success. This time, Trent's done it right!

AModem 7.5 is truly a marvel in the Telecommunications world. It works with all Disk Operating Systems, and hardware configurations, and it's a ShareWare program! Of course, to get all that into one program would be almost insane to actually try to do, so this program comes with files that you put together yourself to make it truly compatible for your system. This also makes it a small program leaving more of your computer's memory free.

AModem 7.5 will also work with OSS's BASIC XL/XE which will give you a bigger buffer in the EXTENDED mode. There's no real help in using the faster operating speed of BASIC XL/XE, or even TURDO-BASIC.

Don't worry about putting files together, Trent has also written an excellent set of documents to go with it and all the instructions you'll ever need for this program are included in there. A help file is also displayed at Boot-up or by pressing ^H, so don't worry about what does what while you're online.

AModem 7.5 is actually a two program set, both written in regular Atari BASIC with a lot of machine langauge strings to help speed things up a bit.

The main program, AMODEM75.BAS reads a file created by the second program AUTGEN75.BAS. AUTGEN75.BAS creates the file for the autodial function of AMODEM75.BAS. It also allows you store your passwords for each BBS in a way that AModem 7.5 can read and send through your modem at a touch of a key. (^P)

AUTGEN75.BAS also allows you to make comments about each BBS that will also display from the autodial menu. So if a BBS is only open during certain hours, you'll see the hours on screen right next to the BBS's name. A feature part-time BBS SysOps (& their families) are sure to love.

And speaking of time, AModem 7.5 also has 2 clocks that display both the time of day and your connect time. Especially nice for those of us who use pay BBS's such as Compuserve, Delphi & GEnie.

The 'Software Clock' will also support those of us who have the R-Time-8 cartridge or will work on it's own. Simply set the time at boot-up and away you go. The clock is fairly accurate too. I've personally hit the RESET key, exited to DOS, done some file transfers, re-ran AModem 7.5 and found the clock to still be there, zipping up to the proper time from when I hit the RESET key.

Taking a clue from the popular BackTalk program, Trent's included the joystick in program to send eight different characters through your modem. Y,N,^S & ^Q are there as well as ^N, ^X, ^P and ,Return. When the fire button is pushed.

Since both programs are written in BASIC, you are free to modify the programs as much as you want. Trent only asks that you upload the programs to any BBS you upload the original unmodified programs so that the people who download can do their own modifying without first trying to figure out what you've done to it.

As I was saying, you are free to modify your own copy as much as you want, and in fact in the documents are quite a few references to where each line is and what each variable does. One of the first things I did was to change it so that it boots up in lower case with word wrap on. There's also a place in the program for those who don't have the 1+ long distance dialing. Just change the string for long distance dialing to whatever your needs are (up to 20 characters) and away you go. Since I do a good deal of my telecommunicating from where I work, I changed the long distance dialing code to "9-" so I can get an outside line from work without a lot of hassle. T'   codes sent from the joystick are even ch   geable if you desire.

Like I said before, the documents contain everything you need to about what and where to change the program to meet your needs. Just remember to save a copy to disk after you've made your changes.

There are ten 80 charcter macros that can be programmed. This is a nice feature for sending things out that you do so often. For instance, many BBS's first ask for your password and then for the last 4 numbers of your phone number. Simple to put in a macro, since Trent also put into his macros the ability to read that file from the AUTGEN.BAS file. Just have the macro send the password, then the last 4 numbers of your phone number. Just think. Two keypresses, one to dial the number and one to activate your macro and you're online to your favorite BBS.

Personally, since I do a lot of long distance BBSing, I also added macros to send my first name, my last name, my city and state and my full phone number. These seem to be the most commonly asked questions when first logging on to a new BBS. C   I'm a registered user on a BBS, I use the 's   password, send last four of phone number' macro to log me on.

I've actually only found one 'bug' in the program. It can't handle 7 bit boards without putting a little heart (ASCII null) in front of every line. But since 7 bit boards are few (and getting fewer) this doesn't seem like too big a deal.

There are some things I would wish for in the program(s). Like for instance, I'd like to see a longer password allowed. twenty digits would be nice. This way I could use the ^P function to send my GEnie and Compuserve passwords to those systems.

I'd also like to be able to send more than just one character out via the joystick port. On a lot of BBS's, after pressing your selection you also have to press return. So a "command + return" option would be nice to have on the joystick.

