

Britain's best selling Amstrad PCW magazine

PCW TODAY

£1.50

Issue 4 ▶ Winter 1996

Alive and Kicking

LocoScript 4 shows the computer world - the PCW is not dead!



LocoScript

PLUS:

Farewell PCW Plus
Top 20 games
Review of 96

EXCLUSIVE REVIEW

PCW News. p4 ▶ YOUR Letters. p20

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Gem40 + 1024K	283.50
Gem40 + 1536K	303.50
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Fitting Charge (if req'd)	29.38

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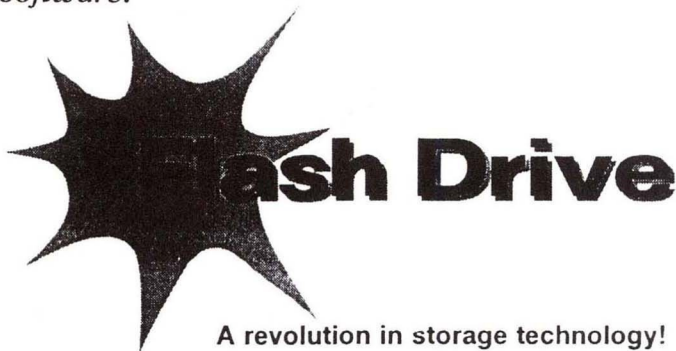
SpeedPrint 128K	49.50
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SpeedPrint 1024K	98.50
SpeedPrint 1536K	119.00
SpeedPrint 2048K	139.00

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Cirtech have products that will improve every part of the PCW system. From the innovative Flash Drive to the legendary Sprinter through to the lightning fast GEM and InSyder Hard Drives! There has never been a better time to upgrade your PCW!

You can dramatically improve the performance of your PCW without a large investment or new software!



A revolution in storage technology!

Flash Drive is a brand new type of disk storage device for the PCW. It is a completely silent, solid state disk drive designed to get your favourite PCW programs up and running in a few seconds.

All you need do is copy your existing PCW start of day disks (LocoScript and CP/M) onto Flash Drive (using the easy to use software supplied) and it is ready for immediate use! Flash drive will startup LocoScript and/or CP/M in a fraction of the time of a slow floppy disk drive! And there is more! You can also use Flash Drive to store your most useful phrases, fonts and any other commonly used data files - making them all instantly available any time you need them. Flash Drive is fully compatible with LocoScript (v2.56 and v3.06 onwards), the Network, MicroDesign and all standard CP/M programs (using CP/M v1.15/2.15 or higher). Flash Drive is available with a capacity of 1024K (nearly one and a half times the size of a PCW floppy drive) OR with a massive 2048K for power users!

Flash Drive is a miniature add-on pack that simply plugs onto the expansion port of any PCW model. It is based upon a brand new state of the art nonvolatile memory technology for the ultimate in reliability.

Flash Drive prices start at an amazing £65 for the 1024K model - only £95 for the 2048K model! An optional feed through version for attaching additional expansion packs is £15 extra inc.

Perfecting the PCW!



CIRTECH (UK) Ltd, Monksford Stables, Newtown St Boswells, MELROSE, TD6 0RU

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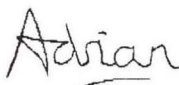
THIS ISSUE...

PCW TODAY

The last year has seen many ups and downs for the PCW, but the most recent event will have the longest lasting effect. During December, the PCW world was bereaved by the loss of PCW Plus. This giant in publishing history was surely the best and most important servant to the Amstrad cause, that we have ever seen. Well loved by its 7000 remaining readers, it had a unique style, not found in any other computer magazine. I read most of the PC magazines every month, but not one even comes close to PCW Plus.

So what of the future? Can the PCW last without its main point of contact with users? My answer would be a resounding YES! Other, so called 'classic computers' are still going strong, long after their supporting news-stand magazines went under. New products are still being produced for the PCW, who would have predicted LocoScript 4, twelve months ago? And of course there are still magazines like PCW Today, The Disc Drive, and 8 Bit Magazine that will continue to serve the PCW world. When PCW Plus went down, their editor passed the torch on to us. He called PCW Today, in particular: "a worthy successor". We are responding to that, and are striving to attract users, clubs, and advertisers to our magazine. If we can produce a publication that is any-where near the quality of PCW Plus, I will be happy.

As I have said in advertisements for this magazine: Together we can keep the PCW alive! Lets do our best.



Adrian Braddy, Editor.

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NEWS

- PCW Plus finally comes to an end
- LocoScript spring a surprise
- Cirtech slash prices

Amstrad "partly to blame" over downfall of PCW Plus - Chapman

Former PCW Plus Editor, Andrew Chapman has launched a stinging attack against, Amstrad over the closure of his magazine.

In the last ever edition of PCW Plus, Andrew Chapman slated the manufacturers of the PCW, saying: "I feel that Amstrad themselves are partly to blame for our closure." His criticisms come after the last remaining news-stand PCW magazine, PCW Plus was forced to close down, due to lack of finance. Future Publishing kept the magazine afloat whilst sales and advertising still covered costs, but by October 1996, the magazine was running at a loss, and Future pulled the plug.

Andrew Chapman believes that, had Amstrad delivered the new PCW 16 when they initially promised to, his magazine would have been given a valuable boost that could have saved it from closure. However, the new PCW was plagued by bugs, and the machine was not ready for sale, until Autumn 1996.

"If the PCW16 had come out on time, all could have changed" said the former Editor. "As it is, Amstrad have now lost an opportunity themselves".

Amstrad hit back, saying they cannot be blamed for the closure of PCW Plus.

Subscribers were first given a hint that the magazine was on its last legs, when they received a circular from Future Publishing telling them that it was no longer possible to renew subscriptions. Weeks later, the news that PCW Plus had closed was revealed over the Internet, on Ian MacDonald's home page.

PCW users reacted to the news, with a mix of sadness and resignation. Many had harboured fears about the magazine's future, for some time.

The small press PCW magazines however remained up-beat. PCW Today editor, Adrian Braddy said: "I am confident that the PCW will still be going strong well into the next century. Magazines like ours, are doubling their efforts to promote the

Amstrad, and companies like LocoScript are continuing to give strong support to the machine".

Mike Elliston from The Disc Drive magazine agreed, saying: "The PCW is by no means dead and products will continue to be produced if you support the suppliers and their adverts." However, he was not complacent, calling on all PCW users to support the remaining magazines, saying: "use them or lose them".

8 Bit editor, Brian Watson was also very positive: "8 Bit will be pursuing a very active campaign to establish and maintain contact between PCW users and the various hardware, software and service suppliers."

Meanwhile, the last man at the helm of PCW Plus is not giving up on PCWs forever. Andrew Chapman, former editor of the magazine plans to start a new magazine based on 'technology for writers'. As far as we know, this magazine will not be published by Future Publishing.

LocoScript 4 breathes new life into the ageing PCW

LocoScript Software have sprung a Christmas surprise for all PCW users.

Britain's top PCW company unveiled their new version of the popular word-processor, LocoScript just in time for Christmas. The first release of LocoScript 4, includes eagerly awaited features such as multiple columns, and full colour printing with certain printers. When the second release arrives, early in the new year, LocoScript will have the capacity to handle graphics. Users who buy the first release will be able to upgrade to the second free

of charge, next year.

Howard Fisher, Managing Director of LocoScript Software is delighted with the new software. He told PCW Today: "I hope the release of LocoScript 4 will help to keep the PCW alive".

Purchasing LocoScript 4 will cost you just £39.95, and if you return your old master discs, you can claim substantial discounts. LocoScript 3 users for instance, can buy the new version for just £19.95.

For further details about development, there is a Loco 4 hotline, which includes

the latest information. The number is (01306) 747740. For colour printing, users will need to buy the special LocoScript 4 printer support pack. If you have the original version, an upgrade costs just £5. You will also of course need a colour printer. LocoScript have put together a package which includes LocoScript 4, and the stylus Color 200 inkjet printer. The cost of this package is currently £265. If you would like further details, contact LocoScript Software on (01306) 747757, and ask for their latest catalogue.



PCWs back on the High Street

The new PCW 16 is being made available through a major high street chain. Electrical giants, Dixons are now selling the PCW at most of their branches.

The move heralds a dramatic reversal of policy by Amstrad, who made the decision three years ago to only sell machines by mail order. Now however, Amstrad have given the PCW the exposure it needs by releasing the computer onto the high street. They seem determined to continue the success of their most popular ever product.

Through adverts in local and national press, Dixons are describing the PCW 16 as: "like a mini PC". They signal the PCW's return, with the slogan: "It's back, it's better, it's unbelievable!"

Now with a high street presence, Amstrad hope that the PCW will sell well. Certainly, when up against the current, pricey competition, it stands a great chance. To begin with, 30,000 machines have been sent

around the country, and if successful, Amstrad will continue production, and perhaps even develop a new machine.

For the first time, potential buyers can walk into a local store and try out a PCW for themselves. PCW Today did just that, and found the little PCW 16 standing proud among the towering PCs. Why not take a look yourself.

The huge increase in exposure for the new PCW can only be good news for the machine. Amstrad will expect a rise in the number of PCWers, and you can expect more new software from the software developers.

Dixons are only selling the stand-alone PCW 16, however, they can offer you deals on a wide range of printers. The price for the basic system including VGA monitor, keyboard and mouse is £299. In their January Sale, the price is just £269.99. A saving of £30.

Price of Gem hard drives slashed to under £150

Hardware giants, Cirtech have slashed the price of their Gem 40 hard disc drives to just £149. The offer makes the Gem drive, the cheapest PCW hard drive ever.

Cirtech say that they are able to make the special offer, after bulk buying parts from a new source. The low price only lasts until these parts run out. Entry level Gem drives normally retail at £233.50, the new price

means a saving of almost 40%.

The Scottish manufacturer of the Gem disc, Cirtech are also currently working with Amstrad on the PCW 16. They have produced the software development machine for the new PCW. Developers must use this to fully exploit the advanced capabilities of the Rosanne operating system.

Contact Cirtech on (01835) 823898.

The PCW is a LiveWire!

