

AmAz!

Amiga .info Arizona

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 4 - August 1995

REVIEW: DIRECTORY OPUS 5

By: William Near

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Any Amiga with a hard drive and running at least Workbench 2.x can use Directory Opus 5 (DOpus 5). I would recommend at least 1 MB of free FAST RAM to operate this program.

SYSTEM TESTED ON: Amiga 2000 (Rev 4.4), ECS chip set, GForce '030 accelerator Quantum LPS270S hard drive with Trumpcard Professional controller, Picasso II RTG board, Workbench 3.1

PACKAGING: The DOpus 5 package consisted of a shrink wrapped, 174 page, spiral bound manual with 1 floppy disk inside.

INSTALLATION: DOpus 5 uses the standard Commodore installer utility, so, as usual, installation is a breeze. Upon launching the installer,

you are presented with several choices of install methods: Start DOpus 5 on boot, Start DOpus 5 iconified, Use DOpus 5 as Workbench replacement, and Don't start DOpus 5 on boot. All of these are self-explanatory, except use DOpus 5 as Workbench

replacement. If you choose to use DOpus 5 as a Workbench replacement, your LoadWB command will be renamed and a startup file for DOpus 5 will be put in its place. After selecting one of the install options for DOpus 5 the script

➡ *Dopus page 5*

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Next Meeting: 16 August 1995, 7:00 PM

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

AGENDA

Disk of the Month	Bill Hagan
Open Agenda	
Chaneques	Bill Hagan
Open Agenda	
Software Drawing	StarFlight 2

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

Ag Hagan	Subscriber
Donald Smalley	Regular

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

116 Reg (Sub)(BBS) 9606

116 is the membership number, Reg (Sub) (BBS) indicates Regular, Subscription or BBS membership and the 9606 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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Bill Hagan...934-2993

PROGRAMMING 'C'

Stan Krawczyk...963-6795

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 do their very best to get the answer for you. 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)

Full Page	\$35.00
Half Page	\$20.00
Half Page (Back Cover)	\$25.00
Quarter Page	\$15.00
Business Card	\$10.00

Send rate inquiry's to:

AmAz!
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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



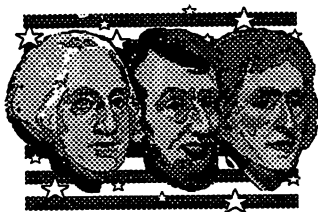
AmAz! Library has:
Fresh Fish CD Vol 9
Aminet CD #6

**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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



Hi and welcome again to another AmAz! newsletter. My apologies to all for my recent absences from so many meetings, but I don't feel guilty; I left Club business in capable hands. We do have an excellent Executive Board who keeps an eye on things at all times. My absences are work related, I have been traveling out of the country.

I am encouraged by so much good news from and about ESCOM. It looks as though we may have a winner in charge of our computer's future. I lean on the July 1995 issue of Amazing Amiga Computing magazine for my information this month. With all due credit to them for text and photos, it looks like there will be Amigas for Christmas this year: 25,000 Amiga 4000 Towers (with 10,000 ear-

marked for the US) and 100,000 A1200s for the European market (no word on how many for the US market). Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus and he loves the Amiga.

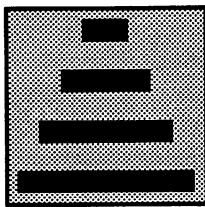


Figure 1. Amiga LoGo

Figure 1. is (without comment from me) the new Logo. Figure 2. on page 7 shows the image of the 4000 Tower. Again, all credit to Amazing Amiga Computing for the statistics and Logo. Thanks to Dan Dwyer for sending the picture that Bjorn Rybakken and Walter Ostern drew and rendered.

Thanks to all for your patience in the US Robotics Modem deal. While we are doing all they ask of us, and more, there seems to always

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MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

Minutes of the July 1995 General Meeting.

The October General Meeting will be held in the community room of Ed Lippman's condo complex. Look for a map in an upcoming newsletter.

