

ATTR Syntax: Attr filename [permissions] Usage : Examine or change the security permissions of a file Opts: -perm = turn off specified permission perm= turn on specified permission -a = inhibit s - no to own pw - Syntax one de single Basic0 filename CHD S specific directory to specified path cmp Syntax: Cmp filename1 filename2 Usage : File comparison utility COBBLER Syntax: Cobbler devname Usage : Creates OS-9 bootstrap file from current boot CONFIG Syntax: Config Usage: Create custom boot and system disks COPY Syntax: Copy data from one file E Syntax: Date [t] specify : Check for work = save cluster print {<devn. filename delete directory [e] [x] names executi

# AUSTRALIAN OS9 NEWSLETTER

EDITOR :  
Gordon Bentzen  
8 Odin Street  
SUNNYBANK Qld 4109  
(07) 345-5141

Display s converted characters to standard output DSAVE Syntax : Dsave [-opts] [dev] [pathname] Usage : Generates procedure file to copy all files in a directory system Opts : -b make a system disk by using OS9boot if present -b=<path> = make system disk using path as source i = indent for directory levels l = do not process b command ECHO Syn output ED text edito error messages for given error numbers EX Syntax: ex <modname> Usage: Chain to the given module FORMAT Syntax : Format <devname> Usage : Initializes an OS-9 diskette Opts ; R - Ready L - Logical format only "disk name" 1/2 number of sides 'No of

DECEMBER 1989

AUSTRALIAN OS9 NEWSLETTER  
Newsletter of the National OS9 User Group

EDITOR : Gordon Bentzen

HELPERS : Bob Devries and Don Berrie

SUPPORT : Brisbane OS9 Level 2 User Group.

Well how did we go with that wish list called for in October's editorial? Not very well, is the short answer. You may recall that we offered some suggestions for content of this newsletter and sought your "wish list" of just what you wanted to see. I must say that the number of replies did not prompt me to visit the local hardware store for a larger mail box. There was one response though, by way of a note added to a subscription renewal, which I will repeat for you. "More C, less Basic09". Do you agree?

On a more encouraging note however, we are happy to report that membership of this User Group has grown to forty-seven (47) which includes a number of renewals, and some new members. To those members who have renewed we offer our sincere thanks for your continued support, and to those members who have joined this year we say WELCOME and hope that you find something of interest in each coming edition.

Just as a of matter interest, the membership last year reached a total of seventy-four, which we were very pleased with. Some of these members who have not renewed for this current subscription year were good enough to write and advise that they have made a change to other systems, for a variety of reasons. It seems that in spite of the lack of support by Intertan of both CoCo and OS-9, and their decision to drop the CoCo completely, there is still a good deal of interest in OS-9 by owners of this powerful little computer. The OS-9 operating system is widely used on the world scene for a variety of applications, and of course runs on a variety of hardware including computers supported by OS-9 68K. It may well be that we will change our computer system at some time in the future and toss out OS-9 for MS DOS. Perish the thought!

Although this newsletter reaches only the converted, or dedicated OS9ers, we feel that our efforts can only help to maintain interest in this great operating system, and we hope to present articles and news about all implementations of OS-9. Therefore we do need material from all members, at all levels of experience, in order that each of us can learn something from these pages.

Now, I must confess to not following all our newsletter articles with the enthusiasm each author might hope for. At a local user group meeting during October, Don Berrie asked "Who has tried the Macro facilities of EDIT covered in the October newsletter?" Much to Don's disappointment, I had to say that I had not tried to use what he had covered in his article. How about you? I did, however, compile the Database in C by Bob Devries, and learnt a few things along the way. The instructions that Bob presented looked foolproof, but then he was probably not counting on somebody like me who jumped in with C compiler in hand and little reference to the instructions. This sounds very familiar doesn't it? Anyway, after a couple of "unconditional abort" errors, and a little reading of the instructions, success was mine. If you have any problems with compiling the code presented in the series I am sure that Bob would be happy to help, but take it from me that all is in the instructions.

You will all know that the process of learning requires some help from others, but most of all it requires some effort by you, so please make the effort to help yourself and to help others. The fundamental aim of this newsletter, after all, is just to help each other.

This is not news, I hear you say, we already know all that. May I suggest then, that to stop me from continually pleading for articles and feedback, YOU send something to us. We want to publish your article, hint, tip, question or comment. So here is a challenge to every member to spend 41 cents and mail something for our next edition, which will be February 1990. We don't need a masterpiece (they are few and far between) we do need at least a comment from everybody.

We wish a Merry Christmas to all members, and trust that the new year brings to all, health, happiness and prosperity. Bob, Don & Gordon.

# AUSTRALIAN OS9 NEWSLETTER

## LINEATER

An OSK Basic programme by David Eaton.

OS9\_6809 version by Bob Devries.

Here's a little programme from one of our 68000 OS9 users. The programme simply shows how screen accessing is done on the ATARI version of OS9, and could be made the basis of a learn-to-spell type programme. I have made the necessary changes and provided the CoCo version. It would be relatively easy to add to this piece of code to make it into a spelling programme. The speed of printing and erasing the characters on the screen can be changed by altering the FOR-NEXT loop variable y, which is currently set at 3000. An interesting point about the two different versions, is that they both run at the same speed, even though the ATARI computer runs at a much higher speed. I hope one of our readers will take up the challenge to write a programme around this small piece, for the benefit of others in our group. Below are the two listings, first the OSK (ATARI) version, then the OS9 (CoCo) version.

Regards...Bob Devries.

