

AmAz!

Amiga .info Arizona

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 7 - October 1994

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TO UPGRADE OR NOT TO UPGRADE, THAT IS THE



Important notes for 2.x -> 3.1 upgraders
By: Dan Barrett

Here is some advice for everyone upgrading from
AmigaDOS 2.x to 3.1.

I discovered these things the hard way -- through trial and error (and help from Net friends). If you are having weird problems after the upgrade, maybe you will find a solution below.

PREFERENCES FILE PROBLEMS (especially mouse pointer problems)

Are you experiencing any weird preference behavior like the following?

- The busy pointer does not appear.
- The mouse pointer is the wrong color.
- Pointer preferences (and others) don't get saved between reboots.
- The Workbench screen turns strange colors.
- WBPattern backdrops don't work correctly.

➡ UPGRADE, page 7

Next Meeting: 19 October 1994, 7:00 PM

**Glendale Public Library
Large Meeting Room
5959 W. Brown St.
Glendale, Arizona**

AGENDA

Best of Fred Fish	Stan Krawczyk
Disk of the Month	Mel Elliott
DCTV Demo	Bob Ball
ASCII Art	Bill Hagan
Software Drawing	Checks & Balances

Amiga Arizona (AmAz!): An Official Amiga User Group Since 1986

The Amazing Connection BBS, 24 hours/day, at (602)435-8695. SYSOP: Bill Hagan

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For groups or individuals who have a desire to reprint articles contained in this newsletter a copy is uploaded to the AmAz!.ing Connection BBS, (602) 435-8695 with all articles in ASCII format. The file will be archived in LHA format.

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MEMBERSHIP ROLLS

The following members have joined AmAz! or renewed their memberships since the last newsletter was published.

Kevin Morrison	Regular
Darrel Westbrook	Subscription
Ed Elliott	Subscription
Carlo Volpones	Subscription

The mailing label has three digits, three letters and four digits, ie:

116 Reg (Sub) 9506

116 is the membership number, Reg (Sub) indicates Regular or Subscription membership and the 9506 indicates the year and month of expiration. The box beneath the mailing label will be checked if this is your last issue.

Moving? Please send your change of address as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Mail to:

**Amiga Arizona (AmAz!)
P.O. Box 2282
Glendale, AZ 85311-2282**

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PROGRAMMING 'C'

Stan Krawczyk...438-0021

Call any of the persons listed above if you have any questions about AmAz!, the Amiga, or if you are having a problem running your Amiga. They are there to HELP you. If they do not know the answer to your question, they WILL try to get it.

Please be considerate of the hour you call.

CLUB POLICY: AmAz! does not condone piracy of commercial software. Although AmAz! recognizes your right to make a working backup of software you have purchased, copying of software you have not purchased is illegal and may result in loss of membership and privileges in AmAz!.

MONTHLY Advertising Rates (Camera Ready)

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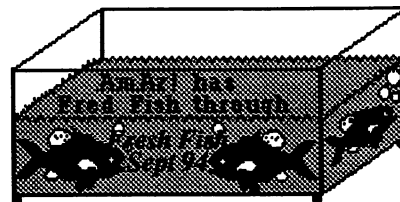
AmAz! maintains a Public Domain Library from which disks may be ordered at meetings, on the BBS or is available at Amazing Computers on the Second Saturday of each month:

Disk Prices

\$2.00 AmAz! member
\$3.00 non- member

DOM

\$3.00 AmAz! member
\$4.00 non- member

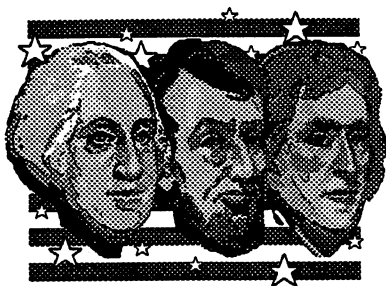


**AmAz! Disk of the Month
and newsletter are
available at:**

Amazing Computers
1435 E. University #8
Tempe, AZ 85281
(602) 929-9488

Wentek
10317 Scottsdale Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85253
(602) 483-7200

FROM THE PRESIDENT



The long awaited PageStream 3.0 has finally been released by SoftLogik. They still have a lot of work to do but from initial appearances it is going to be a super program when it is finished. A lot of the major functions are not operational in the initial release or the first of several promised updates before the final release is completed. It will be a few months before our Editor is ready to convert to the new program for the publishing of the AmAz!.info newsletter. It is not known at this time if SoftLogik will provide User Groups a copy of the new program or not. The copy of 2.2 that we use was donated by SoftLogik some time ago. If PageStream 3.0 has been completed in time for the November meeting I will demonstrate the differences in this program and Version 2.2 which we now utilize for publishing the newsletter.

