

**PCW**

**FILE**



Vol. 2, Issue 1



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**PCW FILE INTERNATIONAL**

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**PUBLISHED BY  
AMSTRAD COMPUTING NEWSLETTERS**

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**BACK ISSUES**

**Volume One**

Issue 1 .....	70p
Issue 2 .....	90p
Issue 3 .....	£1.20
Issue 4 .....	£1.20
Issue 5 .....	£1.20

**SPECIAL OFFER ON P.24**

'AMSTRAD PCW IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF AMSTRAD PLC. PCW FILE IS AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION.THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF PCW FILE BUT REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF OUR MANY READERS AND CONTRIBUTORS. READERS WHO WISH TO ENTER INTO PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE EDITOR SHOULD ENCLOSE A SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE, OTHERWISE PCW FILE CANNOT GUARANTEE A REPLY'.

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## EDITORIAL

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Welcome. First can I ask members to note their membership number which is above their name on the envelope. This is a temporary measure until I can get something more permanent sorted out. Please quote your membership number to obtain Public Domain Software and any of the other Special Offers which appear in this issue. If you are just about to join after you have seen this sample then I will write back giving you your membership number so you can make use of the benefits of PCW File right away.

It is unbelievable to think that PCW File is celebrating one year of Publication. It seems only yesterday that we started producing PCW File and haven't we grown! Now we have well over 1000 readers in many countries such as New Zealand, USA and West Germany. We have grown in size from a mere 12 pages to our present size of today. Remember our mention in 8000 Plus, how many of you joined because of that mention. Wouldn't it be nice to see the other main three magazines give the group a mention too! We also get a regular mention in the Amstrad Users-Sig who kindly print our contents page and details on how to join. Many thanks Al Warsh. Overseas readers if you know any local user groups in your country please put us in touch with them.

In 1988 we are aiming high; we want our membership to **double**, more backing from software and hardware companies, more hints and tips and features than ever before. The latter is up to you, you send articles in and they will be published, as long as they make interesting reading!

Here are some ideas if you are stuck on what to write about:-

Communications column - regular feature.  
Soapbox - Air your views on any PCW relevant topic.  
Experiences with your Amstrad PCW.  
Software Reviews  
Hardware Reviews  
Word processing articles  
Hints and Tips  
Letters - not a lot this time, you must all be getting over Christmas and the new year holidays! (I know what all of you have been up to!)  
Programming articles - Languages e.g. Basic, Fortran, Small C, (didn't someone volunteer!), Pascal etc.  
Technical articles.

These are just some ideas off the top of my head. If you have any suggestions or would like to undertake a regular feature or occasional article then please get in touch.

I prefer to receive your article on disc but if it is short please just send it to me in printed format. I will send your disc back.

The Public Domain Library is coming on very well. Bob Ellis has lots of your discs and he will be compiling them over the coming months. Many thanks to all of you who have sent something to him for inclusion into the library. From now on can we advise when you send PD into Bob, make sure it has **Document files**. I understand Bob has also received a number of document files which we hope to put onto a disc in the near future.

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**EDITORIAL**

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It's '**Recruit a Friend**' for the months of February and March. Show a friend a copy of PCW File and get them to join the group for £18 for one year (Twelve Issues), £23 Europe and £27 overseas for 12 issues. In return we will give you a **COMPLETELY FREE** disc with Public Domain software, which means we will buy the disc and pay your postage! Just send me your friends name, address and more importantly the persons cheque and tell me what you want from the PD library.

Now its the FREE draw from members who joined us from Thurston Brown Associates and people who decided to renew their membership. Let me thank everybody who took part and here are the winners:

Martin C. Pay, Redcliffe Bay, BS20 8EN  
Derek H. Holden, Walsall, WS1 2LE  
Holger Breindahl, Denmark

If those people get in touch and tell me what software you would like I will get it for you.

From now on we will be printing full names and addresses unless we are told not to, so that you can correspond with each other if you wish to do so.

That's all for this issue but can I remind members who would like to contribute, that Volume 2 No. 2 will be going to the printers on 18th February and should be sitting on your doormats two weeks later.

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**MAILBAG**

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**46, The Crofts,  
Castletown  
Isle of Man**

For the past ten months I have been using re-inked ribbons for the printer of my PCW8512 and was happy with the results. However, over the Christmas holiday my printer went on the blink. First all the descenders disappeared and then the rest of the print began to look poorly. As soon as the dealer with whom I have a maintenance agreement opened again after the holidays, I took the printer to him. At first he thought the print head was worn out, which surprised him, even though I had my machine (originally an 8256) since the month it came on the market. When I went back to collect the printer he told me that the cause of the trouble had been re-inked ribbons. The print head had been choked with dried ink and the bottom of the printer awash with it. He told me he had to take the whole thing to pieces to clean it up. On this occasion he had carried out the work without charge under my maintenance agreement but he would not do so again, unless I promised that in future I would not use re-inked ribbons. I protested that as an author and journalist I get through ribbons at a tremendous rate - last month I printed out copies of a manuscript of 130,000 words for a publisher and it used up three of the ribbons, though what was left on them was adequate for rough work. I told him I could not afford new ribbons. He then offered me a very good price if I would buy a box of ten, which I did. I feel that other heavy users of the PCW for word processing may be interested in this sad story.

**Vivian Allen**

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**MAILBAG**

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**270 Haggerston Road  
London  
E8 4EP**

I have been using various versions of Locoscript 2 now for over six months. It is a marked improvement over Locoscript 1 in nearly all respects, and I would be willing to contribute a comparison of the two if you think that is of any use.

I also have ProPascal and BBCBasic(Z80) from M-Tec Soft. The latter for compatibility with the BBC's used at college. Both of these programs are quite pricy (about £86 and £99 respectively), so I doubt if many members have them. But they are both superb products. If there is interest I could answer questions about them, and possibly write reviews or short descriptions of some of their features.

Propascal is a complete implementation of ANSI Pascal (level 0). It is powerful, elegant and fast.

BBCBasic is a much nicer and more readable language than Mallard. The use of multi-line functions and procedures makes it a bit like Pascal. In power it is superior to Mallard in most respects but inferior in a few. For instance, it includes an in-line assembler and totally free format file handling, enabling it to read, write and edit files for any CP/M programs, though constructing, say, Locoscript files would take a lot of effort. Furthermore, it only occupies 16K leaving about 45K program space. The manual is the best I have ever read, much better than Mallard's or, for that matter, Acorn's own BBC Basic Manual.

**Oliver Pretzel**

**94 Coombe Lane  
Bristol BS9 2AP  
Telecom Gold Mailbox: 72:MAG35812  
Telephone (0272) 682321**

I am particularly interested to see people taking Dr Logo seriously. I think it is a programming language with extensive possibilities. The only problem is the lack of documentation in the manual. Could you persuade John Clark, who says he has worked out what all the primitives do, to share his knowledge with the rest of us? The other difficulty with LOGO as I see it is its lack of communication with the printer (other than COPYON or EXTRA + PTR). Presumably the .desposit and .examine could be used to write machine code routines as one does in BASIC. Has anyone tried this?

Your note asks for volunteers for a telephone helpline. I am not always at home but have an Answerphone, and would be happy to collect messages when I am not in, and would try to respond within 24 hours whenever possible. I also have a Telecom Gold Mailbox, and would be happy to respond to queries left there, on the MicroLink Bulletin Board, or on any Bulletin Board easily accessible from Bristol, eg Avon Opus, or CBBS Exeter.

**Tony Reese**

Thanks Tony for offering to start our Telephone helpline service off. If anyone else is interested please get in touch.

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**NEWS FILE**

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**NOW YOU CAN PRINT IN COLOUR WITH YOUR AMSTRAD PCW**

Streamside Research have now made it possible to print in colour with your PCW 8000 series printer. All you need is some coloured ribbons which are now available and a graphics program such as 'Masterpaint'.

