PCW FILE

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3 : JULY/AUGUST :

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NEXT ISSUE

Going to the printers on 28th August 1987

Contributions in by 21th August 1987

Trade Advertisements in by 14th August 1987

BACK ISSUES

Limited back issues of PCW User Group Newsletter are available at 50p each. After these have gone you will be able to get back issues on disc of PCWUG Newsletter (NOT PCW FILE) at 60p.

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Issue 9 .... 19 Copies	Issue 10 .... 42 Copies
Issue 11/12 .... 14 Copies	Issue 13 .... 3 Copies
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Make cheques payable to: Chris Bryant

PCW File Back Issues, 11 Havenview Rd, Seaton, Devon EX12 2PF

EDITORIAL By Chris Bryant

Welcome to Issue 3 of PCW File. Here's some good news PCW File took over the PCW User Group which was based in Coventry. Can I first clear up something with the PCW User Group members. Some of you are confused about the take over.

All PCWUG members have become members of PCW File until the end of your subscription. You will be sent a renewal form when your subscription is due. Hopefully 'Rob' will have handed over all of the club funds of PCWUG by the time you read this.

So what is PCW File offering you? It gives you a choice to communicate with other users, send in Hints and Tips, helplines, and a chance to write articles on CPM, Languages, Locoscript, Basic, your experiences and software reviews.

Here are a few suggestions of columns which have been ask for in your letters you have sent me.

a) Communications Column

b) Short explanations of PD Software and how to use it. David Moore's piece in this issue should give you some idea how to go about writing it.

c) CP/M Hints and Tips: Already there are some coming in but lets have more.

d) Articles on Databases, Spreadsheets, Word Processing, Dr Logo etc.

So if you are interested in taking part and helping PCW File please get in touch.

One of the things with PCW File is that you needed be a professional writer. All of the people who are helping me to get this group off the ground enjoy writing articles and generally helping me in their spare time. (I hope!). As for the minority that have complained about the grammatical errors and spelling mistakes I would like to tell them that a lot of hard work goes into the publishing of PCW File and all of the contributors and myself do our up most to give readers an informative issue to read. We have had more letters 'Congratulating' all of the contributors and myself for doing PCW File.

Three features were dropped from this issue due to lack of space. Articles from Steve Cholerton, John Waddington and James Coleman will be coming in the next issue of PCW File.

I am hoping to arrange a discount with a distributor of Software/ hardware/ ribbons etc for the next issue. In the next issue will see a number of new regular features including a look at Education packages and a new column called 'SOAPBOX' which will allow you and the writer to speak out about the computing industry.

I wish to thank everyone who send something in for publication and 'The Gang of Three' for taking over the Public Domain Software. The addresses are on Page 26. (Don't send it to Steve Cholerton).

Enjoy the issue and remember if you have any hints and tips lets have them.

PCW FILE, CHRIS BRYANT, 11 HAVENVIEW RD, SEATON, DEVON EX12 2PF.

Tel: 0297-20456 after 7pm (Mon-Sat) Any time Sundays. NOTE NEW TIMES.

-MAILBAG-

Edited by Chris Bryant

Please send in your comments about this magazine, experiences, interesting stories, and any other comments you have about the computer industry. Would people mark up the top of their letter if it is not for publication.

INSTRUCTION BOOK THE WORST EXAMPLE SEEN

I brought a PCW8256 three weeks ago, in spite of swotting over the instruction book; and also the word processing Handbook (Pitman) by David Hawgood. It has taken me every bit of this time in managing to understand the instructions.

The official instruction book is by far the very worst example I have ever come across. Whoever wrote it has no idea whatever of how to teach anything.

I could criticise the book in detail. However, the basic fault is that the whole system is faulty. If one takes an animal as an example of a system, one can see that an animal is controlled by a series of modes. In danger there is an internal reaction reaction and a whole group of responses take place. When it is cold or hungry or seeking a mate or whatever, appropriate series of actions are followed.

Thus with a machine such as this, what one requires is a programme – not a computer program – to deal with the customer requirement. For example, to write a letter, you need a format. To make a list you need another different format. There are many occasions when the ordinary businessman or householder needs to write things down: this is why he buys the word processor. So he needs a shopping list of examples provided on the machine.

By all means instruct him how to modify these to his own needs – but don't do it first of all in the instruction book!

Secondly, some things are never properly explained: for example how to switch from disc management and back again; the screen with a line

------end of header 1 : used for all pages------------etc.

the meaning of "boot"; how to know when the space on the disc is running out and what to do about it; how to file the letters and save the headings; how to put numbers on the pages (never properly explained); and dozens of other conumdrums which the poor customer has to puzzle out for himself.

The amount of effort required to write a letter is about equivalent to the job of carving a long epitaph on a tombstone. As for the second half of the book on the computer section: this is really ridiculous.

The Pitman Series Book on Word Processing (David Hawgood) is quite impossible. He seems to think that whoever reads the book has already two or three computers at home. The book is no help at all – merely confusing.

Something really should be done about the instructions books.

George Firth, Exeter, Devon

-MAILBAG-

Editor: Does anyone have any good and readable books to recommend to
George. Perhaps a regular book column would go well in PCW File and a
regular Word processing column for those beginners amongst you. Anyone
willing - get in touch with me.

Tiny Print is hard on my eyes

I presume you produce the review in elite size on A4 sheets, and then
have them photographically reduced to save on paper and postage.
Unfortunately the tiny print is hard on my eyes, and I may not
continue my subscription, unless something can be done about that. My
wife produces a review in elite on semi-foolscap. Even the smaller
size, 15 cpi. on the back page, is still easier on the eyes.

I am also keen to read what Protext Users have to say; would it
possible for you to ask which programs your contributors use? I am
simply no longer interested in Locoscript, and I have now made an
index to the Protext manual and started on a translation of the manual
itself into plain English.

This may interest other Protext users who wish to get in touch with
me. Would it interest you if I wrote up my experiences?

        Charles Sprague, 3 Greenway, Berkhamstead, Herts HP4 3JD

Editor: What do the rest of you think of the print size? Someone did
say the other day that the print size was a bit small but he would
buy a magnifying glass as he realises that it is done to keep costs
down. absolutely right. Yes Charles I would be interested in your
experiences using Protext.

AVOID SOFTWARE CITY LIKE THE PLAGUE

I would like to advise all your members to avoid Software City like
the plague, their Customer Service Dept. (or should I say DISservice)
seems to be a bottomless pit. Despite 11 letters over 8 months they
still have not supplied me with a fully operative copy of dBASE II. At
£120 I expect better service than that.

                        Andrew Borland, Wimbourne, Dorset

                                Mailbag cont'd Overleaf

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FOR SALE

SCA Interface and Real Time Clock. RS232 and Parallel Ports and
Internal Clock. With Disc containing manual, utilities, Mex.Com comms
program/documentation etc. As new. Have part exchanged PCW for PC.
Cost £57.50, accept £35.00.

Also ten CF2 blank discs; low usage and well treated. £14.00

        Contact: G. Rogers, 2 Tythe Gardens, Stewkley,

            Leighton Buzzard LU7 0HF.

****

PCW USER GROUP MAIL ORDER

I would like to congratulate you on taking up your new 'office' and
hope you will allow me a little space to explain one or two things
relating to the old PCW USER GROUP (Mail Order) service.

I was a little hurt to say the least to read in the last issue of the
PCW USERS Newsletter a letter from Paul Spicker containing biassed
comment on the service being offered by myself and one or two other
members. Not upset that anyone saw fit to have different views on the
topic from ourselves but that:-

a) he didn't see fit to put them to us first;

b) that Paul had not to my knowledge ever had anything from the Mail
Order service and so was presumably speaking from secondhand knowledge
and;

c) failed to be factually correct in his comments.