Bill Hagan, resplendent in his U.S. Robotics T-shirt, gave a

highly informative presentation on the two U.S. Robotics modem models being offered to members at substantial discounts. As a result of Bill's efforts several more orders were placed at the meeting. Bill also reported on the outstanding performance of the new U.S. Robotics modems on both his own and the club



BBS REPORT

by BILL HAGAN

Just as I had predicted last month, about the time you were reading that column, I received the registered version of the CD-Rom Drive download software. On the day I revised the board software, our users went berserk over Aminet CD 5. Robert picked off more than 5 megs of files and Peter still stays up nights downloading his files. I soon lost track of the numbers of files others are downloading. In my opinion, the CD-Rom Drive is the BBS' most valuable asset. With the addition of the CD-Rom Drive, we have easily become a one stop BBS. Nearly every file of your hearts' desire can be found on the AmAz! BBS. If a file you desire is not currently online, it soon can be, once you request it.

There are still a couple of features of the registered version of the CD-Rom Download software that I need to get working and David Hockett has yet to finish the files requester that I wrote about last month.

But, between Joe nagging me BBS computers.

Mel Elliott went through the programs on the new Disk of the Month and also demonstrated some of the vast array of features available with

about the errors he gets when uploading files, trying to complete the Modem deal with US Robotics and preparing this issue of the newsletter ahead of time, there has been little time left to work on old problems much less add new features.

Which reminds me, the USR Modem order has been placed and confirmed. Now we enter "Soft Logik" time: Your modems will be here "real soon now."

While my highest priority is to resolve the errors ex-

perienced by Users uploading files, I have it in mind to upgrade to the latest update of Xenolink, Version 1.96. I've been following the message traffic on the Xenolink news and Sysop echoes and it seems most of the bugs have been worked out of this version. I had reported earlier here on the BBS that Users could not upload to XLK 1.96. While this does not seem to be a problem since no one is uploading now because of the low CPS rates caused by modem errors. Actually, the reported upload

☛ BBS page 7

Directory Opus V, the directory utility with a Napoleon complex.

Mark Carter was happy he

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Librarian's Desk



by Mel Elliott

By the time you read this I will have had surgery and hopefully be on the road to recovery. As a result the AmAz! Library will not be at Amazing Computers this month on the scheduled date of August 12th. I hope to be back on September 9th. I hope to be to make a token appearance at the August meeting.

I still have not received any new CD's from Amiga Library Services. Should be getting some new Fresh Fish CD's any day now. I did receive an upgrade to Final Writer which someone will demo at the August meeting. I also received a surprise in the mail recently, a copy of Amiga Computing Magazine which was the replacement for my Amiga World subscription. Not a bad magazine actually.

AmAz! DOM #98:

The August Disk of the Month contains the following programs:

TUHR11:

A workbench type clock which has some very nice functions and options with which the user may configure the clock to suit themselves. There are two versions, one for 020 and higher machines and one for slower machines. **SUPER EARTH DEFENSE:**

A Shoot-Em-Up type game. Not much strategy involved but the the longer you last in

the game the faster the action becomes. Voice is in German but is understandable.

IDIAL11:

This program is an auto-dialler for the AMITCP program used to communicate with the Internet. I do not use my Amiga to access the Internet so I know nothing about this program. Possibly some member of the audience can shed some light on it's functions.

VIRUSCHECKER V6.57:

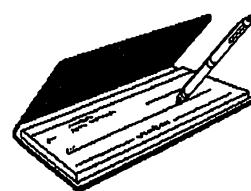
The latest update to this excellent virus protection program. Highly recomment if you don't currently use one.

Some of the content of my article in the July issue of the newsletter was inadvertently left out. The subject in discussion was the use of the Glendale Library for our monthly meetings. The library is committed to making the library meeting areas open to library sponsored functions, which is reasonable. We would like to find a place to hold our meetings where we won't run the chance of being preempted, sometimes at a moments notice. Mr Ed Lippman has offered the User Group the use of the community room at his condominium for the October 1995 meeting. If anyone knows of a suitable location let any member of the EX BD know about it.

AmAz!