The colour printing disk fully explains this technique; has sets of demonstrations for you to practice printing with; instructions and tips to help you create your own colour graphics; and a colour chart to assist in the selection from the wide range of shades derivable from the six basic colours. All you need is the graphics program, ribbons, and the will to try! (at present, disk for Masterpaint is available - other programs will be catered for on request)

**Disk only £5.00 (Incl. P&P):**

**From: Streamside Research, 2 Rosary Drive, Bridgwater TA6 7JS.**

**(Editor: If anyone with Masterpaint would like to have a go with the above and do a review please let me know as Streamside Research kindly sent us a review copy).**

**CAN YOU RUN THE COUNTRY AS WELL (OR AS BAD!) AS THE MAN IN NO. 11**

This is what the "Press release" says:

"YES CHANCELLOR!" is a realistic, and challenging simulation of the complexities and traditions of the British economic system. Based on a simplified but in principle correct model of the problems of raising and using - your money -

"YES CHANCELLOR!" includes all the problems you'd come across if YOU were the Chancellor - controlling inflation, taxation, interest rates, social services, strikes and wage claims, foreign trade, etc ... The object of the game is to stay in power by winning an election every five years; manage it for fifteen and you win a life peerage! Random numbers are used to reflect the uncertainties of the real world, but all program developments follow general economic laws and are tied to your decisions. Four levels of difficulty - author and senior official of the Inland Revenue, Tom Tuite, advises that you start on level one so you can see how the program works before you are thrown out of office!

"YES CHANCELLOR!" is available for PCW8256/8512/ 9512 at £14.95.

For a copy of Topologika new spring catalogue, readers should ring 0733 244682, or write (no stamp required) to Topologika, FREEPOST, P.O.Box 39, Stilton, PETERBOROUGH PE7 3BR.

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**NEWSFILE** is a service for readers, it does not endorse any products but is what has dropped through on to the doormat of the PCW File offices.

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**HINTS AND TIPS**

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BACKING UP WITH ONE DRIVE MADE EASY

Everyone has read and noted the advice to back-up important data files to prevent loss of important data, but for those of us with only one disc drive the practicalities of carrying out the task of backing up with the constant changing of discs, has often caused us to live dangerously. There are, files with only one disc change. In addition, once the system has been set up, the task is initiated with a one-word command.

The examples given, are for archiving data files from Money Manager, but are equally valid for any program that maintains data files on disc.

STAGE 1

Ensure that the PROFILE.SUB on the boot disc contains the line:-

SETDEF M: \*[ ORDER=(SUB, COM)]

With the system set up in this way, it becomes unnecessary to use the command "SUBMIT".

STAGE 2

Copy the following files from your CP/M utilities disc to the data disc:-

PIP.COM

SUBMIT.COM

Using the RPED text editor (or any other editor), create a file called "ARCHIVE.SUB" on the data disc. It must consist of the following lines:-

PIP M: =\*.MMM[A]

PIP B: =M: \*.MMM

ERA M: \*.MMM

All the hard work has now been completed. All that is left is the simple task of backing up (or archiving) your latest data files onto a back-up disc. With your data disc in the drive type "ARCHIVE" and press [ENTER]. You will see on screen:

A>pip m: =\*.mmm[A]

COPYING

PERSONAL.MMM

SOCIAL1.MMM

SOCIAL2.MMM



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**HINTS AND TIPS**

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Please put the disc for B: into the drive and press any key

The disc on which you intend to store your back-up files should now be inserted, and any key pressed. On screen you will see:

COPYING

PERSONAL.MMM

SOCIAL1.MMM

SOCIAL2.MMM

A>era m: \*.mmm

ERASE M: \*.MMM (Y/N)?

You now confirm whether or not you wish the files you have just copied to your back-up disc erased from drive M.

The first time you carry out the archiving operation all the data files with the corresponding filetype (MMM in the examples) will be copied. After the initial archiving operation, only files that have been altered will be copied. After the initial archiving operation, only files that have been altered will be copied to the backup disc. This is because of the PIP option [A] which means:- "Copy only files that have been changed since the last copy".

**BOOT DISKS FOR LARGE PROGRAMS AND ONE DISC DRIVE**

The technique for producing self start discs using PROFILE.SUB is generally covered, however, some programs like NEWSDESK and CRACKER II take up so much space on the disc that there is insufficient room for the systems program J14CPM3.EMS and the other systems files required to make a successful boot disc. This problem can, however, be overcome, even for those of us with only one disc drive. The method described below is for NEWSDESK but this technique can be employed for any large program.

First format a blank disk and then copy onto side one the following files, using PIP.COM, or even better, NSWP.COM from the public domain:-

```
J14CPM3.EMS
PIP.COM
SETDEF.COM
SUBMIT.COM
*.FNT (all the fonts from NEWSDESK)
PROFILE.SUB - which should read: -
```

Make up

```
SETDEF M:, *[ temporary=m:]
PIP M: =*.fnt
b:newsdesk
```

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## HINTS AND TIPS

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Once this has been completed the NEWSDESK files should be copied to side two. This can be done either by using DISCKIT, or if you are the fortunate owner of XFORMAT2 from Moonstone Computing and able to format data discs to 192K, then you can be more selective.

The hard work has now been completed. All that is left is to put your new boot disk into the drive, and, after the font files have been copied to the "M" drive, you will be faced with the prompt

"Please put the disc for B: into the drive and press any key".

You now turn your disc to side two and press any key as prompted. Once NEWSDESK has loaded you will be faced with the prompt,

"Please put the disc for A: into the drive and press any key".

This time you just press any key, leaving the disc in the drive as it is. If you have followed the instructions correctly you will be faced with the NEWSDESK opening logo.

Maurice K. Williams  
10, Walnut Close, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV10 0JB.

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## HINTS AND TIPS

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### TIPS FOR USING LOCOSCRIPT

1. Codes can be saved as phrases. I use, e.g. PASTE T to get (+ReV)(+Bold)(+Keep4)(+PitchPSD) when I want to open a title heading, and PASTE S for (+ReV)(+Bold)(+Keep4) to open a subheading. PASTE X, for (-ReV)(-Bold)(Layout), restores the text after either of these, or after a new layout. (Examples are included in the PHRASES.STD file available from Chris.)

2. Similarly, one can also save as phrases

- a line straight across the page: enter (+UL)(RAlign)(-UL)[return]
- sections of boxes or tables, e.g.

--	--	--

which means you don't have to start from scratch when laying them out

- graphic symbols which are otherwise difficult to find on the keyboard. There's a case for moving the apostrophe from ALT SHIFT 6 to be pasted in.
- letterheads, including alternative addresses. I use PASTE H for my letters from home, PASTE W for letters from work.

(Examples of the first three of these are included in the PHRASES.STD file.

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## HINTS AND TIPS

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### DISK MANAGEMENT

1. Files can be ranked in the order you want if you begin them with a number rather than a letter. Although the disk manager won't let you enter a space, you can enter (shift plus hyphen), which looks like a space. Your files could be called , e.g. 1 TEST, 2 MORE and 3 MORE.YET; the order they will appear in will be the order of the numbers.

2. The groups on a Locoscript start of day disk are copied into drive M, with any TEMPLATE.STD file. This can be used to

- give groups in drive M useful names
- carry information into drive M automatically, by including it in a TEMPLATE.STD file.

### TIPS FOR THE PCW HARDWARE

#### A PRINTER STAND.

To use continuous paper stationery, you need a printer stand so that you can feed paper from underneath the printer. It's possible to buy racks made in white plastic coated wire, which are intended to create extra space in kitchen cupboards. They cost about £2 in stores which sell kitchen goods. I have one which is exactly the size of the PCW printer.