### PROCEDURE lineater

```
0000      (* When using, replace 'DIM ab' with 'PARAM ab' *)
0034      (* A word or sentence is shown for a short time and then eaten *)
0078      (* Version TDE 1.2 *)
0090      (* Adapted from programme in Nibble Vol. 2. No. 3 *)
00C6      DIM ab:STRING[60]
00DC      DIM x,y,length:INTEGER
00F4      PRINT CHR$(27); "E"
0106      PRINT "Enter the message you wish to show for a short time "
0142      PRINT \ PRINT
014A      INPUT ab
0152      PRINT CHR$(27); "E"
0164      PRINT CHR$(27); "Y"; CHR$(44); CHR$(50);
018C      PRINT ab
0194      length=LEN(ab)
01A2      FOR x=1 TO 20000\ NEXT x
01D4      FOR x=length TO 0 STEP -1
01FE          PRINT CHR$(27); "Y"; CHR$(44); CHR$(50+x); " ";
0232          FOR y=1 TO 3000\ NEXT y
0264      NEXT x
0276      PRINT
027A      END
```

### PROCEDURE lineater

```
0000      (* When using, replace 'DIM AB' with 'PARAM AB'
002F      (* A word or sentence is shown for a short time and then 'eaten'
006F      (* Version TDE 1.2 (adapted for CoCo Basic09 by Bob Devries)
00AB      (* Adapted from a programme in 'Nibble' Vol 2 No 3
00DD      DIM AB:STRING[60]
00E9      DIM x,y,length:INTEGER
00F8      PRINT CHR$(12)
00FD      PRINT "Enter message you wish to show for a short time "
0131      PRINT \ PRINT
0135      INPUT AB
013A      PRINT CHR$(12)
013F      PRINT CHR$(2); CHR$(50); CHR$(44);
014D      PRINT AB
0152      length=LEN(AB)
015B      FOR x=1 TO 20000 \NEXT x
0177      FOR x=length TO 0 STEP -1
018E          PRINT CHR$(2); CHR$(50+x); CHR$(44); " ";
01A4          FOR y=1 TO 3000 \NEXT y
01C0      NEXT x
01CB      PRINT
01CD      END
```



# AUSTRALIAN OS9 NEWSLETTER

Resistor Calculator.  
presented by Bob Devries.

Here's a handy little programme to work out what parallel or series combination of resistors are needed to produce an odd value that is not in the normally available range of resistors. Very handy for when you accidentally connect your multimeter to the mains with it still switched to the ohms scale. The resistors in that part of a multimeter are usually very odd values.

This programme came from 'Silicon Chip' magazine, and was written by Steve Payor, who wrote it in GWBasic for an IBM PC. I converted it to Basic09 and made some minor cosmetic changes to it. So here is the code:

```

PROCEDURE Resistor
0000     BASE 1
0002     DIM E12(85):REAL
000E     DIM i,j,nearest:INTEGER
001D     DIM res,R1,Rmin,Rmax,tolerance:REAL
0034
0035     PRINT CHR$(12)
003A     PRINT \ PRINT
003E     FOR i=1 TO 85
004E         READ E12(i)
0057     NEXT i
0062
0063     LOOP
0065         PRINT "Input desired resistance (1 to 999.9) ";
0090         INPUT res
0095         IF res=0 THEN
00A2             END
00A4         ENDIF
00A6         PRINT "Input desired tolerance (%) ";
00C7         INPUT tolerance
00CC         Rmin=res*(1-tolerance/100)
00E0         Rmax=res*(1+tolerance/100)
00F4         PRINT CHR$(12)
00F9         PRINT \ PRINT
00FD         PRINT "Looking for a value between "; Rmin; " and "; Rmax; "."
0131         PRINT
0133         PRINT "Calculating..."
0145         PRINT
0147         nearest=25
014E         LOOP
0150         EXITIF E12(nearest+1)>=res THEN
0163         ENDEXIT
0167         nearest=nearest+1
0172         ENDL0OP
0176         FOR i=nearest-24 TO nearest
018B             FOR j=nearest-24 TO i
01A0                 R1=E12(i)+E12(j)
01B2                 IF R1>Rmin AND R1<Rmax THEN
01C7                     PRINT USING "R7.2",E12(i); \ PRINT " and ";
01E2                     PRINT USING "R7.2",E12(j); \ PRINT " in series, ";
0206                     PRINT USING "R4.1", (R1/res-1)*100;
0220                     PRINT "%"
0225                 ENDIF
0227             NEXT j
0232         NEXT i
023D
023E         FOR i=nearest+1 TO nearest+25

```

# AUSTRALIAN OS9 NEWSLETTER

```

0256      FOR j=nearest+1 TO i
0268      R1=1/((1/E12(i))+1/E12(j))
0289      IF R1>Rmin AND R1<Rmax THEN
029E      PRINT USING "R7.2",E12(i); \ PRINT " and ";
0289      PRINT USING "R7.2",E12(j); \ PRINT " in parallel, " ;
02DD      PRINT USING "R4.1", (R1/res-1)*100;
02F7      PRINT "%"
02FC      ENDIF
02FE      NEXT j
0309      NEXT i
0314      PRINT \ PRINT "Search complete."
032A      PRINT
032C      ENDOOP
0330      DATA .01,.012,.015,.018,.022,.027,.033,.039,.047,.056,.068,.082
0388      DATA .1,.12,.15,.18,.22,.27,.33,.39,.47,.56,.68,.82
03E0      DATA 1,1.2,1.5,1.8,2.2,2.7,3.3,3.9,4.7,5.6,6.8,8.2
0434      DATA 10,12,15,18,22,27,33,39,47,56,68,82
045C      DATA 100,120,150,180,220,270,330,390,470,560,680,820
0488      DATA 1000,1200,1500,1800,2200,2700,3300,3900,4700,5600,6800,8200
04BF      DATA 10000,12000,15000,18000,22000,27000,33000,39000,47000,56000,68000,82000.
0505      DATA 1000000.

```

As usual, the listing is from Basic09's LIST command so that you can check for errors in the lines by comparing the psuedo line numbers (actually number of bytes from the start). Have fun with it, and I hope it will get you out of trouble sometime.

Regards,  
Bob Devries.

oo

CoCo Horizon

A new colour computer magazine is about to be released here in sunny Queensland!

Its name will be CoCo Horizon. It will probably be published on a monthly basis (depending on subscriptions and authors) and will cost approximately \$3.00 per issue. It is hoped that the first issue will be available sometime in January 1990.

