

THE GRUNT PRESS



(and other wrestling holds)

ISSUE NO. 10.

DATE December 17, 1982

COMPANY
CONFIDENTIAL

Merry Christmas and A Happy
New Year.

Last issue of this year

/led.

From the confiscated 1100 of Leo Binkowski:

First off, I'd like to wish a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to be had by one and all.

If I could edit for 15 minutes without zapping my machine, I would be happy. If my machine would be left alone, I would also be happy. You now know how happy I must be.

Moving on to brighter things, I received a disk from CI containing some nice little utilities with 000H documentation. If anyone wants to play with them, you're certainly welcome, but be warned....Todd MacNaught learned the SAP program loves to eat catalogs almost as much as much as pacman loves to chomp on dots.

Also for you game lovers....I've got some neat new Apple games that are more fun than one person should be allowed. Watch for my new book "How to have more fun with your computer (sic)", available in leading toilet stalls everywhere.

Look outside! it's snowin', 'cuz it's the GREAT WHITE NORTH, and it's Christmastime.

From the desk of John Allen...

At last I have a desk that is not all cluttered up, but give me about a week and I'll fix that problem! As you have probably read else where in this issue I am now responsible for enhancing the IOS by removing the undesirable side effects of miscellaneous features. As you probably know a lot of these little crawly things are caused by misinterpretation of the IOS spec by people who have not actually read the spec, so for your enlightenment there follows a brief review of afore mentioned document.

THE 10* COMMANDMENTS OF THE IOS.

- 1 Thou shalt read the IOS spec.
- 2 Thou shalt not use the machine commands EI, DI or HALT within thy programs.
- 3 Thou shalt not write to memory either below 100H or above 0BFFFH.
- 4 Thou shalt not use the alternate register set during an interrupt task unless thou hast saved them first.
- 5 Thou shalt remember that the IOS requires 64 bytes of your stack.
- 6 Thou shalt remember that it takes upto 20 seconds to load a segment so don't use too many, or be very patient.
- 7 Thou shalt not waste cable resorces, the cable is finite.
- 8 Thou shalt not use absolute locations in the IOS except locations 05H and 08H.
- 9 Thou shalt not access hardware directly especially the VIDEO, AUDIO or KEYBOARD.
- A Thou shalt not execute more than 600 instructions between a

CRBEG and a CREND.

B Thou shalt not load a code segment using nowait IO
l0Thou shalt reread the IOS spec.

* Base x where x=the number of commandments.

FROM THE TURTLE PLAYFIELD OF BILL BOURNE:

Just a note to let you all know that I haven't completely dropped out. I'm still alive and busy full time pretending I'm seven years old (not hard to do!) and playing with LOGO. Life is well in LOGOLAND and the software is making progress. Some of you will soon be dragged into the project to write graphics, file I/O and arithmetic software, so be prepared!!

And occasionally I grow up a bit in order to work on the NABU Disk Project. (Thats right we have one!) Look to see disks on our NABU P.C. some time in the early spring. You will all probably here more about this as the project starts to heat up.

These days when you want to bitch about the IOS or Programming Environments, go to John Allan. He has the pleasure of looking after the mess I made before I jumped onto the LOGO bandwagon.

```
TO SEASONS_GREETINGS :MANYTIMES :INTO1983
  TELL :ALL
  REPEAT :MANYTIMES [PRINT [MERRY CHRISTMAS]]
  FORWARD :INTO1983
  REPEAT :MANYTIMES [PRINT [HAPPY NEW YEAR]]
END
```