#### RE-INKING

There is no mystery about re-inking ribbons; anyone who learned to type on an old typewriter (as I did) will remember that you had to re-ink those ribbons regularly. I've been re-inking my ribbons since I bought the PCW; it takes about half a minute and costs pennies. Special ink for typewriter ribbons is now hard to come by, but stamp pad ink works just as well; you can buy a bottle in W.H.Smith for under a pound. Place the ribbon cartridge on a piece of paper, normal side up. Take off the top of the cartridge by carefully slipping the catches (there is more than one type of cartridge and the positions of the catches differ). By the way, you may be horrified to discover that the ribbons later supplied by Amstrad has less than half the amount of ribbon inside than the earlier versions do. Now spot the ribbon at intervals with the ink; ten to twenty spots will usually be right, depending on how much ink you use, how much ribbon you find inside, how dry the ribbon was, etc. - you'll have to experiment. It's better to use too little ink at first - too much leads to blotches. Put the top back on the cartridge and leave it for a day, to allow the ribbon to absorb the ink. That's it.

#### **Disks - Ribbons - Disks - Ribbons - Disks - Ribbons - Disks - Ribbons**

10 CF2 Disks .....	£ 21.95
5 CF2 Disks .....	£ 11.49
14 Metre Ribbons for 8000's only .....	£ 4.95

Cheques payable to: **Julian Sawyer**  
**Q.E.Q.M. Court, Furze Lane, Milton, Southsea, Portsmouth**

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My introduction to computers happened a few years ago when I helped out with a group of children aged 11 to 12 years old. There were 16 children and two BBC computers. It was a fascinating experience. I marvelled at the way the children used the computers; confidently, competently, and were perfectly at ease with them. Some of the details have become a little hazy with the passage of time but the conduct and the attitude of the children made a lasting impression upon me.

The program being used was, I think, called 'Spanish Main'. There were two crews of pirates, each trying to discover the hidden treasure and escape with it before the other crew did so. Four children made up each crew on each computer. The crews took it in turn at the computer so that they did not know where the other crew's ship was or what it was doing. The children had maps, used co-ordinates and compass bearings correctly, discussed the possible courses of action open to them and what the consequences might be and then decided upon actions acceptable to the group. The game carried on for a number of weeks, there being one session per week, but their enthusiasm and motivation never faltered.

I thought this work very valuable and worthwhile. It encouraged working as a team, group discussion before taking action and further discussion when the consequences of that action was revealed, using compass bearings, co-ordinates and other valuable skills. In addition the children produced some excellent creative writing and art work based on 'their adventures'. The writing and artwork were exciting and imaginative. I was most impressed and determined that I must find out more about computers. However lack of time conspired to thwart this ambition. I don't know if there are any programs like 'Spanish Main' for the PCW. I don't know of any. It is a pity if there are not any, as they have great potential for teaching, and for keeping the children gainfully busy on wet afternoons, when they are not at school.

Later on this school bought an AMSTRAD PCW for the school office. Its performance and its price surprised me. Later, when I had more time at my disposal, the performance and the price of the PCW became irresistible. I went out and bought one. I am still very much a novice but I am learning, though somewhat slower than those children who introduced me to computers. I feel the need of a PCW User's Group. I want access to Public Domain Software, which would be suitable for the PCW, at a reasonable cost, so that I have some software to play around with, before committing myself to buying other software. I want independent reviews of PCW software by ordinary users. I want hints and tips, and a 'Help Line' when needed. This is why I became a member of "PCW FILE".

In the mean time, being a domestic user myself, I look forward with great interest, to another article by John Waddington explaining the worthwhile uses he has found for his 8512.

Bernard Jones  
11 Gaynor Close, Wymondham, Norfolk NR18 OEA

## COMPANY WATCH

### Rugby Micro Spares International

With reference to a nightmare that began when I saw an advert in 8000 Plus; this advert was for Rugby Micro Spares International ('RMSI') that operates from 30 Oxford Street, Rugby, Warwickshire CV21 BNF, and 36a Abbey Street, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV21 3LH.

I telephoned RMSI on 9th October 1987 about Database's 'Masterscan'; this item was not in the advert and so I asked whether RMSI sold it - I was told that it was available and on offer for £68. 95. I said I did want it and gave my access card details; I said I was very keen to get this and was told it would be sent out that day. The only reason that I responded to the advert., was because it promised usual same day despatch of discs.

The next morning (Saturday 10th October) I received a parcel from RMSI; on opening this, and checking it with the 'contents' list (in both the booklet and on the box), I realised that at least two items were missing - (a) Sample art to Scan, and (b) the Masterpack disc (having 'Masterpaint' on side 1, and 'Masterscan' on side 2). I telephoned immediately and was told that packages were not checked before being sent out\*, but these missing items would be sent out that day. I said how disappointed I was at this as one of the reasons I ordered from RMSI, was the claim of same-day dispatch of goods ordered. The invoice supplied with the goods was obviously incorrect, ie. it stated the whole Masterpack had been sent, when in fact it had not.

Nothing was received on Monday 12th October and I telephoned again; I spoke with the same gentlemen with whom I had spoken on Saturday morning. He simply said that the missing items have been sent first class on Saturday and given into the Post Office before closing. I was surprised at how unconcerned he seemed to sound when speaking about this matter. Even at this stage I began to regret ordering from RMSI although I had no idea of the further troubles that were to come in due course.

(\* I later discovered that RMSI apparently claims that goods cannot be checked, ie. opening them, before sending them out, as this breaches copyright; I find this a pitiful excuse as the Masterpack disc has two sides - side 1 has a device in it so it cannot be copied and side 2, although it can be copied, is useless without the accompanying scanning device. Therefore I fail to see how RMSI's reference to 'copyright' can even be relevant here). However even if this excuse is accepted, all RMSI's had to do was to send a replacement and advise the suppliers of an incomplete package.

As the goods had still not been received on Tuesday 13th October I telephoned 8000 Plus; the advertising manager, then telephoned RMSI and was told that the missing items had been sent out on the 10th October. As these items had not been received by Tuesday 13th October, I wrote to RMSI - to date I have not received a reply to this letter. In the letter I said I found it quite astonishing that it did not even bother to check the goods before they are sent out. I also stated that I found it most peculiar that essential items could be missing from a package in the first place! In my letter I also stated that if the outstanding items were not received by Noon Saturday 17th October I would be contacting the Office of Fair Trading local to RMSI and also be issuing a court summons. Obviously I stated that I took a very dim view of being treated in this manner; I am registered disabled and not working and could not afford to lose nearly £70, which I had to save up and is in fact for a disabled people's group that I run (ie. the Masterpack was purchased for its newsletter).

## COMPANY WATCH

RMSI is in a strong position and one which is disadvantageous to anyone with a justified complaint against it. It advertises for custom nationally and offers the facility of paying by credit card over the telephone; in the event of sending faulty merchandise, the distance between it and the customer creates difficulties. After this experience I do not think I would ever order anything from anyone who was not in travelling distance.

In the absence of any response from RMSI, I wrote to the TSO (Trading Standards Office) in Rugby on the 17th October 1987; a Mr Garner called on RMSI on 21st October 1987 but was told that the goods had been sent on Tuesday 13th October and RMSI produced a certificate of posting for this. RMSI demonstrated its disinterest in the matter by advising the TSO officer to suggest to me that I contacted the manufacturer to obtain the missing items (!!!)

The TSO told me I should wait until Monday 26th October and contact them again if these goods that RMSI said it had sent out had not been received. They were not received by that date and I had in fact already written to RMSI again on 23rd October 1987 saying that I would be issuing a court summons on 31st October if this nonsense was not resolved by that date. To date I have not received any reply to this.

I therefore telephoned the Rugby TSO on 26th October and a Mr Hopkins from that office personally called on RMSI that day. I asked Mr Hopkins to check the 13th October certificate of posting that RMSI had shown on the previous occasion very carefully as RMSI had previously stated the items were sent out on the 10th October, but was not saying they were sent out on the 13th; ie., was this a different story now being told, or had two packages been sent (both being lost!) ? when I spoke to Mr Hopkins after his visit it transpired that the 13th October certificate did not relate to me at all (!); Mr Hopkins suggested that he call on RMSI the next day and actually take the items away and post them himself (!). It appears RMSI blames its problems on the local Post Office; with the threat of a court summons being issued on 31st October, on 26th October I understand RMSI was still calmly 'awaiting confirmation' from the Post Office about the package which it said it had sent but I had not received. In fact I cannot see any value in this action (or rather, lack of it) as compensation is little or nothing if a package is lost that was not sent by Recorded/Registered post.