Treasurer's Report

by Mel Elliott



July Beginning Balance:		\$ 3077.47
Income:		
Advertising	\$ 40.00	
DOM Sales	22.00	
Memberships (Reg)	30.00	
Memberships (Sub)	20.00	
Misc Income (Donation)	6.70	
Modem	752.00	

Total Income	\$ 870.70	+ \$ 870.70

Sub Total		\$ 3948.17
Expenses:		
News Letter	\$ 66.43	
Modem	3063.50	
BBS Phone	26.70	
Aminet CD #6	19.02	

Total Expenses	\$ 3175.65	- \$ 3175.65

July Ending Balance:		\$ 772.52
Membership: Regular 39 - Subscription 15 - BBS - 0		



AmAz! Classified

HARD DRIVE

40 Meg SCSI Quantum
Size:

1 3/4" x 5 3/4" x 4"

Internal, removed from the Amiga Arizona User Group BBS A3000 after upgrading to a 530 Meg hard drive. No problems with Drive.

\$25.00

Call Mel @ 931-1117

SUPRA MODEM

2400 Baud Rate.

Being sold due to upgrading to 28.8 Baud Modem. No problems with modem while in use.

\$20.00

Call Bill @ 934-2993

SCALA MM210

Multimedia creation program complete with original disks, manual and dongle, ready to operate. Takes up quite a lot of hard drive space when installed.

\$50.00

Call Mel @ 931-1117



► DOpus page 1

creates a DOpus 5 drawer on the hard drive partition you selected and copies the appropriate files there. Finally, an assign line is added to your User-Startup script. One final note, if you are using a ROM switcher and you have renamed the original Startup-Sequence then you must rename the original Startup-Sequence so that the DOpus 5 install script can find it; otherwise, you will get an error and have to abort the install.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS: If you are use to the look and feel of DOpus 4.x then you will immediately notice that DOpus 5 is a complete rewrite of its predecessors. The interface is almost completely new and fresh. DOpus 5 opens its own screen, of your choice, which strongly resembles a Workbench 2.x+ screen (a backdrop picture can even be used!) Most of the same pulldown menu choices are present with several DOpus 5-specific additions. Icons for all devices appear just as on Workbench. I had icons for my Boot and Work partitions, as well as the RAM Disk appeared on the main screen with the initial startup of DOpus 5. Also, a floating palette of buttons for performing various tasks and a RAM Disk Lister appeared on the screen. At this point, you are ready to go! My honest first impression was, this looks confusing!

DOWN TO BRASS TACKS: Upon exploring the new features and look of DOpus 5 I quickly realized just how powerful this version is. The confusion I felt

with my first look at the new utility quickly faded as I began to use it.

You can click on any of the device icons that appear on the screen and open a floating Lister window. Each Lister window has a Title Bar which displays the device name and the amount of free space left on that particular device. Directly below the Title Bar is a Status Bar which displays: the number of selected directories out of the total number of directories displayed, the number of selected files out of the total number of files displayed, and the number of bytes selected out of the total number of bytes displayed. To the immediate right of these are the Lister Command Menu and the Device Gadget. These allow you to perform various actions on the selected files from a pulldown menu, as well as directory manipulations. The final item on this line is the Status Gadget which displays the state that the Lister is in i.e. SOURCE, DESTINATION, or OFF. You can change the state by clicking within the Status Bar. The last area before the actual file listings is the Lister Tool Bar which is full of various icon presentations for file and directory manipulation. The icons are: DeviceList/CacheList, Parent/Root, All/None, Select/Toggle, MakeDir, Copy/Copy As, Move/MoveAs, ReName, Delete, Show, Play, Protect, Comment, and DateStamp. The icons of the Tool Bar are accessed by the left and right mouse buttons, also actions may be assigned to the middle mouse button. The Tool Bar can be customized any

way you like, including the addition and subtraction of icons.

The area of the Lister that actually shows the files and directories of the selected device can be customized as well. You can select the order in which the items are sorted and what part of the file's attributes are used for the sort order. The Lister's display can also contain as much information or as little as you desire. At the bottom of the Lister is a window where the complete path is shown. You can manually type a new path if you so desire. Maneuvering around in the Lister window can be accomplished by: holding the right mouse button down and moving the mouse pointer up/down/left/right (the listing will scroll to follow the mouse pointer's movement), using the cursor keys, using the numeric keypad's Home/End/PgUp/PgDn keys.

