RISC OPERATING SYSTEM

ACORN LEADS THE WAY

Building on the successful introduction of its award-winning Archimedes range of high performance computer systems, Acorn is announcing its latest step forward in technical innovation. With the introduction of the RISC Operating System (RISC OS), Acorn is again leading the way, offering an easy-to-use multi-tasking operating system in an affordable desktop workstation.

RISC TECHNOLOGY

The Archimedes computers are the fastest in their class in the world. The heart of the Archimedes computer system is the pace-setting Acorn Risc Machine (ARM) 32-bit micro-processor, designed and developed at the Acorn research centre in Cambridge. Computer manufacturers around the world are following Acorn's lead, developing RISC (Reduced Instruction Set Computer) technology for powerful workstations of tomorrow.

The RISC Operating System introduces a whole new dimension to the Archimedes computers. Developed from the current operating system for the machines, it delivers to the user even more of the potential power that RISC technology offers. The 'co-operative' multi-tasking environment allows suitably written application programs to work together.

WINDOWS

Existing users of Archimedes computers will be familiar with the use of windows with a mouse. Not only does RISC OS allow windows onto more than one task at once on the screen, but it provides greatly extended facilities to the user through simple and flexible menus selected by the mouse.

The user can control one or more tasks through windows on the screen, yet the ROM-resident Desktop facilities remain present. Discs can be copied, files moved and applications installed by simply dragging icons with the mouse. The system makes the handling of multiple discs simplicity itself. You can even change the palette or enter an operating system command while the applications remain active. Sharing memory allocation between applications and other facilities is simple and flexible using mouse controlled settings. To activate a suitable application task once loaded, just click with the mouse on the icon bar. When finished, a click on a menu can reclaim memory if required.

MORE FEATURES – AND COMPATIBILITY TOO

There are many extensions to the current operating system. For example there is a RAM filing system which allows use of free memory for storing files providing very fast response.

There are more screen modes, virtually all of which can be used with the Desktop. There are many new graphics primitives & operations such as Bezier curves and scaled sprite plotting that support powerful features in application programs such as the Acorn Desktop Publisher.

All this and a high level of compatibility with existing applications software both in native mode and via improved 6502 emulation.

Archimedes

Acorn
The choice of experience.

POWERFUL APPLICATION PROGRAMS

Included with RISC OS package are three full-featured application programs designed to work independently or together.

- Paint – a sprite editor that allows creation or modification of graphics screens for use with any suitable application program.

- Draw – a powerful drawing program for creating line drawings with extensive colour facilities. As with Paint, these drawings can be used by other applications such as Acorn Desktop Publisher.

- Edit – a text editor for creating and editing memos and electronic mail messages for use on a network such as Acorn's Econet network.

In addition, there are many other utilities such as the alarm clock, the calculator and the printer driver that allows you to send your output to a wide range of printer types.

A PLATFORM FOR THE FUTURE

RISC OS provides an ideal platform for software writers to write powerful 'co-operative' applications that are easy to use, have a common interface style yet are supported by the power of RISC technology.