At the September General Meeting it was mentioned by one of our members that it appears that most of the programs demonstrated at the meetings are related to games. As always, the Executive Board will be receptive to any requests from members or non members as to what they would like to see or programs they would like to demonstrate at the meetings. We are always looking for ideas or contributors for the meeting agenda, articles for the newsletter and programs for the disk of the month. To see first hand how the meetings are organized, attend one of the Executive Board meetings. Remember it is **YOUR** club.

Due to the poor service we have received at Coco's over the past few months, I am searching for a new location at which to conduct our Executive Board meetings. I have not found a suitable location as yet but the meeting will be at a different place in October.

The club financial status improved somewhat during the month of September due to donations and increased disk sales. If there are any disks that you need or desire, order them through the BBS or call me at home and we will get them to you either at the meeting, Amazing Computers or mail. AmAz!

Winners

and

Non-Winners



Congratulations to the following listed members who won prizes as indicated at the September 1994 AmAz! meeting:

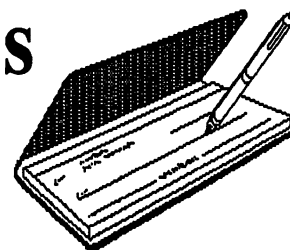
#132 Les Carr.....Five (5) Blank disks
 #324 Lynwood Smith.....Disk Coupon
 #353 Ed Lippman.....Flight Simulator II
 #385 Kevin Morrison.....Amiga World

The following members names were drawn but were not present or declined their option: Stephan Doncevic, Stan Krawczyk, Bill Frost, Don Smalley, Bill Hagan, Syvil Salameh, Brian Hunter, Peter Guldager, Allen Hutchison, Mel Elliott and Gary Bowdish.

The hidden number was #353 Ed Lippman who was present but did not claim his disk coupon. AmAz!

Treasurer's Report

by Lester Carr



September Beginning Balance:		\$ 289.50
Income:		
Advertising	40.00	
DOM Sales	21.00	
Donations	33.00	
FF Disk Sales	2.00	
Memberships Regular	48.00	
Memberships Subscription	56.00	
Total Income	\$ 200.00	+ \$ 200.00
Sub Total		\$ 489.50
Expenses:		
News Letter	\$ 66.06	
BBS Phone	22.37	
FidoNet Dues	15.00	
Total Expenses	\$ 103.43	- \$ 103.43
September Ending Balance:		\$ 386.07
Membership:	Regular 35 Subscription 14	

Librarian's Desk



by Mel Elliott

Remember, the AmAz! library will be at Amazing Computers on the second Saturday of each month. I would again remind anyone who desires to order disks from the library to either do so on the BBS or you may call me at home (931-1117) and I will have the disks made up and ready for you at the next meeting, mail them for a small fee or have them at Amazing Computers on the second Saturday. I will have a second computer available at the October general meeting for disk copying. If you desire any disks let me know ahead of time or when you arrive at the meeting so they can be ready before the meeting closes.

AmAz! Disk of the Month #88:

HEDDLEY: A program that allows the user to edit Amiga Guide Databases. The program requires OS 2.XX or above to operate and the author recommends an accelerated Amiga to overcome sluggishness. Donation Ware.

MUCHMORE: An update to this versatile text reader that has been around the Amiga community for a long time. Muchmore has been included on the AmAz! Disk of the Month as the text reader for some time. Requires OS 2.XX or above to operate.

TOOLTYPES: A shareware program that allows the user to edit the tooltypes on icon's much easier than by using the workbench method. Requires OS 2.XX or above.

YATZOOIE II.AGA: Another in the series of 5 dice, three roll games. This one is labelled AGA but it runs quite well on a non-AGA machine as well, without all the bells and whistles.