For some reason Paul seemed to think that I was distributing Public
Domain material and charging people an unearthly sum for the privilege
of having it.

Not so! All the pure Public Domain material has been distributed for
the token charge of £2 for one double sided disc. The same charge as
the CP/M User group and others. There are hidden costs such as the
inevitable postage and packing costs, over and above those meant to be
paid by the recipient, back up discs etc.

A statement was made implying that the charge for the first disc
distributed was several pounds above the notional £2.00 he would have
been happy with. What he missed out was that cost charged included the
supply of a brand new Amstrad disc. When the cost of this was taken
into account the purchase price was around £2.00

There are a couple of later discs which are being advertised at around
the £7.50 mark including a disc viz P003 LNER and P009 SPREX which are
not PD but provided by Geoff Childs following a lot of hard work and
rivalling the commercial offerings from such people as Nabitchi. For
these he accepts a small appreciation commission and I wouldn't want
it any other way since if he were to offer them to a software house we
would probably end up paying £10 to £15 each for them.

You have started a Members Domain corner and I applaud it but I would
emphasise that the programs, other than the PD ones, from the Mail
Order service in no way compete with the sort of thing that come out
of this and other sources. The Mail Order service aims to provide a
source of 'near professional' programs to suit the novice and middle
range person where the only charges made are those to keep our heads
above water. In addition we have recently branched out into offering a
bespoke service for those amongst us who have problems the solutions
to which may have wider application.

During our association with the PCWUG I would claim, as I am sure a
lot of others can, that we have put infinitely more into it for the
benefit of the membership than we had out of it. We intend to keep on
doing so and hope that others in the club would wish us to do so.

Send S.A.E for latest list & details to: PCW USER GROUP (Mail Order)

8A Seascale Park, Seascale, Cumbria CA20 1HD

GEOFF DEFENDS HIMSELF

I feel partly responsible myself for criticisms as I advised Len
Jones, when he wrote to me discussing the setting up of the Mail Order
Dept for the PCW Computer Club. Firstly, adverts do take time appear,
and when this one was written the normal price of a disc was around £5
and hence the copying charge is presumably £2.50, and prices can be
lowered by £2. In no way, do I feel this charge is exorbitant.

I can't remember what I said to Len, but if anything I probably
advised him to charge more. My reason for this was experience with
another User Club (another tape-based computer). I offered members a
tape of my own programs for £5, and a number took up the offer. This
was fair enough for about three weeks when there was several orders to
deal with, but odd ones continue to drift in. It mean't among other
things trips to get extra photocopies for the documentation, setting
up the machine at times when one had too many other things to do.
Another side effect was that several people wrote in to make queries
and suggestions about the programs, and other felt they had a right to
use me as a consultant about any other computer problems they had. In
one program there was a small bug, quickly discovered and easily
corrected, but it did mean I felt duty bound to write to all who had
previously bought the program. I am not saying that I was a martyr, I
liked doing it, but in the end I had to hope for no more odd orders
though naturally I would have serviced them as promptly as possible.

Paul points out that he has done some work for the group members that
he has provided free. Good for him. But he will also realise that in a
User Group, there are some members who contribute all they can, often
at their own expense, and others who are willing to grab anything at
the least possible time, money and inconvenience to themselves. In the
now defunct PCW Computer Club Len and I did as much as anybody for the
club at our expense, and even funded out of our own pockets a means of
continuing the Club in some form until the end of the contracted
year.

I am in favour of Len paying royalities for substantial programs sold
to members. And, yes, I have committed what Paul might think of as a
cardinal sin, I have made some money out of my own programs. At the
same time, I am a hobbyist and I can assure him, that I could have
made a great deal more money from the time involved in virtually any
other way, and that fundamentally I program because I want to; and if
there is some reward possible occasionally I will take it, but it
wouldn't stop me from doing things for other fans without a thought of
money. Members should realise that if their idea of joining the group
was to get something for nothing, that something is at another's
expense, certainly in time, possibly also in money.

                                        Geoff Childs, Winchcombe, Glos

CHRIS >I hope that the matter is now cleared up as I am unwilling to
spend any more time on it in PCW File. Part from wasting space nobody
wins when letters start flying around. What is a shame is that Paul
did not have a word with Len at the time as probably none of this
would have happened.

THANKS ROB

I have much enjoyed, and been helped, by the past service of the PCW
USER MAGAZINE and would like to convey my thanks and appreciation to
Rob Mobberley for his excellent and hard work. (G.E.Hoyland-Sheffield)

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========================================================================
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D-I-Y RAM UPGRADE FOR THE PCW8256
Neil Olner
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========================================================================
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PCW8256 Owners
Have you ever been annoyed when copying a disc using Disckit at having to swap discs four times (or more if you had something in the M:Drive when you loaded Disckit)? Have you ever felt inadequate when an applications program will not run in 256K? Have you ever envied a 8512 owner? If the answer to any of these questions is YES then read on...

The only difference between the 8256 and 8512 is the 8512 has twice a much RAM and another, DSDD 1 meg, disc-drive - oh and different stickers! Well you may not be able to do anything about the latter but you can do something about the others. You can either pay a company to fit the extra RAM and/or drive or do it yourself - you may find it's easier than you think!

The second drive will cost you at least £125 but the extra 256k will only cost around £20. Once fitted you can copy a disc using Disckit with only one swap. All of the disc to read from is read into the M:Drive, the disc to write to is inserted, and the data is written. Your 112k RAM disc is increased to 368k - enough to hold more than 2 sides of a 3" disc and more than enough for most applications. With the extra RAM you may well find you don't need the extra drive!

How to fit the RAM
Your chips will have full instructions with them but here is a rough idea of what you will have to do:
Disconnect from the mains and disconnect the printer, keyboard and any interfaces.
Place the monitor face down on a firm but soft surface (a bed or sofa is best but a thick towel on a desk will do) and remove the back cover. There are 6 screws - 2 at the top, 2 at the bottom and 2 either end of the expansion port.
You will see the PCB on runners between the disc drive and the monitor. At the bottom of this you will see a row of 8 microchips and next to this a row of 8 empty sockets. This is where your extra RAM will go.
It is far easier if you remove the PCB from the runners and rest it on top to perform the upgrade - but be careful not to stretch the 5 connections to the disc drive and monitor etc - 3 at the top and 2 at the bottom. You'll have to remove these last 2 - make sure you can put them back properly! The PCB is released by a catch on the side of the top runner.
When handling your RAM you need to be very careful about static electricity - if you touch the metal legs when you have static in your body you could ruin them. So first earth yourself by touching a metal radiator or the metal casing of an electrical appliance - I recommend doing this between fitting each chip. You can fit any chip in any socket but they must all be orientated properly. They will have either a little notch out of one end or a little indentation near one end - this should face in the same direction as on the 8 chips already fitted. The legs of some chips may need bending slightly to fit or they may be 'preformed' especially, in which case the legs are simply lined up with the holes and the chips are pushed firmly into place with even pressure, supported from the back. Some upgrades include a 'practise chip' so you can get the idea without worrying about ruining a chip.

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D-I-Y RAM UPGRADE FOR THE PCW8256
Neil Olner
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Then all you need to do is flick 2 of 4 cute little switches in the middle of the board before replacing the PCB and the back cover of your PCW. This is where you might be disappointed if you have a very early machine however (purchased before about December 1985). On such machines these switches are missing and you will need to do a little soldering. Full instructions (and probably some solder and wire) for this eventuality should come with your upgrade - though these machines are quite rare. If you are not a competant solderer however you really do not want to try out your skills on your PCW!