The pulldown menus on the DOpus 5 main screen consist of the following options (I've included short definitions where appropriate):

OPUS
BACKDROP
EXECUTE COMMAND
ABOUT
HIDE
QUIT

LISTERS
NEW
CLOSE
MAKE SOURCE
MAKE DEST
LOCK AS SRC
LOCK AS DEST
UNLOCK
TURN OFF

UNLOCK ALL
CLOSE ALL
EDIT
EDIT LISTER TOOL-BAR
EDIT LISTER MENU
TILE (arranges the displayed Listers to fit equally within the main screen)
HORIZONTALLY
VERTICALLY
CASCADE (cascades the displayed Listers within the main screen)
SNAPSHOT
VIEW AS
NAME (just like the WB function)
ICON (just like the WB function)
SHOW ALL (just like the WB function)

ICONS
OPEN (same as double clicking on an icon)
INFORMATION
SNAPSHOT
ICONS
WINDOW
ALL
UN-SNAPSHOT
LEAVE OUT (you can leave any directory or file out on the main screen)
PUT AWAY
SELECT ALL
CLEAN UP
RESET (restores the icon's positions according to the last snapshot)
RENAME
FORMAT DISK
DISK INFORMATION
PROGRAM GROUPS (you can make a separate icon which holds related programs within it. This is very similar to the WBStartup drawer in that programs can be launched from here without having the entire program's related files located in this drawer. You could make a Program Group that held all

► **DOpus page 5**

of your word processors, paint programs, etc.)

NEW
DELETE
REMOVE PROGRAM

BUTTON

NEW
LOAD
SAVE
SAVE AS
CLOSE

EDIT (pull up the custom buttons editing palette)

SETTINGS

CLOCK

CREATE ICONS

(choose whether or not to add icons to new directories)

RECURSIVE FILTER

(create a filter that acts recursively on files within sub-directories)

ENVIRONMENT

(control over: screenmode, backdrop pattern, colors, global format for Lister displays, etc.)

EDIT

LOAD

SAVE

SAVE AS

SAVE LAYOUT

OPTIONS (control

over: Caching, Copy, Delete, Hide Method, Icons, Locale, and special Lister format for specific directory paths)

EDIT

LOAD

SAVE

SAVE AS

FILE TYPES (edit File

Types used by DOpus 5 and WB 3.0/3.1)

USER MENU (edit the

User menu's contents)

USER (customized user

menu)

OTHER FEATURES:

- Full Drag and Drop sup-

port for highlighting directories or files and then dropping them in another Lister to be copied or unarchived etc. You can also just drag these directories or files outside of the Lister and drop them on the main screen for easy access.

- The middle mouse button has full support for a wide range of functions associated with Buttons and Tool Bar icons, providing you aren't using a Commodity such as MultiCX which enables the middle mouse button for switching between screens.

- Floating button bars make it easy to customize your DOpus 5 layout with only the most needed functions which aren't supported, or conveniently accessed, by an icon on the Tool Bar or a menu choice in the User menu.

- ARexx support.

- Data Type support.

- The mouse pointer sensitive help function will pull up an Amigaguide document specific to the item you are pointing at when pressing the HELP key.

- Enhanced Search requestor which supports simple and complex searches.

- Enhanced Pattern Matching which supports simple and complex searches.

- The ability to change the DateStamp of any file or directory.

- Your old DOpus 4 configuration can be imported into DOpus 5. The look of

DOpus 5 will change to look just like the old familiar DOpus 4 if you choose to do so. Frankly, this defeats the purpose and power of the new DOpus 5. I don't recommend it.

DISLIKES & BUGS: I miss the CPU usage display on the main title bar.

The ability to set a window close delay has been removed. This means that you have to either add a close gadget to any window that shows output from a DOpus 5 function i.e. LHA dearchiving etc., or add an AmigaDOS WAIT command to that particular function's activity. It was easier to just set the close delay under DOpus 4. When selecting a Backdrop for use on the DOpus 5 main screen, you must select the desired image from within your Prefs/WBPattern requestor and then use SaveAs. If you just select any old image from the DOpus 5 Backdrop requestor, it won't work.

You have to type in a lengthy registration number that locks the copy of DOpus 5 on to the hard drive to which it was installed. If you copy the program to another drive or use a hard drive defragmenter (ReOrg etc.), you have to reregister the program by typing in the registration number again!