Fred Fish (Fresh Fish September 1994):

The latest issue in the Fred Fish CD series has been received. The new information is not catalogued into floppy format but is a large file of new programs. This file has been uploaded to the BBS and I will have it available at the meetings and also at Amazing Computers on our library day there. I will list some of the more interesting programs here for your information.

bBASE III: An easy to use full featured database program. Fields are user configured so many different types of information may be stored. This is version 3.01 which contains more fields, as well as other new features.

For Sale
AmAz! Classified
Free to Members

SOLIDEX Video Editor
Model EXCEL 200

Stereo Sound Mixer, two Video/Sound inputs, microphone for voice-over, Video enhancer and Audio/Video fade in-out.

\$50.00

Call Ed Lippman @ 265-5977

COLOR PRINTER
ALPS Model ALQ300

24 pin Dot-Matrix, wide carriage.
With manuals, original box, black and color ribbons.

\$150.00

Call Les Carr @ 877-3746

TERM Version 4.0: One of the premier Amiga Communication programs in the PD field. This version requires OS 2.XX or above and is quite a large program. (It has been heard that a Version 4.1 has been released).

DISKSALV2 Version 11.31: A disk repair and salvage utility program. This version can fix most disk problems. Much better program than the Commodore workbench program, DiskDoctor.

DELUXE GALAGA V2.3: An updated version of this shoot-em-up game that has excellent graphics and could be addicting.

THE DUNGEONS OF MORIA: A single player dungeon simulation. Several races and classes may be chosen and it is recommended that the documentation be read very carefully as the game is quite complicated.

AMIGAEYES: A small workbench hack that displays two eyes on the screen that follow the movement of the mouse pointer. Eyes will wink and go to sleep if the pointer is inactive. AmAz!





by **BILL HAGAN**

Numbers have always been a passion of mine. I frequently find myself looking for patterns in numbers, number puzzles and games. When I first got my computer, I jumped on spreadsheets. I love statistics. Why, I even have spreadsheets of my spreadsheets. All of this is to explain why I am now going to share with you some statistics of our BBS.

Once you log onto the BBS and reach the main menu, you are offered the option of the bulletin section, among other choices. The first of several bulletins offer statistics as to the top uploaders, downloaders, callers and message writers and readers. A reading of these statistics today, as I write this, discounting my own personas as Sysop and/or Bill Hagan, lists Mel Elliott as the top caller with 927 calls to the board. Scott House is the most prolific writer having posted 2,225 messages, Jim Kehoe has uploaded nearly 22 megabytes and Michael J. Million has downloaded almost 70 megabytes.

Michael is a very active participant on the board. During the few days leading up to and including October 1st, he has uploaded 16 files totaling almost 7 megabytes. We should nominate Michael for the monthly Top Gun Award, if we had one. Thanks Michael.

According to our latest Treasurer's report, the club has 35 members and 14 subscribers. Not shown is that as of October 1st, we have 372 validated members on the BBS. A little arithmetic shows that the club is supporting more than 300 non club members on the BBS.

This is down from 442 on September 30th. The reason for the big overnight drop in BBS members is a little utility that I use called AutoAccess. More about that in a minute.

We get many callers who complete the membership application, but after looking around to see what the BBS has to offer, decide that it's not for them. Why? Because they operate either PC's or MAC's. We are an open BBS and welcome all callers. While we have PC files sections, they are mainly for the benefit of those club members who have a BridgeBoard. Some PC owners choose to remain as members, but most of them as well as the MAC users soon drop out and quit calling. This is where AutoAccess comes in.

I usually run this utility around the first of the month. It automatically compares the User list for calls made within the last 120 days. If a BBS member has not called in for the past four months, that name is deleted from the user list. This cleans out all the inactive names and keeps the Users list down to a manageable size. Club members and newsletter subscribers are exempted from this purge.

**AmAz!ing
Connection**

(602)435-8695

FidoNet 1:114/216

AmyNet 40:300/12

We offer free BBS membership to all comers who abide by a few simple courteous rules. The bigger the user base, the more diversified the messages and files. But, there is a difference between membership of the BBS and being a member of the User Group or subscriber to the newsletter. Everyone is offered membership on the BBS, but they are restricted to thirty minutes per day and to Up/Down load ratios. User group members and newsletter subscribers get additional privileges of 45 minutes per day and an absence of Up/Down load ratios.