Testing your RAM
Once you have put Joyce together again try Booting up CP/M and LocoScript and note the changes (below). Note that although your RAM Disc is now 368k CP/M now takes 4k for the system, previously it took 2k and LocoScript now takes 12k whereas before it took 10k. Also the mininum directory entry on the RAM Disc is now 2k (despite what the manual says). Check that your RAM Disc stays the same size when you reboot by pressing SHIFT, EXTRA and EXIT. If it returns to 112k you've probably changed the wrong switches. For more details of the RAM Disc compare the spec you get with the CP/M command below before and after the upgrade:
SHOW M:[DRIVE]

I thoroughly recommend this upgrade even if your guarantee has yet to run out, and I recommend the MEAC Design kit. At £18.95 it was the cheapest I could find and it includes preformed chips, a practise chip, and solder and wire just in case your machine doesn't have switches. Should you wish to go one stage further and fit a 2nd disc drive (you will probably find this even easier) the cheapest price I have seen is £125 from either of the addresses below:
Chiltern Computer Centre, 100 Hightown Rd, Luton, BEDS
West Yorkshire Computer Company, Unit E10, Saltaire Workshops, Ashley Lane, Shipley, W.YORKS

Note this upgrade is carried out at your own risk.

```
                     Disc management.              Printer idle  Using none.
C=Create new document    E=Edit existing document    P=Print document    D=Direct printing
f1=Disc change   f2=Inspect   f3=Copy   f4=Move   f5=Rename   f6=Erase   f7=Modes   f8=Options
Drive A:          NEIL    .  Drive B:    not fitted Drive M:          NEIL   .
171k used    2k free 33 files   0k used   0k free  0 files  2k used 354k free  1 files
LETTERS    86k    group 4   0k                     LETTERS      23   group 4   0k
```

CP/M Plus Amstrad Consumer Electronics plc

v 1.4, 61K TPA, 1 disc drive, 368K drive M:

A>

SCREEN EFFECTS IN MALLARD BASIC

By T.J.PYMONT

Mallard Basic is a really powerfull Basic, and a valuable tool to use on the PCW but users familiar with other Basics may regret the absence of the familiar graphic commands for "Dutching Up" their programmes.

There are, however, a number of commands which can be used in a similar way to enliven your programmes although most of them are not at all well documented in the manual.

The best way to use these effects is to define them in a subroutine which is called at the beginning of the programme. The required variables are then set up in memory and will be available on demand. This will save typing in the commands in full each time they are required.

The most simple of effects is the "BLEEP", this is created by "Character 7" To include this in your programme put the line
     BLEEP$=CHR$(7)
into your initialisation subroutine and then every time you want a bleep, put the command
     PRINT BLEEP$

The next useful command is "Character 13", this has the effect of returning the cursor to the left of the screen without effecting a line feed. This can be surprisingly useful, I use it to display a constantly changing clock on the screen in the form
     PRINT TIME;
     PRINT CHR$(13);
     PRINT TIME;
        etc.(All contained in a self-repeating loop of course)
If used in this way you must include the semi-colons to prevent an automatic line feed which Basic would insert at the end of each command line.

All very well I hear you say, but who wants to spend £399 on a digital clock!

The remaining commands which I will describe are what are known as escape sequences, On the PCW, there is no escape key - instead "escape" is accessed through "Character 27". You may be familiar with CHR$(27) for clearing the screen, but it can do much more.

Firstly though - clearing the screen, the traditional CLS command does two things, wipe the screen and return the cursor home to the top left hand corner. We will therefore, do the same and define CLS$ in two parts.

     WIPE$=CHR$(27)+"E"
     HOME$=CHR$(27)+"H"

     CLS$=WIPE$+HOME$

I expect you can see that there are advantages in building up commands like this, for example, if you only want to wipe the screen and retain the cursor position, then all you need is
    PRINT WIPE$
You will see how this can be incorporated with other commands later on.

In terms of visual effect the next most popular effect must be to put the cursor any where on the screen on demand. This is also possible by means of an escape sequence this time CHR$(27)+"Y"

I have found that the most useful way of doing this is in a user defined function and the enclosed programme segment gives an example of how to do this, I'm sure you will be able to modify it to suit your programmes.

```
10 WIPE$=CHR$(27)+"E"
20 HOME$=CHR$(27)+"H"
30 CLS$=WIPE$+HOME$
40 DEF FNP$(R,C)=CHR$(27)+"Y"+CHR$(32+R)+CHR$(32+C)
50 '
60 PRINT CLS$
70 INPUT "INPUT THE REQUIRED ROW      : ",R
80 INPUT "INPUT THE REQUIRED COLUMN   : ",C
90 PRINT FNP$(R,C);
100 PRINT R"."C
110 FOR N=1 TO 2500: NEXT N
120 PRINT CLS$;
130 GOTO 70
```

Use the STOP key to quit this programme when you have had enough!

Next time we'll look more closely at how we can use escape sequences to enhance programme presentation.

Star Glider

Title : Star Glider
Type : Arcade / Simulation
S/W House : Rainbird
Price : £24.95

 Here it is the game we all heard so much about last year is at long last ,
6 months after the craze,converted for the PCW series.Can the green screen
of our PCW support the ST style graphics ? The answer is yes , even if
everything is not is glorious technicolour.After what seems a life time the
game finished loading and wow what graphics.The truth is the graphics on
one of the start up screens are better,yes they are.The best graphics are
on the screen that is usually the loader for the other vertions.Our little
PCW on its green screen not only displays it in great detail but in shades
of green and then finally rotates it at high speed so we can see it in
reverse.The printer dump does not work so you cant see want I am talking
about.
 On the options screen you are asked for method of control either
keyboard,joy stick or mouse,types of cursor and sound,sound! whats that?
Well in fact there is sound and quite good sound effects they are to even
if they aren't very loud.The game has a very clever security system where
you are asked to type a specific word from the novella supplied.
 Any way the game though very hard is also very addictive in which you have
to shoot the giant mothership of an invation force that is shaped like a
Starglider,the most amazing bird in the galaxy that flies from planet to
plant.Unfortunatly lasers won't stop this mechanical monster only three
hits from a missile can.I their wisdom Rainbird have been even tighter than
they were on other versions because they only supply your with one missile
in stead of two.The other two missiles must be collected from silos.These
silos are fiendish thing as they don't tell you want they are as half the
time I tried to dock with an Egron tank which was not too pleased .
Eventually I think I have found the entrances but I'll be damed if I can
get in them.When you fire a misslie the screen switches to a television
camera view from the missile so you can steer it home to its target,but the
missile steers like a bin wagon so half the time you cant steer fast
enough,but the other half if your close enough the target steers in to you.
There are various meanies like mines,four types of tank,two types of
walkers,loads of rockets and missiles and on starglider.The game has been
programed by Real Time software the 3D team who brought us Starstrike I &
II.
 Even if its a bit steep the program pushes the PCW to its limits and
pushes wordprocessing out of the window.The game also has super missiles
and a rear view option in later stages but I can't get to them.

Graphics : 20/20
Sound : 15/20 (digitised speech vanished from this version)
Grab factor : 17/20
Overall : 18/20 (Excellent effort I bet the Pawns even better)

SIGN WRITER

Display lettering text editor
A program from Wight Scientific
Price: £49.95

This program works simply and efficiently and, (for all but the largest signs), quickly. It consists of three programs - signin, signout, and design. Signin is a straightforward text editor requesting information as to whether the sign should appear vertically or horizontally, whether it should be boxed, underlined, justified left or right etc. Letter size is specified in millimeters, as is distance between lines etc.

Signout controls the printing of the file which can be printed in draft form or as its mirror image etc.

Design enables the more advanced user to adapt characters or design new ones on screen.

