Developer Technology Briefing - Thursday 1 July 1993 - Information pack

This pack contains a copy of your Non-Disclosure Agreement countersigned, on behalf of Acorn, by David Bell, together with the following items which are confidential and subject to that Non-Disclosure Agreement:

> A draft Programmer's Reference Manual
> A disc containing icon code
> A list of delegates
> Some information about testing procedures
> Contact details for testing

Please take every precaution to prevent these documents being copied outside the organisation represented by the signatory of the NDA.

Contacting Acorn

If you wish to contact Acorn to ask for clarification on information provided at the briefing or in this pack, please contact Developer Support *in the first instance who, if they cannot help you themselves, will arrange for assistance to be provided.*

Likewise, when, in the autumn, you wish to arrange to come to Acorn to test your products, arrangements must be made through Developer Support.

	Lee Calcraft
	Ray Maidstone
3T Productions Ltd	Martin Jones
4mation	Dave Caughley, Paul Le Beau
Aleph One Ltd	Nick van Someren
APA Multimedia Ltd	Andy Smith
Applicare BV, Information Consultants	Ruud Kroon
Applied Photophysics	Peter King
Apricote Studios	Quentin Pain
Arachne Software	David Miller
Armstrong Walker Ltd	Andy Armstrong
ARVIS Multimedia	Alan Baldwin
AVP Computing	Simon Jenkins, John McGiveron
Baildon Electronics	Dave Hitchens
Burden Neurological Institute	Nigel Brown
Cadsoft Graphic Systems Ltd	Mike Flanagan
Cambridgeshire Software House	Kevin Sanders
Cambridge Systems Design	Jem Davies
Castle Technology	John Ballance
Circle Software	John Skingley
Coltonsoft Ltd	Mark Colton
Commotion Technology Supplies	Ting Kuei
CRM Ltd	Andrew Colin
Crystal Presentations Ltd	Ian Lynch
Cumana Ltd	Robert Harvey
Deltronics	Neil Lloyd
Digital Services Ltd	David Faulkner
Disney Ltd	Christine Disney
Dream Limited	Andrew Martin
Educational Electronics Ltd	Steve Whitley
Eidos plc	Stephen Streater
Electromusic Research	Mike Beecher
ESM	Patrick O'Donnell
Explan UK Ltd	Paul Richardson
Fisher-Marriott Software	Tim Armes
Fortran Friends	Kate Crennell
Icon Technology Ltd	Bob Pollard
I-Cubed	Douglas Berry
Ideas Unlimited	Roger Gammons
IFEL Ltd	Steve Picton
Impact Posters Ltd	Gordon Key
Intelligent Interfaces Ltd	Andrew Ray, Sue Ray
Interactive Learning Productions	Andrew Tarling
Iota Software Ltd	Neil Raine
Irlam Instruments	Steve Green
KudlianSoft	Gary Atkinson
Le Computer	Brian Vallot-Lewis, Vanessa Lees
Meadow Computers	Paul Johnson
MEU Cymru	Colin Bennett
NORICC (Northern Micromedia)	Ian Coultas

Oak Solutions	Richard Manby
Oregan Software Developments	Mark Perry
Paul Fray Ltd	Paul Fray
Pineapple Software	Michael Daniels
PMST, OASC	Trevor Jeffery
QD Enterprises Ltd	Richard Jelbert
Rheingold Enterprises	Alan Wrigley
Risc Developments Ltd	John Wallace
Sally Systems Ltd	Max Lipman
Science Museum	Dave Patten
Shell Centre for Mathematical Education	Daniel Pead
Sherston Software	Paul Barker
Silica Software Systems	Richard Kirby
Simis Ltd	Jonathan Newth
Simtec Electronics	Gareth Simpson, Charles Jones
S J Research Ltd	Neil Spence-Jones
Spacetech	James Ferryman
Stallion Software Ltd	Chris Ashley
TAG Developments Ltd	Ben Short
TechSoft UK Ltd	Richard Amy
Television Computer Services	Adam Goodfellow
Topologika	David Wilkins
Unilab Ltd	David Duff
Uniqueway Ltd	Simon Middleton
W C Smith and Associates	Neale Smith
Westland System Assessment Ltd	Keith Buckler
White Wing Logic	Mike Harrison
Wild Vision	Gary Atkinson
Wyddfa Software	Gwyn Williams