One final important point. Being a club member or a newsletter subscriber makes you eligible for extra benefits on the BBS, but you must sign onto the BBS and make your presence known. Not being clairvoyant, I will not know that members of the club want to participate on the BBS until they sign on. There is no way that I will know before hand what name they choose to use, full name along with middle initial or just a nickname. Neither will I know beforehand what password they choose to use.

I try to check all new BBS applicants against the members list, but I am not infallible. For best results, if you are new to the BBS and are a member of the user group or a subscriber to the newsletter, leave a "Note to Sysop" and tell me so. I usually check the BBS twice a day and, for sure, I will validate you within 24 hours. AmAz!

Change...

the World of Amiga
by Scott Carr

Our world is rapidly changing. I've come to that conclusion. Our quaint sphere encompassing Amiga computing has suddenly grown much much larger, engulfing many new and varied abilities and forms.

The major cause perhaps for such change has been the new Amiga systems - the Amiga 1200 and the Amiga 4000. Surely we realized that with these new systems change has arrived, but maybe we were not really understanding all of what would change. For instance, somewhere along the line the basic older Amiga stock systems have become very slow. No, not in reference to how they were before and certainly not in reference to other platforms (my Amiga 500 STILL multitasks much much better than my 486 25mhz DX at work running windows 3.1), but I'm referring only to the realm of Amiga's. Major benefits from speedier Amiga's have begun to outweigh the low cost 68000 equipped Amiga's. And really, I guess its not even a matter of dollars anymore! There are many accelerators to choose from to upgrade Amiga 500's or Amiga 2000's to higher rates of speed. Besides speed, we're seeing the need for more chip RAM!! 1 meg of chip RAM on my Amiga 500 is seeming much smaller than it used to. Again, the new Amiga's come with 2 meg of chip RAM. The new software coming out will certainly make greater use of chip RAM as software grows in complexity and in ability.

What position does this place the owner of an older Amiga?? For one, with the greater affordability now of accelerators, every Amiga 500 and Amiga 2000 owner should take a close look at upgrading their stock Amiga system. Many Amiga owners will want to take a look at an AGA Amiga, but for many, the question will simply be one of, does my system meet my needs and is my system still current? Although AGA graphics are nice, I feel the necessary focus for such owners should really be processing speed. For about \$145 a stock Amiga 500 or Amiga 2000 can be upgraded to run 4 times faster than before! This is possible with Supra's Turbo28 accelerator - a 28mhz 68000 processor which whose biggest plus is full 68000 compatibility. Or perhaps the stock Amiga user has not yet added a hard drive (now days that is a MUST)... in which case GVP's A530 Turbo would be the ideal upgrade allowing

the stock Amiga 500 to surpass the ability of the Amiga 3000! This 40mhz 68030 accelerator comes with a SCSI hard drive controller, hard drive AND 32-bit RAM (an absolute must for any '030 accelerator). Or if your stock Amiga 500 or Amiga 2000 already has a hard drive, then perhaps the VXL '030 is what you need. Coming in several different flavors at 28mhz or 40mhz, the VXL board comes with an additional 32-bit RAM board (again, a MUST!). This allows you to upgrade your processing speed and KEEP the system you originally bought and fell in love with. There are plenty of other accelerators and boards out there, including adding 68040 power to both the Amiga 500 and the Amiga 2000.

This kind of upgrade will put your older stock Amiga back into the forefront of Amiga computing. Remember, your Amiga 500 and Amiga 2000 are almost seven years old!! That is millennia in computer years...and other than the occasional C64 user you will not see another computer of that age being used with new present-day software! AmAz!

Note from Editor: Reprinted From Tulsa Amiga Group Newsletter 'The TAGline' September 1993 issue

Wentel's AMIGA Computers

NEW A3000s and A3000Towers starting at \$989.00
with a three month warantee from Software Hut. Call for configurations

CD³² with Diggers/Pinball Fantasies/Sleepwalker 3games/only \$399.99
SX-1's are in StockStarting at \$219.99
Defender of the Crown II CD32for only \$49.99
Labyrinth of Time CD32for only \$35.00
Super Methane Bros. CD32for only \$37.50
Micocosmin stock again..... for only \$58.00

AMIGA Software and Games in Stock, including:

mini OFFICE by Europress.....only \$54.95
Image Master R/tonly \$74.95
Final Writer Rel.2only \$119.95
Brilliance 2.0only \$119.95
Kings Quest VIonly \$47.95
Banshee (AGA) only \$39.95

A1200/CD32 Goodies!