I found this blase attitude arrogant and contemptuous, and to me it displays RMSI's disinterest in the matter. It really is a simple matter of RMSI sending goods by recorded delivery if the postal service is so really unreliable (as RMSI argue), and/or in the case of items becoming lost, simply sending replacements to customers who have paid in good faith - and then seeking recompense/recovery from the Post Office. On 27th October Mr Hopkins called on RMSI and took the disc away with him (which still had not been sent off !!!) and posted them himself (!); the Warwickshire Council ended up paying the postage (ie. £1.85 - registered post) and RMSI was saved this trouble. This was the extraordinary lengths I had to go to just to get what I should have been sent originally.

It is patently absurd that this is the trouble that I had to go to and the action necessary to get the disc that I had paid for. In sum, in my own case, RMSI, using the credit card facility to make orders by telephone, advertised for custom, stated that discs will be sent off the same day, but I ended up receiving incomplete faulty goods; when I wrote to RMSI on three occasions, I was just ignored. To actually extract from RMSI what I had paid for., I had to contact the local Trading Standards Office to ask an officer to go round to the premises, take the missing items away from there,, and post them himself, the local authority bearing the cost of this ! Quite amazing !

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**PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE LIST**

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**DISC 1**

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1K	Boggle	.Bas	Word Game
6K	Calculat	.Bas	Calculator
4K	LABELS4	.Bas	Label Printer
19K	Lu	.Com	Library Creator
20K	Lu	.DQC	Documentation for Lu
13K	Merchant	.Bas	Trading Game.
11K	NSWP205	.Com	Newsweep
15K	NSWP205	.DQC	Documentation
17K	Poster	.Bas	Large and sideways Print
16K	Squeeze	.Com	File Compressor
13K	UnSqueeze	.Com	
15K	Trade	.Bas	Trading Game
12K	Ttype	.Dqc	Documentation
2K	Whatsnew	.Com	? ? ?
6K	Wump	.Bas	Sort of hunt game
7K	Blckjck	.Bas	Blackjack card game
26K	Chess	.Com	Chess game
32K	Food	.Com	Data Base for catering
26K	Golf	.Com	Game
5K	Horse	.Bas	Race Game
17K	Master	.Lex	Dictionary for Spell-11 .Com
25K	Newpuz	.Com	Wordsquare Generater
3K	Rocket	.Bas	Rocket Landing Game
24K	Strtrk	.Bas	Version of Star Trek

=====

**DISC 2**

=====

2K	Banner	.Com	Large and Sideways print
14K	Bio	.Com	Biorythmn Charts
6K	Cal	.Com	Calendar Maker
1K	Cat	.Com	Disc Catalogue Maker
1K	Cat3	.Com	Disc Catalogue Maker
1K	Cleanup	.Com	Mini Newsweep
2K	Compare	.Com	Binary File X reference
2K	Crck44	.Com	Rather like Cat.Com
4K	Disk76	.Com	Similar to Newsweep
3K	Display	.Com	Similar to Type.Com
1K	Find	.Com	? ? ?
11K	Gothic	.Com	Large & Sideway print
1K	Idump	.Com	Similar to Dump.Com
2K	Listt	.Com	File to paper print
3K	Ldir	.Com	For use with LU.Com
2K	Lrun	.Com	For use with LU.Com
3K	Maze	.Com	Maze Generator
7K	Mcat41	.Com	Similar to Cat.Com
5K	Mcat41	.DQC	Documentation
4K	NI	.Com	Similar to Dir.com
1K	Password	.Com	Disc password protection
8K	Rpip	.Com	Fast version of PIP.Com
1K	Scramble	.Com	
2K	Smodem	.IQF	Documentation

=====

PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE LIST Page 2

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=====

DISC 2 Continued

=====

2K	Sortv	.Com	? ? ?
2K	Supersub	.Com	Mass File Submit
4K	Typel	.Com	Similar to TYPE.Com and handles Q Type files
2K	Unera190	.Com	Similar to UNERA.Com
2K	Vlist	.Com	Similat to TYPE.Com
6K	Wcount	.Com	Word Counter
9K	Xtype	.Com	Similar to TYPE.Com
4K	Chase	.Bas	Game
4K	D	.Com	Similar to DIR. Com but on paper
2K	Loanamor	.Bas	Loan Interest Calculator
6K	MBXREF	.Bas	MBASIC Files X reference
22K	Othello	.Com	Game
31K	RCPM-052	.LOT	List of U.S.A. B.Boards
5K	Realeval	.Bas	U.S.A Realestate tax calculator
12K	Smodem+	.Com	Modem Control
16K	Smodem	.DQC	Documentation
61K	Smodem53	.AQM	Documentation

=====

DISC 3

=====

114K	Advent	.Com	Colossal Cave Adventure
8K	DU-V86	.Com	Disk Editor
8K	DU-V86	.Dqc	Documentation
2K	Findbad	.Com	Bad Sector Lockout
1K	I/O-Cap	.Com	? ? ?
1K	Make	.Com	? ? ?
2K	Qwikkey	.Com	Redefine keys
3K	Spell-11	.Com	Spelling Checker needs Master.Lex
9K	Spell-Ed	.Com	Revises Master.Lex
2K	Synonymn	.Com	? ? ?
52K	Ttype	.Com	Touch type tutor + data files (does not work)
3K	Typwryt	.Com	Electric Typewriter Simulator
2K	Unspool	.Com	Similar to Despool

=====

DISC 4

=====

29K	Anycode	.Com	Wordstar enhancer Plus .Dat files
10K	Compare	.Com	Binary file Compare
8K	DU87	.Com	Disc Editor
12K	DU87	.DQC	Documentation
11K	NDDT	.Com	8080 Editor
3K	Lookat	.Com	Similar to Dump.Com
12K	Look	.Com	? ? ?
2K	LOHD	.com	? ? ?
10K	Lasm	.Com	Asm Linker
	Conv	.rsx	? ? ?
9K	QK20	.com	Similar to Qwikkey.Com



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PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE LIST Page 3

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DISC 4 Continued

=====

11K	Rasmb	.Com	Disassembler
4K	Rasmta	.Com	Similar to Rasmb
1K	Unload	.Com	? ? ?
1K	Unload1	.Com	? ? ?
15K	Z80asmuk	.Com	Z80 assembler
25K	Zdebug17	.Com	Zilog Editor
17K	Zlink	.Com	Zilog Linker
25K	Zmac	.Com	Zilog Assembler

=====

DISC 5

=====

145K	Scrivener	.Com	Database and spreadsheet
11K	Address	.Bas	Address Book (Sequential File)
3K	Banner	.Bas	Large & Sideways Print
3K	Calendar	.Bas	Calender Maker
28K	Castle	.Bas	Dungeons & Dragons Game
10K	Council	.Bas	computer Based Psycho-analyst
7K	Football	.Bas	Strategy Game
15K	Football	.Bas	Strategy Game
3K	Golf	.Bas	Game
3K	Mindread	.Bas	Game
22K	Othello	.Com	As the board game
2K	Print	.Com	File to paper
22K	Startrek	.Bas	Again
1K	Time	.Bas	Uses inbuilt clock to display time

=====

DISC 6

=====

14K	Cookie	.Com	+ File = silly Quip Generator
1K	eracat	.Com	? ? ?
26K	Fileman	.Com	Newsweep +
4K	Filechop	.Com	Remakes files into smaller Blocks
17K	Sectorcd	.Com	Disc Editor
10K	Z80	.Lib	Library Files
7K	Shell	.Com	Screen & Disc Management