LiveWire PCW Supplies is a new PCW company selling accessories at competitive prices for the PCW.

Boss of the new business, John Wigzell believes that his company is filling a gap in the market: "We see this as good news for the PCW-ing fraternity, as they have for sometime been neglected by the major suppliers."

Amongst the LiveWire '97 range is the remarkable offer of a pack of 10 3" discs for just £15.50. For further details, contact LiveWire at 25 Offens Drive, Staplehurst, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 0LS.

New Public Domain service

PCW users wanting cheap clip-art or software now have access to a brand new public domain service.

PD Blake of Yorkshire is offering discs of graphics for MicroDesign, along with fonts and shades for the same package. Also available are a new range of games and programs. The first catalogue is available now, containing sample programs and files. Simply send an SAE, 50p and a blank disc (3.5" only) to: PD Blake, 32 Sample Avenue, Beverley, East Riding of Yorkshire HU17 9DW. All discs cost just £1.50 each, and a prompt and reliable service is promised.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amongst LocoScript Software's latest winter range is a complete modem kit, that enables access to the internet via your PCW. The kit costs £159 and includes a free months connection to service provider - CIX. For further details contact LocoScript on (01306) 747757.

Coming soon from ComSoft, the forward thinking PCW company, is a Home Inventory program and a package called "Route Planner" that will enable you to select the quickest routes around Britain. No further details were available as we went to press. Meanwhile, the same company have released a new version of Protect for the PC. We have seen a demo version and it is very impressive. Contact ComSoft on (0141) 5544735.

The team behind the PCW 16 have confirmed that new and exciting applications are under development for the PCW 16. For some reason, they are keeping us in the dark as to what they are, all they would say is that there will be some, never before seen on a PCW. We believe that Creative Technology are producing a DTP, while ComSoft are making versions of all their software compatible with the new PCW. There is also a CP/M emulator on its way.

Rumours are circulating that Amstrad are considering a new PCW. Based around the PCW 16, the new super computer would still have the 8 bit Z80 processor that makes the PCW what it is. However, it would also include a hard drive, 2 Mb memory, and full CP/M and PC compatibility. Watch this space to see if the rumours have any substance. Remember, PCW Today reveals all major PCW news first!

SD MicroSystems have done it again. Their latest new product is called Colette, and it is a colour label printing package. Of course, you will need a colour printer to fully exploit it. The program costs £12.95, contact SD on (01953) 483750.

PCW CLUB NEWS

The PCW Club scene is stronger than ever. Why not join your local club or form a new one?

Local Clubs

■ Berkshire PCW Users Club

This ambitious group have a confident boast: "No other club can match us!" Membership is £12 per year, and there are many benefits available to members, including a monthly newsletter, free helpline and discounts on accessories. There is also the chance to win a 9512+ system! Postal members are welcome. For further details, contact Ed Harris, 121 Bullbrook Drive, Bracknell, Berks RG12 2QR (01344) 428938.

■ Birmingham and West Midlands PCW Club

There must be a lot of PCWers in Birmingham. A recent meeting attracted 70 members. Almost unprecedented surely! This group has the major advantage that there is no charge for membership. Each monthly meeting contains talks and software demonstrations, well worth a visit. Contact John Bell on (0121) 4343078.

■ Cornwall PCW Club

Members receive a regular newsletter on top of other benefits, and meetings are held on a Saturday. Contact John Shippcott (01209) 713997 or John Walker (01752) 706266.

■ Crawley PCW Club

This club has around 30 members, and meets on the first Thursday of each month at Christ Church in Crawley between 8-10pm. Full membership costs £12, and postal membership is just £3. On the 2nd of January, Brian Watson from 8 Bit Magazine will be demonstrating Protex. The December newsletter includes articles on E-mail and the demise of PCW Plus. It's certainly a good read. For further details, contact John Fisher, 'Pradines', Four Elms Road, Edenbridge TN8 6AF, (01732) 863062.

■ Devon PCW Club

The club has over 40 titles held in its library. There is also a regular newsletter.

Contact Edward Pooley, Kew Cottage, Birch Lane, Rounswell, Barnstaple, Devon EX31 3RQ, (01271) 327056

■ Hastings and Eastbourne PCW Club

Meetings are held in the Bell Room at St Peter's Community Centre in Bexhill. There are regular talks and demonstrations, as well as a newsletter. This group now has over 30 members. Contact George Magee, for further details on (01323) 833969.

■ Heads of The Valleys Group

Affiliated to the British Association of Computer Clubs, this group meet on the first Friday of each month at 7.30, in Aberdare, Mid Glamorgan. Members can offer advice on most software, and communications. There is also a 3" to 3.5" file transfer service available. Contact Anthony Hill on (01222) 618012 or Roy Underwood on (01685) 874972.

■ Hereford Computer Club

This club has various branches including a strong PCW section. Membership is £15 for a year, and includes the monthly magazine - Keyboard. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at The Cellar, 41 Widemarsh Street, Hereford. Meetings start at 7pm.

■ Kentish PCW Club

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month in the Chapel Hall on Bush Road, Cuxton. Postal membership is also available. Contact Leslie Merchant, 14 Mill Road, Northfleet, Gravesend, (01474) 335882.

■ Leeds Amstrad PCW Club

Meetings have a practical basis with demonstrations of various hardware and software. To find out more, contact Paul Newmark, 18 Claythorpe Road, Leeds LS16 5HW, (0113) 2755576.

■ Morley Amstrad PCWers

This club meets in Morley Public Library, at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of every month. Annual subscription costs £10. The group has a software library and regular newsletter. PC owners and guests are

cordially welcomed. Contact Frank King on (01924) 430319.

■ Perthshire PCW Club

To find out more about Perth's finest, Contact David Paterson, 26 Moulin Crescent, Perth PH1 2EA (01738) 621346, or Bob Nesbitt, 20 West Lodge, Glencarse PH2 7LZ (01738) 860741.

■ RADSTOCK.PCW

This is one of the newest PCW clubs around, and was formed by Adrian Hooper. The group now has its own newsletter. Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month, at the Radstock Methodist Church from 7.30pm. You can read Adrian's listing for a LocoScript style front-end to BASIC, in the winter edition of The Disc Drive. Contact Adrian Hooper, 40 Kilmersdon Road, Haydon, Radstock, Avon BA3 3QN, (01761) 436276.

■ Rotherham PCW Club

Another fairly recent entry onto the PCW Club scene, this group meets on the first Monday of each month at 7.30pm in the Rotherham Transport Club, Union Street, Masborough. New members are very welcome to drop in. Contact E. Chipchase on (01709) 361156.

■ SCOTWEST.pcw

This club now has an impressive 45 members. The group meet on the first Saturday of the month at the Auld House Community Centre, Mamore Place, Hillend, Glasgow from 10am. The impressive club newsletter - CHR\$ contains general PCW news, and details from other clubs around the country. For further details, contact David Williams, 32/34 Carfin Street, New Stevenson, Motherwell ML1 4JL (01698) 732403.

■ Somerset PCW Club

The club is worried about declining membership, and this issue will be discussed at the AGM in March. The group produce a quarterly newsletter. PC users are welcome as well as PCWers. Contact Elsa Turner on (01935) 823618 for further details.

■ South Essex PCW Club

The club is now one of the biggest in Britain, with 110 members at the last count. Membership includes a monthly newsletter, and quarterly magazine - The Disc Drive. The club is still looking for a new membership secretary. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month, at 7.30pm, in the Basildon Centre Committee Room, Basildon. On 6th February 1997, there will be a Brains Trust evening, where members can put their questions to a panel of PCW experts. On 6th March, Nick Chaundy will be showing how the PCW can be fun. Contact David Lalieu, 10 Sheridan Avenue, Thundersley, Essex SS8 7JP (01702) 551618.

■ Teesside PCW Users' Group

The group meet on a Monday at Acklam Public Library, Middlesbrough from 7pm. Membership of this group now stands at just 12, efforts are being made to increase this figure. Membership costs just £5 for a year, with a £1 per meeting fee on top of that. The club has an extensive software library. At the next meeting, to be announced soon, there will be a demonstration of LocoScript 4. Contact Adrian Braddy, 150 Oxford Road, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, Teesside TS5 5EL (01642) 816903.

■ Thornton PCW Club

The club, which formerly catered for

Amiga and PC users meets every second Tuesday, from 7pm at the Cleveleys Community Centre, Blackpool. Contact Steve at 5 Carlisle Grove, Thornton-Cleveleys, Lancashire FY5 4BY.

■ Widmore PCW Club

This group now has over 60 members. Meetings are held at Bromley Adult Education College on the third Wednesday of each month. Meetings involve practical demonstrations of software. Contact Dorothy Featherstone on (01689) 858105.

If you are a member of a local PCW club, perhaps you could let us know what you do. Send your club news to the usual address.

National Clubs

■ Amstrad PCW MicroDesign Club

The newest of the two MicroDesign Clubs, this group is correspondence based. Membership includes a monthly newsletter MicroDesigner UK, which is jammed full of MicroDesign news and features. There is also a clip art catalogue. Members from anywhere are welcome. Contact Graham Arnold on (01392) 213250 for further details.

■ Lawyers PCW Club

This is mostly a postal based club for PCWing solicitors. However there are occasional meetings. Contact Keith Simons, 10 Orrishmere Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire SK8 5HP (0161) 4852789 for further details.

■ National Amstrad PCW Teachers Club

No longer producing a newsletter, this club still provides a telephone number for teachers everywhere to ask advice on PCW matters. Call Steve Garrill on (01253) 343029.

■ MicroDesign International User Group

This is one of the longest established and most respected PCW clubs. In fact it is recommended by Creative Technology, themselves! Doug Cox works his socks off to produce an excellent quarterly journal The Design Tree that is crammed with the latest MicroDesign news, plus features of an interest to all PCWers. Members also have access to a huge PD library with over 6000 programs and pieces of clipart. It only costs £8 to join. Contact Doug Cox, 132 Adelaide Grove, East Cowes, Isle of Wight PO32 6DF (01983) 296366.