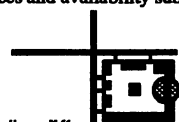
DKB 1202 w/16 mHz 68882only \$124.99
DataFlyer SCSI+ SCSI on your A1200/SX-1 without using expasion slot\$99.95

Other Great Stuff!

Video Toaster 4000 with 3.1 \$1949.99
CD32 Serial Connection Kit-use your CD32 with any Amiga \$64.95
A2386SX Bridge Board 25MHz with 4 meg. RAMUsed, Like New \$300.00
Various other used computers, hardware, & software available. 10%Consignments too!

Prices good until Nov.30,1994 and only on products instock at time ad was placed

Prices and availability subject to change without notice and/or prior sale.



Tuesday - Friday 11am to 7pm
Saturday Noon to 5pm

South/East corner Scottsdale Rd. and Shea

Wentel's 10317 N. Scottsdale Rd. st.B Phone #483-7200

► UPGRADE page 1

The prefs file format apparently changed from AmigaDOS 2.x to 3.x. To solve such problems,

(1) Run all of your preferences programs and write down (on a piece of paper) all your settings.

(2) Go to the directory ENV:sys and delete all the files with names ending in ".prefs." (You can copy them to another directory first, if you want to be safe.) These are your preferences settings that are created when you click "Save" in a preferences program.

(3) Go to the directory ENVARC:sys and, as above, delete all files with names ending in ".prefs."

(4) Run all of your preferences programs and re-create all your desired preferences settings (that you wrote down on paper in step (1).) Click "Save" after running each program.

(5) Reboot. All should be OK now.

DO NOT simply run the 3.1 preferences programs, change the settings and click "Save." **YOU MUST DELETE YOUR PREFS SETTINGS FILES FIRST.**

COMMODITIES

If you are using the SwitchNTSC commodity, get rid of it. It will crash your system under 3.1 due to (I believe) changes in the Screen structure.

CPUBLIT

If you are using CPUBlit, start using the "-b" option, or else it may not work. See the CPUBlit documentation for more details.

DATATYPES NOT WORKING?

If you assign LIBS: somewhere in your user-startup file, beware!! The AmigaDOS 3.1 startup-sequence has a new "Assign add" line:

Assign >NIL: LIBS: SYS:Classes ADD

If you reassign LIBS: and forget to include SYS:Classes, your datatypes will not work. For example, MultiView and WBPatten will work incorrectly or refuse to run.

WSHELL 2.0

If you are using the PATH: handler from WShell 2.0, and reassign LIBS:, beware of the problem mentioned above. For example, I had in my user-startup:

assign LIBS: PATH:sys:libs,another:libs

and forgot about sys:classes. I changed it to:

assign LIBS: PATH:sys:libs,sys:classes,another:libs

MUI (Magic User Interface)

If you use MUI, watch out for a conflict between sys:classes and the MUI "classes" directory. If your datatypes are not working or MUI does not work, this may be the problem. For me, with WShell 2.0's PATH handler, I had to do:

Assign Libs: PATH:sys:Libs,sys:Classes
Assign Libs: usr:Lib/Classes ADD

If you don't use WShell, you might not have a conflict.

THAT'S ALL - GOT ANY MORE TIPS?

If anybody has more AmigaDOS 2-to-3 tips, please mail them to me, and I'll keep this list up-to-date.

*Reprinted from: Amiga Report International Online Magazine
Issue No. 2.25 August 22, 1994 AmAz!*

Fingerprint from the Editor and Sysop

If you are interested in upgrading your Workbench (Amiga DOS) to 3.1 be sure to read the companion article by Dick Schnase. Dick has been a long time supporter of AmAz! in time, talent and treasure. For proof, just check the name of the uploader of files in the files section. His name is there more than once. Thanks, Disk.