However, the program, as it stands now, certainly is quickly becoming the current "standard" for other programs to beat. And I have no qualms about it. In fact from the first time I used it I knew it would become the only program I would be using. And that's what has happened. (sorry ANTIC, BackTalk's been put with the other program that I now no longer use.)

Atari ST SCSI STD Bus Interface
Paul Maternowski

A recent article and ad in the November 1987 issue of 68' Micro Journal by Bill West of Bill West Incorporated might offer an alternative to the specialized, costly and one of a kind interfaces being offered for the Atari ST. The STD or Standard bus is a 56 pin 8-bit computer bus originally developed by Pro-Log Corporation to be processor independent.

This could be an interesting alternative for those people who want to get into control and interfacing with the Atari ST and not be tied in to a limited capability system. The STD expansion bus is said to connect to the ST's SCSI(DMA) port.

Contact: Bill West Inc. Re: Atari ST Expansion
174 Robert Treat Drive
Milford, CT 06460

68 Micro Journal   November 1987
5900 Cassandra Smith Road
Hixson, TN 37343

TEMPUS The Editor
Reviewed by Paul Maternowski

TEMPUS The Editor by Eidersoft is a GEM based text that operates with amazing speed for a GEM application. It is written in assembly langauge and you can sure see the difference between it and 1st Word on large text files. It literally flies through those files. It is very well done, in fact it reminds me of Migraph's Easy Draw program when I say well done. It is not a word processor but is designed for writing and editing source files.

TEMPUS's display screen when it starts up looks a lot like 1st Word's with the exception of the character set display and the addition of icons for the disk drive, printer, trashcan, block and four text icons for the files that can be opened at once. The current time is displayed in the upper right hand column. When you close a text window the 'not used' under the text icon is replaced with the files name. Icon operations between the icons is possible with the top window prompt showing you what the action will be as you drag the selected icon around. Trashcan operation is even recoverable.

You can open the files one on top of another and then select 'side by side' or 'underneath' in the Special drop down menu and the files will be displayed the way selected with each divided among the screen evenly automatically without even having had to touch the size boxes.

Commands can be activated by the use of the mouse or by control keys, sort of like Flash's having it the way you want it. The normal function keys are pre-defined but the shift and alternate function keys are user definable and will display above the pre-defined function keys after being defined and can be saved to disk.

The GEM file selector box has been completely redone. It shows the active drives available to the left of the files. The commonly used extensions are listed to the right of the files, such as "*.*", "*.TXT, "*.PAS, "*.DOC, "*.C, "*.BAS, "*.MOD, "*.ASM, "*.S AND "*.H to avoid having to type them in when trying to locate files to load.

Information on the free space and files on the disk can be obtained by double clicking on the drive anytime the file selector box is showing. Below the files listing is a arrow box to allow you to look at file information, such as date, time and size by scrolling through it.

The GEM title bar displays the line, column and page along with the normal file path name.

placing the mouse cursor on the title bar and clicking the right mouse button sucessively to go through all the options.

The vertical slider bars work like any other GEM application except if you hold down the left mouse button while on the scroll arrows or sliders you keep going very fast. No continuous clicking to get to where you want to go.

The search and search and replace operations allow a total of 20 strings to be entered and scrolled through with the arrow selector boxes. Jokers '?' and wildcards '*' can be specified in the search strings.

The most interesting feature of the program is the cross reference feature. After performing a search and finding the first item meeting the search criteria, selecting Cross Reference List in the Special menu allows you to append the cross reference information into the open file selected. The number of cross references per line can be specified and for instance, directing the output into an open but empty file and then selecting the files to display side by side, you can go to any referenced line in the selected file by moving the mouse cursor and selecting the line to go to by pressing the right mouse cursor button.

The installation is a bit strange. The program requires you to fill in your name, company and address etc after running a program called INSTALL.PRG and then clicking on the Input Done box. The original program disk is initialized and the INSTALL.PRG program is erased. After this operation you are free to copy the program to a working disk or hard disk with no problem. No key disk is required.

A RPN calculator is built in with logical and various number base options available which can come in handy at times. The manual comes in a rinky dink two ring binder and the text is written a bit cryptically but this program is a little gem. Eidersoft is said to be producing a full blown word processor in the future which if this program is a premonition could be a real winner.