Magazines

■ The Disc Drive

This excellent publication comes from the thriving South Essex Club. But as they say, it is no longer a mere club magazine. You can subscribe, wherever you live, for just £8 a year. The Disc Drive is currently the only national magazine, other than PCW Today, to deal exclusively with all PCW matters. Coming in an A5 format, the latest issue has 32 pages. Tutorials tend to focus on LocoScript, while there are many features of a general nature. Most major PCW companies advertise in this magazine. If you're into PCWs, this magazine is unmissable! The December edition has articles on public domain software, Instant Recall and LocoSpell, plus a lot more. For a subscription form, write to David Lalieu,

10 Sheridan Avenue, Thundersley, Essex SS7 1RD, or give him a ring on (01702) 551618.

■ Format

A new kid on the block this one. We haven't seen a copy yet but apparently the magazine contains features on all the "classic computers" such as the CPC, C64, Spectrum, and of course, the PCW. It is uncertain what percentage of the magazine will be devoted to PCW matters. If you subscribe, £7.50 will get you free PD software, four issues of Format, and a monthly news-sheet. For more details, contact Robert Nisbet, 1 Silver Birches, Stanton St John, Oxford OX33 1HH, (01865) 351448.

■ 8 Bit Magazine

Another multi-format magazine covering "classic computers". Edited by Brian

Watson, the man behind Protex, this is obviously a high profile mag. The PCW content is gradually increasing, as Brian does his bit to counter the effects of the fall of PCW Plus. However, there is a lot in here about CPCs and the like, that will be of no interest to PCWers whatsoever. Still, a great read and well worth the money. The magazine now comes out six times a year, and if you subscribe for a full year, each issue costs just £2. Contact Brian Watson, 39 High Street, Sutton-in-the-Isle, Ely CB6 2RA, (01353) 777006.

It would be a good idea to subscribe to at least one of these magazines, along with PCW Today. Remember, the more people who support these magazines, the longer the PCW will live on. Our magazines are now the only forum that PCW companies have where they can actively sell their products.

The BIG Review

ALIVE AND KICKING

LocoScript 4 is here and we've got the exclusive review

At last, columns in LocoScript! Everyone's favourite word-processor is back, better than ever before. LocoScript 4 is the major software release we have all been waiting for, and it certainly lives up to expectations. With colour printing, and multiple columns, they don't come much better than this!

The package comes complete with two manuals, a master disc, and LocoScript have even thrown in a ready to use, Start of Day disc. This means that there is no need to run a lengthy installation program, and you can have LocoScript 4 up and running immediately. Of course, if you want to use LocoSpell, LocoFile or another of the Loco family, you will have to make your own start-up disc.

Loading LocoScript 4 for the first time has a reassuring familiarity. In fact, you will notice next to no differences from previous versions. This is the secret of the LocoScript success. Despite it being a new piece of software, Loco4 operates in exactly the same way as its predecessors, so it is not like buying a completely new word-processor. LocoScript Software have taken the decision to add to, rather than column printing. Between two and four columns can be set, and it is even possible to indent text within a column. Setting columns is remarkably easy. Simply choose to 'Change Layout' by pressing [F2], then press [F6] to enter the columns menu. It is then a case of selecting the number of columns, and the size of the gap between the columns. An unusual feature of the columns option, is the on screen presentation of the columns. While you might expect the columns to be shown side by side on the screen, this does not happen in Loco4. Instead, columns begin to the right of where the last one ended, resulting in an unusual stepped effect. This feature makes the layout very clear. It would not be practical within LocoScript to show columns next to one another, so this is an acceptable annoyance. One problem with

LocoScript 4

the column feature is that scrolling up and down the page is slowed down, as the PCW's processor works overtime.

The other major new feature of LocoScript 4 is colour printing. Although you obviously need a colour documents. There are seven colours to choose from, and each is given an individual code. To change colours, simply place the appropriate code before the text. Changing colour is rather like changing text to bold or italic. Each colour is shown under the [F3] Style menu, as well as on the [+] menu. Because of the codes system, it is possible to mix colours across your document, and with the addition of inch high fonts you can create exciting and attractive posters.

LocoScript 4 also offers new printing options. With a combination of the columns and a new height code option, it is now very easy to print labels across the page. The labels will print neatly arranged across the page, with each new set of labels starting the set distance down from the previous.

Another feature is the ability to print odd and even pages separately. This is of most use if you have a sheet-fed printer, and want to print double sided pages.

With LocoScript 4 you can also now print in reverse order. This is mostly for

longer print runs, and it means that the last page is top-class software product, the documentation is disappointing. The manual, in eye-catching pink has just 14 pages! Users are repeatedly referred to the LocoScript 3 User Guide, while the manual provided with Loco4 just covers the new features. Hopefully, LocoScript will bring out a more detailed user guide in the future, but in the meantime the small, but well written manual will have to do.

We have reviewed Release Two here, but watch out, because the full version of LocoScript 4 is out soon, with promises of graphics capabilities and more. It just keeps getting better! We will bring you the first review as soon as we can.

Meanwhile, our verdict on LocoScript 4: It is a superb product that solves most of the problems of its successors. There can no longer be any doubt. LocoScript is the number one, and it's here to stay. The PCW is alive and kicking!

LocoScript 4 (Release 1)	
Price	£39.95
Company	LocoScript
Telephone	(01306) 885529
Ease of use	●●●●●
Features	●●●●●
Documentation	●●●○
Value for money	●●●●●
PCW Today Rating	●●●●●

PCW16 beginners guide

Check out the word-processor on your new PCW 16 with our walkthrough tutorial

Our brand new series will be covering all aspects of the new PCW 16 to accommodate our growing band of readers with a PCW 16. This time we will be taking an overview of the word-processor sold with the computer.

The word-processor has no name, and was written specifically for the PCW 16. New, more fully featured word-processors, such as Protext are on their way soon. For now though, the standard program will serve most users admirably. To enter the program, switch on your PCW, and the 'desktop' screen will appear. Press [F3] and you will enter the word-processor. We now want to start a document, so press the blue key.

The PCW now asks where you wish to save the document. The two options available are 'Cabinet' or 'Disc'. The cabinet is the PCW's internal disc, known as the 'flash disc'. If you save to this, the document will be instantly available at all times, without you needing to put a disc in the drive. If the document is important, and you wish to keep it for a long time, it may be wise to save to floppy disc, as the cabinet can be unreliable. Select the option by clicking on the box of your choice with the mouse.

You are now asked for a Folder number. The default is FOLDER01, so use this to begin with, there will be more about folders later. Now click the mouse in the box below, and come up with a name for your document. This can be anything up to 32 characters long, but must not include spaces. Once you have typed the name, click the box 'OK'.

You will now be given a new screen titled CHOOSE A TEMPLATE. Templates are page settings, to begin with use the basic 'Blank template'. This will give you amazingly, a blank page!

The screen that you have entered is known as the editing screen. You can now begin typing. As it is, simple text looks a bit boring, so try adding some style. At the

top of the screen, you will see three boxes, BOLD, ITALIC and UNDER (underline). Move the cursor to the beginning of the text you wish to add style to, and using the mouse click on the box of your choice. For example, if you click on BOLD, all the text will be printed in bold, until you click on this box again to cancel it. If you don't like using the mouse, you can pull down the style menu by pressing [TASK] and [S] together, a list will appear, and the styles currently in use will be ticked. Thanks to advanced programming, what you see on the screen is what you get on the paper. If the text looks bold on the screen, it will be printed out in bold.

So how about using different sizes of text? The simplest way to do this is from the style menu described above. You will see two options. One says 'Use Larger Font' and the other is 'Use smaller Font'. Select one of these options and you can increase or decrease the size of your writing.

Now, there is a quick way of changing the style of sections of text if you have already completed typing them. Using your mouse, move the pointer to the small box in the top right of your screen, with the square brackets - []. Move the cursor to the beginning of the text that you wish to alter, and click on the brackets button. Then move the cursor to the end of the text you wish to alter, click the brackets button again, and the text to be changed will become highlighted. Clicking on one of the style options such as bold, will now turn all the highlighted text bold. Finally click on the brackets again, and the highlighting will vanish.

You have completed typing your first piece of work with your PCW 16. It might now be an idea to check the spelling of your document. The PCW will do this for you automatically. Simply move your cursor to the beginning of the text to be checked and click on the SPELL button at the top of your screen. The computer will check the whole document, part of the document, or just one word. Select your

choice, usually 'whole document', in the usual way. Once you have set the spell-checker to work, it will move through your text. When it hits upon a word not in the dictionary, a box will appear in the centre of your screen. This will tell you the unknown word, and will come up with a replacement, in the 'Replace with' box. If the suggested replacement is correct, press [F2] or click on the box labelled REPLACE WORD and the word will be corrected. If however, the word is correct, just not in the dictionary, press [F1] or click on SKIP WORD. The spell checker will then continue without altering the word. If this word is a common one such as your surname, you may wish to add it to the dictionary. To do this, just press [F3] or click on ADD WORD, and the word will be added to the PCW dictionary.

Should you want to delete a word from the PCW dictionary, pull down the View menu by pressing [TASK] and [V]. Select the 'User Dictionary' option. The dictionary will then appear. To delete a word, simply move the cursor to an unwanted word, and press [D] to delete, or click on DELETE WORD.

Should you make a mistake when editing your document, all is not lost. The 'Undo' feature will literally undo your last edit. Simply press the [UNDO] key, or click on 'Undo' at the top of the screen. If this facility is unavailable, this word will be shown in grey. It must be in black to work.

You have now completed and edited the first document, and it is time to save it. To save is very easy, as are all PCW 16 commands. Simply press the red [STOP] key on your keyboard, or click on STOP at the top left of your screen. This will save the document, and you will exit back to the desktop screen. If you wish to save and continue editing your document. Press [TASK] and [T], and select 'Save and Continue', this should be done regularly for safety reasons. If you want to save the document under a new name, enter the 'document' menu, then select 'Save As', and come up with a new name.

The top twenty games

Adrian Braddy takes a look at the best PCW games still available.