Changing to my Sysop hat, I have had fun playing Wheel of Fortune by furnishing many of the puzzles for this game on the BBS. I am delighted when my puzzle takes an extra spin or two to solve. I could use some additional puzzles. They should be in the form:

THIS IS THE PUZZLE (Each line, puzzle or clue must
THIS IS THE CLUE be no longer than 60 characters)

This represents one puzzle. I will even go out on a limb and say that I could get a couple of Disk Coupons for anyone providing a list of twenty-five (25) puzzles. AmAz!

MORE ABOUT AMIGA DOS 3.1

by DICK SCHNASE

In a note on the Bulletin Board, Disk Schnase typed to Mel Elliott: You may want to publish the following in the Newsletter and you have my permission. Thanks so much for your help in conquering 3.1.

AMIGA DOS 3.1

Here's my interpretation of 3.1.

First the installation in my almost vanilla A3000 (10 MB RAM - otherwise vanilla):

The 3.1 upgrade consists of two ROM chips and three softbound manuals.

I must tell you that this was an adventure for a non-techie - and not an excellent one at that! Please understand, too, that the last time I really got deeply into the operating system was three plus years ago when I put in ADOS 2.04. I use Directory Opus and don't get into the shell any more than absolutely necessary. The stage is now set.

Not everything worked smoothly. I reformatted my hard disk numerous times because of my own stupidity AND because the install program that came with the upgrade seemed to be remiss in catching all the possibilities with which an installer (me) may be faced. At one point, the Sys:Tools/HardDiskToolbox showed that each of the six SCSI addresses was occupied by my hard disk. In defense of the INSTALL program, though, I must say that MOST of my problems could have been avoided had I perused each screen's offerings more carefully.

There is a Public Domain program which is essential in my estimation. It involves setting various parameters on the harddisk setup. The program is handy in, for instance, selecting SYNCRONOUS or ASYNCRONOUS harddisk operation (mine turned out to need asynchronous operation). This program is BattMem.LHA and is available on a Fred Fish disk which AmAz! has in the library.

One jewel which turned up in my travels was the fact that the real 3.1 upgrade is only available

through Expert Services (606) 371-9690. C= licensed Expert to distribute the upgrade but there are pirate copies out there with bogus manuals, etc.

Having covered the installation and the downside, let me now dwell on 3.1 itself along with it's attributes.

3.1 caused my system to speed up noticeably in areas of screen refreshes and file transfers. Maybe it is wishful thinking, but I swear that BBS downloads are now faster. The system is absolutely rock solid. No crashes. There are numerous subtle changes all of which are pluses in my estimation. Please be aware that most of the newer programs to hit the street (PageStream 3.0 being one) run very happily and with enhancements over ADOS 2.04 (this word from SoftLogik).

One caveat here, though. After finishing with the installation and rebooting with 3.1 now being the operating system, go into Sys:Prefs/Env-Archive/sys and delete everything ending in .prefs. Then go back and set every parameter you can find in Sys: to your likes. The reason for this has to do with an apparent change in the screen handling techniques in 3.1.

The screen and menu color combination controls in 3.1 are considerably better than past systems. That 3.1 has been in the hands of developers for a considerable period is a definite plus in bug squashing. It should be noted that 3.1 contains no remnants of the original (circa 1985) Amiga operating system code with it's inherent limitations and bugs.

Even after hanging by my thumbs for a couple weeks with a modicum of extracurricular torture, I feel that 3.1 is definitely worth it. Enjoy. AmAz!





by **BILL HAGAN**

Some more news before we return to the series: Term 4.1 has been released and I am confident it will be posted to our BBS by time you read this. An early release of its features indicates it corrects many bugs. I have read no BBS traffic concerning the quality of the update.

Now, back to the series. Unfortunately, the script Gary Bowdish has written to automate calling a BBS, Logging on, Downloading a file, and signing off has developed a fatal flaw. It simply does not work with Term 4x. He is still trying to reconcile the differences between Term 3.4 and 4x.

Many of you might be saying, "That AREXX SIG should change its name to Soft-Logik of AREXX SIGS. All you do is stall for time and make promises." I prefer to think of it differently. To paraphrase that BIG actor, Orson Welles, "We will post no scripts, before it zips."