I have experienced crashes when working with DOpus 5 with my Picasso II board and Workbench 3.1 setup. Closing the Button Paint Palette with its close gadget will cause a GURU every time on my system.

SUMMARY: Directory Opus 5 is very powerful. It offers a fully multi-threaded, internally multitasking suite of programs. You can have multiple destination Listers open and be copying files etc. to each destination Lister from the source, formatting multiple floppies, unarchiving or archiving files, editing files, etc. -- all at the same time! Any of these individual tasks can be aborted without affecting any of the other tasks which are running concurrently.

DOpus 5 offers a fresh new look and a functionality heretofore unheard of on the Amiga platform. The author is easily contacted via Email and he replies promptly, usually within one day. I strongly recommend that any power user of the Amiga get this program -- it's well worth it.

MANUFACTURER :

GPS Software

P.O. Box 570

Ashgrove, Queensland 4065 Australia

+61 7 3661402 - Phone/Fax
zzgperry

PURCHASED FROM:

Micro R & D

721 'O' Street

Loup City, NE 68853

(308) 745-1243 - Phone

(308) 745-1246 - Fax

PRICE: I paid US\$70, this includes \$5 S&H and a \$5 C.O.D. charge.

Reprinted from Amiga Report No. 3.12 June 18, 1995

AmAz!

President page 3

be one more stumbling block. As I write this, all that is left is to place the order. It is my hope that by the time you read this, the order will have been placed and the modems are on the way to all who ordered one.

These long hot days of Summer seem to cause everything to drag. The same holds true for the club; in fact, our meetings may drag a bit for the rest of the summer. With so few new programs entering the marketplace, it is difficult to find something interesting to demo. Bear with us, come participate on whatever level suits you, come to the meetings and keep the faith.

Things should pick up by October.

We have an exciting program in the works for that month. Stay tuned, details are forthcoming.

Finally, let me encourage you to make use of all club assets: The BBS has plenty to keep you occupied; The club Library has books, videos and much more for your use; and you have each other, stay in touch.

I remind you once again, let us know how you feel and what you would like to see in the way of club activities.

Until next month. AmAz!

Minutes page 3

came to the meeting to claim his Hidden Member prize because he also won 5 blank disks in the Software Drawing. Other winners included Michael Osburn (Battle Isle), and Jim Orcholl, who won the "It's Back" Amiga Phone Card set generously donated by Woody Williams of Softwood (makers of Final Writer, Final Data, the great SoftFaces font series, and the soon-to-be-released Final Calc spreadsheet).

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes of the July Exec Board Meeting.

The meeting was once again held at JB's on Camelback and 35th Avenue.

Mel Elliott reported on the club treasury.

There was a discussion of the

feasibility of an Internet demonstration at the October meeting, when a phone connection might be available. Gary Bowdish suggested that planning should start early so that the demo does not get bogged down in the complexities of the Internet. Bill Hagan brought up the possibility of collecting all the necessary software for Internet beginners and issuing a library disk.

Bill Hagan reported on the BBS and the necessity of upgrading the ROMS in the new modem. Bill also made a motion (following a suggestion at the General Meeting by Joe Benedetto) that the local Amiga dealers (Wentek and Amazing Computers) be given access to the BBS CD-ROM download facility. The motion was passed without dissent.

Submitted by Pete Guldager.
AmAz!

BBS page 3

problem with XLK 1.96 was false. The problem was a program some Sysops used in conjunction with Xenolink.

Looking ahead, since the BBS is now running a US Robotics Courier V.34 (soon to be V.34+) Fax modem and since many members will also have Fax capable Modems, it is time to start thinking about how the Fax feature of the modem and Xenolink can be put to use. Anyone with any experience with BBS's offering Fax services or with ideas on how we can put this to use is requested to contact the Sysop or any other Exec Board

member. If Fax on the BBS is feasible, we should put it to good use.

Finally, we have a huge amount of hard drive space vacant. While I know many of you are experiencing modem errors while uploading, the files come through in usable quality. It is only that the upload is a bit slow, but still, 1000 CPS is much better than when you had a 2400 baud modem and you were up and down loading at 232 CPS. I have files that I can upload as time permits. I'm sure you have some new ones, too. So gird your loins and UPLOAD, UPLOAD. Just don't watch the CPS rate.