Lots of Scrivener files

=====

DISC 7

=====

130K	Scrivener	.DQC	Documentation
	Lots more Scrivener Files		
	Scrivener	.Com	

=====

**PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE LIST Page 4**

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**DISC 8**

=====

1K	Beep	.Com	Makes Beep noise
26K	Supersub	.Com	Mass Submit files
	Supersub	.DQC	Documentation
17K	SD	.Com	Similar to DIR.Com
89K	DBQ	.Com	Database Creator
	DBQ	.DQC	Documentation
	Nulu	.com	
	Ldir	.Com	Library Create and Handling
	Lrun	.Com	

=====

**DISC 9**

=====

29K	OPT	.Com	C Optimser
	OPT	.DQC	Documentation
91K	ZSC	.Com	C assembler Package + .DQC Documentation
19K	ZSM	.Com	Z80 Assembler

Lots of C Library Files

=====

**DISC 10**

=====

**Disc is full of Files to assemble and run Forth 83**

=====

**DISC 11**

=====

Ebasic	.Com	+ .DQC Documentation for BASIC E
Bishov	.Com	Better than Newsweep
Dirinc	.Com	Expand directory space
PCWTREK	.Com	CBasic Game
Prolog	.Com	Small version of E-Prolog
List	.Com	Similar to TYPE
FIP	.Com	File Handling Combination
Sandr	.Com	Search and replace + .DQC Documentation
Valgol	.Com	Similar to Algol-60 Compiler
Vu-File	.Bas	? ? ?
Othello	.Bas	Game

=====

**DISC 12**

=====

Kermit	.Com	Communications
VDE	.Com	Video Display Editor
CLS	.Com	Clears the screen waiting for prompt

=====

PUBLIC DOMAIN LIST page 5

=====

=====

DISC 12

=====

Master Catalog System  
QWIKKFONT .Com Sets up your printer fonts and tpestyles  
quick print label maker for mailing labels.  
Basic Quickstart turnkey Disc

=====

DISC 13

=====

CPM 2.2 Emulator  
Menu Program  
Multi file hex load utility  
Disassembler - Resource  
Directory Checker  
Document line finder in ASC Text  
Formats ASCII Text files  
Emulator for CPC  
Yahtzee . Game  
D .Bas Diary (Random Access File)  
BDAY .Bas Store Name, address, Phone number and upto  
4 names and birthdays(RAF).  
BLAB .Bas Prints address labels (RAF)  
TELE .Bas Stores telephone numbers (RAF)  
O .Bas Stores names and addresses of companies  
FLASH .Bas Just flashes the screen green and black.  
CR .Bas is a specialized store search and list  
programme to store crystal frequencies and  
match them to patricular types of  
transceiver.

=====

DISC 14 AND 15

=====

Two discs with JRT Pascal - Comes with big manual!

=====

COMING SOON!

=====

EXPERT86 with 8 doc files. Including how to get the full manual from  
PROSPEC SHAREWARE.

Paul Spicker - The Best of the Public Domain Software.

=====

EDITORS NOTE

=====

I would like to thank Terry Rochester-Farrell for helping to compile  
the above list.

=====

**ORDER FORM**

=====

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

- a) Write clearly what you require.
- b) Mark your disc(s) with your name and address.
- c) Please format all discs before sending them.
- d) Please enclose a Stamp addressed padded envelope for the safe return of your software.
- e) Oversea members can also obtain the software by sending £2.50 to Chris Bryant stating which machine.
- f) Please send your discs to one of the addresses below:

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"Rowan"  
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Moreton - on - Lugg  
Hereford  
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=====

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Please send me the following discs:

- |             |   |             |             |
|-------------|---|-------------|-------------|
| ___ Disc 1  | ___ Disc 2                                | ___ Disc 3  | ___ Disc 4  |
| ___ Disc 5  | ___ Disc 6                                | ___ Disc 7  | ___ Disc 8  |
| ___ Disc 9  | ___ Disc 10                               | ___ Disc 11 | ___ Disc 12 |
| ___ Disc 13 | ___ Disc 14 & 15 (Please send Two discs). |             |             |

Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Welcome to number three, may I initially thank Andrew Borland for his letter for the Defence, Yes .... I agree with most of your points, but defend my use of the 'Pathetic' label, it was used in the context of creating some member response ( and it did). My main justification for the drive to obtain better documentation is that a large proportion of the 750,000 PCW owners obtained the machine for its W.P. facilities, if, when they attempt to use the computer they find hiding in the background, they are faced with nil, poor or hidden instructions, then the chances of them continuing are put at risk. Some experienced members of our user group have suffered greatly in attempting to obtain meaningful guidance from our discs. Further the main claim that 'Advantage' make, is that the discs they provide have extended DOCUMENT files.

So to more of your information on the contents of our library.

i) BOGGLE.BAS, A word search program, gives you 60 seconds to write down (on paper) as many words you can find.  
Access from:- BASIC

ii) CALCULAT.BAS, A Decimal / Hexadecimal converter, more information needed please.  
Access from:- BASIC

iii) LABELS4.BAS, Multi prints of five line labels.  
Access from:- BASIC

iv) LU.COM, see NSWP205.COM first in order to read the squeezed DOC document file.  
Access from:- CP/M

v) NSWP.COM, The first file on the current disc will be shown on screen, use enter key to move on one file at a time, squeezed document files of this ( and any other on the disc ) can be shown on screen by pressing the V ( for view ) key. Hard copy from your printer by using P (for Print )  
Access from:- CP/M

vii) POSTER.BAS, Prints large letters, documentation in program.  
Access from:- BASIC

More thanks are due to M. Wood for the new Disc 10, to Charles Stross for Disc 11, to Henry Light for his own new program, to Dr A Moors for his programs (these will be on the new disc 12), to Terry Rochester-Farrell and to G.Austin for the bucket full of misc. PD. These are being worked upon to provide additional discs (disc 13) for the library, they should be ready now.

If you have any comments or wish to help, please contact,

**Bob Ellis**

'Rowan' 100 St Peters Close Moreton-on-Lugg HEREFORD HR4 8DW  
Tel. (0432) 761860 after 7.00 pm please.

ps. Have had a large number of requests for help with SCRIVNER, do we have any experts? pps, Hallelujah !! Chris has just sent the DOC file for disk 11.

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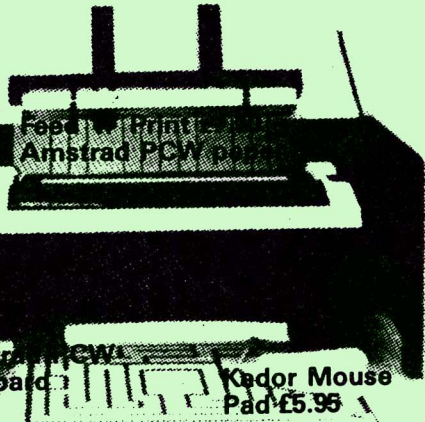


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ider  
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keyboard cover

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Amstrad PCW  
keyboard  
feet

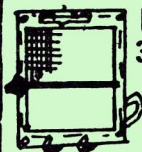
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## COMPANY WATCH

I wrote to RMSI a third time after (at long last) getting the missing contents about compensation for all the expense and trouble caused - but again - no reply.

If I had not chased RMSI via the TSO, it appears the matter would have been left with me having only a useless kit simply because RMSI did NOT do what it says in its advert; I leave File readers to make up their minds as to what they think of RMSI's action to resolve the matter. In fact RMSI has not replied to any of my three letters - two of which had been sent by Recorded Delivery - and I am hardly satisfied with the farce that materialised from the time I first received the faulty kit; futhermore, I doubt whether anyone would be satisfied with it. RMSI is one business that I will certainly NOT be going back to for any software I need.

David J Nicholls  
London

(Editor: We have sent this letter to RMSI (Recorded Delivery) before we went to print and so far we have not heard a thing).