One other stumbling block in our path is the script has grown so large that it precludes printing here in the newsletter. To avoid filling the newsletter with programming script, we plan to provide the script on the BBS and also on the AmAz! Disk-of-the-Month (DOM). Most likely not this month, but we will do our best to have a completed working script on the November DOM. If we fail to find the fatal flaw in the 4x version, we will drop back to the version that works with Term 3.4.

I will be leaning on Gary Bowdish for much of the rest of this column. Following is a sample of the documentation of his script which he has named "LEARN.rexx." Look for this in the near future on our BBS. My notes are italicized.

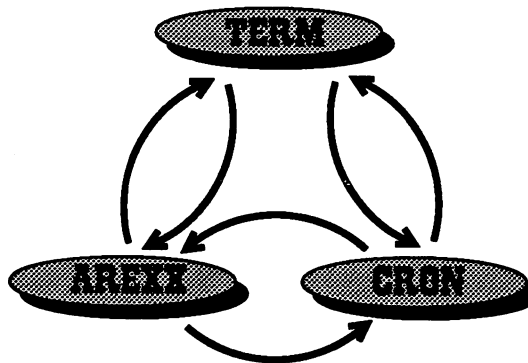
It should go without saying that TERM and AREXX must be up and running on your system with all paths, assignments and preferences in order. We have our TERM configured with all telecommuting

handled within a separate directory. We have directories for uploads and downloads. The AREXX scripts, Macros, and programs are in a Rexx sub-directory. This provides that results of all telecommuting sessions will be saved to one directory.

\$Id: Learn.rexx,v 3.4 94/08/02 18:40:52 Gary_Bowdish Exp Locker: Gary_Bowdish \$

The Purpose of this AREXX script is to make building term AREXX scripts easier. While TERM's AREXX port is very nice, it is a little overwhelming for non-programmers to start on. This script helps you to build simple AREXX scripts to automate question & answer sequences such as logging in to the AMAZ BBS.

To invoke this script select "Execute ARexx Command" from the commands menu and give it the name of this script file (*Learn.rexx*).



A requester "Enter Text" will open in the Term window. If you click on the icon to the right of the text gadget, an additional requester will open which will allow you to select the path and title for the AREXX script.

When this script (*Learn.rexx*) is started without arguments, it will start building an AREXX script that can be called by Term. It will first open a file requester so you can name the script and specify where to put it. Next it will put the necessary commands in the file to make it look like an AREXX script. Then it will open the FastMacros window and define four macros. The Finish macro calls this script with the finish argument. The Send macro calls this script with the send argument. The Wait macro calls this script with the wait argument and the Reply macro calls this script with the Reply argument. Each time this script is called with one of these arguments, it will add commands to the script you are building. When you select the Finish macro, The commands necessary to end the script and return to normal term processing are added to the script file. The Fastmacros window is then closed.

Any text editor may be used to review and revise the Finished AREXX script as necessary. It would be prudent to edit the script even if it is to just add comments.

■ AREXX page 8

Once you have built (*and edited*) a script with Learn, all you need do to use it is again select "Execute AREXX Command" from the Cmds. Menu and give it the name of the script that you chose when you first invoked Learn.rexx. The script will then "replay" the question & answer sequence you went through before.

Once the resulting AREXX script is perfected, it will be entered in the Commands Settings requester as the Startup/Login Macro to facilitate the automation of Term. This requester is brought up by the commands item under the Settings menu in Term.

The FastMacro Window is an important part of this script (*Learn.rexx*). It provides the user interface to Learn. What the four macros do is explained below.

The "Wait" macro adds the commands necessary to wait for the host to send a specific message to term. This message can be any text such as the "Login" or "Your Name:" prompts of a bulletin board. When you press the wait button in the FastMacro Window, Learn reads through the last several lines of text that is on the screen and guesses that the last line received is the prompt you want the script to wait for. It will place this line in a text requester for you to edit. You can edit the string in the requester as much as you want. You can even delete the whole prompt and enter a new one. If you press the cancel button, Learn discards the prompt without modifying the script being built. If you press the OK button, Learn adds the commands necessary to wait for the prompt to your script.

The Send macro adds the commands necessary to send a string to the host. The string can include term escape sequences such as \u for user and \p for password. See Term's docs for more on the Term escape sequences. When the Send button is pressed, Learn opens a string requester for you to enter the string to be sent to the host. The default send string is the newline escape sequence \n. Like the Wait string requester, the Send string requester can be edited any way you like. You can press the cancel button if you decide that you don't want to send anything to the host. If you press the OK button, the commands to send the string are added to your script. They are also sent to the host so you can continue without having to type the text twice.