AmAz!

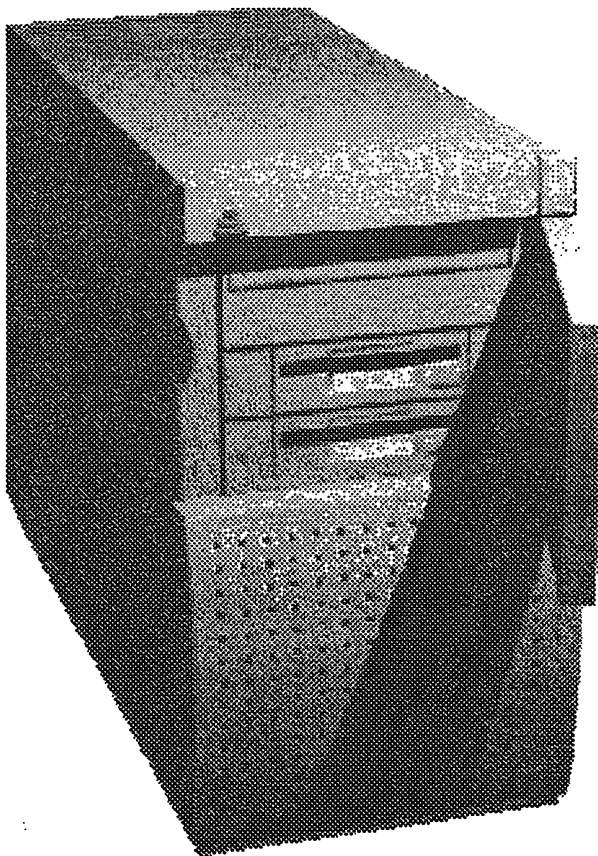


Figure 2. Amiga T4000 with door open

USR TO USER

July 1995 Amiga Arizona - AMAZ

Connect with the Winner U.S. Robotics

It is no secret that US Robotics is leading the industry in information technology. As you are reading this, you may find yourself wondering what is so great about US Robotics as compared to others in the industry. Why is US Robotics THE intelligent choice for my communications needs, you may be asking yourself? Thanks for asking, READ ON!

One of the key elements in producing a fast, reliable modem is the Digital Signal Processor (DSP). The DSP is responsible for converting digital data to analog signals. Unlike most modem vendors, US Robotics researches, designs and manufactures our own DSP code. This allows US Robotics customers to update their code by a simple chip replacement in our Sportster line. Even easier is the flashrom capabilities in our Courier line where an update is just a download away! Are you still wondering what is so great about US Robotics? Since we are in control of our own core technology, we can continually refine our designs, improve productivity and remain cost-competitive. The recent update from V.FC to V.34 is a real example of how this can benefit YOU, the end user. Many vendors, who

do not manufacture their own DSP code were only able to perform this update by having customers mail in their V.FC modems and wait to receive their new V.34. US Robotics, on the other hand, was simply able to send out a chip to perform the update. This benefit means no down time for you!!

What's new at US Robotics?

INTRODUCING OUR NEW VOICE PRODUCTS

As we all know, playing Doom without the ability to scream at your partner is quite frustrating. In addition, we all know the time and money that is involved in revising documents with coworkers in remote locations.

US Robotics has the answer for you. THE NEW SPORTSTER DIGITAL SIMULTANEOUS VOICE AND DATA (DSVD) IS THE ANSWER YOU HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR!

The new DSVD is a full featured V.34 fax modem with the added capability to support simultaneous voice and data transmissions over a single phone line. (A big \$ saver)

US Robotics also introduced the

the new Sportster Vi modem. The new Vi modem brings you all of the conveniences of fax machine, answering machine, and a modem in one compact unit. This modem allows file transfers during a voice call, caller id, remote message retrieval and much more!!

Here is what people are saying about US Robotics

"Courier outranked the competition again in PC Computing's annual MVP issue—beating out products from Shiva and AT&T, the Courier V. Everything with V.34 was selected as most valuable product in the modem category for its Universal Connect capabilities, Flash ROM upgradability and high speed, for applications such as Web browsing and graphics—intense online services."