1 Head Over Heels *Free from the Internet*

This is easily the best PCW game we have ever seen. Ocean Software, still giants in the world of computer games excelled themselves in this rare excursion into the PCW world. The game has not been available commercially for a long time, all copies were snapped up very quickly. Now though, the game is seeing a revival, thanks to the internet. Download it if you are on line, and prepare for a good time! This classic game is pure enjoyment and escapism, with all the essentials of a good platform game. You run around a castle, chucking doughnuts at the baddies. You can't beat it!

2 Clock Chess '89 *£13.00 A-Z Computers*

The best of many PCW chess games, this one is unmissable. The game has several options including a blindfold game, and a play against the clock option called 'Blitz'. Each side is given up to five minutes to play a whole game. It leads to quite an exciting finish. The graphics are stunning, with a clear 3D board and pieces. Better than many PC chess games, Clock Chess really will take your breath away.

3 Verbiage *£5.00 Advantage*

Described as "The computer word game for the PCW", Verbiage is based on the TV show, Countdown. You and the computer choose nine letters in turn. Of course, you select the number of consonants and vowels. It's then a case of beating the computer to the longest word, against the clock of course. You then have a go at the anagram, find the whole word and win. Real nerve wracking entertainment, with some skill needed. There's great graphics and sound too, one of the best value games around.

4 Trivia Quiz *£5.00 Advantage*

A superb quiz game, written specifically for the PCW by Advantage. This is the best quiz game I have come across, on any computer. Superb graphics and sound accompany this cleverly presented game. Each multiple choice question has three options, and it's a test of both mental skills and dexterity as you hit the right key as fast as possible. The faster you answer a question, the more points you gain. There is also an overall time limit. Although some of the questions are a little obscure, it's still great fun, get it while you can.

5 Double Agent *£12.50 SD MicroSystems*

A game genre that has long been successful on the PCW is that of text based adventure games. Double Agent is one of the best still available. As usual there is a highly realistic plot. Set on the alien planet of Marengo, you have to save a nearby planet from invading baddies. Of course it is up to you to sort it out. Excellent Dan Dare cum James Bond style fun. Includes free bonus adventure - The Lost Dragon.

6 Tetris *Free from the Internet*

The classic game, made famous by the Nintendo Gameboy, amazed reviewers the world over when it first appeared. This game, like all good games is based upon an extremely simple idea. You will find several PCW versions, but this, the original remains the best, despite its annoying beep. The aim of the game? You have to drop blocks of various shapes and sizes in order to build up a wall. You try to leave as few gaps as possible. As the wall grows higher it gets harder. It sounds pretty dull, but as millions have discovered, it is strangely addictive.

7 Applejack *£5.00 Advantage*

A relative newcomer on the PCW scene, this platform game has rapidly become a classic. AppleJack is our animated hero, whose task is to jump and grab as many apples as possible from the top of the screen. However, there are bombs littered across the sky to hinder your path. Once you get all the apples, you move to the next level. The levels get progressively harder, after a certain point the bombs begin to move and bounce off the ground. To add to the variety there are three different backdrops, beautifully drawn. A must buy

8 Post Haste *£5.00 Advantage*

Possibly a surprise choice, Post Haste is a little known game that can be found hidden on one of the many public domain, compilation discs - Family Entertainment. However it was a big hit in the PCW Today office. The player takes the role of a postman, whose task is to collect the mail from the various letter boxes scattered around the screen, and deliver them to all the houses. This involves climbing telegraph poles, jumping swamps, and of course, escaping dogs. One annoying glitch is the fact that you cannot pass the third level, despite claims that there are ten! Or is that just us? Whatever, it occupies enough time completing the three. A hidden classic!

9 PCW Challenge *£12.50 SD MicroSystems*

An excellent compilation of four PCW games. A racing simulator, where all of the skill is in changing gear. A helicopter simulator that takes you on dangerous missions over land and sea, and Space Combat, an arcade style shoot-em-up. All amazing value, with stunning graphics.

10

Lord of the Rings
£12.50 SD MicroSystems

Join Frodo, Gandalf and friends on this classic journey across Middle Earth! Lord of the Rings is based on The Fellowship of the Ring, by J R R Tolkien. You guide Frodo and pals, on their mission but must try and keep the ring out of the hands of the evil Sauron. The command parser is the sophisticated 'English' which understands quite complicated commands. There is great atmosphere, even though there are no pictures. A must for all Tolkein fans, and budding adventurers alike.

11

PCW Draughts
£5.00 Advantage

This excellent implementation of the old favourite, draughts comes from Tyresoft Games. The simple graphics are pleasant to look at, though the sounds aren't up to much. This version is not exactly feature packed, but it offers all that you could hope for from a draughts game, along with a good demo mode. This is a game to play in the coffee break.

12

Ultimate Quiz
£12.50 SD MicroSystems

Another excellent quiz game, this one offers ten different quizzes on useful topics such as the Highway Code and Italian! Good graphical presentation and clean screens make this a bargain buy. It's easy to use too. One of few games that is educational and fun! Highly recommended.

20

PCW Challenge
£5.00 Advantage

Not to be confused with the game of the same name at number nine. This superb value compilation features four different adventure games. Like all good adventures, there are lots of puzzles and clues to solve along the way. The games all feature Arnold Blackwood from Rochdale. As you can see, there's a sense of humour at work here. Highly addictive and great fun.

13

Crossgrid
£12.50 SD MicroSystems

Described as "crosswords without clues", Crossgrid is based around a novel idea, the program gives you a grid of numbers, each standing for a letter. Can you work it out? Challenging stuff and highly addictive. Watch out, it could ruin your social life!

14

Fish!
£15.00 A-Z Computers

This adventure game from Rainbird is entertainment from the world go. Stunning graphics, and a wacky plot all add to this mind-bending adventure, set beneath the sea. Who has ever heard of a role playing game, where you play the role of a fish! Brilliant fun all round.

15

Scapeghost
£14.00 A-Z Computers

Another text and graphics game, with a highly original story. You play a ghost detective called Alan Chance, who wants to prove his innocence. The writers had a great sense of humour, and the good graphics add to the spooky atmosphere. Be warned, there is a spot of bad language, so not so suitable for kids!

16

Brian Clough's Football Fortunes
£9.99 Trading Post

This is a sporting simulation using both the PCW and a board. You must have a

strong team of players, but also keep the bank manager happy. The aim of the game is to win the cup, without going bust. Excellent fun, with at least two players needed. Excellent use of sound, help make this more than just a board game and the graphics are reasonable. Good fun for all footie fanatics.

17

Chip Cricket
£5.00 Advantage

A reasonable simulation, where England actually can beat Australia. The graphics are what you might call weak, but at least you can make out the players, wickets and ball. Matchstick men come to mind! Easy enough for anyone to play, you don't have to be Geoffrey Boycott!

18

Super League Soccer
£12.50 SD MicroSystems

At last your team can win the league! This simulation, despite sounding suspiciously American is actually quite good. Select your team then as manager, see how they fare across the season. You'll be waving your scarves in the sitting room at this realistic simulation!

19

Steve Davis Snooker
£14 A-Z Computers

What a novel idea, snooker on a green and black screen. Surprisingly, this attempt is very realistic. The graphics are good, and despite all the balls being green, you can enjoy a great game of snooker or pool.

The top twenty games here account for most of the games still available new for the PCW. However, there were many more and they often crop up second hand. Here are some of our suggestions: Tau Ceti I and II were examples of that rare breed, the intelligent action game. Get them if you can.

Batman was, like Head Over Heels, from Ocean Software. Another superb action game based on the popular cartoon.

Pick of the flight simulators was Tomahawk, based around a combat helicopter. Also worth a look are Starfighter and ACE. Of the many adventure games, the lewd, Leather Goddesses of Phobos was a cult

classic, while if you want a game to get you thinking, Mindfighter is one to look out for.

Finally if you can track down Armageddon Man, please tell us. This game, was one of the best PCW games ever. Simply keep the world happy, fed, watered and free from nuclear war. A true classic!



Tipsters

Indexing Today

With three or four issues of PCW Today behind us and hopefully, many more issues still to come, now is the time to begin indexing the PCW Today's contents. As the number of issues grow, the more difficult it becomes to re-find items hidden away in your growing pile of PCW Today's. Whether you wish to use a simple card index like LocoFile, or use my recommendation of a database program such as MasterFile 8000, do it now!

Key Combinations

Using key combinations rather than the slower cursor keys, to move around a document, is a short cut worth practising. My tip is to open a file and store initially the contents of speedy LocoScript (see issue 3, page 10). A similar file could be produced for MicroDesign. Keep adding to the file as you discover new quick key combinations. Print out the file occasionally. Now if you need a reminder of the key combinations, look to your print-out, which should be kept readily on display.

MicroDesign Update

I have recently added an Epson Stylus 820 Inkjet to my PcW10, working it alongside my 9 pin dot matrix. Bought as a printer package from LocoScript Software, the inkjet came with the printer driver on a new LocoScript start-of-day disc. However, MicroDesign 3 would not print using the new inkjet, despite using MD3MAKE to create a new start-of-day disc. My old MD3 master disc needed to be upgraded to the latest version, 3.33 which contains the printer driver to work my inkjet in MicroDesign. If you experience a similar problem, send your old MD3 master disc, and a cheque for £10 to: Michelle Foster, Creative

Technology (MicroDesign) Ltd, 10 Park Street, Uttoxeter, Staffs ST14 7AG (or telephone 01889 567160 for details).

CP/M Printing

With LocoScript and MicroDesign now happily using my new inkjet, trouble with some CP/M programs arose. Pressing [PTR] showed NO PRINTER! The answer was found in John Campbell's paperback CP/M Plus, published by PCW Plus, and is a step-by-step to the often mysterious CP/M.

- a) A copy of DEVICE.COM was put on each CP/M program such as Rocket, Flipper, Masterfile 8000 etc.
- b) Using RPED in CP/M, each program's PROFILE.SUB had the following line added: **Device LST: - CEN** (or: **DEVICE LST: - PAR** if using the built in parallel port).
- c) On booting up, the usual screen display showed the affect of the new instructions added to the PROFILE.SUB. But more importantly, the Inkjet printed with my CP/M programs.

