

AMOS USERS CLUB

NEWSLETTER # 2

Firstly, let me take this opportunity of welcoming you as members to the most exciting Users Club for the Amiga!! I am sure that by now, most of you will have spent several sleepless nights enjoying AMOS and trying to learn as much as possible about it. Since AMOS went on sale four weeks ago, its sales have skyrocketed and we have no doubt that it will end up being the biggest selling Amiga product in the World.

At a recent Amiga Expo in Sydney, our stand was continually crowded with people wanting to know more about AMOS, and similarly at the recent World Computer Education Conference at Darling Harbour. People were simply dumbfounded when they saw what AMOS can do, and we had many complaints about the fact that it wasn't available on the IBM or Mac. I guess we can pity those poor people who don't own Amigas.

The main aims of our newsletters to you will be to always keep you up to date with new products as they become available; lists of Public Domain disks that will undoubtedly grow to very large numbers; and to keep you informed of bugs and problems, and of course their solutions.

We will start with - BUGS!!

1. LLIST!

Many users have toiled with the intolerant LLIST command. It simply does not work they cry! Well folks, it doesn't! (Bright red faces at Mandarin). The LLIST command is a relic from the STOS system - it was designed for a line number based editor which, as you know, AMOS is not! The solution is to do the following:

- * Define the area you wish to print by selecting the start block and end block options from the blocks menu
- * Select Print block from the block's menu.

2. IBOB - ISPRITE.

Two useful AMOS commands have escaped the system and done a runner. Prison warder Richard Vanner said "These two commands are wanted by many groups and due to a late check one night they managed to make their escape. We now have the famous inspector Lionet heading the search and we expect a quick and easy pickup soon".

3. HARD DISK ICONS.

If you have AMOS on a hard disk and wonder why it refuses to save program icons along with your AMOS Basic files, then wonder no longer - all is revealed! The hard disk installer (INSTALL.AMOS) fails to copy the icon file (Def_Icon.Info) from the AMOS programme disk to the hard disk. Simply use the copy command from the CLI to transfer the file. It can be found inside the AMOS_System folder and must be placed into the same folder created on the hard disk.

PROBLEMS!!! (And their solutions!)

1. HELP WITH ACCESSORIES.

Did you know that pressing the HELP key when in the AMOS Editor will bring up a special Help Accessory? From this, documents can be accessed which describe how to use the various accessories and games supplied with AMOS. You may have managed to work this out and then found that AMOS produces an annoying software failure requestor (great help) - mainly if there's no programme in memory. This occurs more frequently on 512k A500 machines but can also happen on one meg systems. To get around the bug, simply load up a small programme first (e.g. HiThere.AMOS), then press HELP.

2. RS232

AMOS users who wish to use the Serial port (RS232) must ensure the system is configured to do this. The procedure below explains how this can be achieved by changing the default parallel setting to serial:

- * First load up the CONFIG.AMOS file from the AMOS Programme disk.

- * Select the Load default configuration option from the Disk menu.
- * Click on Drives and Ports from the Set menu.
- * Press on the down arrow loon to bring into view port option 25 (Par).
- * Change the text Par to Ser.
- * Save out the new config file, using Save configuration from the Disk menu.

3. BACKED-UP BUT NOT WORKING!

AMOS programme disks backed up from the Workbench don't work properly. If you double click on the new disk's Icon you'll get an Error while opening ::212. This problem can easily be rectified by doing the following:

- * Click on the AMOS Programmes disk from the Workbench.
- * Select the INFO option from the menu. The Info dialogue box will appear.
- * At the DEFAULT TOOL line, delete the colon and enter the following text:

SYS:System/DiskCopy

This will allow you to back-up the disk. Remember that Workbench adds the text "Copy of" onto the name of your back-up disk. Simply re-name the new copy to "AMOS" or "AMOS_DATA".

4. IF...AND...OR...THEN?

A fundamental expression logic fails to work in AMOS. If for example you had the following programme:

```
A=1 : B$="HELLO"
```

```
If A=1 And B$="HELLO" Then Print "A is the same as B1"
```

You'd find that this programme doesn't work in AMOS (Reporting a Type mismatch error) even though it has the correct syntax. The solution to make it work, is to place brackets around the expressions:

```
If (A=1) And (B$="HELLO") Then Print "A is the same as B1"
```

PLEASE if you strike any other problems, please notify me and we will get an answer for you and write up the problem and solution in the next newsletter.

PUBLIC DOMAIN

We are dividing the Public Domain disks into two parts - Australian and British. The Aussie ones are those we have written here and remember that we are very keen to see any of the programmes that you may have written in AMOS, so please start sending them in - the more the merrier! (Please make sure that when you send your programme in, to let us know if we can include them in our PD Library - who knows, you may become famous.) Here are the current lists of available PD's:

BRITISH PD's

- BA1: GMC (Games Music Creator) A powerful and easy-to-use utility that allows you to create musical tunes. Uses all four channels and comes with DOC files. Use the GMC-to-AMOS convert programme (found on your AMOS program disk) to alter a "block" of music data and then play it back in AMOS using a simple MUSIC command. This disk also includes the source code for Francois' AMOS music routine.
- BA2: FONTS DISK 1. This contains 14 typefaces including Times, Bookman, Helvetica and Tiny.
- BA3: FONTS DISK 2. 13 including Avant Garde, Celtic, Palo Alto, Basel, Peignot and Aldous.
- BA4: FONTS DISK 3. 14 including Broadway, Camelot, Future, Stencil and Vancouver.
- BA5: Programme which allows you to read ST disks on the Amiga - so you can load STOS programmes.
- BA6: VIRUSX 4.0. The Amiga's most widely-used virus killer. Will supply the newest version as it becomes available.
- BA7: MUSIC TUNES. A collection of tunes by Allistair Brimble specially commissioned by Mandarin for AMOS.

AUSTRALIAN PD's

AA1: Not yet available.
AA2: 124 Instruments for GMC/Sound Tracker
AA3: 122 Instruments for GMC/Sound Tracker
AA4: 92 Instruments for GMC/Sound Tracker
AA5: 94 Instruments for GMC/Sound Tracker
AA6: 99 Instruments for GMC/Sound Tracker
AA7: 69 Instruments for GMC/Sound Tracker

ORDERING YOUR PD's

1. Please use the enclosed order form.
2. Always clearly PRINT all the information on the order form.
3. Always order by the exact codes.
e.g. AA6 or BA4, whatever the correct code is.
5. The cost for your PD disks is as follows:
If you order 1.....\$7.00
 2.....\$12.00
 3.....\$17.00
 4 or more...\$5.00 each

N.B. Cost includes postage and handling.

"EXTRAS" IS COMING!!!

The "EXTRAS" disk which is FREE will be sent out automatically to all members of our Club as soon as it arrives from England, which should be sometime next week. It contains, as far as we know, SOUNDTRACKER plus SONIX CONVERTOR, MENU EDITOR, AMAL EDITOR, RAMOS RUN-TIME MODULE, SPRITES and many other helpful files.

We will send "EXTRAS" out with your order for PD disks. If however, you only want the "EXTRAS" disk, then please send in \$2.00 worth of stamps to cover postage and handling.

In our next newsletter we will have lots more information, new PD disks, some more helpful answers, and an exciting competition!

Bye for now!

NEIL MILLER
Amos Users Club