### Silicon Systems Ltd

In October 1986 I purchased a Uniface from Silicon Systems' stand at the Amstrad Computer Show. Unfortunately, for logistical and cash reasons, it was not until June 1987 that I completed my collection of the parts needed for changing to 5½ inch disk operation.

I then wrote to Silicon Systems concerning a reference in their current adverts to internal fitting of the Uniface, as I would have preferred this to the unsightly cables coming from the formerly intended fitting to the B: drive slot. To this enquiry Silicon Systems replied satisfactorily and promptly.

Having then all that I needed to convert my 512K 8256 to 5½ inch disk operation, curiosity made me examine my Uniface more closely than was necessary to preview the method for fitting the Uniface to my PCW. In doing this I noticed that one of the leads of one of the Uniface's components was not soldered to the P.C.B. track. Therefore I wrote again to Silicon Systems to seek their advice on the significance of this; and, if a replacement was necessary, whether this would be accepted in part exchange for one of their UNI-2 interfaces.

As this was only a week or so before the summer Amstrad Show, I was not surprised that I had not received a reply by the time of the show. As I was going to the show, I took my Uniface with me so that I could discuss the matter with Silicon Systems at their stand.

Once there, Mr T. D. Kay of Silicon Systems told me:

that the unsoldered connection would prevent the Uniface from working, and was indeed a fault; and that it was quite acceptable to have a UNI-2 as a replacement.

In fact the UNI-2 was offered at no extra charge as a gesture of goodwill and compensation for the faulty Uniface, which, apparently, should never have left the factory.

As Mr Kay said that they had sold their stock of UNI-2 interfaces, it was said that they would send my UNI-2 after the show. The following week was given for the dispatch of the UNI-2.

## COMPANY WATCH

In addition, the disk of software issued with the Uniface, was also taken back as the then current versions were improvements on the version which was issued the previous autumn, and a disk of the new software would be substituted for my outdated copy.

I also purchased a disk of Silicon Systems "Chameleon" multi-format disk reading software, for which I paid in full with cash. As these disks were also out of stock, a disk of the "Chameleon" software was also to be sent on after the show.

After the show all that I received was an invoice.

After allowing a further period to elapse, and some slippage of time due to problems with my PCW, on October 2nd 1987, I wrote to Silicon Systems to enquire after the fate of my UNI-2 and disks of software.

This time I sent the letter by Recorded Delivery, using the advice of Delivery option. Therefore, I know that the letter did arrive at Silicon Systems, and that it did so on 30th November 1987.

Unfortunately, I still have received neither a reply to my letters, nor an acknowledgement of my enquiry, and it is looking as if my efforts are insufficient to extract any form of response.

As Silicon Systems have not been advertising lately, I am a little concerned about their fate. I do hope I will not have to resort to another supplier, as I have purchased all the necessary items, and lack only the interface. I understand that other suppliers include disk drives in their packages, and I know of none which offer an interface which has a dual drive function comparable to Silicon Systems UNI-2.

J.Vickers

7 Harbour Street, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 1AG.

We have sent a letter to Silicon Systems plus the above before going to press but, as yet we have not received a reply. If anyone has had any similar experiences with the two above companies or any others please let us know as PCW File is here to try to help.

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**PCW FILE SCHEDULE 1988**  
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<b>Issue</b>	<b>Copy Date</b>	<b>Printers Date</b>	<b>Arrival Date</b>
March	13 Feb	18 Feb	4 March
April	12 March	17 March	31 March
May	9 April	14 April	29 April
June	7 May	12 May	27 May
July	11 June	16 June	1 July
August	9 July	14 July	29 July
September	13 August	18 August	1 Sept
October	10 September	15 September	30 Sept
November	8 October	13 October	28 October
December/Jan (Special end of TBA year Issue)		TBA	TBA

We can not guarantee that all of the above issues will happen but we will certainly have a go. If you have joined for twelve issues we will honour them all until your subscription is due.

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Shortly after the PCW Users Group was first formed, the members were questioned about the facilities they would like to see included in Locoscript and on the PCW. The information was forwarded to Amstrad and Locomotive Software. Amstrad's first reaction to many of these requests was to say they were technically impossible; but many of those facilities are now available. They include

- faster movement through files (the users' highest priority)
- movement direct to a page
- an improved manual
- an improved 'save and continue', to allow resumption in the same place as before (and version 2.14 improves the performance of drive M)
- the ability to run other printers
- improved underlining
- multiple print copies
- repagination of consecutive files
- easier reformatting of layouts
- improved Find and Exchange commands
- the ability to customise the keyboard.
- setting printing instructions in a template.
- the typeface needed altering, and
- the facility to insert selected pages (this isn't directly possible, but it is now possible to transfer blocks directly from file to file)

Some other facilities became available, but at a cost. They included

- a spelling checker, and
- mail merging.

This is, in many ways, a great success story. At the same time, however, many other requests have not been met.

- The first, and most obvious, is a word count, which was one of the highest priorities identified by users. There is a word counter in Locospell, but Locospell's deficiencies (it is slow and inflexible) and price make it a very bad buy to get a word counter alone.
- A running check on file size would also be useful - though it is less essential in the days of memory expansions
- It should be possible to line up or chain documents for printing.
- There should be a method for upper/lower case conversion.
- WORD is in the wrong place on the keyboard; CHAR is almost useless.
- It should be possible to print a directory off.
- There should be a facility for 'newspaper column' format. (This can be done with CPM programmes in the public domain.)
- Indexing and footnoting facilities
- Locoscript should be able to include graphics, spreadsheet or database material.
- Alternatively, Locoscript should be co-resident with CP/M, so that CPM programmes could be used.
- There should be the option to move through text without relaying it. One often knows that a section is going to be altered many times before finally being saved.

A number of these facilities are clearly highly desirable, and in some cases necessary, but they have inexplicably been given lower priority than other new facilities - like character formation or printer codes. I can understand why some complex facilities, like the ability to insert graphics, should have been given a low priority, because of the relative difficulty of including them. I'm not convinced that the same argument applies to word counting, a two-column format, or printing directories - all of which can be done in CPM very simply.

A few defects in Locoscript 1 have not been set right in Locoscript 2. Locoscript's biggest single problem is its speed. This could be increased in some fairly obvious ways. When managing disks, there could be shortened codes to allow rapid actions; it should be possible to copy, move or erase groups of files. When editing files, the 'cut' and 'paste' functions should be revised. For one thing, you have to sit and watch while text which is being 'cut' is slowly swallowed up. For another, text is continually, and wastefully, being reformatted during an edit. This is very time consuming. Text which is being copied does not need to be reformatted for printing; the cursor returns after the operation to the starting point, and the block which is held in memory is reformatted when it is pasted in. Text which is being cut prior to pasting will also be relayed when it is recalled. Text which is being cut permanently hardly needs to be tidied up before it goes.

In reforming Locoscript 2, the programmers introduced some features which are notably worse than those in Locoscript 1, obstructing or slowing down the process of editing.

- A number of disc management functions require additional keystrokes - copying, moving, erasing and saving files are examples.
- The prompts for cutting and pasting flash on and off like a belisha beacon. If you type proficiently, you'll find it's virtually impossible to type quickly enough to avoid them - try hitting 'Paste P'. In the case of the Exchange key, the prompt actually obstructs the screen, so you can't see what you're exchanging.

It's clear that most of the reforms have been made with the business market in mind. It's equally clear that most of the users in users groups aren't in 'business' in quite that way; they are people who write, professionals, and teachers. Their needs are very different. But if those needs are to be taken into account, users have to make their voice heard. Complaints and suggestions are generally more effective if they're made by many people rather than by individuals. The experience of the past shows that it's very much worth doing.

=====

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=====

**PCW FILE HELPLINE**

=====

Any solutions to this problem? How to print five copies of a 16 page fully edited report using both sides of A4 continuous paper so that odd numbered pages are on one side, and even numbered pages are on the other sides of the bound report.