Readers who are interested in supporting this venture should contact:-

Andrew McQuirk  
10 Deborah Court,  
Slack's Creek.  
Queensland. 4127.  
Phone: 07 2082966

oo

## AUSTRALIAN OS9 NEWSLETTER

### THE FUTURE OF THE COCO3

A "Philosophical" viewpoint by Nickolas Marentes

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS BASED ON MY OWN OBSERVATIONS OF THE COCO3 MARKET AND COMPUTER INDUSTRY WORLDWIDE. I HAVE NOT BEEN IN CONTACT WITH TANDY CORPORATION FOR ANY OF THE INFORMATION OUTLINED IN THIS ARTICLE. FEEDBACK TO THIS ARTICLE IS QUITE WELCOME AND SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO COCO-LINK MAGAZINE.

Anyone who owns a CoCo3 would surely be deeply disappointed by the recent "chop" of the CoCo3 by InterTan. I, as one who has spent many hours developing software and hardware for it am more so. But I do believe that there are two sides to this. The side we are all familiar with, that Tandy has pulled the rug on its loyal CoCo3 customers. The other side is that this is the way the market is heading. Before going into more details, lets look at the CoCo3 market prior to the "tragedy". Let's look further than just our little confined CoCo3 world and see what's happening in the rest of the computer world.

Commodore are on the verge of chopping the C-64 and C-128. A C-64 with a disk drive retails for around the \$600 mark. Anyone wanting to spend this much money on a computer which they will primarily be playing games on may as well fork out the extra \$300 and get an Amiga 500 pack giving them 512K of Ram, 880K high speed drives, 4096 color graphics, stereo sound and access to fantastic software. Anyone buying a C-64 solely for games may as well spend only \$200 for a Nintendo games console and be done with slow loading procedures.

Someone who is not interested in just playing games but wants to do some serious computing will generally spend a bit more to get a more powerful computer.

What I am trying to highlight here is that the low end computer market is dividing into two distinct areas. The first is the very low end game playing market. The other is the upper-low end computer enthusiast (play-the-occasional-game) market. The very low end market is heading towards the games console area. If games is all they want, then games is all they need. No need to know about keyboard commands, loading procedures, programming languages etc., just slap a cartridge in and play. Games consoles are cheaper to produce and therefore cheaper to buy and to many, a low price is the right price.

The upper-low end user wants big power for lower bucks. Half a meg, one meg and eight meg of Ram. A fast 16 bit processor and fast harddrives if the money can reach that far. They want a large and varied software base. IBM compatability is a big thing because it brings many users together. Software developers love it because it means more customers, computer developers love it for the same reason.

The CoCo3 as many other computers of the era, fall mid way between these to areas. It plays games for a reasonably low cost but can be expanded to run powerful operating systems. Customer demands nowadays are more specific. For one who just wants a games unit, the CoCo is expensive and the variety of games is small. For one who wants a power system, the CoCo needs to be expanded. By the time a CoCo is equipped with a disk drive, 512K Ram, operating system and RGB monitor, it isn't too much cheaper than a PC, Amiga or Atari ST system. This is exactly the same problem that the C-64 and C-128 face (although the C-64 market has more momentum than the CoCo market and will stay around a little longer).

Well, we see that the CoCo3 is without a solid market area and in this light, we can understand why InterTan have given it the chop. Enough of the grim facts and let's look at what the future holds.

If Tandy were to do a CoCo4, what shape or form must it take to recapture a market position. From the last few paragraphs, we can conclude that it must either go upmarket by adding extra memory, built in drives, be faster and more professional and make OS-9 the standard operating system OR go down market and make it into a games console.

The upmarket approach would fail before it even started. Many companies have tried to go their own way, avoiding the IBM PC standard. Most of these companies are not heard of anymore. The IBM standard is a big standard. Commodore, Atari, Amstrad even Tandy have seen this. All these companies have gone IBM compatible. Commodore and Atari have continued their quest with their own standard and have achieved reasonable success but the IBM standard still dominates. The CoCo would not have a chance and even if it did, it would be too big a risk for a company like Tandy to take on.

## AUSTRALIAN OS9 NEWSLETTER

The future of the CoCo3 is in the games console area. Now before you start swearing and make statements like "I don't want a games computer!", let me explain how I (if I was in charge of Tandy) would go about a CoCo4.

Imagine a box which has a cartridge slot in the top for game packs, connectors in the side to take two (or four!) joysticks, several buttons for selecting and starting games and video connectors at the back for a standard TV and RGB monitor. This would be the Tandy CoCo game console unit. It would basically be a CoCo3 with no keyboard, no BASIC ROM, 128K RAM plus a 3 channel sound chip (as used in many games consoles). This would be cheap to produce and low cost to buy. Now what if this box also had a duplicate cartridge connector as used in the CoCo3 but placed at the back of the unit. What if it also had a connector at the front of the unit marked "keyboard". Tandy could sell an add-on kit consisting of an Extended Color Basic Rom cartridge and separate detachable keyboard which when plugged into the "box" transforms it into a CoCo3! Bring out a new (or re-introduce the old) disk drive unit with Disk Extended Basic and plug it into the back connector and there you have a CoCo3 disk system!!

Now let's get really creative! How about also offering an OS-9 Level 2 ROM cartridge !!! Maybe even with Multi-View!!!!

I feel that this design would keep existing CoCo owners very happy and will bring together a lot more CoCo users. Users who first bought the system as a games console and later decided to upgrade it to a computer and enter the world of CoCo computing! The more I think about it the more great ideas I come up with!

Well, time to get off my soap box and return to the real world of gloom where the only thing that keeps us going is the hope that the CoCo4 become reality.

THIS ARTICLE IS BEING SENT TO TANDY CORPORATION IN FORT WORTH TEXAS IN THE HOPE THAT THEIR ENGINEERS AND MARKETING DEPARTMENTS ARE "STIMULATED".

oooooooooooo0000000000oooooooooooo

Let's Clear the Slate.