From the Desk of Eric Mesdag

For those of you who were wondering what I have been doing for the last couple of weeks, I would like to announce that I have written some software which allows files stored on a diskette to be loaded into the NABU PERSONAL COMPUTER in the very same way that the N.P.C. loads segments. Applications developed under CP/M, MCP, MCP2, or whatever, can be subjected to this package, and run on the PERSONAL COMPUTER, in a very short time (x minutes where x is variable between 2 and 2**x, the variable part depending on the aptitude of the user). This means you don't have to go to Richmond Road and put your stuff up on the cycle to see if it really does work. The name of this wonderful package is...CABLESIM. But before anyone gets too excited, I must warn you that there is a VERY limited number of special high speed interface cards available, and since the ll00 requires one of these to run CABLESIM, it will probably not be very useful to most of us in the short term. The software and documentation will be showing up at the local programming library soon.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to those people in charge of the awards presented at the Christmas party last Thursday. For those of you who weren't present, I was the recipient of the "MR. FIXIT" award. A

personal box of tools (rust resistant) was given to me. These tools carry a National brand name, and I'm sure that the Reliable company uses only the best plastic in their drop forged products. Thank you very much. HERRY CHRISTMAS and MAPPY YEW NEAR.

From the desk (if only I could find one) of Sef Haisz

As you may have noticed, I have recently become a more or less permanent visitor at Roosevelt and Richmond Road. In order that Bill can take his vacation in Boston for six months while at the same time playing at LOGO, I have come here to help keep things disorganized in general and the management at bay in particular. Being a consultant (from Mobius) my claim to fame is that I don't know much about anything, so John Allen (also a consultant, but one who knows more about even less) is going to be working on site (which one?) to help disorganize the technical aspects of our work. Therefore any questions on IOS, production/test software or other technical topics should be directed to John (his preference is for them to be written in invisible ink on the back of a \$5.00 bill). I will attempt to keep the bureaucratic wheels in spin (something which seems not too difficult to do in this company).

To further confuse everybody we are changing the name of our group from Software Services or IOS Development (depending on which week's organization chart you are looking at) to Microcomputer System Software. If you don't like this new name, go see John Harley who gets the credit for thinking it up, but do so soon before he finishes his current work term on Thursday December 23. Good luck, John, with your academic term at Waterloo and we hope to see you back here next summer.

Merry Christmas.

From the desk of: Trevor Pearce

I hope everyone will have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Now with that crap out of the way it's back to business as usual. Bah humbug.

It hardly seems like four months since Dennis Andersen left for the ivory tower but in fact John Harley is about to do the same. Brave soul. John and his smurf helpers are making the big move back to Waterloo to hibernate for the rest of the winter and hopefully we'll see them all next summer. Best of luck John!

(He has let it slip that he may be doing a project this term using 1100's. Good grief!)

To fill the void (vacuum?) left by John, there should be at least one and maybe two new Waterloo co-op persons starting in the new year.

On the topic of new faces, Bill Bourne has been replaced by one new and one not-so-new Naboon while he is off working on the LOGO project. Sef Haisz is in to handle the administrative aspects of the Microcomputer System Software Group (new name for Software Services) and John Allen is in to carry the technical end. If you haven't met them already, you can identify them as the strange people sitting in with Marlene (if you don't know who Marlene is then you're really s.o.l.). Sef and John are off to a fine start (only nine meetings this week?) and will need our patience while getting up to speed.

Eric has wrapped up CABLESIM and is on to bigger things developing some human interface software for Peter Filipkowski.

Also of interest is the NABU 'field trial' of PASCAL MT+ being carried out to determine whether PASCAL MT+ is suitable as THE high level development language at NABU.

My Application Development Environment (ADE) study is about half finished and should be ready for bedtime reading (zzz...) early in January.

From the soon-to-be-empty desk of John Harley,

Alas, parting is such sweet sorrow (particularly when it is spent while writing a report). But have no fear brave people, it shall be done, and I shall render your questionnaires and interviews with justice and meaning for all. The truth will be known ! (If this is the way the guy normally writes, I'd hate to see the report. He's probably played too much Dungeons and Dragons, or been subjected to too many Smurf shows.)

Once this is done (or thereabouts) my quest for knowledge bids me return me to my ivory tower, to do battle with foul fourriers, sordid systems of concept that make the mind take leave of its very senses, and yes, perhaps even to do battle with the dread and convoluted IBM assembler. I would willingly stay, but I am called by a higher duty (he wants to finish third year, selfish fool) so I will bid you adieu. My memories here shall not be forgotten, (although probably not remembered) and with luck, I shall return victorious next Summer. (Damn ! Why do these co-op students persist in coming back ?) It's truly been an experience to be in the company (cut the cheap jokes and get it over with) of such high gentry, the magicians of the future. (He used to be ok, but ever since he went to NABU, well... his brain cells were never the same. I think it might have been the coffee.)