Taking stock

Why not clear out your LocoScript stock PHRASES.STD. Most of which are rarely used anyway. Instead store your most frequently used names and addresses, plus "Yours sincerely" and "Yours faithfully" in a new PHRASES.STD saved in group 0 on your LocoScript start-of-day disc. Having done just that now, when I press [PASTE] and [A] - up comes PCW Today's address, and the name of the editor. [F] - Yours faithfully. [J] - A writing group's address. [S] - Yours sincerely. [R] - My own name and address, and [T] - to add my telephone number when required. It certainly helps to save the old fingers. Full details on changing Phrases can be found in the LocoScript User Guide.

Key Spring Clean

If you have had your PCW for a while, some of your keys may not be responding to anything other than severe typing. If this is the case, it may be time you gave your keyboard a spring clean. It's not as bad as it sounds, and it will take at the most, twenty minutes.

Firstly turn the keyboard upside down, and carefully place it on a soft cloth. Remove the screws from the underside, and separate the two halves of the plastic casing. Now unplug the lead to the monitor and unscrew the screws holding the green circuit board to the casing.

The main section of the keyboard now has to be dismantled. You will find some black hook shaped pegs that stick through the metal base. Each of these must be taken out of their slots.

You are now left with two metal plates and a flexible plastic membrane, attached to the circuit board.

Wipe the membrane clean of dust with a soft duster, clean other parts with a soft brush. Blow the rest of the keyboard clean. Now reassemble in the reverse order to that shown above. Your keyboard should now be clean and ready to go. The PCW 16 and Technique keyboards are cleaned in a similar way, but please note that some of the details may be different.

Mr A. Timms, Gloucester

Getting Organised

A cheap and simple way to keep your discs organised is to colour code them. If you use 3" discs, colour the label at the end of the disc in a light shade. For example, use green for LocoScript, red for MicroDesign and so on. You can also pick up sticky coloured circles from a stationery, use these on 3.5" discs for the same effect. It makes it a lot quicker to pick out the needed discs, and also helps you to keep the various discs separate.

Kathleen May, Gateshead

Thanks to Rod Shinkfield for this great collection of hints and tips.

RoutePlanner for your **PCW**

“ the most important
release for a very long time
”

Dave Golder, *Amstrad Action*



Coming soon for your PCW: RoutePlanner. RoutePlanner prints the quickest or shortest journey between **any two towns in Britain** and helps you avoid navigation hassle.

Avoid traffic jams and city-centre blackspots with RoutePlanner's flexible driving preferences: arrange stops along your journey for an easier drive. And if you **don't like driving on motorways** RoutePlanner can find a route for you, too.



RoutePlanner is **completely graphical** and hence incredibly easy to use: with the Macintosh-like pointer system, you will be finding routes in seconds. The graphical route map (fully updated for 1997) features clear place and road labelling, with up to **32 times magnification**.

3000-place database

RoutePlanner was written by Richard Fairhurst over a period of four years

£24.95 from Comsoft: 0141 554 4735

fast calculation speed

available from late February

compatible with *all* PCWs
– including 256k models

Loco Screen Saving

Two tips I would like to share... To avoid screen burn in LocoScript there is a superb screen saver available from PCW PD, 27 Highley Close, Rifle Range Estate, Kidderminster DY11 7NZ. It comes on disc with lots of other goodies including Check 5 (for CP/M): much superior to Check 3. The total cost is just £5.

Pain in the Neck

If you wear bi-focal glasses looking at the PCW screen can give you a real pain in the neck. Solution? Invest in a cheap pair of reading glasses. Check how far away from the screen you sit, and then buy appropriate glasses to see at this distance. Cost? £7-£10 max

Revd. Brian Smith, Shropshire

Scotch Tip

You will notice that the address on the envelope is covered with 'Scotch Magic Tape' Inkjet printers ink is not waterproof and can smudge. Scotch Tape prevents this happening in the post.

Derek Lilly, Somersetshire

Printer Reconnection

When working in CP/M programs such as MicroDesign and Prottext, you may have noticed that you must switch on your external printer, before loading the package. If for some reason you forget to do so, there is no need to start again from scratch. Simply connect up the printer, press [PTR] and move the cursor to the left. Press [STOP] and the line will change so that it reads 'off line'. Press [+] to put the printer back 'on line', and then [EXIT]. Your printer will now work as usual.

David Green, Southport

Drafting Out

Draft printouts may save on ink, and time, but they are notoriously hard to read. Try

printing out in bold, and the print is much easier to read, and it still prints four times faster.

F. Baker, Oxford

Blind Date

You can persuade LocoScript to remind you of the date. Simply rename the M: Drive, as the date, it will stay there at the top of your screen until you switch the computer off. Here's how: Move the cursor into a group in M, press [F2] and select 'rename disc'. Give the name as the date, for example, 1-JAN-96, and there it is at the top of disc management.

Jenny Down, Isle of Wight

Erasing Groups

There is no speedy way to delete whole groups of LocoScript documents from within the word processor. However, it is possible to do so from within CP/M. For example, say you wanted to erase all of group 5. Boot up CP/M, put the disc with the files to be erased into Drive A and type:
USER 5 [RETURN]
ERA ** [RETURN]
USER 13 [RETURN]
ERA ** [RETURN]
USER 0 [RETURN]

You have now erased all from group 5, and all from 13, the limbo file. The last line returns you to group 0.

When erasing other groups, the limbo file corresponds as follows: 2 and 20, 3 and 11, 4 and 12 etc.

Frank Potts, Cumbria

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That was the year...

The PCW Today writing team look back at the highs and lows of 1996.

It has been an eventful year for the PCW. Everyone's favourite classic computer has hit some low patches over the last 12 months, yet seems to have left 1996 stronger than ever before.

The year started on a high with Amstrad announcing the new PCW 16. The machine promised to continue the good traditions of its predecessors, whilst also dragging the PCW into the 1990s. The 'sweet sixteen' was a result of three years research and development by Amstrad and Creative Technology. The latter, who famously developed MicroDesign, wrote an advanced and highly sophisticated operating system known as Roseanne for the new computer.

The PCW 16 met a mixed response from the industry and PCWing public alike. Commercial magazine, PCW Plus were hopeful that the new users and advertisers would give their magazine a much needed boost. Others were concerned that the PCW 16 was not a true PCW. CP/M and LocoScript packages would not run within the Roseanne shell, and it seemed that new programs would not run easily anyway. Software developer, David Langford was unsure about the viability of the new PCW: "unless it quickly grabs a large market share, it could well be short lived." he said. Other companies were more up-beat, believing that the new machine would kick new life into the PCW series.

Amstrad sent computers to beta testers around Britain, sending regular update discs to try and iron out the bugs. The release date for the new machine was put back repeatedly, after several unplanned setbacks. This resulted in 30,000 PCWs lying unused in warehouses.

Meanwhile, worries were developing over the future of the last news-stand PCW magazine, PCW Plus. South Essex PCW Club were among the first to respond, deciding to expand their magazine, The Disc Drive. The former club newsletter became a national magazine devoted to all PCWers. Hotly following on their tails, we came along. The Big 2 PCW Club was to

begin with devoted exclusively to MicroDesign and LocoScript, hence the name. The first edition of our magazine was called "MicroMotion", and was sold to just 20 subscribers. We made some great gaffes too, repeatedly mis-spelling CP/M if that's possible, and telling you that a new version of LocoScript was "unlikely". Thankfully, despite all this, it was such a hit that we changed the format, the name and increased it in size by 70%. PCW Today took off, and everyone forgot about MicroMotion.

In the Spring, there were shake-ups at the



best known PCW company, formerly called Locomotive. The LocoScript business of the Locomotive Software Group was sold to Softco Ltd, Howard Fisher's new company. The new company became LocoScript Software, and immediately began to expand their PCW business. More good news for the PCW. They also immediately began working on a new project.

The big movers on the traditional PCW software front this year, have been SD MicroSystems and ComSoft. Both companies have introduced plenty of excellent new software throughout the year, and are to be highly commended for their commitment to the PCW cause. Both companies look to be leading a resurgence in the fortunes of the PCW, and are believed to be among software

manufacturers writing software for the PCW 16. Other companies believed to be involved are Creative Technology, PhiloSoft and Rodesign.

Amstrad involved most of the major PCW companies in producing the new computer. Creative developed the operating system, LocoScript Software provided user support and Cirtech developed the software development computer for the '16'.

In the meantime, PCW users were warned that that the days of PCW Plus were numbered. A circular from Future Publishing stunned PCWers everywhere by saying that the magazine was unlikely to last another six months. Magazines such as PCW Today and The Disc Drive were immediately alerted and we tried to salvage as we could from the falling magazine. Multi format magazine, 8 Bit targeted the PCW 16 market specifically by arranging for a flyer advertising their mag to be distributed with every PCW 16 sold. A sure way of increasing their readership by a few thousand. (Wish we'd thought of that!)

PCW Plus did not give us much warning, because no sooner had we received the letter from Future, the last edition of PCW Plus arrived. Former editor, Andrew Chapman claims he was only given a weeks notice himself, before the last edition went to press! The magazine was sustained until it was no longer making a profit. PCW Plus can be proud that they actually lasted longer than sister magazine, ST Format, supporting the newer Atari ST computer.

With all this action going on, LocoScript Software chose the moment to give the PCW a boost by announcing LocoScript 4. Their aim to complete the software in time for Christmas did not quite come off. Instead, a scaled down version - Release One was made available in December, Release Two including graphics capabilities should be available early in 1997. The surprise introduction of LocoScript 4 could not have been better timed. Proof that the PCW lives on.

How has the PCW been affected by the past year of change? PCW Today Editor, *Adrian Braddy* gives his opinion:

The PCW has been on the go for more than 12 years now, but it has surely not seen a year quite so eventful as 1996. The three main events of the year were, without a doubt, the development of the PCW 16, the fall of PCW Plus, and the introduction of LocoScript 4. Each of these happenings will in their own way have a major effect on the future of the PCW.