3 Different Ways.

by Rob Devries and Don Kerrie.

I'll bet many of you have cursed OS9 for not having a CLS in its repertoire of available commands. Well, here are now three different versions for you to look at and use. They all do the same thing, that is, send to the screen the code(s) necessary to clear it.

While Don and I were discussing another programme used in this newsletter, Don showed me a CLS command which he had written for his ATARI 520 with OS9/68000. He had written it in 'C', and it was an astounding 4698 bytes long ! I said to him that I thought we should write one in 68000 assembler. There was only one snag. Neither of us is on speaking terms with 68K assembly language, even though both of have a computer with that CPU in it.

We did some investigation and experimentation, and after some in depth study of the manuals, we came up with the programme below. Also shown are two different versions for OS9/68009, one for the RMA and RLINK programmes, and one for ASM. Of course, the 68K version is compiled with R68 and linked with L68.

Here's the source code for 68000/OS9

```
nam cls

Edition equ 1          first edition
typelan set (Prgrm<<8)+Objct  set program type and language
attrev set (ReEnt<<8)+1    set attributes and revision

* next comes the programme section

psect cls,typelan,attrev,Edition,0,start

use /h0/defs/systype.d  definitions files to use
use /h0/defs/oskdefs.d
```

# AUSTRALIAN OS9 NEWSLETTER

\* next is the initialised data and stack area

```

vsect

ds.b 255

ends

start  moveq #1,d0      select stdout
        moveq #2,d1      printing two chars
        lea  clscmd(pc),a0  point to chars to print
        os9 I$Write      do write command
        moveq #0,d1      clear the error number
        os9 F$Exit       and exit
clscmd  dc.b 27,69      $1B,$45 clears the screen on ATARI OS9/68K
        ends            end of programme

```

To assemble this, we used the following command lines:-

```

R68 cls.a -o=/R0/cls.o
L68 cls.o -l=/H0/LIB/syslib.l -o=/R0/cls

```

This resulted in the binary file 'cls' to be stored in the ramdisk, a mere 116 bytes. Because of its length (or lack of it), it loads much more quickly than the C version, and also works more quickly.

Here is the OS9/6809 version for the RMA assembler and RLINK linker.

```

nam Cls
Edition equ 1
Prgrm  equ 16
Objct  equ 1
ReEnt  equ 128

typelan set Prgrm+Objct
attrev  set ReEnt+1

psect Cls,typelan,attrev,edition,0,start

use /D1/LIB/os9defs.a

vsect
rmb 255
endsect

start  lda ##01      select stdout
        ldy ##0001    print one char
        leax clscmd,pcr  point to char to print
        os9 I$Write    go print it
        clrb          clear error if any
        os9 F$Exit     and exit
clscmd  fcb 12        $0C clears the screen on CoCo
        endsect       end of programme

```

Assembly is done like this:-

```

RMA cls.a -l -o=/R0/cls.o
RLINK cls.o -l=/D1/LIB/sys.l -o=/R0/cls

```



## AUSTRALIAN OS9 NEWSLETTER

Now here's the code for those of you with OS9 Level One, or those who don't have the RMA assembler. You'll notice that the code is written differently to the previous two.

```
nam CIs
ifpl
use /dd/defs/os9defs
endc
```

```
Edition equ 1
Typelan set Prgrm+Objct
Attrev set ReEnt+1
```

```
mod CIsEnd,CIsNam,typelan,attrev,start,CIsDat
```

```
CIsNam fcs /CIs/
fcb 1
```

```
rmb 255
```

```
CIsDat equ .           the period in this line must not be left out
```

```
start lda ##01
      ldy ##0001
      leax CIsCmd,pcr
      os9 l$Write
      clrb
      os9 F$Exit
```

```
CIsCmd fcb 12
      emod
```

```
CIsEnd equ *           asterisk here important!
```

To assemble this version the command line is like this:-

```
ASM cis.a 1,o=/R0/cIs #12k
```

Note the #12K here is necessary else the assembler quits with symbol table full error.

Well, there you have it. You'll notice that in all the examples I've used the R0 ramdisk as my temporary storage. You may of course use any drive and directory. This comment also applies to the pathlist for the libraries and other definitions files. You'll need to change them to suit your system. For example, in the last version, I used '/DD' as the drive specifier, which is the correct way for OS9 level two, and denotes the 'default drive' (read the article about that elsewhere in this issue), you may change that to /D0 or /D1 or whatever to suit the situation.

For those of you who are using the CIs programme which appeared in 'The Rainbow' of November 1986 page 204, there are two errors in the source code. The first one in line 18, is not fatal, and is rectified by replacing the '\*' with a '.'. The second error causes the programme to modify itself, which is, of course, quite illegal in OS9. To change this change line 22 to read ... leax char,u ... not ,pcr as it is now. This also results in the code being two bytes shorter.

Well, have fun with that, OS9 level two users may want to include this command with the 'Shell' so that it will always be in memory.

Regards,  
Don Berrie  
Bob Devries

## AUSTRALIAN OS9 NEWSLETTER

An explanation on windows for your system disk  
by Rob Unsworth

What I am going to do is explain how to configure windows for your system disk. Windows that are loaded with your boot file and do not require wcreate or display sequences in your startup file.

The listing below is a copy of the startup file which was being used by one of user group members, who gave a copy of his system disk to a new member, and I have since noticed a third member with the same problem. Now you know why I am writing this article.

```
iniz r0
* start system time from keyboard
setime </1
format /r0 </1
iniz w1
iniz w2
iniz w7
wcreate /w1 -s=02 0 0 80 24 00 01 01
wcreate /w2 -s=02 0 0 80 24 02 07 07
wcreate /w7 -s=02 0 0 80 24 05 02 02
shell i=/w1&
shell i=/w2&
shell i=/w7&
dates
```

As you can see w1, w2, and w7 are going to be available to the user each time the system is booted. These three windows are being loaded in with the boot file, probably with the default descriptors that came with the system master disk. As the windows are what we are discussing here I will only refer to that part of the startup file which relates to windows.