PC/ Computing

"Compatibility, ease of use, bullet proof reliability and the right on the money pricing propelled the U.S. Robotics Sportster line to victory."

Computer Reseller News

For additional information on US Robotics, contact us at the following locations:
Web Site: www.usr.com User Group: mmeany@usr.com
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Let's face it, text is important. In order to catch attention, you need to have cool, interesting, and innovative text to catch the eye of the observer. I'm going to go step by step to show how I did the effect for the improv Amiga Report logo I did.

STEP 1 - Creating the initial text.

For the first step, I needed a program that could load a large number of fonts, and hopefully do other nice and interesting effects. As I own ArtExpression, I had to settle for something that could load PostScript fonts. Since Amiga Report is a news zine, I decided to pick an appropriate styletype. Having wild, exciting, bizarre, or groovy text was out for this particular purpose, as I can only assume that something called Amiga Report has at least a moderately serious edge to it.

I chose Times-Roman because this is a typeface that is commonly associated with newspapers. I also sketched in a cute little checkmark to go with the text effect... maybe I'll use it, maybe I won't.

I save the work as a PostScript file. I could have saved the work as a standard IFF file, however that causes the file to be saved as a specified resolution. On the other hand, saving as an IFF means that you can load the file into nearly any program.

Step 2 - Transferring the File

This stage involved importing the text into a more capable

CREATING COOL TEXT EFFECTS: A GRAPHICS TUTORIAL

Corinna Cohn *gemini*

program, (essentially, anything that does not say ArtExpression on the box), and for this I used ImageFX 2.1. Since IFX2.1 has a PostScript import module, (using the hgpst datatype), and I decided to have the resolution as a 425x550, and cropped it to 425x253. The resolution is a little bit low, but for what I'm doing, it will work just fine.

we were working on now becomes the "swap"). Going to the palette, I create a range of greys, (for that modern look). After trying out a couple of experimental fills, I decide to go with a nice wheel filled from the middle of the screen.

B - The Checkmark

First, I swapped buffers again to bring me back to the first

Amiga fitting in the depression in "Report." Nice. Now I do any special effects to the shape of the text. Since I don't want anything particularly fancy for this, I simply add a small amount of anti-aliasing. If you want to get crazy, try the dream effect first. Groovy, man. I then copied the screen to the Alpha channel. This will become my texture later in the process.

D - Of Alphas, Swaps, and Textures

I decide that I want a shadow effect, so I roll my current buffer by about 5 pixels. Now I swap buffers again to bring me back to the wheel fill. Setting the fill options to normal/rub through/use alpha as friskit, I used a filled box to select the whole screen. This causes the box to rub through the entire screen except what was protected by the alpha channel. The Text is filled by what is left of the wheel-filled screen, and the text now has a shadow beneath it.



Step 3 - The Real Job

A - The Background

This is where a dab of artistic flair comes in handy. Fortunately a dab is all that is required, for that is all I possess! Now, I conceptualize what this will look like. Will it be modern? Classic? New Age? I think that I will start with it having a modern background, and then afterwards, work on the text. I swap buffers, and then select "Create New Buffer" and size it to swap (If you remember, since we swapped the buffers, the one

screen, and I decided to do something about that checkmark. This was simple. I loaded a rainbow texture that I had laying around, (I think I grabbed it off of someone's home page), so I loaded it as a brush, and then did a brush fill on the checkmark. I then cut out the brush, and then removed the spot where the checkmark, as I did not want it to be there permanently.

C - The Alpha Channel

Black text on a white background faced me. The words "Amiga" and "Report" sat atop one another, the "G" in

E - The Checkmark Revisited

I throw the checkmark back in. Easy. Just make sure all of the drawing modes are reset to their defaults.

Excuse me? How did I stick it behind the text? Well, I'm glad you asked, because otherwise I wouldn't have answered. I created a range of colors from black to almost pure white. Emphasis on almost. I then chose to exclude that range from receiving colour with my draw options. Easy as cake.

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Time to remind you of the following items available in the AmAz! Library for members to check out. Please call Mel Elliott or Bill Hagan for details.