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What Acorn is doing

What you can do

Tools available

When and how

New Architecture not a new OS

    -> needs new hardware

    -> no generally available upgrade for
        developers to test on

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What Acorn is doing

- Less general change that RISC OS 3
    - -> Less overall testing by Acorn
    - -> More targetted testing by Acorn
- More systematic testing
    - -> less application/compatibility testing
    - -> success of RISC OS 3 testing by Developers
      means we can rely on you.
- Architecture dependent
    - -> less use within Acorn as needs
      prototype machines

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What you can do

- When invited come and test you applications
- When you come, come prepared
    - Read PRM so you know changed areas
    - Review your code for potential problem areas
    - Take representative versions of your products
        (not just latest version,
            not just development versions
            correct sized expansion cards)
    - Have a test plan of what you want to do
    - Any special equipment needed
        (printers/podule/?)
    - Consider taking build/debugging tools

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Test Plan

- Checklist
- Try on existing hardware with RISC OS 3.10
- Try on existing hardware with !NewLook
- Try on existing hardware with new Wimp
- Produce test documents
- Know what kit you need
- Probe potential problem areas
- Do general overview testing
- Test all relevant areas

      Printing (DM/Integrex/LJ/PS)

      Screen modes

      Memory configuration (low memory/

      low RMA ...)

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Start from known state
   switch off and on machine

Keep copy of machine status

Know which applications you've run

Know which directories you've opened

Watch for global changes
   e.g.   RAM or performance leaks

Use a variety of screen modes
   e.g. 12, 15,16, 9, 18, 19, 20, 23, 35, 39, 40, 43,46

Reduce available memory (e.g. increase RAM disc)sc)

Change distribution of memory (Next V Free)

Run Interactive help

Run from floppy disc, winchester, scsi, network

Run madness

Different Font cache sizes

Different configurations (ADFSBuffers, ...)

Open all menu/try all options

Enter invalid responses

Open lots of windows/files/etc

Use top-bit set characters

Remove system/fonts/etc and try running

Enter characters into numerical fields

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- During/following your visit keep in touch
    - Do you understand the problem?
    - Is it specific to you or likely to be generally
        relevant?
    - Should Acorn fix it?
    - Can you fix it?
    - Have you fixed it?
    - Can Acorn help with a workaround?
    - Be prepared to help isolate problem
    - Be prepared to follow up/but also to be patient
    - Can we document problem/resolution for
        Release Note?
- Consider if a second visit is worthwhile
- Listen and evaluate on-going information
        from Acorn

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Tools available

- SWI Tester scripting language for building
  swi level tests.
- Mouse Event Recorder with screen save
  /comparison facilities
- If a tool would be useful, ask if we know of
  one

If interest contact Charles Whyte at Acorn.

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DBell:

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When: Late Autumn?

Contact: Sue Wall

Acorn wishes to set aggressive timescales.

When hardware/software is stable there will be a short period when access is available to machine and when Acorn would be able to make adjustments to the software.

Start preparing now!

Access will still be available following this period but only to allow you to check whether your software/hardware works and to allow you to 'fix' it.

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Charles Whyte - Testing
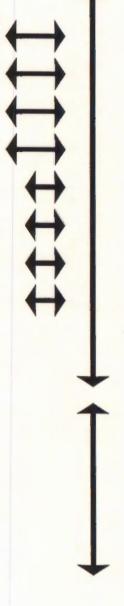
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CWhyte

Window of Controlled changes   No changes
opportunity

4   6   4

weeks