In short, although the makers stress that the program lost speed in adaption for the PCW, its quality of output and ease of use mean that this program is a must for anyone who produces any sort of leaflets or posters.

Review written by: Bob Stead

PCW FILE

Review by Stuart Coverley

Title : Money Manager (old version)
Type : Accounts Software
S/W House : Connect Systems
Price : £19 (Kintech) to £29

The program promises *up to 100 entries a month* but it is not until you read the 24-page manual that you discover this applies only when the minimum detail is entered for each cheque or other item. After less than two months use I now find the program telling me that if I continue using it in the present manner I can only have approximately 50 entries a month in future, and I consider I have already been using only minimal identifying tags. Hence Money Manager hardly seems suitable for use in small businesses as claimed. Indeed, this becomes obvious when you see that a new version is already on the market upgraded to allow *up to 300 entries a month*. There are other benefits to the new version but that is beyond the scope of this review.

Given these failings the program should still be adequate for anyone wanting to keep records of just their bank accounts. Though there are facilities for recording up to 9 different accounts it would seem prudent where possible to put other types of account (for example cash accounts or even Visa and Access records) on a separate file. The manual suggests there is room for three or four different sets of accounts on each disc. The desirability of this becomes apparent when you see that each transfer of funds from one account to another requires two entries.

For household accounts 50 class codes allow you to keep and separate out various items of expenditure. If you pay for petrol by Visa or cheque you can find out month by month, or over the whole year, what you have spent on this item. There are facilities for VAT accounting as well as bar charts and account statistics. The ability to extract information should simplify completing a tax form.

The big advantage of this type of program is that at any time you can print out a single account statement giving an up-to-date picture for the month or the year. Entries are made on a continuous monthly screen which can be re-arranged into correct date order. There is no true reconciliation system but by marking an "x" in the special mark column and removing this when the next bank statement comes through you can get the computer to print out a list of uncleared cheques.

To summarise , this is a very useful program which will be adequate for most people's private accounts. Anyone considering using it for business purposes should buy the new version, despite the increased cost of £39.95

Range of Features	3/5	Address:- Connect Systems,
Ease of use	5/5	3 Flanchford Road,
Performance	5/5	London W12 9ND.
Documentation	4/5	
Value for money	4/5	

VENTURE FORTH

Many people buy the PCW for word-processing only to discover that it is capable of rather more. In particular, they discover that the PCW is a fully-fledged computer, and that here is a chance for them to learn computer programming. The beginner is confronted by a bewildering variety of programming languages, all being pushed by clever advertising. Which language should one learn, and does it really matter?

Programming languages, like clothes and cars, are subject to fashion. The currently fashionable language is C. Before that, it was Pascal. The next fashion will probably be Prolog. Meanwhile, which language should a beginner learn, and how much does it cost to get started? The usual answer to the first question is "Learn the best language", but who is to say what is best?

Many people learn programming because they want power over the machine, others because they want to learn how a computer works. If you want to learn for either of these reasons, or because you want to write powerful programs which use little space and run fast, then you have a choice of two: assembler and Forth.

Only assembler can give you complete control of the computer, but the language is difficult to learn, tedious to write, and so not recommended for beginners. There are many professional programmers writing in assembler. They succeed in writing programs at a reasonable pace because they have learnt to split their programs into small pieces, each of which can be tested quickly. These pieces are called *subroutines*, and they are organised into subroutine *libraries*. All PCW computers are supplied with software to write programs in assembler: side 3 of the supplied software is called PROGRAMMING UTILITIES and contains the programs RMAC.COM, LINK.COM and LIB.COM. These programs will, respectively, create relocatable routines, link your program with subroutines from a library, and maintain a subroutine library. SID.COM, also supplied on the disc, is useful for debugging your assembler programs, but a public domain program called Z8E.COM will do it much more effectively. Z8E is available from the CP/M Users Group.

BASIC is supplied free with the PCW, but I do not recommend it either for beginners, not for some so-called academic reason, but because BASIC does not help the beginner write maintainable programs. Let me explain that. A good test of a programming language is whether you can alter a program to perform a slightly different function several months, or years, after you, or someone else, wrote the original. BASIC comes unstuck here, because it does not allow you to divide a program into subroutines, so that altering a program often entails rewriting it. Moreover, most BASIC systems are very slow, so that they are entirely unsuitable for writing computer games, controlling robots, or doing anything which requires speed.

What beginners need is a language which responds directly, like BASIC, is fast, like C, and uses little computer memory, like assembler. Any program produced should ideally be broken into subroutines each of which should be capable of being independently tested. It would also be useful to incorporate the subroutines from one program in that of another. The only language which meets all these requirements is Forth.

If you studied Computer Science at a university, it is unlikely that you heard of, let alone studied, Forth. Forth was the first of a new breed of computer programming languages: threaded interpreted languages (called TILs for short). It has spawned a few imitators (such as STOIC and URTH), but Forth is the only such language in commercial use. Forth is the language for process control. It is used for controlling astronomical telescopes, oil refineries, laboratory experiments, robots, traffic lights, automated factories, washing machines, calculators and watches. Everywhere a program is needed that is compact and fast, that's where you'll see Forth. It does not command headlines in the popular computer press, and you will not see programs submitted (yet!) to personal computer magazines. For all that, Forth is ideally suited to the beginner: it reacts instantly, it's cheap, and you can extend the language to do what you want it to.

The language is in the public domain, and good Forth systems are now becoming widely available. A good commercial system will cost upwards of £45, but Laxen and Perry's F83, a public domain system which is setting a minimum standard for commercial systems, costs £10 or less. For this you get a complete program development system including editor, debugger, and decompiler. You also get a metacompiler. A good commercial Forth metacompiler could cost at least £100. The system does not include any documentation except what is in the 588K bytes of source files (and there's plenty there). The system is not usually supported by suppliers, but since you have the complete source code, if you find any errors, you can correct them yourself.

You should get a book on Forth if you want to learn. I can recommend any of the following for beginners:

Starting FORTH by Leo Brodie (Prentice-Hall).
This is the classic Forth text and the second edition deals mainly with Forth-83. Especially good for newcomers to programming.

The Complete FORTH by Alan Winfield (Sigma Press).
A good, introduction to Forth for the budget conscious. Uses Forth-79 which differs little from Forth-83.

FORTH: A Text and Reference by Kelly and Spies (Prentice-Hall).
This is a comprehensive text, and the only one which really deals with Forth in-depth. Covers both Forth-79 and Forth-83.

There are several others: consult your local bookshop. There are two Forth Interest Groups:

> Forth Interest Group
> P.O.Box 8231
> San Jose
> CA 95155   Tel: (408) 277-0668

> Forth Interest Group (UK)
> 88 Woosehill Lane
> Wokingham, Berks
> RG11 2TS   Tel: (0734) 791486

Lastly, Forth is FUN. Programs run like lightning, it's easy to write short ones, and you can change the language to suit yourself. VENTURE FORTH!

Seán Leitch

HINTS AND TIPS

One of the biggest problems with the PCW printer is its' (supposed)
inability to cope with envelopes (or thick paper) due to slippage in
the rollers. The solution is quite simple; adjust to the widest
setting on the adjustment lever to the right. Carefully insert the
envelope or paper using hand pressure to feed it round to the front
and, taking care not to force it, line it up in the usual manner.
Using the thumb and forefinger apply sufficient downwards pressure on
the paper bail bar at the 40 mark to grip the paper securely between
the platten and the bail bar rollers whilst printing. Be careful not
to foul the print head as you do this, and to avoid flexing the bar
unduly move the two rollers so that the straight edges are just over
the 30 and 50 marks on either side of your fingers. I have even
managed to print directly onto (Dinner) Menu cards using this method.
The only slight problem is that if the paper is too thick it may rub
against the ribbon. Experimentation with different makes of paper and
envelopes may cure this.