The three iniz commands are not really necessary, unless you want to reserve memory for each window, as the system will allocate memory dynamically (as needed) to each window.

The wcreate command will be loaded, then /w1 will have it's paramaters changed to an 80,24 text screen with a white foreground a blue background and blue border. Then wcreate will be unlinked and then loaded again for /w2. The changes to /w2 will be made then it will be unlinked and loaded again for /w3.

Get the picture.....A lot of wasted time.

There is a simple solution, change the default paramaters of the windows in the boot file. To do this requires a little understanding of what paramaters need changing and where they are located. I will now endeavour to give you the means to obtain that understanding.

Colour codes	Screen type code
00 White	1 = 40 * 24 text screen
01 Blue	2 = 80 * 24 text screen
02 Black	3 = not used
03 Green	4 = not used
04 Red	5 = 640 * 192, 2-colour graphics
05 Yellow	6 = 320 * 192, 4-colour graphics
06 Magenta	7 = 640 * 192, 4-colour graphics
07 Cyan	8 = 320 * 192, 16-colour graphics

The codes above are the ones we require along with the start location of the window, this being the column and row of the first character space. You will also have to decide on the size of the window, do not get this confused with screen type, as you can have an 80 column text screen (screen type code 2) that is only 40 columns wide.

Now choose.... Screen type, Start location, Window size, Foreground, Background and Border colours.

The next step is to see where these changes need to be made. Then we can look into how to make the changes. The list of numbers below is a dump of the W1 module supplied with your system disk. What we are looking for is to locate the bytes that need to be changed to produce the window we want when we boot OS9. The byte for the number of columns is at \$2c and you will find that the number of columns is \$1b (27). The rows are at \$2d which shows the number of rows at \$0b (11). The screen type is located at \$30 and is \$01. The start location of the window can be found at \$31 (column) and \$32 (row) and in the listing for W1 they are both \$00 indicating that the first character space is the top left hand corner of the screen. The only thing left is the colours, these are located at \$33 (foreground) which is \$02 (black), \$34 (background) which is \$00 (white) and \$35 (border) which is \$04 (red).

```

Addr  0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 A B C D E F  0 2 4 6 8 A C E
-----
0000  87CD 0043 0036 F181 E000 3800 3B03 07FF  .M.C.6q.0.8.;...
0010  A11A 0000 0100 0101 0000 1808 180D 1B04  !.....
0020  0117 0305 0807 8000 0036 0000 1B0B 0101  .....6.....
0030  0100 0002 0004 5781 5343 C643 4333 49CF  .....W1SCFCC3I0
0040  7CD1 80

```

Now to change this window descriptor to be the same as the one in the wcreate w1 command in the listing of the startup file. A 80 column by 24 line text screen with white lettering on a blue background with a blue border.

```

OS9:load modpatch
OS9:modpatch
l l w1          *links to the w1 module in memory
c c 2c 1b 50    *changes $2c from $1b (27) to $50 (80) column
002c 1b 50
c c 2d 0b 18    *changes $2d from $0b (11) to $18 (24) rows
002d 0b 18;
c c 30 01 02    *changes $30 from $01 (40) to $02 (80) screen type
0030 01 02
c c 33 02 00    *changes $33 from $02 (black) to $00 (white) foreground
0033 02 00
c c 34 00 01    *changes $34 from $00 (white) to $01 (blue) background
0034 00 01
c c 35 04 01    *changes $35 from $04 (red) to $01 (blue ) border
v               *to verify and update the modules CRC
<control><break>

```

The W1 module in memory has now been changed. Any of the other window modules can be changed in the same way. You can now create a new system disk using cobbler or OS9gen, and eliminate those wcreate commands from your startup file.

I hope this has made the configuring of windows a little clearer. A helpful hint that will save you a lot of hassles, if you have booted OS9 with wcreate in your startup file and they are the windows you want each time you boot up. A cobbler to a newly formatted disk will make the changes for you. Your startup file should then look like this....

```

Iniz r0
setime </1
format /r0 </1
shell i=/w1&
shell i=/w2&
shell i=/w7&
dates

```

Isn't this a lot neater than what we started with ?....Happy computing.

Rob Unsworth

# AUSTRALIAN OS9 NEWSLETTER

## HOW TO BECOME A MILLIONAIRE

If I knew that I would be one myself, don't you think?

But I can tell you this: The more money you are able to save over as long a period as possible at the highest possible interest rate, the greater is your chance of becoming a millionaire! But you knew that already, right? So what you (and I) really need to know is how to calculate just how much and for how long, etc to save.

Or another situation: The Government is talking about us all providing our own old age pension in the form of Superannuation, but would you be better off just simply saving up your hard earned cash and control your own investment and save paying some Fund Manager (a company such as AMP Society) large fees. Of course, in that case you need a lot of self control so that you don't spend the money prematurely.

The factors to consider are the following: How much money do you want to (and are you able to) save? Since we live in times with constant inflation you should consider increasing your savings each year by at least the rate of inflation. Since you don't know what the inflation rate will be in the future, you simply have to make a guess. Another factor is how high an interest you can get on your savings. In an ordinary savings account the interest rate is fairly low, so you might look for better investment accounts, but remember the general rule that the higher the potential return on your savings the higher the risk on the investment; in other words the less safe your money, so you need to balance one against the other. Yet another factor is your marginal tax rate, ie the rate of tax you pay on the top Dollar you earn. For instance, right now the highest tax rate in Australia is 47%, but you may pay a lower rate, it depends on your income. Do remember that as your savings grow and your interest earnings grow with it, that may cause you to come into a higher tax bracket, even the top tax bracket. The final factor to consider is the length of the period of saving and for how long the money is left to earn interest before it is withdrawn.

So I wrote a BASIC09 (excellent programming language that) program which I called SAVINGS CALCULATOR. Below is the program listing and a sample calculation. Type in the program and try out a number of different savings plans that suit your circumstances. I think you may be staggered by the potential of your savings.

