

Pace Micro Technology

OBBS Colour Bulletin Board System

INFORMATION

OBBS COLOUR BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEM

Until recently, if you wished to run your own bulletin board system and earn the title of SYSOP, it was necessary to spend several hundred pounds on software and invest in an appropriate computer, usually one of the Tandy range. Now, with OBBS you can run a powerful BBS on your own BBC micro.

OBBS entry level system includes many standard features found in existing systems. Although we recommend a minimum of 400K for serious applications it can be operated on lower capacity drives. The BBS will operate on most presently available DFS's (including double density systems). Most System Operators will find a printer useful but it is not essential for the operation of the system. Finally, you will require an auto-answer modem, in particular OBBS has been specifically written for the Nightingale fitted with accessory board.

As a system operator there are many features within OBBS over which you have control. For example, when BOOTing the system at the start of a day, you may specify the date and time and whether or not a printer is connected. As an aid to understanding the operation of the board before you go live, a simple change to the main program will allow you to act as both the host and the user at the same time. This will give you a useful insight into how best to organise your board.

A log is maintained of all system users who can enter their own password for security purposes. The userlog contains information including the name of the caller and where they are calling from, but also incorporates a privilege status indicator which may be set to any suitable value (0-255) by the operator. This means that different users may be given access to different subsets of the available facilities.

From the user's point of view, facilities are available to leave public or private (EMAIL) messages. Apart from the public message area, a number of special interest groups may be defined so that users with particular interests can communicate through separate message areas on the data disc. For example you might like to set up different areas for users of BBC, Apple or other types of computer. Similarly it is possible to create other areas for people with other common interests e.g. fishing, motorbikes etc. In this way it is possible to make the board interesting to a wider range of users.

A unique feature of the OBBS software is the ability to send graphics screens using Mode 7 graphics. Anyone then using a BBC can receive colour frames. The system simply asks callers what type of computer they are using and adjusts its output accordingly so that computers which are unable to display teletext graphics simply receive normal text. This feature is certain to make OBBS very popular and colour can be used to great effect to bring your board alive. In fact, one of the utilities supplied on the disc provides a powerful but easy to use teletext screen editor and with practice you will be able to create attractive, colourful screens for incorporation into your board.

The ability to download software is clearly one of the most attractive features of bulletin boards and OBBS provides not one, but two downloading methods. Firstly, 'safe' file transfers can be achieved under XMODEM for those users equipped with Commstar, Data Highway or another compatible package. The alternative, for those users with more basic communications facilities is simple spooling of the file as a sequence of ASCII characters. Downloading is therefore available to anyone with the simplest of comms facilities and it is only your imagination as a sysop which will limit the extent to which telesoftware is made available.

OBBS bulletin board software is supplied on double sided, 80 track discs and costs just £21 plus VAT.

Your nearest dealer is:

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(A Division of Pace Software Supplies Ltd.)

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