It is a very common fallacy, constantly perpetrated by the commercial
PCW magazines, that the contents of BLOCKS in LocoScript 1.2 are lost
when one exits from a document. This is not so, and infact it is when
you EDIT, or CREATE, a new document that the previous blocks are lost.
So what use is that I hear you cry. Envelope addressing is the reply!
Before EXITing that perfect letter you have just typed COPY the
address into a BLOCK (say 0). SAVE AND PRINT the letter as normal and
return to the MANAGEMENT SCREEN. Enter DIRECT PRINT MODE and insert
your envelope in the printer and adjust the print head position using
F3 (Place cursor over OFFSET SIZE and adjust using the cursor keys).
EXIT back to DIRECT PRINT mode and PASTE 0. Your address will be
printed out on the screen only (complete with line feeds etc). All
that remains then is to press RETURN once and the whole address will
be typed out in one operation. If you want to SAVE the address for
future use this will still have to done before EXITing the document
(either as a BLOCK or a PHRASE), however if you have already left a
document you can still enter it in the normal way with EDIT, use the
COPY key to save the address to a BLOCK as before, and then EXIT using
the ABANDON EXIT method. This will still retain the BLOCK in memory to
use in DIRECT PRINTing. It is (as are most things to do with
Locoscript!) a lot easier to do in practise than describe.

                              Gareth R Price, Lowestoft, Suffolk

Using continuous paper one day, it occurred to me that each time you
load the printer afresh, you waste a whole page. So I now use a spare
sheet as a "leader", sticking it under the top of the first sheet of
the listing paper with a length of Scotch "Post-it Note Tape", which
can be peeled away cleanly once it has emerged beyond the tractor
covers. The tape can be re-used. Overlap the two sheets by three or
four holes, to ensure correct alignment on the tractor feed.

                              Leon Birkett, Halesworth, Suffolk

HINTS AND TIPS

Your Locoscript disc is getting full and you want to reorganise by
moving an entire Group of files onto a fresh disc, which you have
already formatted by means of Disckit. It can be done in Locoscript,
moving file-by-file laboriously into the Memory Drive and then onto a
new disc. It is neater to do it by CPM Plus, using the Group or User
number commands. The procedure is not covered in the manual and
although one can work it out by studying Powys-Lybbe & Clarke's "The
Amstrad CP/M Plus", here is the method summarised.

You will need, in addition to a formatted disc, the CPM Plus disc
(side 2) in which PROFILE.ENG has been renamed PROFILE.SUB, as
described in the Manual. You should also have made a backup copy of
your Locoscript disc, with Disckit. Start with your nearly-full
Locoscript disc in Drive A: and decide which Group of files you are
going to move. Group 0 is the one called LETTERS in the Amsoft
Locoscript issue disc (when it also holds the hidden System files). Let
us say that you decide to move the entire CONT group (Group 2) onto
the new disc.

Put your CP/M Plus disc into Drive A: and reset with SHIFT + EXTRA +
EXIT in the usual way, when PROFILE.SUB should automatically set the
Drive Search Path and Search Order and boot DIR.COM, ERASE.COM and
PIP.COM (and other files) into Drive M:, where they will be stored in
User (Group) 0.

Now eject the CP/M Plus disc and put your full Locoscript disc into
Drive A:. DO NOT press F1; instead type:

                    dir[user=all] (followed by RETURN)

to check the contents of each group, including the limbo files in User
8-15 groups. If you make a typing mistake, rub out backwards with the
CAN key. Having confirmed that the group of files to be moved is in,
for this example, User group 2, type:

                    pip m:[g1]=a:*.*[g2]

and all files in Group 2 of the Locoscript disc in Drive A: will then
be copied into User group 1 of memory Drive M:, thus keeping them and
their group name together, but separate from the CP/M Plus files which
PROFILE.SUB put into User 0. Copying with PIP still leaves the
original files on your Locoscript disc, for the time being.

Put the formatted blank disc in Drive A: and decide where you want
this group of files to go. Assume, for example, that you want them in
the fourth group, which is actually Group 3 (the first group being 0).
If so, type:

                    pip a:[g3]=m:*.*[g1]

and all your Locoscript files, which were in M: Group 1, will be
copied into Group 3 of the new disc in Drive A: Type:

                    dir[user=all]

HINTS AND TIPS

to confirm that all is as it should be. If so, you can now erase that
group of files from the full Locoscript disc. In this example, the
files came from Group 2 of the full disc. To erase these files
selectively you must get into the same User group in CP/M Plus. Put
the full Locoscript disc into Drive A: and type, for this example:

<p style="text-align:center">user=2</p>

The CP/M prompt will now change from A> to 2A> to confirm that you are
now in User group 2, and dir will let you confirm that you are about
to erase the correct group of files. Having double-checked, type:

<p style="text-align:center">era *.* (note the space after era)</p>

RETURN will now prompt for comfirmation that all files in this group
are to be erased. Press 'y' and in a few seconds User group 2 will
have been erased. Now you can reload Locoscript and reset with the
usual SHIFT + EXTRA + EXIT. There will be an empty group and lots of
lovely new space on the old disc and all the erased files will be on
the new disc in whichever group you wanted than in.

<p style="text-align:right">Martin H Evans, Linton, Cambridge</p>

It might be a good idea to give information on how to play "LIFE"
which is hidden on side 1 of the system discs. (First boot CP/M, then
load MAIL232 from the Locoscript disc. Select F3, "Transfer as ASCII".
Press down EXTRA and PTR. Use RETURN and the cursor keys to build a
bacteria formation. Then press SPACE to watch the bateria
reproducing.)

<p style="text-align:right">Carwyn Cook, Perivale, Middx</p>

PCW FILE HELPLINE

THE HITCHIKERS GUIDE TO THE GALAXY

If somebody doesn't give me a hint how to 'SHOW ME A SMALL SIGN OF
YOUR INTELLIGENCE' to that screening door I shall be responsible for
justifiable homicide to a PCW! I have been everywhere, got everything
I can (including a total of 295 points), and said everything I can
think of to everyone I've met. Should I have taken the Small Black
Particle when in the Synapses maze (ie a small sign of intelligence)
and is this what the door wants? The Guides further! So can anyone set
me on the right track please? (Hints, not the whole answer, would be
appreciated!)

Gareth R Price, 32a Rumburgh Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 4JL.

EMPTY PLASTIC DISC BOXES

Does anyone know anywhere where I can get empty plastic cases for 3"
discs?

<p style="text-align:right">Martin H Evans, 111 High Street, Linton, Cambridge, CB1 6JT</p>

PCW HELPLINE

BASIC

Is it possible to switch between discs A and B when using Basic? If so
please advise how to do this.

B.F.Jago, Windyridge, 2 Ashbourne Croft,

Cleckheaton, W. Yorks BD19 5JF

How do you plot a pixel, from within Mallard Basic, on the monitor
screen without using GSX and without using Escape codes?

Peter Backman, 48 Hallswelle Rd, London NW11 0DJ

WHAT DATABASE?

My husband and I run the Southern Africa Postcard Research Group and
we have between us a collection of around 3000 old postcards, filed in
albums. We have only a rough idea how many cards there are. I want to
put the collection into my PCW8512, Can anyone who has tried a similar
operation advise me which would be the best programme to buy? It has
to be not too pricey and simple to use for someone who is pretty
competent at word processing on the Amstrad but a duffer a pukka
computing. I need to get the collection indexed with cross references
and then be able easily and quickly to find specific cards. We get a
number of letters asking for information on individual cards or series
and also "on approval" offers from dealers so need a system where we
can check what is in the collection quickly. Or would a card index in
a shoe box do the job better?