It is my view that 1996 has been an excellent year for the PCW. Many will no doubt disagree. And it is true that the loss of PCW Plus came as a major blow. But

during 1994 and 1995, the PCW was slowly dying. Companies dropped like flies, and users left to the fashionable PCs in their droves. We saw no major PCW launches, and while PCW User and Script magazines gave in, PCW Plus almost halved in size and quality. This period of PCW history was the worst we have ever seen. But with the dawn of 1996, the PCW turned the corner. We had a new PCW, that can at last find a niche in the competitive computer market. Throughout the year, the number of PCWers has steadied, and we are now receiving enquiries from new PCW owners, people who have never even heard of PCW Plus, and are unaware of anything other than LocoScript 1. Companies are once again producing new

software for the PCW, and the introduction of a brand new PCW has generated excitement in the market. Those companies who stopped advertising in PCW Plus, did not cease to exist.

Best of all, local and national clubs are pulling together, and growing stronger, while magazines such as our own are filling the gap left by PCW Plus.

I conclude by saying that the future is bright for PCW users. The PC has passed its honeymoon period. Users now realise that they don't need a speedy and powerful, expensive and unreliable computer. A cheaper, more reliable machine, will do all they need, just as satisfactorily. The PCW lives on!

1997 AND BEYOND

We have reviewed 1996, but what will the next year bring? Hopefully, it will be as eventful as '96.

LocoScript have promised that they will have a full version of LocoScript available for release. The introduction of pictures, and columns and colour mean that LocoScript is now beginning to rival MicroDesign 3. We could also see new graphics and fonts made available for the wordprocessor. LocoScript Software's next catalogue should also include some new products, to add to their growing range of PCW merchandise.

What about Creative Technology? All has been quiet at Creative Towers, since they completed the Roseanne Operating System. This suggests to us that they are working on another major project. They are known to be working on software for the PCW 16, and we reckon they have been doing so for the last twelve months at least. We guess that this software is to be a desktop publisher. Will it be a new version of MicroDesign, or a brand new package? Whatever it is, you can guarantee it will be good. Hopefully, they will reveal all during early 1997.

Other software, soon to be ready for the PCW 16 includes a version of

Protect, to offer an alternative to the standard Anne word-processor. You will also see some 'route planning' software and a CP/M emulator.

On the original PCWs, watch out for The Home Inventory and The Route Planner, both from Comsoft. SD MicroSystems will also be producing some new software. Finally, don't be too surprised if Creative Technology announce some software for the original PCWs too.

As we move into the realms of speculation and rumour, another new PCW is not out of the question. Persistent rumours claim that Amstrad will consider a new machine, if the '16' is a success. One of the limitations of their new computer is the size of the flash memory. To accommodate new programs, this should really be bigger. An updated '16', would include more flash ROM, and perhaps even a Hard Drive. Rumours often come to nothing, so don't get your hopes up.

WHY NOT JOIN THE PREMIER TEAM

- PCW Today is looking for new writers as we continue to grow and improve.
- How would you like to see your name in print, and be part of the UK's most popular PCW magazine?
- Simply send us details of what you want to write, or even send us the completed article.
- We are looking for regular writers willing to produce a series of articles as well as those writers who just want to write a one-off feature.
- All ideas are welcomed.

Write to: *PCW Today, 150 Oxford Road, Middlesbrough, Teesside TS5 5EL.*

Power Mad PCWing!

Get plugged in with our guide to memory and speed enhancement

By simply plugging in a box to the back of your PCW, it is possible to hugely increase its power and speed. In this feature we will be looking at two main PCW add-ons. Those that add memory to your computer, and those that physically increase the speed of the PCW.

There are two basic ways of increasing the memory of your PCW, one is by plugging new memory into the expansion slot at the back of your PCW, and the other is to fit memory chips to the board inside your PCW. The latter option is much cheaper, but is quite tricky to fit.

Your PCW comes with either 256k or 512k of memory. This is equivalent to $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ of a megabyte respectively. Your PCW has the capacity to hold up to two megabytes of memory. It is a good idea to get as much memory as you can afford as memory hungry programs such as MicroDesign and LocoScript operate better with higher memory.

If you want to upgrade the memory of your PCW, I recommend the plug-in option. This is very simple to use, and while it may

be expensive, you will notice the benefits immediately. Memory upgrades are available from most big PCW companies.

Inside your PCW, the chip that runs the whole machine is called the Z80 processor. This is the heart of the machine, and it is what makes the PCW unique. The speed of a computer's processor is measured in mhz. The PCW 16 processor runs at 16mhz, but the original PCWs run at a snail's pace of just 4mhz. This is very slow by today's standards, but it is actually possible to double it. Cirtech sell a product called Sprinter, which is a new version of the old Z80 chip, running at 8mhz. If you fit this, your PCW's thinking time is cut in half. Sprinter can even come with extra memory for your PCW.

Cirtech also market a product called Speedprint, which is a godsend if you have a slow external printer. Speedprint plugs into your PCW expansion slot, and it will noticeably increase the speed of your printing. It is what is known as a 'buffer', and it saves data in it's memory, so that the PCW processor can concentrate completely on printing.

There are many other ways to speed up your PCW that we have already covered in past articles. These include the Hard and Flash drives, which operate like giant internal floppy discs, and save the need for disc swapping, while cutting loading time drastically. Then of course there is the mouse, top of the tree being Keymouse. Can MicroDesigners live without this classic time saver?

Sadly, unless you have a bulging wallet, it is a case of weighing up the potential time savings and increases in power against their cost. If you are a serious PCWer, and use powerful software such as DTPs and spreadsheets regularly, then it will be worthwhile to purchase some of the products described above. If you are simply a casual user, who is happy using LocoScript 2 to knock out the odd letter, you will be wasting your money with any time saving or power enhancing products.

Nest time around, we will be looking at software that can speed up your PCWing, what's all this about Flipper and The Network? Sounds like a couple of Hollywood blockbusters. See you then!

NEXT ISSUE

As spring bounds rapidly towards us, the PCW seems to be in fine fettle, and we are in a cheerful mood at PCW Today. The spring sees our first anniversary. We really have been going for a whole year! To celebrate, we are planning a PCW Today, better than ever before. So what's in store for our jam packed Spring 1997 edition?

TRAWLING THE NET

You may be surprised at the presence of the PCW on the Internet. We take a look at all the major web sites and bulletin boards devoted to the PCW, and tell you how to access them.

HAVE YOUR SAY

This year, we are letting our readers vote for their favourite PCW companies and products. Find out how you can make your vote in the 1997 PCW Today Awards.

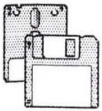
LOCOSCRIPT 4

We begin an in depth tutorial into the newest PCW software product, as step by step we take you through the brand new features of the new wordprocessor.

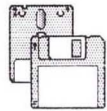
APPEAL

PCW Today are carrying out an on-going investigation, and would appreciate readers help to complete it. We are writing a major feature on the poor image of the PCW in today's PC dominated world. Have you had any experience of this? Has a salesman told you that your PCW is obsolete? Have you asked at a computer store about PCW software, and recieved the response: "A PC what?" Have you read articles stating that the PCW is nothing but a trumped up typewriter? Whatever your experiences of anti-PCW behaviour, we would like to hear from you.

Write to us at: PCW Today, 150 Oxford Road, Middlesbrough, Teesside TS5 5EL, or give us a call on (01642) 816903.



DOCTOR DISC



More of your PCW problems solved

Mind the Gap

When I have designed my page in MD2 and it's ready to print out, I set the printer options to FULL, FORM FEED ON, SINGLE (paper) and PAGE length. It doesn't matter which printer I use, my built in dot matrix or my BJ30 Bubblejet. I always end up with a large gap at the bottom. Of course with the dot matrix, I can hand wind the paper on a bit to counteract this. But I can't with the bubble jet. I recently did a newsletter for a local church using sideways printing in three columns on both sides of the paper. When it was finished, the printout didn't line up and couldn't be folded in three as required.

I have set my printer switches to the biggest size top margin (12.5mm) but it doesn't make any difference. I've also tried a print queue to line feed the paper, but nothing happened.

Does anyone have any suggestions?

Kathleen Thorpe, Nottingham

Try using the short Print Queue: *Gap 10mm. Theoretically, this should have the desired effect, winding the paper forwards 10mm before printing (you can change the amount as required). However I have an awful feeling that your printer is not capable of doing this. Many ink jets are fixed to minimum margins, that cannot be moved. The other solution would be to cut and paste your work, then do a single photocopy. This way, the newsletter you talk of could be mass-copied and folded correctly. Has anyone got a more satisfactory solution?

Tightened Belt

My ancient 8256 has finally stopped working. It seems that the disc drive is no longer reading the discs, and from what I can tell that's all that is wrong with it. Can you tell me where I can get a new 3" disc drive?

William Fraser, Eire

The PCW usually has just the one fault, and that is the slackening of the disc drive belt. A simple DIY job can save your drive. The 3" drive revival kit costs just £12.50 from SD MicroSystems (01953) 483750. If the idea of opening up your PCW fills you with dread, a company like Solent PCW Services will fit a new 3.5" drive, contact them on (01705) 268780. Meanwhile Pinboard Computers, LocoScript Software, Silicon City and MicroForm all sell new 3.5" drives of varying prices. If you ask some of those companies may also have second-hand 3" drives available, though I would not recommend that option.

Other Software?

As you can see I am new to the PCW, and was pointed in the direction of your magazine by Amstrad. Sorry for my ignorance, but I wondered what was available by way of software for my PCW 10, other than LocoScript.

Mrs C. Davis

The horizons are endless. Enter the world of desktop publishing with MicroDesign 3 or Mini Publisher. Be entertained by some of the games in our top twenty. Keep your finances in order with an accounts package. There is so much out there. Check out the adverts in this magazine. Hopefully soon, all of the big PCW companies will be here. Meanwhile, our Company Locator lists all companies and their products, while the news pages will keep you up to date with all the latest products.

It's a Rollover

I wonder if you can help me. I am trying to find a package that will enable me to create rolling presentations for family history fairs. Can you recommend any?

James Haste, Chester

The best by far is MicroDisplay from Creative Technology. This sophisticated program helps you create animated displays, using MicroDesigned text and graphics. You can also include keyboard interaction.