Locoscript 2 makes no provision in its "print part of document" menu for printing either odd or even numbered pages.

I have my own solution (Available on request!) which includes the pages being numbered but I would be pleased to learn of others.

**David Newby**  
**Newhouse Farm, Oakley, Diss, Norfolk**

Having experienced a disc failure I would be glad to hear if anyone has found a quick way of keeping a back-up disc up-to-date on the 8512.

The Locoscript method takes about seven minutes and four disc changes, which is a bind and tempts one to skip it. Possibly there is a programme available for rapid backing-up?

**A.L.Rogers**  
**18 Brookhouse Road, Walsall, WS5 3AD**

**"Y" DOES IT DO IT?**

We all know (don't we) that chr\$(27)+"Y"+chr\$(r+32)+chr\$(c+32) allows one to print text in a position on the screen determined by the parameters entered for r and c. There are a few oddities associated with the use of this sequence which some readers may be able to explain.

The r figure controls the row. The lowest row is occupied by 'Drive is A'. This can be removed by PRINT CHR\$(27)+"0 and this row then becomes part of your 'operating area'. However, no figure for r will allow text to be printed on this line. The status can be restored by PRINT CHR\$(27)+"1 but text included with this command will not be printed on this line. Once your figure for r equals the number of the lowest usable line, nothing changes if you increase the number right up to our old friend 255; any figure higher than that generates Improper argument.

The c figure controls the column and one might assume that, if this is omitted, text will be printed in column 1. Try

```
PRINT CHR$(27)+"Y"+CHR$(30+32);"Hi"  
  (this prints i in row 30, col 40)
```

```
PRINT CHR$(27)+"Y"+CHR$(30+32);" Hi"  
  (this prints Hi in row 30, col 1)
```

Why, in the first case, has the H disappeared and how, in the second example, can the single space in " Hi" make such a difference to the result.

James Coleman - address next page.

**MORE HELPLINES >>>**

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**PCW FILE HELPLINE**

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**FINDING OUT ABOUT 'OUT'**

Will some reader be kind enough to throw some light on the use of OUT and sequence of numbers that can be used with it? What do these numbers relate to? For the ordinary operator, has it any more significant use than creating a screen flash by such commands as OUT 247,240?

James Coleman.

**DUBIOUS CHARACTERS**

My thanks to all the readers who chipped in with information and advice about those ESC characters and their CHR\$ counterparts. I had, of course, seen the lists given in the manual and the lists given by Andrew Borland provide a useful summary. Some points still outstanding are:

1. Not all the CPM codes work (at least on my machine); in particular, control of background /foreground and control of reverse video (although both work perfectly under Basic).

2) The 32 complement is used in all four parameters of ESC X to fix the size of the viewpoint. Some listings (including one in Issue 15 of 8000 Plus, p71) use 32 for rows and columns but 31 for height and width. Is there anything in this that one should know about?

**James Coleman**  
**'Cherrycroft', New Rd, Penkridge, Stafford, ST19 5DN**

One problem which I am currently trying to find the answer to is how do you make a Profile Sub file erase all the contents of the M drive, prior to loading new programs into it, without having to enter Y when the Erase All prompt comes up. Also has anyone successfully used DBase II with an external LQ-2500 printer.

**Malcolm J Sparrow**  
**"White Orchard", 64 Showell Lane, Penn, Wolverhampton W. Mids WV4 4TT**

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**SPECIAL OFFER - DIGITA INTERNATIONAL**

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PCW File has arranged the following discounts on the five programs with Digita International. (See Digita's advert which appeared in all of the PCW magazines recently, elsewhere in this issue.)

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Send your order to Digita International Ltd, Kesley House, Barns Road, Budleigh Salterton, Devon EX9 6HJ. Please mention PCW File and tell them your membership number.

I had never set eyes, let alone hands, on a computer or word processor when I bought my Amstrad. I had - in my time! - been a very good typist: no prizes for great speed, but many accolades for accuracy and display. So when I got involved in editing a book for Beryl, a friend, I was all the more dismayed by the fact that my eyesight and clumsy fingers prevented me from typing the manuscript. I was aghast at what a "professional" typist produced, and further inquiries elicited quotes between £800 and £1,000 - with no guarantee, of course, that the second typescript would be better than the first.

I took the plunge and bought an Amstrad - which I had seen in a shop window as I passed. The salesman recommended a "dual drive" but I had no idea what he meant: he obviously knew better than I what I would need. I got to grips with "Dear Fred".

Meanwhile Beryl and I had received welcoming letters from publishers but each with ideas which I, as editor, could not accept: for example, one publisher wanted to print the book with all Beryl's stupendous photographs put together in sections, of either all black and white or all colour. But the pictures are an integral part of the narrative, and I wanted them positioned where they were relevant.

I wondered if I could go ahead and get the book printed independently, thus keeping control of its format: and I entered a potential minefield. I discovered that all my Fred's carefully checked and re-checked typescript would have to be re-keyboarded by printers and control of page breaks - even more so line-breaks and hyphenation - would be out of my hands.

While first flirting with Fred and the refinements of lovely LocoScript, I had picked up a computer magazine (most of which was gibberish to me) and saw an advertisement for "Typesetting with your Amstrad". I sent off for further details. I could not believe it would do all it claimed, and suspected there was some hidden "jargon" which I did not understand; with many misgivings I sent off for the program disc, carefully putting into writing my total ignorance of computing and making the order conditional on full support.

I got full support. I had first to struggle with yet another manual, but I eventually sent off my first disc - a trial effort to see if the size of page, type font and size, were going to look right; but - more importantly - I wanted to see if the line-endings in print were identical to those on Fred's printout. I could not believe my eyes when I opened the packet of bromides: If I did my part carefully, the Linotron in London would co-operate. I could avoid horrible hyphenations such as the "new-swoman" I had shuddered at in one newspaper; I could set gaps the right size to insert the photographs; I could ensure that all full-page transverse illustrations were on the left-hand page adjacent to their mention in the narrative. I was hooked.

Any craftsman typesetter would have done all this, but the printing firms we approached could give us no access to such a craftsman. One printer said that what we wanted would be impossible. We had to find a printing concern capable of quality colour reproduction, and we were recommended to a (then) two-man firm who had no typesetters anyway.

John and David were enthusiastic, although we learned later that each time we rang, whoever answered the phone would try to pass us over to the other!

We had set our timetable for the book to be with the distributors by September, and the printers gave me a deadline of May for the bromides to be passed to them. As in all programmes, the pressure on me increased towards the deadline, my husband felt like suing Fred for alienation of his wife's affections, and I got deeper and deeper into the mysteries of typesetting, knowing that I could blame no-one but myself for mistakes; but when I passed my bromides over to the printers, every page was set with running chapter head, page number, and the correct space for photographs: all without cutting or pasting because for this my fingers and limited vision could no longer co-ordinate accurately enough.

The book came off the binders' lorries exactly to schedule, and was in the bookshops in September as planned. I saw it in its entirety for the first time - and things I "could have done better" - but as our publicity blurb puts it "269 pages, 112,000 words, 11 maps, 2 line drawings, 89 black and white, and 18 colour photographs" were just where I had put them. The book contains the by-line "Typesetting by Monica Dickerson", but this does not convey the fun and enjoyment (along with the frustration and hard work) found by an almost geriatric housewife being not only dragged into the twentieth century, but also exploring a realm not even dreamed of in her schooldays.

**Monica Dickerson**  
**Greenacres, The Common, Surlingham, Norwich, Norfolk NR14 7AP**

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**QUESTIONS ANSWERED**  
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It took me a long time to realise that you can overcome the "no room in Directory" message in Locoscript (if you are in the habit of naming GROUPS) by deleting a group name. Pressing f6 and typing in the name of the group followed by .GRP will delete the GROUP name, and leave you one more space. The reason I got into this state was because I kept all my addresses as separate files so that I could print out envelopes separately (this was before Locoscript 1.2 and any possibility of printing part of a file). An alternative solution is to use DIRINC which appeared in a recent issue of Computing With The Amstrad PCW to increase the number of files allowed on a disc. The only problem with that (which wasn't mentioned in the magazine article) is that you cannot use the disc as a boot-up disc with either CP/M or Locoscript. Presumably the machine does not know where to look to find the .EMS file.