Disclaimer: I am NOT an accounting professional. This program may be helpful as a guide, but for professional advice please speak to an accounting professional.

Happy computing!

Your fellow CoCoNut,

Ole Eskildsen

### \*\*\* SAVINGS CALCULATOR \*\*\*

Copyright (C) 1989, all rights reserved, by Ole Eskildsen, 11 Monarch St, Kingston QLD 4114. Donated to the public domain for personal use only. The developer does not accept any liability as the result of using this program. If in doubt seek professional advice. This calculator helps you determine the result of different savings plans. First you enter the initial annual savings contributions, e.g. \$100 per month = \$1200 per annum. Then you enter the percentage you intend increasing your savings by each following year. As a guideline you should at least increase your savings by the expected inflation percentage. You are then asked to enter the expected annual interest rate you expect to receive on your savings. Next, the marginal tax rate, which is the rate of tax at the top end of your income bracket at which the interest earned on your savings will be taxed. And finally, for how many years do you want this savings plan to run? Try several different variations! If you have a printer you can also print the result.

INITIAL ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION: 3600  
% INCR IN CONTRIB/YR: 10  
EST. INTEREST RATE: 13.5  
MARGINAL TAX RATE: 41  
TERM IN YEARS: 20

# AUSTRALIAN OS9 NEWSLETTER

PRINT? (Y/N): N

INIT ANN CONTRIB: 3600. % INC 10. INT RATE: 13.5 TAX % 41. TERM: 20.

YEAR	CONTRIB	INTEREST	TAX PAID	ACCUMLATED
1.	3600.00	486.00	199.26	3886.74
2.	3960.00	1059.31	434.32	8471.73
3.	4356.00	1731.74	710.02	13849.46
4.	4791.60	2516.54	1031.78	20125.82
5.	5270.76	3428.54	1405.70	27419.42
6.	5797.84	4484.33	1838.58	35863.01
7.	6377.62	5702.49	2338.02	45605.10
8.	7015.38	7103.76	2912.54	56811.70
9.	7716.92	8711.36	3571.66	69668.32
10.	8488.61	10551.19	4325.99	84382.14
11.	9337.47	12652.15	5187.38	101184.38
12.	10271.22	15046.51	6169.07	120333.03
13.	11298.34	17770.24	7285.80	142115.81
14.	12428.18	20863.44	8554.01	166853.42
15.	13670.99	24370.80	9992.03	194903.18
16.	15038.09	28342.07	11620.25	226663.10
17.	16541.90	32832.68	13461.40	262576.28
18.	18196.09	37904.27	15540.75	303135.89
19.	20015.70	43625.47	17886.44	348890.62
20.	22017.27	50072.57	20529.75	400450.71
-----				
	206190.00	329255.44	134994.73	400450.71

## PROCEDURE savings

```

0000
0001  REM PROGRAM: SAVINGS
0014  REM Date Written: 2 Dec 89
0020  REM Programmer: Ole Eskildsen
004B
004C  REM Copyright (C) 1989 by Ole Eskildsen, All Rights Reserved
0087
0088  REM This program has been donated to the public domain for personal
00CA  REM use only. It may be freely used and shared with others for non-
010D  REM commercial, personal use provided no fee other than the cost of
014F  REM the media is charged and on the condition that this copyright
018F  REM notice is left intact. The developer does not accept any
01CB  REM liability as a result of using this program.
01FA  REM If in doubt, seek professional assistance.
0227  REM
022A  REM Ole Eskildsen, 11 Monarch St, Kingston QLD 4114, Australia
0267  REM Telephone: (07) 209 4322
0282  REM -----
02C5
02C6
02C7
02C8 10
02CC  DIM PRINTER:BYTE
02D3  DIM AP,IR,TR,YR,IC,AC,TP,E,TI,TA,TT,ANCNT:REAL
0306  DIM LINE:STRING(60)
0312
0313  AC=0 \TP=0 \E=0 \TI=0 \TA=0 \TT=0 \ANCNT=0
034B  LINE="-----"
```



```

038E
038F 70 PRINT CHR$(12)
0397
0398 PRINT TAB(15); "*** SAVINGS CALCULATOR ***"
03C0 PRINT ""
03D1 PRINT "Copyright (C) 1989, all rights reserved, by"
0400 PRINT "Ole Eskildsen, 11 Monarch St, Kingston QLD 4114."
0434 PRINT "Donated to the public domain for personal use only."
0468 PRINT "The developer does not accept any liability as the result of"
04AB PRINT "using this program. If in doubt seek professional advice."
04E9 PRINT "This calculator helps you determine the result of different"
0528 PRINT "savings plans."
053A PRINT "First you enter the initial annual savings contributions,"
0577 PRINT "e.g. $100 per month = $1200 per annum."
05A1 PRINT "Then you enter the percentage you intend increasing your "
05DE PRINT "savings by each following year. As a guideline you should "
061E PRINT "at least increase your savings by the expected inflation "
0658 PRINT "percentage. You are then asked to enter the expected annual"
0698 PRINT "interest rate you expect to receive on your savings."
06D3 PRINT "Next, the marginal tax rate, which is the rate of tax at the"
0713 PRINT "top end of your income bracketed at which the interest earned"
0752 PRINT "on your savings will be taxed."
0774 PRINT "And finally, for how many years do you want this savings plan"
0785 PRINT "to run? Try several different variations!"
07E3 PRINT "If you have a printer you can also print the result."
0818
081C 100 PRINT ""
0823 200 INPUT "INITIAL ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION: ",AP
0848 INPUT "% INCR IN CONTRIB/YR: ",IC
0869 INPUT "EST. INTEREST RATE: ",IR
0885 INPUT "MARGINAL TAX RATE: ",TR
08A0 INPUT "TERM IN YEARS: ",YR
08B7
08B8 INPUT "PRINT? (Y/N): ",P$
08CE IF P$="y" THEN
08DB P$="Y"
08E3 ENDIF
08E5 IF P$="Y" THEN
08F2 INPUT "MAKE PRINTER READY [ENTER]",R$
0915 OPEN #PRINTER,"/P":WRITE
0922 ENDIF
0924
0925 300 PRINT CHR$(12);
092E PRINT "INIT ANN CONTRIB: "; AP; " % INC "; IC;
0958 PRINT " INT RATE: "; IR; " TAX % "; TR; " TERM: "; YR
098A PRINT
098C PRINT "YEAR CONTRIB INTEREST TAX PAID ";
09C2 PRINT " ACCUMULATED"
09D4
09D5 320 IF P$<>"Y" THEN 500
09E8
09E9 PRINT #PRINTER,"INIT ANN CONTRIB: "; AP; " % INC: "; IC;
0A19 PRINT #PRINTER," INT RATE: "; IR; " TAX % "; TR;
0A42 PRINT #PRINTER," TERM: "; YR
0A57 PRINT #PRINTER," "
0A61 PRINT #PRINTER,"YEAR CONTRIB INTEREST ";
0A93 PRINT #PRINTER,"TAX PAID ACCUMULATED"
0AB3
0AB4 500 FOR I=1 TO YR