Vivien Allen, 46, The Crofts, Castletown, Isle of Man, British Isles.

B DRIVE READS DISC FULL

Why, with a B drive disc only half full, or less, on Supercalc and
Cracker, I get a 'DISC FULL' reading and refusal to file. Technical
hick up? Has anyone experienced this? This morning, for instance, on
loading Locoscript and dictionary, I was told I had no drive B
fitted!!! All went well when I re-booted, but obviously there was some
electrical hitch to have caused that.

R.Smart, Brackendale, Church Stretton, Shropshire SY6 6DR

TURNKEY DISC CONTENTS AUTOMATICALLY TO THE M DRIVE

I have copied the following onto a formatted disc:

```
J14cpm3.ems    basic.com
submit.com     random.bas (This is the Basic program to be run)
pip.com
```

I now wish to add to the disc, the turnkey operations to:

1) Copy all the above to the M drive.

2) Ask (via a screen message) for the disc to be removed and replaced
by a disc containing random data produced earlier using the RANDOM.BAS
program.

PCW FILE HELPLINE

3) All the contents of the data disc to be copied into the M drive (the data disc contains a lot of data, a short file containing a reference number and a short file containing the number of data items currently held on the data disc).

4) to load BASIC into the computer memory.

5) to load & Run (or CHAIN) the basic program RANDOM.BAS

So far, I have tried the following:

Starting with the disc containing j14 etc to RANDOM.BAS

```
PIP M:=PIP.COM
(Use DIR M:          to check that PIP.COM is on the M drive)
M:PIP A:PROFILE.SUB=CON:      (to produce a PROFILE.SUB File)
PIP M:=*.* <RETURN>  ALT/J   (Copies the disc contents into M as
required)
```

@ (How do I now get the computer to stop for the disc to be changed for the data disc?)

```
PIP M:*.* <RETURN>   ALT/J   (Copies all the data disc contents into M
as required)

M: <RETURN> ALT/J          (Select drive M rather than A)
BASIC.COM <RETURN>  ALT/J   (Loads BASIC Language into memory)
CHAIN "RANDOM.BAS"  <RETURN> ALT/J (Should load and run RANDOM program
into & from M drive)

ALT/Z                      (to finish making PROFILE.SUB & record it
on Turnkey disc)
```

I find that a) I cannot find how to stop the computer at @ to enable the first disc to be removed & the one containing the Random data etc, to be inserted before everything continues.

b) When booting from cold, the PROFILE.SUB doesn't work. the A: appears, & it is necessary to enter SUBMIT PROFILE <RETURN> when the automatic copying works, and everything is OK up to & including loading the BASIC language into memory. the whole thing then stops & RANDOM is not chained. (Typing CHAIN "RANDOM" then does load and run the RANDOM program.)

However, I soon got an error message since the computer cannot find the files on M disc since I cannot get the computer to stop at @ to allow the correct disc to be inserted in A drive and the contents transfered to M disc.

L.E.Helby, 44 Mount Pleasant, Biggin Hill, Kent, TN16 3TR

DIY CPS8256

I have recently become interested in comms and have recently purchased a modem for my PCW8256. I do not wish to pay around £55 for the official Amstrad CPS8256 interface for my modem as I am 16 years old and unable to afford such an item. I would like to know how to built a suitable connecting cable to pass directly from the PCW8256's expansion port edge connector to a RS232 device such as a modem, which is fitted with a standard 25 pin female 'D' socket.

PCW FILE HELPLINE

I would be most grateful if someone can supply me with a pin-out map of the PCW8256 expansion port so that I can built myself such a cable. My modem is a Kirks "Enterprise 1" which is an approved 300/300, 1200/75, 1200/1200 auto-dial, auto answer CCITT model. I am unsure about the expansion connector - I do not know whether the necessary RS232 circuitry is built into the PCW8256 or if it resides within the CPS8256.

Bernard Stedman, 21 Brabazon Rd, Merley, Wimbourne, Dorset BH21 1XN.

Here is a list of addresses members can write to if you are stuck on a problem.

LOCOSCRIPT, SPELL, MAIL - John Bunting, 104 Cliff Gardens, Scunthorpe,
                          S.Humberside DN15 7BN

MULTIPLAN + CONDOR - Hilary Costello, Mount St Bernard Abbey, Coalville, Leicester, LE6 3UL

CRACKER - J K Millington, 5 High St, Heathfield, E Sussex TN21 8LU.

WORDSTAR - Roger Godin, 58 Surbiton Hill Pk, Surbiton, KT5 8ER.

BASIC - Geoff Childs, 14 Gretton Rd, Winchcombe, Gloucs.
        Barry Priestly, 43 Raymond Rd, Slough, (Also Pascal)
        Steve Cholerton, 61 Market St, Ironville, Nottinghamshire NG16 5NJ

DIMS - Paul Spicker, 7 Malvern Close, Nottingham, NG3 5GU.

CP/M - Geoff Barnard, 39A Mill Street, Guisborough TS14 6AG.
        Steve Cholerton, 61 Market Ironville, Nottinghamshire NG16 5NJ

SUPERCALC 2 & DBASE II - John Lodge, 24 Endsleigh Grove, Lancaster,
                         LA1 2TX

DR GRAPH - J R Dean, 26 Halcyon Way, Burton on Trent, DE14 2JR.

CARDBOX, SAGE RETRIEVE, NEWWORD & NEWSTAR, SUPERCALC, COMM+ SAGE ACCOUNTS, & MICRO SIMPLEX.
Terry Biddulph, 240 Lindsworth Rd, Kings Norton, Birmingham B30 3SE.

CHRIS> If you are on this list and don't want to be let me know. I have assumed that you are still interested in helping other members. If you can help with any software packages then let me know and I will put you on the list.

Welcome to AMSTRAD

by Alistair Ferguson

Hello to all AMSTRAD users. The welcome to AMSTRAD is aimed at myself by the way,as it is only a year or so since I became chained to my AMSTRAD and have spent many a happy and intrigued hour sitting hitting a keyboard since. It is even more recently that I have become aware of CPC Newsletter and PCW File and must say that I find the quality of this magazine excellent. So to Chris and to all the contributors I must add a well done.

What, you are asking yourself, am I doing here? I hope that this will be the first of a series of articles which are aimed at you, the user, covering articles on computing and also to answer your queries in a regular "Marjorie Proops" column.

Problems

The aim of this section is to answer your queries on a wide range of subjects covering both hardware and software generally or with AMSTRAD. It may be you have a specific query or just want to settle an argument or were curious about something. Whatever the reason then write to me at the address below and I will attempt to answer as best I can.

Please refrain from asking questions relating to a specific software package as it is not always possible to gain access to these. So now it up to you, send me your problems and I will publish the answers on this page for all of the readers to see and benefit.

Articles

I also hope to publish several articles to appeal to all based on subjects covering the same ground as mentioned above. Starting from the basics involved in electronics in general to computers and how they work, whats in them and how to get the best from them. Additionally I hope to cover basic programming and also using and finding your way around CP/M and languages other than BASIC. So again if you can let me know what it is you would like to see in print and I will try to oblige.

A.Ferguson, 16 Membury Close,

Sunderland SR3 2RD.

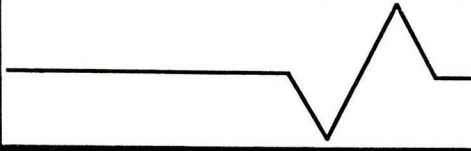THE IDEAS PROCESSOR - A column to save your grey matter. By Mallowe.

Wouldn't it be a good idea to - - - - - - - - .

We've all thought of them many times, carried them around for a while, added to them, changed them and most often dropped them.

Ideas I mean.

That's all to change through the pages of PCW File.