The Reply macro is a combination of the Wait and Send macros. The Reply button is used when you want to wait for a prompt from the host and then

reply. The reply button simply does a Wait macro then a Send macro.

The Finish button is used to finish the script. It puts the commands necessary to return to Term in the script and then removes the FastMacro window. After pressing the Finish button, the script is ready to run. If you need to change the script, you can use Learn to rebuild the script or you can edit with any text editor. Learn cannot fix scripts or restart a script where it ended.

While the preceding outlines the main features of LEARN.rexx, additional revision is needed even for Term 3.4. It is totally untested in Term 4.1. A sampling of an unedited script built by Learn follows:

```
/**
**  This script was written by Learn.rexx
**  $Revision: 3.4 $**
**/
```

TIMEOUT 30

OPTIONS RESULTS

SEND "\r"

SEND "\u \r"

SEND "\p \r"

SEND "\r"

WAIT "More? (Y,n,c):"

SEND "\r"

WAIT "!More? (Y,n,c):"

SEND "\r"

WAIT "Main menu (43 min):"

SEND "M \r"

WAIT "Discussions: 2289/2290] (43 min):"

SEND "d "

WAIT "MsgDL (S/A)?"

SEND "A"

WAIT "epare my messages for downloading"

SEND "D"

WAIT "epare my messages for downloading"

SEND "q \r"

WAIT "Discussions: 2289/2290] (41 min):"

SEND "G \r"

RETURN(0)

```
/**
```

```
**  This is the end of a script written by learn
```

```
**/
```

The next AREXX SIG will meet on 1 November 1994. Anyone interested in joining us, please call Bill Hagan at 934-2993. AmAz!

I use not only all the brains I have, but all I can borrow. --Woodrow Wilson



November

1994



SUNDAY

MONDAY



TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Newsletter Articles Due 28 Oct		1 AREXX SIG 934-2993 For Info	2 Newsletter Draft Completed	3	4 Newsletter Proof Completed	5
6	7	8	9 Mail Newsletter	10	11  Veterans Day	12 AmAz! Library at Amazing
13	14	15	16 AmAz! General Meeting	17	18	19 AmAz! EX BD Meeting
20	21	22	23	24  Thanksgiving	25	26
27	28	29	30 'C' Sig 438-0021 For Info			

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At our meetings we provide demonstrations of new or interesting Amiga programs/equipment, sometimes by developers or dealers if we can line them up. A software drawing is held for regular members. Our extensive disk library contains the entire Fred Fish collection plus demo disks from developers as well as our own Disk of the Month. Disks may be ordered at meeting's, on the BBS or by calling the Librarian and may be picked up at meeting's or mailed (small fee). The library is also at Amazing Computers on the 1st Saturday of each Month. Members of the group may purchase disks at a reduced price.

The Group owns and operates a 24 hour Bulletin Board System (BBS) called the AmAz!ing Connection (602) 435-8695. This BBS supports baud rates up to 14,400 BPS. The BBS is open to any caller, however, members of the Group are allowed an extra 15 minutes per day and no limits on download privileges.

We offer two forms of membership: The Regular member is eligible to vote and participate in the software drawings at the monthly meetings. He/she is also eligible to hold offices on the Executive Board. The Regular member dues are \$24.00 per year. The alternative membership is a subscription for those who cannot attend the monthly meetings. The dues for this are \$18.00 for US, Canada and Mexico (\$20.00 international). These members may not vote or hold Ex Bd office. All members receive a monthly copy of the AmAz!.info newsletter and are eligible for the extended BBS privileges. If you are interested in joining us, send your dues, name and address to: AMAZ! (Amiga Arizona), PO Box 2282, Glendale, AZ 85311-2282.



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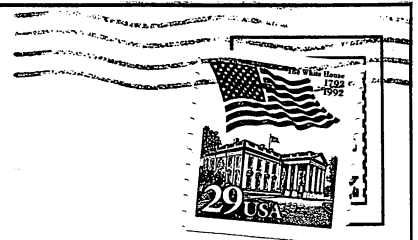
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