**A.J.Reese**  
**94 Coombe Lane, Bristol BS9 2AP**

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**SOFTWARE REVIEWS**

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Title: XFORMAT Version 2  
Type: Extended Disc Formatting  
S/W House: Moonstone Computing  
Tel No: 041-941-3120  
Reviewed by: Maurice Williams

XFORMAT2 is an extended disc formatting program for the PCW8256/8512. It forms part of a suite of programs by Moonstone Computing for Multi-Format Disc systems for the Amstrad PCW. This review, however, only deals with XFORMAT version 2.

Moonstone's latest advertising in the PCW magazines claim that it is a complete replacement for "DISCKIT", however, this is not strictly true. As good as the program is, it cannot format boot discs. Boot discs for either CP/M or Locoscript must still be formatted using DISCKIT. This apart, the program will prove extremely useful since it allows formatting of all except boot discs to a 200K format, and 800K format (784K free) for discs in Drive B, an increase of approx 80K. In addition Drive A discs are allowed 96 directory entries as opposed to 64 allowed using DISCKIT.

The Moonstone disc containing the program will have been formatted using the XFORMAT2 program, so it will not be possible to copy it using DISCKIT. To get a working copy of the program you will have to use the PIP utility or any other file copying program like NSWP to copy XFORMAT2.COM to one of your own discs. You can now go ahead and format your discs using XFORMAT2.

The program comes with a comprehensive user guide which for experienced users is not really necessary, since the on screen menu's make everything very easy. Moonstone Computing have included in the program a novel advertising system, whereby, occasionally during use, a Moonstone advertisement will appear randomly between menu's. XFORMAT2 is compatible with both CP/M and Locoscript. The main menu will provide you with three choices:

- C - Copy a disc
- F - Format a disc
- V - Verify a disc

Any of these choices will take you to a further menu which will explain all your options fully, or of course, you can exit the program at any time. There is however one word of caution, it will only run with CP/M version 1.4. From the users point of view this is an extremely easy program to use.

As a stand alone extended formatting program, it will cost you £19.95 plus VAT. For those with only one drive it can prove extremely useful for Locoscript files. How many times have you received the disc full prompt from Locoscript because you have reached the 64 maximum directory entries yet only 98K has been used or you want to use the Public Domain adventure program who's files total 192K? XFORMAT2 allows you to have the lot on one side of a single density disc.



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**SOFTWARE REVIEWS**

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The program in its operation and concept is first class, but its value will depend on the individual. It will allow you approximately 10% more storage space on your discs, which in effect means for every ten discs you will only pay for nine, but what price the convenience of extra disc space, whether you have one or two drives?

Ease of Use	5/5	Address:	Moonstone Computing
Performance	5/5		Strathclyde Business Centre
Documentation	4/5		31, Clyde Street
Value for Money	varies with user		Clydebank
			Glasgow G81 1PF

Title:            Datastore II  
S/W House:       Digita International, Kesley House, Barns Road, Budleigh  
                  Salterton, EX9 6HJ.  
Price:            £39.95 (Exclusive offer for PCW File readers - £29.95)  
Tel No:           0395 45059

This is not a review, just an unsolicited testimonial. I am not a computer buff, I became interested in computers through my work with animals and the necessity for keeping comprehensive records and the amount of time spent searching for details of animals that has 'passed through' our hands at some previous time. Handling some 1500 animals a year makes it impossible to remember every animal, but we often needed to refer to details when even the year of re-homing was in doubt, all the dogs were black and tan crossbred labradors and all called Ben or Sam. Not easy to find our dogs!

Attempts through my committee of a few years back and great amounts of time spent on transferring records onto a scrounged Apple led to a complete breakdown of the system. It was not until late last year that I decided that it must be possible to maintain the records simply and easily - and it is! A PCW plus Datastore. 32000 records, 32 fields, 8 search fields and so on.

The claim in the adverts are true and the program is truly user friendly. The manual is simple but sufficient. I set up the 'file' within a half hour of reading some (not all) of the manual and commenced entering my information. I quote from page 11 of the manual - "Although you may be tempted to start the manual at this point, you will probably save time in the long run by at least reading 'Operating Notes' and 'Changing Discs' first!" Digita knew about me!

I had one problem when the program refused to exit. I rang Digita, they rang me back to save my phone bill, put me right and didn't point out that I had made an entry that the manual specially advised against.

This program is exactly what I needed, I am now also helping a friend set up a small mail order business using the same program and I am unable to fault Datastore or the manual. Even at full price it would be terrific.

**Arnold Becker**

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Adv	= Adventure
Dat	= Database
Gra	= Graphics
Fs	= Flight Simulator
Arc	= Arcade
Uti	= Utility
Acc	= Accounts
DTP	= Desk Top Publishing
Spec/Soft	= Specialist Software

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**PCW FILE - VOLUME ONE COMPLETE COLLECTION**

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If you have just joined the group you will have already missed 120 pages - the first volume. PCW File offers you the chance to buy issues 1-5 inclusive for £5 inc postage. Buy them separately see page 1.

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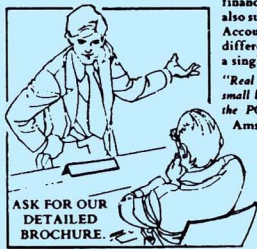


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**£24.95 106D**

"an excellent program ... I can unhesitatingly recommend PTP." - Computing with the Amstrad PCW.

## NEW DATASTORE II £39.95 101D

Looking for fast access to stored data? What to create customised reports, mailing lists for printing labels, office and personal records with NO technical knowledge?

Researched, developed and written exclusively for the Amstrad PCW, Datastore will fully utilise the facilities of your computer.

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  - \* Automatic calculations on entry (useful for VAT, etc.)
  - \* Full mathematics (+, -, x, /, average)
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  - \* Search on any field or any combination of fields for anything
  - \* Optional embedded string and conditional search facility
  - \* 32,000 records and 32 fields
  - \* 1,498 characters per field
  - \* Numeric, string, date and money fields
  - \* 2 user-definable printing templates
  - \* Facility to change screen layout AFTER entering your data
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  - \* Cross referencing/merging between files
- Extra Options with DATASTORE II include:
- \* Option to output to an ASCII file
  - \* Special 'recovery' utility to restore corrupt or deleted data
  - \* Simplified search procedure
  - \* Simplified merging of files

"... very user friendly ... real value for money" - Amstrad PCW Magazine.

"... Datastore II is a marked improvement on I ... plenty of nice touches ..." - 8000 Plus.

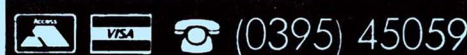
## NEW SUPERTYPE II £24.95 103D

Perhaps the only reasonable criticism of the Amstrad PCW might be the standard of the printer. Supertype II is a program which will offer you EIGHT new, radically different typesets. Each of them has its own distinctive, professional appeal, giving your documents an original facelift.

Supertype II is unique in that it works directly with LocoScript/LocoMail/LocoSpell/LocoScript 2 and all of your CP/M software. It supports all of the printer 'high quality' modes including: enlarged, bold, emphasized, italic, etc. The ingenious thing about the program is that once you've installed your favourite font on a disc, you won't even notice the program working. You can run your programs in the normal way and everything will be the same except when you print out. Now it is even possible to select fonts from within LocoScript 2.

"... a valuable addition to the PCW's talents ... very simple to use ... learnt in 15 minutes ..." - 8000 Plus.

"We've tried it with LocoScript and we love it" - Official Amstrad User Club.



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