The package costs £25, and is available from Creative on (01889) 567160. A more basic package, without graphical capabilities is the Display Disc from SD MicroSystems, which allows animated displays with large text. It costs £5, and is available from SD on (01953) 483750.

Buying Discs

Several PCW companies are selling 3" discs. Some of these are said to be new, but of uncertain quality, whilst others are 'relabelled'. Is it worth purchasing these discs, and if I do, what are the risks?

F. Smith, Essex

A company in Italy is now manufacturing brand new 3" discs to supply PCW companies such as LocoScript Software. These discs are not as high in quality as the Amsoft and Maxell discs. They are however all checked, and if they turn out to be faulty, they can be returned. Be careful if your disc makes an unusual noise in the drive, or if it fails to format, or if repeated error messages appear during use. However, generally they are a safe buy. Secondhand 'relabelled' discs are of varying quality. They may come from various sources, and may even be the wrong density for your machine. Check carefully. Ex - software discs may never have been used, they may simply be bankrupt software stock. Buy with caution, and be even more careful about backing-up your work. Of course, the best idea is to upgrade to a 3.5" disc drive!

Net for Cheap

Can you tell me the cheapest way I can get onto the internet with my PCW?

John Lane, Sussex

Ed Harris of Berkshire Amstrad PCW Users Club offers a complete comms setup for just £100. This includes a modem, RS232 Interface and software. Plus free tuition! Contact Ed on (01244) 428938 for further details.

From PCW to paper

The beginners guide to printing in LocoScript

Printing in LocoScript is very made simple, but the numerous options can make it look daunting to beginners.

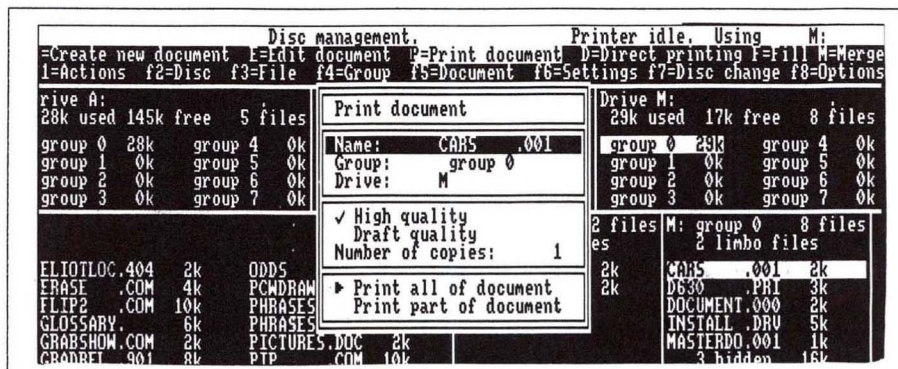
There are two main ways of printing from within LocoScript. The one that you will probably use the most is accessed from the document editing screen. This is the option, 'Save and Print' shown when you press [EXIT] to leave the document. The other main method involves selecting the file to be printed in the Disc Management screen, and pressing [P] for Print document.

Before printing a document, check that everything is correct and as it should be. Correcting mistakes now saves a lot of time, ink and paper. Check that all the control codes are correct. If you have failed to turn off italics, all the rest of your text will come out sloping, so it is always best to check. Before you exit the document, load the paper into the printer, if you don't have a sheet feeder. Now press [EXIT] and move the cursor down to 'Save and Print', then press [ENTER]. This will pull down a new menu giving the name of the document, and gives other details. First select the print quality required. Usually, the default 'High quality' will be used, but if you want a quick printout, or wish to save ink, you should select this option. Move the cursor down to 'Draft quality' and press the space bar. This option should now be ticked.

Moving the cursor down again now asks the number of copies that you want printing. Type the number required and press [ENTER]. This will print a specified number of each page in your document.

The next option down asks if you want to 'print all of document' or 'print part of document'. If you wish to print all of the document you have just left, select the first option by pressing [ENTER]. However, if you only wish to print part of your document, move the cursor to that option and press [ENTER].

A new menu appears, informing you



■ Printing from the disc-management screen

which pages will be printed. For example, 'From page 1' to page 5.' If you only wish to print from page two to page three move the cursor down to 'From page' and type '2', then press [ENTER] and move the cursor down again to 'To page' and type '3' then [ENTER]. If you wish to print just one page, enter the number of that page at both options.

Once you have completed all the options, it is time to print, so press [ENTER] again, and a menu will appear giving the printer type, and other information. Press [ENTER] again to accept, and all being well the printer will spring into action.

What happens, if you get no response? Well don't panic, just press [EXIT] and the printer should hopefully start. Should you want to abandon printing, halfway through a

document on discovery of a mistake. Press [PTR] and you will be given a new menu bar at the top of your screen. Now press [A] for Actions, and move the cursor to the bottom of the menu where you will find the option: 'Adandon printing'. Press [ENTER] to accept this option, and the printer will stop promptly. You should now wind the paper out of the printer, or press a button to eject the paper, and start again.

If you use a dot matrix printer, like those provided with the PCW 8256, 8512, 9256 and 10, you can obtain a printout of all the text that appears on the screen. This is known as a screen dump, and is useful as a quick reference. To get a screen dump, press [PTR] and [EXTRA] together. Be sure that you have paper in the printer first however, or it will print straight onto the roller.

SORRY!

PCW Today would like to apologise to all our readers, subscribers and advertisers for the poor print quality of some of our pages in this issue. This is due to a fault with our own equipment and not with our printers. We would also like to apologise for the delay in posting of this magazine, and in the cashing of cheques. Both of these problems have been caused by unprecedented demand after the collapse of PCW Plus. Our readership has doubled, and the rush shows no sign of abating. We hope that the errors do not spoil your enjoyment of the magazine. Once again, sorry all!

GIANT FONTS

Fonts this big in MicroDesign. Is it possible? It is and we show you how

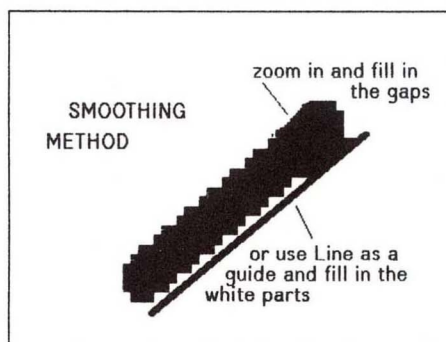
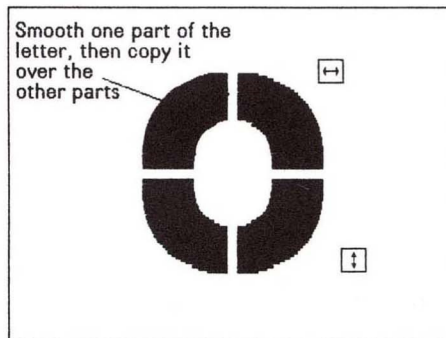
Although MicroDesign is undoubtedly an excellent desktop publisher, the size of the fonts provided is not exactly huge. When you are producing posters, the biggest MicroDesign font is not as eye-catching as it could be. You can always stretch the writing by saving it as an area, then resizing, but the resultant jagged edges are not very attractive. Well it is possible to create fonts, double the size of MicroDesign's biggest. And as you can see from our title, they have smooth edges too.

Producing such letters is quite a tricky operation, but it can be done. It is the dreaded zoom and edit that takes the time, but I have some time saving tips.

You will firstly need a blank disc, to save all your hard work on. The final product takes some space. For this example, we are using the font, GRDIAN66. This is a large, bold font that is very easy to work with, and suitable for many uses. Our PCW Today logo is based on this font. Once you have loaded the GRDIAN66, create a window with two columns. By pressing [W], and then [RELAY]. Now enter Typeset, and type out every letter of the alphabet in capitals, without leaving a space between any of the letters. Once you have finished, check that the cursor is in the top left corner of the Typeset page, and press [PASTE]. The letters will now be printed in the top left quarter of the screen. Now, save this area under the name FONT.MDA. Once it has been saved, reload the same file, selecting to load the area at double size by pressing [EXTRA][UNIT]. The letters will now be loaded twice as big as they were originally.

Close inspection in the GRAPHICS screen shows that these letters have become very jagged. It is now a case of getting down to the hard work of smoothing out those edges. This is mostly done in the ZOOM option, but don't panic, there is no need to smooth all of the edges.

A quick way to smooth out diagonal lines, such as those on the A, R and N for example, is to use the Line option. Move the cursor to the bottom point of the letter, and press the spacebar, now stretch the line to the point at the top of the letter, and press [ENTER]. The line created will be neat and regular. Fill in any gaps left, with ZOOM.



Many letters are identical on two sides. For example, the letter A can be split down the middle, and one side is a mirror image of the other. With such letters, it is only necessary to smooth down one half. Then using the [EXTRA] options, copy a mirror image of that half onto the other side. The result will be as good as new, with only half the effort required. With a letter like O, it is even easier. You only need smooth down one quarter of the letter, then copy this three times using the appropriate [EXTRA] options to build up the complete O.

However, some letters such as G are tricky to do and take some effort. For smoothing out such rounded edges, enter the ZOOM screen by pressing [Z], and moving the little box so that it covers an area of the letter that needs editing. Press [ENTER] and you will zoom in closer to that area. Now using a combination of the cursor keys and the spacebar, you can smooth out the edges. It will take some practise, but you will soon become very fast.