From the Freezing Chair of Todd MacNaught:

It's @#\$%&#\$ COLD in this corner!! Any way, as most of you know Christmas is just a few days away and i would like to wish

you all a Merry Christmas, incase I do not get around to seeing you before the holidays.

I would also like to announce that I have just recently officially joined the Nabu family as a full time employee. Thankyou John and Yves!

As for Demotrons, it is virtually finished and has only to undergo QA's whiteglove examination, as soon as a few minor IOS bugs are removed.

I have been hearing NASTY rumors about us inmates being moved to ALKATRAZ before the first of the year (you know the Baxter Penitentiary with no way IN and no way OUT!). Should any of you operate a shuttle bus for lowly pedestrians, I would like to reserve a seat! Please!

Merry Christmas
And
Happy New Year

FROM THE DESK OF GREG ADAMS (wherever it is)

'appy birtday Kathleen.

Well there really isn't much to say so that's why I added a touch of humour (cartoon).

I have spent most of the last two weeks studying and chasing a little bug around and around. It appeared I actually managed to get rid of it with help from Arthur Ham but I am now a full believer in re-encarnation.

THWAP darn just missed the little critter.

OLD CHINESE PROVERB : He who play with fate zing hoi (get's it).

MERRY CHRISTMAS.

^
GEE
I REALLY
LIKE ARTHUR'S
WORD CHRISTMAS TREE.
NOT BAD NOT A BIT BAD AT ALL
HAR
HAR
HAR
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FROM UNDER THE TREE:

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Well, first of all the good news - the CORVUS is back!!!!!!
Now for the bad news - the 1100 that powers it is down and
very, very sick. Don't know when we'll get it back.

There has been a change, or rather, an addition to
STRUCT.MRO. Non-sequential nestable case structures are now
available. For more information see the listing posted on
the games room blackboard. See Todd MacNaught or myself for
a current copy of STRUCT.MRO.

Greg Adams has developed a routine to complement a sixteen
bit number. It will be added to the library as soon as the
library is physically in place again. If you're interested
in it before that see Greg. Also there has been a request
for a MCP2/IOS routine that would make a call to detach all
tasks from the clock, and thereby make restarts easier to
accomplish. If you have, or plan on developing anything that
fits the requirements, please let me know.

I have discovered a copy of Mailmerge, a Wordstar program
that provides a number of printing capabilities. I'm not
sure if it would be useful to you applications programmers,
or not, but I plan to try it out shortly and will let you
know if I think it's of any value to you. Stay tuned to the
Grunt Press for further developments.

Finally, following in John Harley's footsteps, I present
this issue's version of the NABU questionnaire. I am trying
to find out what software we possess, and track it down in
order to serve a number of purposes:

- 1) to facilitate support by the manufacturer.
- 2) to keep a centralized record of all software so that we
know what we have and what is needed.
- 3) to collect the licenses and agreements that go along with
the software and to keep these on file in the library.

I am looking for official copies of software only. You have
the option of either holding onto them or bringing them down
to the library. However, if you have the license or
agreement please bring or send it down to me. These are
generally found in the jacket pocket of ,for example, the
1100 System Software Guide or the Wordstar Manual.

NAME: _____

SOFTWARE	SERIAL NUMBER	LICENSE OR AGREEMENT IN YOUR POSSESSION (if answer is yes please return it with questionnaire)
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WORDSTAR (Version 3.0)	_____	_____
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MAILMERGE (Version 3.0)	_____	_____
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SPELLSTAR	_____	_____
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NABU 1100 CP/M (Version 2.2.1)	_____	_____
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PASCAL	_____	_____
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PLMX	_____	_____
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AZTEC C	_____	_____
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BASIC (Version 1.03)	_____	_____
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OTHER (name)	_____	_____
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OTHER (name)	_____	_____
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