```

## AUSTRALIAN OS9 NEWSLETTER

```

00AC9      AC=AC+AP
00AD5      ANCNT=AP
00ADD      TP=TP+AP
00AE9      B=AC*IR/100
00AF9      TI=TI+B
00B05      TA=B*TR/100
00B15      TT=TT+TA
00B21      AC=AC+B-TA
00B31      AP=AP+AP*IC/100
00B45      PRINT USING "R4.0^"; I;
00B54      PRINT USING "R15.2^",ANCNT; B; TA; AC
00B6F
00B70 720   IF P$="Y" THEN
00B80       PRINT #PRINTER USING "R4.0^"; I;
00B93       PRINT #PRINTER USING "R15.2^",TP; B; TA; AC
00BB2      ENDIF
00BB4      NEXT I
00BBF
00BC0 1010  PRINT " "; LINE
00BCE      PRINT " ";
00BD7      PRINT USING "R15.2^",TP; TI; TT; AC
00BF2      IF P$="Y" THEN
00BFF       PRINT #PRINTER," "; LINE
00C0F       PRINT #PRINTER," ";
00C1D       PRINT #PRINTER USING "R15.2^",TP; TI; TT; AC
00C3C      ENDIF
00C3E
00C3F 2000  INPUT "PRESS [ENTER]",AA$
00C57      IF P$="Y" THEN
00C64       CLOSE #PRINTER
00C6A      ENDIF
00C6C 2200  END

```

oooooooooooo0000000000oooooooooooo

### Device Descriptor Query

Geoff Donges of Holt ACT, has asked a question about the descriptor "dd" he came across where he expected that the correct descriptor should have been "d0".

The following is from the Microware OS9 reference manual for the Color Computer:- "Device Descriptors - Term, Ti, D0, and so on, are device descriptors. These files describe the devices connected to the system. They contain device initialization data as well as code that directs OS9 to the physical addresses of the ports to which devices are connected." (End quote.)

The descriptor "dd" has a full name of "default descriptor" and is a floppy disk drive descriptor, as is d0, d1, d2. The Microware Level 2 OS9 version for the Color Computer 3 is supplied with a descriptor "dd" which is identical to "d0" apart from the name. Therefore, a pathlist containing "dd" will access the drive "d0". Why two descriptors for the same drive? The logic behind this is that you may wish to have some other drive as the "default drive", for example "d1", in which case the "dd" descriptor would need to be the same as "d1".

Some programmers use the descriptor "dd" in the program code. One example of this is Multi-View, which includes the command "chd /dd" in the startup file. Multi-View also looks for its environment file (env.file) by the path /dd/sys/env.file. Now, if the descriptor "dd" is for drive 1 (drv=01), Multi-View should run from Drive 1 - well at least that is the idea of the "dd" descriptor. A user should be able to choose which drive to set up as the default drive and then run application programs without the need to make changes to the program. This, however, is not always the case. Let's go back to Multi-View for a moment. The Autoex & Multistart modules of Multi-View are

## AUSTRALIAN OS9 NEWSLETTER

hard coded to d0, d0/CMDS which of course will look at Drive 0 for files without regard for the default drive which is now set at d1 (drive 1). As not all programmers follow the convention as intended, the only options are to patch all modules which are hard coded for /d0, or to take the easy way out and have "dd" set for Drive 0. This does mean that the Root disk must be removed from /d0 and the application program run from Drive 0. Now it does not matter much if the program looks for files by a pathname beginning with "dd" or "d0".

The most common approach is to have exactly that configuration, ie both "dd" and "d0" are set as Drive 0. It is a good idea to have this "dd" in the OS9Boot file so that fewer ERROR #221's or ERROR #216's are encountered.

It seems to me that the advantages to be gained from a default drive descriptor "dd" have largely been diminished by use of hard coded pathlists to a particular drive, usually "d0".

Now whichever way you choose to go, it must be remembered that OS9 on the CoCo can ONLY boot from drive 0 or hard drive. In the case of a hard drive, a "dd" descriptor identical to the "H0" device descriptor could be used and of course any hard coding of "d0" in programs running from the hard disk, would need to be patched.

Good programming should not include hard coding to "d0", so do your bit to avoid it and your programs will be more flexible in the OS9 environment.

A better approach to "dd" default drive would be the use of dot or dot dot ie, "." ".."

Each directory has two entries with names "." and ".." (dot and dot dot). These entries contain the logical sector numbers of the directory and its parent directory respectively. This opens up a lot of possibilities.

eg "dir ." will display the files of the current working (data) directory.  
"dir .." will display the files of the parent of the current working directory.  
"dir ..." will display the files one level higher ie the files of the parent of the parent.