Once you have smoothed down all of the letters, it is time to save them to disc. Because these are such large fonts, MicroDesign does not have the capability to handle them as it does normal fonts. Instead, each letter must be saved as an area, from within the Layout screen. When you press [F1] to save the area a box appears. Using the cursor keys and spacebar, fit the box as closely around each letter as possible, making sure that all

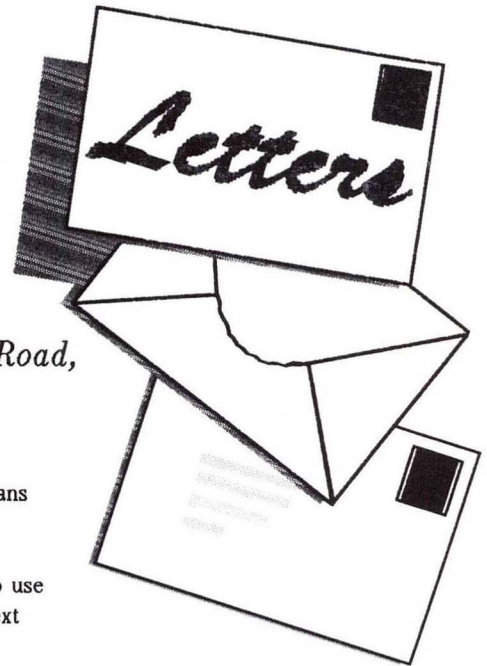
parts of the letter are in the box. Then press [ENTER]. Naming each area is easy. Call the letter A - A.MDA, and the letter B - B.MDA etc. Do the same for all 26 of the letters, saving each on the same disc. Label this disc "Giant Fonts", and you are ready to use your new font.

Typing with this font is going to be slower than normal, for obvious reasons. Decide what you want to write, and estimate if you will have enough room. Remember these letters are quite big. Load each letter in turn, as close to each other as possible. Make sure that they are in a straight line, and not stepped.

Although you cannot use effects like bold, italic or outline with this font, there are a couple of solutions. One is to use Tweak to create the effects, or you can achieve interesting effects by shading each letter individually from within GRAPHICS. Happy fonting!

Letters from the Mailbag

Send your letters to *The Mailbag, PCW Today, 150 Oxford Road, Middlesbrough, Teesside TS5 5EL.*



Dear Editor: Regarding the new PCW 16 - do you know if anybody has actually got one, does it really exist? Or is it just a figment of Amstrad's collective imagination? I ordered one over 12 months ago, then in May this year I rang Amstrad about delivery and I was put on what they called 'The Live List' and they sent me a catalogue of their other products. Maybe they wanted to take my mind of the PCW 16 and go for one of the more costly computers. Then again, in July, I made further enquiries and was told it would be at least five or six weeks before deliveries commenced. Now it is nearly the end of October and still no sign of it. Still perhaps on day my PCW 16 will come.

Ken Dick, Wirral.

PT: Hopefully, by now it should have arrived. Amstrad blame the amazing delays on bugs in the software. Hopefully they have learnt an important lesson, because I am sure that they lost a lot of customers in all the waiting. Some people like yourself had to wait for almost a year. That is a ludicrous situation.

Dear Editor: If I were to have three wishes for the PCW, they would be, in order of priority:

- 1) To be able to use "Find and Exchange" on LocoScript style codes. I do a lot of transfers between PCW, PC and Apples and it is infuriating to lose all my essential italic on the way.
- 2) To be able to set up LF Record cards off-centre in LocoFile. There is no way a PCW can run a relational database, but at least if I could push record cards of one datafile to one side of the screen, I could extract data from another datafile and list it on the other side of the screen, then transfer from one to the other. But short of setting out cards which occupy the full width of the screen, with only a few lines in depth, the card usually obscures most of the screen.
- 3) Column printing in LocoScript.

Among minor wishes -

- A) Screen saver for LocoScript.
- B) Means to delete some of the sillier spelling in LocoSpell.
- C) Language tutorials.
- D) A good game of solitaire.
- E) To be able to use a calculator from within a LocoScript text file.
- F) I wish I was a tidier disc housekeeper.

Elaine Bullard, Orkney.

PT Well because I'm really a Fairy Godmother in disguise, and because it's Christmas (or it was when I wrote this), I can grant some of your wishes. Firstly columns in LocoScript - a wish we all hanker after. Simply buy a copy of LocoScript 4, reviewed in this issue, and at last columns are possible. Next, there is a screensaver for LocoScript, and it's free! Check out The Tipsters on page 12 to find out more. Finally, you can use a calculator within the LocoScript shell. Try Instant Recall 1 from David Landers, we reviewed it in issue 2. If anyone can make anymore of Elaine's wishes come true, let us know.

Dear Editor: I was very interested in your opinion of the Protex suite of programs. (Issue 3, Autumn 96) On the whole I agree with your conclusions, although I am not really in a position to comment on ProPrint, because I have not actually used it yet. I certainly was not impressed with Protex Office. It seemed to me to be very slow and cumbersome. Protex itself has its advantages over LocoScript but, like you, I will be mostly using the LocoScript family of programs.

G A Booth, Surrey

PT: The debate rages on, is LocoScript better than Protex or has the CP/M rival got the edge. Personally, I think that with the introduction of LocoScript 4, the PCW original is edging ahead.

Dear Editor: This mornings mail brought news of the "scuttling" of the PCW Plus magazine and it occurs to me that this will

have some effect one way or other on the readership of PCW Today. On the one hand, the magazine will, I am sure be of great value to those who have in the past benefited from the advertisements, articles and correspondence in PCW Plus. On the other hand, PCW Today has been left without a mouthpiece to promote its existence. I hope that this news was not the very exciting news that was promised in News in Brief!!!

So what of the future? I am an optimist and would suggest that there is now an opportunity to promote some interactivity between subscribers to PCW Today, and also between the numerous PCW Clubs. Years ago, when portable tape-recorders first became popular I was a member of a Tape Recorder Club, and we corresponded on tape with members from all over the world; a sort of primitive Internet! Is there some possibility for correspondence between readers on disc?

One of my activities is deep sea fishing (I am the club secretary) and any boat angler will tell you that the best fishing can be had by fishing over a shipwreck (it's called wreck fishing). It takes some time for the wreck to be established and stocked with fish, and the wreck has to be located, and the correct tackle and methods used; once these are achieved, the catches are potentially enormous. My point is that with the sinking PCW Plus, has gone down an enormous amount of PCW expertise in the way of advertisers, tips, correspondents, articles etc. My hope is that in time PCW Today will be able to locate at least some of these and take us "wreck fishing"

Pat Creighton, Chester

Where now for PCWers?

Staff Writer, Peter Sutton, sizes up the options now that PCW Plus has gone.

Now that PCW Plus has disappeared from the shelves of the local newsagent, PCW users have been deprived of an essential source of news and information. Of course, there is always PCW Today, probably the nearest thing you will ever find to the late, great PCW Plus. However it is good to gain information from as wide a range of sources as possible, so I hunted round and have come up with a few new ideas.

First up are the other national magazines. The only one dedicated solely to the PCW is The Disc Drive. This started life as the club magazine for South Essex, but it has now progressed from that, and has readers across the UK and even into Europe. Links between PCW Today and The Disc Drive are currently being strengthened, so you will probably be hearing a bit more about them in the future.

Another national magazine with a high PCW content is 8 Bit. This publication, produced by Brian Watson is aimed at all the 8 bit computers. If you are into the PCW 16, this is the magazine with all the inside information. Brian has contacts with many of the major software developers on the new computer, as well as at Amstrad.

The only news-stand magazine that I know of, still covering any classic computer

is one called PC Mart. You will probably only find it in a large newsagent such as WH Smith or Menzies. This bulky mag is mostly full of small ads (if you look closely, you will see one for PCW Today). There is however, a regular "Classic Computers Column". In the future, our editor plans to write about the PCW for this column. Here you will also find adverts from PCW companies such as SD MicroSystems, David Landers Software, Trading Post and MicroForm. At only 95p a copy, it has to be worth a look.

There are other small-press PCW magazines planned for the future. If they materialise, we will be sure to tell you. For now though, I am going to switch medium. Have you ever considered the Internet as a source of information on the PCW? You might be surprised at the extent to which the PCW is represented on the net. The major home page on the World Wide Web is produced by Ian MacDonald, who wrote Comms Corner in PCW Plus. This includes links to all the other major PCW sites. Others worth checking out are The Amstrad PCW Page, and the Joyce PCW Club Page, from Holland. Also try out Amstrad's own home page. There is quite a bit of information on the PCW 16, written by one of Amstrad's software developers.

Newsgroups are also a good source of

PCW news, and here you can ask questions, and be sure that they will be answered by the experts. There is a newsgroup devoted entirely to Amstrad and CP/M, with several other slightly more technical groups, if you can cope with the ridiculous jargon.

The final way to get PCW help and news is to join a local club. They will probably subscribe to all the main PCW mags, and they are often good for gossip about the latest news. You will probably also be able to see software demonstrated, and get help from others. There will probably be someone there who is an expert at most aspects of the PCW. Check out our Club pages for your local group, and join up. If there isn't one, why not form your own.

It is important that PCWers realise that just because PCW Plus has gone, there are still many sources of information available. PCW Today itself has a growing reputation, and over the next year, expect us to grow in other ways. Just because we are a small-press magazine, it doesn't mean we cannot emulate what PCW Plus did. All people connected with the PCW will be doing the same. There is no need to spend an excessive amount of money on a PC that will be obsolete within a year. There is still immense support for your own machine. Stick with us!

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PCW Company Locator

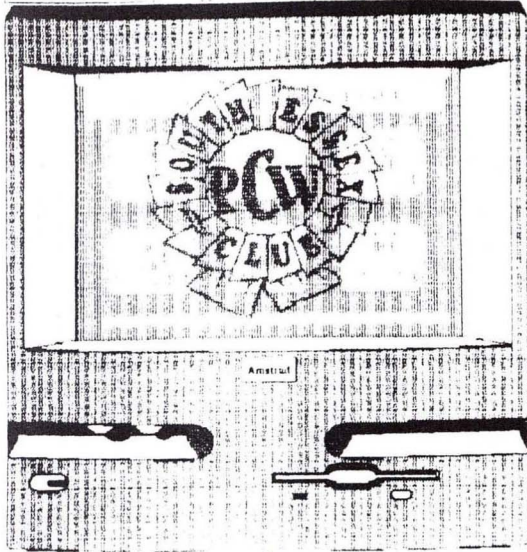
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The magazine dedicated to the Amstrad PCW

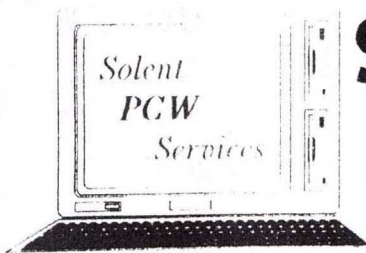
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