From today any useful, hopeful, desperate, but I must stress, only reasonable ideas can be processed through this column.

For example if you own as I do an 8256 and have thought about memory upgrade - we all know how to do it and which chip's to use - but can't afford the current prices. What about getting together in vast numbers to take advantage of quantity discount direct from chip manufacturers? (I hope to deal with this as soon as prices are available.)

Public Domain Software is widely available but oh the phone bills. Why not download from your local B.B at cheap rate, and send it to PCW File in exchange for some of the other software available. Just send in a disc with your's on and a request for what you require. We'd soon rival the major P.D.SIG GROUPS.

Ever heard of SCRIVNER - it's a magic piece of software - can do anything a database, mail-merge, calculator, spreadsheet, etc. can do and much more beside. Ed> It's in our library. Wouldn't it be a good idea to pool all our specialist applications.

Well, that's the IDEA behind the column - any comments (reasonable) - now all I need are some IDEAS to PROCESS.

We'll publish the best and hopefully all profit from them. See you next issue - by the way thanks CHRIS for the opportunity to use this idea.

Please address any relevant correspondance to:-

Malcolm Lowe
5 Dumbarton Road
Wyke Regis
Weymouth
Dorset
DT4 9BX

PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE ON THE PCW

David Moore

One of the problems with Public Domain software is that the newcomer is presented with catalogues listing thousands of programs, but with no real description of what these programs are all about. The next problem, once you have finally managed to make a choice, is either to load the program or to be able to run it properly after it is loaded. This article is designed to offer some assistance in the CP/M Public Domain maze and concentrates on the programs offered FREE by PCW File.

The programs will either run under CP/M by entering the main title name at the A> prompt or under Basic if the file name ends in BAS. Most, but not all, basic programs were written in 'M' Basic and the Mallard Basic supplied with the PCW is very similar and should present no real problems. Of course, you must first load Basic into the PCW.

Secondly, some of these programs will not run correctly on the PCW without modification to the program itself or installing the program to suit the PCW. From our own lists the following fall in the category and require a reasonable degree of programming knowledge to be able to make them work.

'TYPWRYT', 'FINDBAD', 'MAKE', 'DU-V86', 'SYNONYM', 'SPELL-11', 'UNSPOOL', 'QWIKKEY', 'I/O-CAP', 'SPELL-ED', 'TTYPE.BAS' needs installing but is not too difficult.

Sometimes, but certainly not always, you will find that the program has an information file supplied with it and this will explain how to load, install, and understand the program. These maybe shown in the directory under file names such as : .DOC, .INF, .HLP, READ.ME, etc. However, quite often they are stored on the disc in a squeezed form and must be unsqueezed before they can be read. In this case a 'Q' is usually included in the file name. i.e DQC, IQF, etc. A file is squeezed to reduce the memory size taken up on the disc.

Of all the utilities available, perhaps, NEWSWEEP (NSWP205.COM) is the most useful. Although it takes up only 11K of disc space, it gives you all in one program, PIP/DIR.COM/ERASE/SHOW/LIST/SQUEEZE/UNSQUEEZE. It will even list a squeezed file to screen without having to unsqueeze it first. If you use the utilities supplied on the CP/M+ disc, PIP, DIR.COM, ERASE, & SHOW, alone take up 37K of memory and all have to be loaded seperately.
Newsweep has an information file supplied with it, but in a squeezed form.

DISK76.COM: Similar to Newsweep, but with fewer features. The main ones missing are Squeeze and Unsqueeze. However, Disk76 only uses 4K of memory.

NI.COM [4K] can be used in place of DIR.COM [16K]. A saving of 12K disc space.

D.COM [3K]: Similar to NI.COM and has the added advantage of being able to look over all user areas.

PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE FOR THE PCW

WCOUNT.COM [6K]: A word count program. Very useful if you have to write an article or paper of a set number of words. Locoscript must be changed to ASCII. To use it enter at the A> WCOUNT drv:FILENAME.EXT (drv = A or B disc drive)

FOOD.COM [32K]: A very good and powerful stock inventory program. Although written as a food inventory system it can be easily adapted to any kind of trade and is equal of many commericial packages. Before you start using FOOD, transfer it to an empty disc. The data files take up a lot of space.

BANNER.COM [2K]: A program which prints letters across the page, 7 lines high and 7 characters wide. The main problem is that it was set up for use with a 132 character wide printer. Not really suitable for the PCW printer.

GOTHIC.COM [11K]: Similar to BANNER.COM and again needs a 132 character wide printer. You can try using subscript or superscript on the PCW. Both of these programs can wear out your printer ribbon quickly, as each position is overstriked many times.

PASSWORD.COM [1K]: As the title suggests a program to protect any COM file. Be warned, once protected the file can only be used with the correct password.
     *** If you forget the password the file is lost forever !! ***
To use this program enter at the A> PASSWORD drv:xxx.com
(drv = A or B drive. xxx = name of your file)

IDUMP.COM [1K] prints on the screen the hexadecimal and ASCII contents of a program file. Enter at the A> IDUMP FILENAME.EXT

ADVENT.COM is the orginal Colossal Cave Adventure game. There are no real problems with loading and playing this adventure, but a problem exists over re-loading a 'saved' game. The instructions, contained in the program, tell you that a game position can be saved and this is easily achieved. The problem is that you are not told how to reload the 'SAVED' game and nobody completes this adventure in one session. All the usual words such as, reload, restore, etc., have no effect whatsoever.
The answer is to enter: ADVENT -R (there must be a space between the T and -).

BIO.COM [14K]: A program which gives a biorhythm chart based on a birth date. No instructions are given, but all entries required are shown by screen prompts, so you should not have any trouble in running this program. One small point which causes a little confusion, the dates are entered and shown in reverse order. i.e. 8th March 1966 is shown as 660308

STRTRK.BAS [21K]: is one of numerous Star Trek programs to be found in the CP/M public domain. This is a very good version of the game and runs in Mallard Basic without any problems. Unfortunately, the rules of play and required commands are not explained properly, but it is well worth perservering with.

PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE FOR THE PCW

TRADE.BAS [13K]: A space trading strategy game. The object of the game is to establish large shipping lanes and purchase stock in the companies. At the start, you are asked for a three digit number and this determines the stars position on the game board. Change the numbers and you get a different board. Full instructions are included in the program.

MERCHANT.BAS [14K]: Another space trading game. You travel from star to star buying and selling different cargos. Again a random number is asked for at the start of each game. Instructions are shown on the screen.

One interesting thing about the basic programs to be found in public domain. The data can be listed, so for once you can see how they were written.

Finally, if you need modem software, SMODEM+.COM is an excellent program and fully documented. The information files are: SMODEM+.IQF & SMODEM.DQC and these need to be unsqueezed. Who said 'NEWSWEEP' wasn't useful !!

Public Domain Software List

People interested in obtaining the FREE Public Domain Software should do the following.

a) Write clearly what you require.

b) Mark your discs with your name and address.

c) Enclose a S.A.E for the return of your software. If you don't then you will have to pay £1 per side copying fee.

d) Send your disc(s) and S.A.E to one of the following addresses.

John Cockshaw	Bob Ellis	David Loveridge
6 Duchy Drive	Rowan	55 Windsor Crescent
Heaton	100 St Peters Close	Harrow
Bradford	Moreton - on - Lugg	Middlesex
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Tel: 0432-761860 from 7pm

e) Would overseas readers please send their disc to Chris with £2.50 to cover postage (as you can not send a S.A.E).