So, instead of a pathname of "/d0/cmds" or "/dd/cmds" we could use "../cmds". The ".." will be the parent of CMDS in this example, and will be the current working directory in most cases. Let's run Multi-View from drive /d1. Place the Multi-View disk in drive 1 and "chd /d1;chx /d1/cmds". We would now expect Multi-View to be run from drive 1, and it would if all hard code in the modules for "d0" were changed to ".."

OS9 does not seem to mind if the number of parent levels called for is too many. If you have not used "." or ".." then go ahead and give it a try with a few directory levels.

Regards, Gordon Bentzen.

oooooooooooo0000000000oooooooooooo

### FURTHER THOUGHTS ON THE CAPABILITIES OF SHELLPLUS2

One of those things that I had put off until sometime in the future finally came back to mind the other day. I had always intended to explore the shellscript capacity of shellplus, but somehow I never got around to it, until recently.

What I wanted was to be able to have a simple command to format my ramdisk. Simply put, instead of typing ... sformat /r0 r "RamDisk", I wanted to be able to type ... rf, or something similar and the job would be accomplished for me by a shellscript. The following is what finally developed from that.

I use sdisk3, a copyrighted disk driver from D.P. Johnston, as my standard disk driver, and my formatter is called sformat. I normally use this driver, as it allows me to read, write and format disks in a number of other formats apart from Color Computer OS9. The following shellscript is what finally developed:

```
*ramdisk formatter
prompt Format Ramdisk? (y/n) :
var.0
if %0=y
    display 1b 22 01 13 02 28 14 05 04
```

```
display 1b 22 01 15 03 24 12 05 02
display 1b 22 01 17 04 20 10 05 02
sformat /r0 r "RamDisk"
display 1b 23
display 1b 23
display 1b 23
Echo Ramdisk Formatted
endif
*end
```

I guess I should try to explain what it does.

First of all, you will need to have the following commands in your execution path:

```
prompt    (simply a modified version of echo, but without a <CR> at the end of the string)
display   (a standard OS9 command)
sformat   (special sdisk3 formatter)
echo      (a standard OS9 command)
```

You can of course, use the standard format command instead of sformat, but you will then have to alter the window dimensions to allow for the differing outputs.

I decided that I would incorporate it in my startup file. Consequently, I had to have the ability to choose whether I wanted it to do the format or not. Then I thought, well why not have the formatter running in a window? Then, if I decide to reformat the ramdisk from a shell running under another process (edit for example), then at least the original contents of the screen are not destroyed.

So, running through the scriptfile, firstly, we ask whether or not to continue with the format. The answer to this question is placed in the shellsript variable var.0. The variable is then tested. If the result is anything but yes, the script drops through the loop and exits without doing anything.

If, however, the first character of var.0 is "y", then the contents of the loop are executed. The loop creates a number of non-destructive overlay windows, and runs the formatter in the "ready" mode, and sets the disk name to RamDisk. It then closes the windows sequentially, until they are all removed, and the finally writes the message "Ramdisk Formatted" onto the original screen. All from a simple shellsript!

The great thing about shellscripts is of course, that they are, comparatively, quite small. They are very effective because they have the capacity to call, and string together a number of other commands. Because of the way in which Shellplus2 handles memory data modules, it is possible, if we provide a shellsript with the appropriate header and CRC, to actually load them into memory, and execute them from there, just like an executable file. What this really means, is that you could write a large number of shellscripts, and merge them together as one single file. Because of their small size, you could cram quite a lot of them into one 8K block of memory ... The datamod utility which is supplied with the shellplus2 programmes is the best way to accomplish this.

Another example of creative hacking came to light the other day. I was examining the prompt setting facilities of Shellplus2, and I couldn't see any reason why I couldn't have my prompt a different colour from the rest of the output!! I thought that, if I could include an escape string (such as is used with the display command) to change the screen attributes, within the prompt, then it should be possible to have all sorts of modified prompts. How about a flashing prompt? Or underlined? It brings to mind all sorts of possibilities.

Unfortunately, I have not as yet found a simple way to accomplish this. I am working on it. Let me describe my initial attempts.

If you read the documentation that comes with shellplus2, some details are provided of just where in the shell module, the prompt string is located. What I did was to save a copy of the shell to my ramdisk, and then use "zap", our public domain disk zapper to actually modify the area of shell where the prompt resides, using zap's disk modifying command. After writing the modified sector to the disk, and exiting from the zapper, I reverifed the shell module, and then incorporated it in my merged shell file that is loaded from the commands directory on bootup.

Hey presto, it worked!! Now I have a different coloured prompt from the remainder of the text. There are a few problems associated with this approach, but I will leave them for you to explore. In the meantime, I am attempting to find a way to pass escape strings direct to the shell via the P= prompt setting facility of shellplus2. I will keep you informed.

Until then, keep on hacking.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me on  
(07) 375-3236. Cheers, Don Berrie.

oo

# Operating System Notes.

Ever tried to use a Level I startup file under Level II? If, like some of us you suddenly found that your screen pause was not enabled, then read on.

The normal arrangement for setting the page pause flag under Level I, was to use the line:

Tmode.1 pause

This then set the global (under Level I) flag to on, and consequently, even when the startup file terminates, the page pause feature is still enabled.

Under Level II, however, the system is "purer" OS9. The first thing that the system does is load grdrv, and then loads the merged shell file from the commands directory. It then looks for a startup file, and if found tries to run it. However, it does this as a shell process. What this means is that if you include the above line in your startup file, the tmode command processes as per normal, but when the startup file terminates, all of the attributes that were set disappear with the shell. If, however, you have started shells in any other windows from the startup file, then the pause attribute for those windows is enabled!! (Because they will inherit all the attributes of their parent shell).

To successfully set the screen pause attribute from the startup file under Level II, you should use:

Xmode /term pause

Try it and see.

oo

COCO-LINK Magazine: Just a reminder for those interested in a wider section of CoCo systems. CoCo-Link is produced in South Australia and is well worth your support. Contact the Editor, Robbie Dalzell, on (08) 386 1647 or write;

CoCo-Link  
31 Nedland Crescent,  
Pt. Noarlunga South,  
South Australia 5167