ABACUS BOOKS:

- #1 - Amiga for Beginners
- #2 - Amiga Desktop Video Guide (3 Copies)
- #3 - Amiga 3D Graphic Programming in BASIC
- #4 - Machine Language
- #5 - Amiga Tricks & Tips
- #6 - Amiga System Programmer's Guide
- #8 - AmigsDOS Inside & Out
- #10 - Amiga C for Beginners
- #11 - Amiga C for Advanced Programmers
- #12 - More Tricks & Tips for the Amiga
- #13 - Amiga Graphics Inside & Out

Miscellaneous books:

Amiga Basic, Amiga DOS User's Manual CBM, Amiga Hardware Ref Manual CBM, Amiga Intuition Ref Manual CBM, Commodore Amiga A500/2000 Technical Reference and Amiga ROM Kernel Ref Manual CBM.

VIDEOS:

- 1 - AmigaWorld Animation
- 2 - Commodore Welcome Tour CDTV
- 3 - Deluxe Paint Demo with Disk

- 4 - Gold Disk A2500HD Demo
- 5 - Gold Disk Professional Page Demo
- 6 - Newtek Toaster (2 copies)
- 7 - Vidzeen Deluxe Paint tutorial with 2 Disks

SOFTWARE:

- 1 - WordPerfect Version 4.0
- 2 - WordPerfect Library
- 3 - AMI Alignment Drive Diagnostic
- 4 - Doctor AMI Drive/Memory Diagnostic

DISKS:

- Newtek - "Demo Reel #1" (2 Disks)

VIDEO TAPES:

- Commodore - Amiga 500 "Video Test Flight"
- ASDG - 4/03/93 Demo Reel
- ASDG - 9/14/92 Morph Plus & AD Pro Demo (12 1/2 minutes)
- Multimedia Times Four (16 Minutes)
- Commodore - Amiga 500 "Bringing The Power Home"
- AEGIS - Video Numerous Short Subjects (28 Minutes)
- GVP DSSB Infomercial "The Sound Zone"
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Step 4 - Touch Up Work

Well, everything turned out pretty good, but I wanted to fine tune things a little bit. First of all, sticking in the checkmark messed up some of my lettering. I repaired that using the pantograph draw option. I toned the white down to 235/235/235rgb I scaled it down to 380x200. I ran Unsharpen Mask to bring out the edges a little better.

Step 5 - Saving Your Work

This is a very important step. The format that you save your work in usually depends on a variety of things. How much space does your work need to fit in? I don't have a lot of

space on my hard drive, therefore, I usually use JPEG. If you are using this for a WWW page, you probably want to save it in GIF. If I had the space for it, I would save my work as IFF24.

Step 6 - The End

Now you criticize your work and lament about how bad it turned out. At least, that's what I do. :)

If you care to see any of my work, please:
<http://www.indy.net/~gemini>

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Reprinted from Amiga Report No. 3.12 June 18, 1995 AmAz!



September 1995



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

					1 Newsletter Articles Due 1 Sept	2
3	4	5	6 Newsletter Draft Completed	7	8 Newsletter Proof Completed	9 AmAz! Library at Amazing
10	11	12	13 Mail Newsletter	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 AmAz! General Meeting	21	22	23 AmAz! EX BD Meeting
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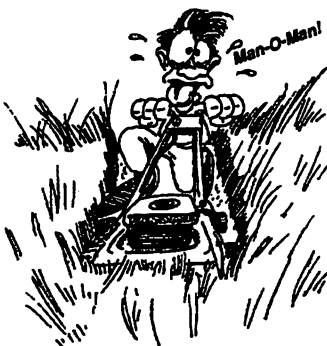
The Group owns and operates a 24 hour Bulletin Board System (BBS) called the AmAz!ing Connection (602) 435-8695. This BBS supports baud rates up to 28.800. The BBS is open to any caller (as a guest) with limited access and time. Members of the Group are allowed extra benefits as outlined below.

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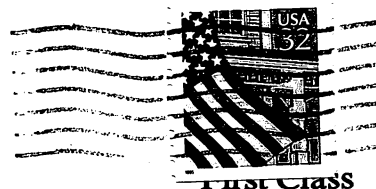
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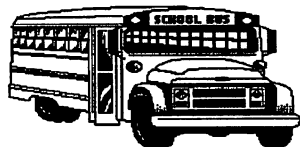


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