Disc 1A

BOGGLE.BAS	CALCULATE.BAS	LABELS4.BAS	LU.COM LU.DQC	MERCHANT
NSWP.205.COM	NSWP205.DQC	POSTER.BAS	SQUEEZE.COM	TRADE.BAS
TTYPE.DQC	UNSQUEEZ.COM	WHATSNEW.COM	WUMP.BAS	

Disc 1B

BLKJACK.BAS	CHESS.COM	FOOD.COM	GOLF.COM	HORSE.BAS
MASTER.LEX	NEWPUZ.COM	ROCKET.BAS	STRTRK.BAS	

```
/APLICAT.CRC    /COMMUNI.CRC    /DIRECTO.CRC  /FAMILY.CRC   /FAMILY2.CRC
/FAMILY3.CRC    /HACKERS.CRC    /LIBRARI.CRC  /POTPOUR.CRC  BANNER.COM
BIO.COM         CAL.COM         CAT.COM       CAT3.COM      CLEANUP.COM
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LRUN.COM        MAST.CAT        MAZE.COM      MCAT41.COM    MCAT41.DQC
NI.COM          NSWP205.COM     PASSWORD.COM  RENAME.COM    RPIP.COM
SCRAMBLE.COM    SMODEM+.IQF     SORTV.COM     SUPERSUB.COM  TYPEL.COM
UNERA190.COM    VLIST.COM       WCOUNT.COM    XTYPE.COM
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Disc 2B

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CHASE.BAS       D.COM           LOANAMORE.BAS MBXREF.BAS    OTHELLO.COM
RCPM-052.LQT    REALEVAL.BAS    SMODEM.DQC    SMODEM+.COM   SMODEM53.AQM
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Disc 3A

Colossal Cave Adventure plus NSWP205

Disc 3B

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DU-V86.COM      DU-V86.COM      FINDBAD.COM   I/O CAP.COM   MAKE.COM
NSWP205.COM     QWIKKEY.COM     SPELL-11.COM  SPELL-ED.COM  SYNONYM.COM
THELP0.DAT      THELP1.DAT      THELP2.DAT    THELP3.DAT    HELP4.DAT
THELP5.DAT      TTKEYBD.DAT     TTYPE.BAS     TTYPEXC.DAT   TTYPEXD.DAT
TTYPEXE.DAT     TTYPEXF.DAT     TTYPEXG.DAT   TTYPEXH.DAT   TTYPEXI.DAT
TTYPEXJ.DAT     TTPEWRYT.COM    UNSPOOL.COM
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Disc 4A

```
NSWP.COM        QK20.COM        QK20.DOC      RASMB.COM     RASMB.DOC
RASMB+.COM      RASMTA.COM      RASMTA.DOC    README.CAT    READTHIS.CAT
TYPE.ME         UNLOAD.COM      UNLOADI.COM   WS30PAT.PQS   Z80ASMUK.COM
Z80DOCUK.COM    ZDEBUG17.COM    ZDEBUG17.DQC  ZDEBUG17.COM  ZLINK.COM
ZLINK.DOC       ZMAC.COM        ZMAC.DOC
```

Disc 4B

```
-CATALOG.001    ANYCOD1.TST     ANYCOD2.TST   ANYCODE.ASM   ANYCODE.CRS
ANYCODE.DQC     ANYCODE.HEC     ANYCODE.HEX   COMPARE.COM   COMPARE.DOC
CONV2.RSX       CORPMEM.FRM     DSKORDER.CAT  DU-V87.DOC    DU87.COM
FORMAT.CAT      HELP.HQP        LASM.COM      LASM.DOC      LOHD.COM
LOOK.COM        LOOKAT.COM      LOOKAT.DOC    MEMSHIP.FRM   NDDT.COM
NDDT.DOC
```

DISC 5A

```
BLKJCK.BAS      ROCKET.BAS      SCRIVNER.TXT  SCRIVNER.COM  BOGGLE.BAS
```

DISC 5B

```
ADDRESS.BAS (LINDSAY LOCKETTS PROGRAM) CASTLE.COM  CASTLE.DOC
MINDREAD.BAS    COUNSEL.BAS     MONOPOLY.BAS  STARTRK.COM   BANNER.BAS
CALENDAR.BAS    FOOTBALL.COM    PRINT.COM     GOLF.BAS
```

DISC 6A

```
COMPARE.COM     COMPARE.DOC     SECTORED.COM  SECTORED.DOC  UNERASE.COM
UNERASE.DOC     FILEMAN(NSWP)   FILEMAN.DOC   COOKFILE.DAT  SHELL.COM
UNSPOOL.COM     COOKIE.COM      LOOK.COM      SPOOL.COM     SPOOL.TXT
Z80.LIB         DESPOOL.COM     LOOKAT.COM    LOOKAT.DOC    ERACAT.COM
TYPWRITE.COM
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NAMES.INC	SCHOOL.INC	TELEVID.INC	CHECKBK.SCR	PETTY.SCR
SCHOOL.SCR	TOTAL.	CORREL.SCR	PETTY1.INC	SCRIVNER.COM
VOLUME.DOC	CORREL.INC	PETTY2.INC	STANLET.SCR	CORREL2.SCR
POEM.SCR	STANLETT1.SCR	DESPREC.SCR	PRICE.INC	STANLET2.SCR

DISC 7A

SCRIVNER.DOC (130K)

DISC 7B

LOCOSCRIPT FILES OF SCRIVNER.

Your Domain

Your Domain lets you send in your own programs for everybody to share. If you want to share your peice of programming expertise then send in the disc and a S.A.E as we can return it. If you want the program in this months Your Domain then please send the Editor a S.A.E and disc. (People wanting the LSPRINT program should send Disc and postage to Phillip Wade).

001 Address program by Lindsay Lockett now on disc 5A of the Public Domain software.

002 SETPRINT is a convenient way of setting the PCW Printer up to behave correctly for single and continuous stationery of various lengths, using 10,12 or condensed typesize and finally exiting either to Basic or CPM+ system. One small problem is that if you set up a page length of 9 lines it produces odd effects, including an actual length of 32 lines. Therefore I have placed a 10 line minimum on Page Length. Programmed by Martin H Evans.

LsPrint by Phillip Wade

LsPrint version 1.3 is now available free of charge. It prints LocoScript files on a daisywheel printer, and also includes an accurate word-count function. Reviewed in 8000 Plus, April 1987, page 52.

Features:
- no need to create an ASCII file;
- supports all special effects, including underline, right justification, bold print, different character pitches and line pitches, etc.;
- handles headers and footers, and keeps the LocoScript page layout;
- includes a word count function;
- characters such as e and ½ can be printed with an ordinary printwheel;
- if you have extra printwheels, they can be defined to LsPrint and you will be prompted when necessary to change printwheels (thus you can make full use of printwheels with different pitches, italic characters, mathematical symbols, European alphabets, etc.).

The program works with documents prepared using LocoScript version 1.4 or earlier. It runs under CP/M+, is very easy to use, and comes complete with a 16 page manual on disc. Almost all types of daisywheel printer are supported.

An enhanced version of LsPrint (for LocoScript2 documents) is proposed and will be available by early August (further details and price will be included with copies of version 1.3).

To obtain your copy of LsPrint version 1.3, send a formatted disc in a padded envelope, together with an addressed label and postage for return, to: Phillip Wade, 219 Marlborough Avenue, Chanterlands Avenue, Hull

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TEMPDISC REVIEWS: July edition of 8000 PLUS used the terms; ingenious ... clever ... wonderful ... and also said, "clever use of all LocoScript's features ... you can line up all your details quickly and easily without having to learn the difference between a left, right or centre tab ... the designers have created a vast selection of borders and designs". August edition of the official AMSTRAD PCW used the terms; excellent ... fun ... instructive ... impressive ... enormous scope ... and also said, "... take the effort out of creating templates ... wide range of heading styles ... astounding what can be done with some ingenuity".

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