Amiga Mail News

Commodore USA Lowers Price of CDTV™ Player

Commodore USA announced that the CDTV Interactive Multimedia player has a new promotional price of $799. Currently bundled with *The New Grolier Electronic Encyclopedia* and the popular adventure game *Lemmings*, the CDTV package is an exceptional purchase for the whole family.

‘‘CDTV illustrates how interactive multimedia can change the way consumers can be educated and entertained,’’ said David Rosen, Commodore’s director of international marketing. ‘‘The attractive, new price of the CDTV player, coupled with the savings value of almost $450 for the two bundled CDTV titles, supports our commitment to offer consumers the best value for this new medium.’’

In addition to the *Grolier Encyclopedia* disc, which contains all 21 volumes of the Grolier Academic American Encyclopedia, and the popular *Lemmings* title, Commodore offers nearly 60 CDTV discs in categories such as arts and leisure, education, entertainment, music, and reference. The CDTV player also plays traditional 5-inch audio-Compact Discs and the new CD+G (Compact Disc Plus Graphics) titles. Suggested retail prices for most CDTV titles range from $39.95 to $79.95.

CDTV Interactive Multimedia represents a major advance in technology and capability over any commercially available entertainment format. The CDTV player, which connects to the home TV set and stereo, combines audio, video, graphics, and text with computer interactivity to transform your living room into an exciting entertainment, learning, and reference center. The CDTV player is controlled by a simple hand-held remote control which provides interactive access to an entire library of multimedia titles on Compact Discs.

Correction to Denver/Milano DevCon Notes

On page five of the article ‘‘CDTV Audio Cookbook’’ from the 1991 DevCon notes, there is the following paragraph fragment:

‘‘If you need to use more precise timings then use Timer B for microsecond precision (taking PAL/NTSC into account) ...’’

This is unclear. You should not hardcode a specific CIA timer. Instead, attempt to allocate a specific timer. If this fails, try an alternate timer. System use of the CIA timers varies under different versions of the operating system, and even changes dynamically under 2.0 (the 2.0 *timer.device* attempts to accommodate any application which properly tries to allocate any CIA timer). See the ''CIA Resource'' section of the Release 2.0 *ROM Kernel Reference Manual: Devices* for an excellent example of allocating and using a CIA timer.

Release 2 AmigaDOS™ Now Available

The AmigaDOS Release 2 operating system is now available for the Commodore Amiga 500, Amiga 2000, and Amiga 3000, making all current Amiga series multimedia machines operationally compatible. The new release is very different from the OS first shipped with the Amiga 3000. Many additional man-years of effort have been invested to create a polished, stable, compatible, and fully tested operating system that Commodore will build on for the future.

Several hundred official beta testers provided feedback, resulting in the best tested, most trouble-free and reliable operating system for the Amiga ever.

In updating the Amiga operating system, Commodore reworked the look and the functionality of the Workbench interface to incorporate new programmer features for configuring the system, including the ability to use a software program even while another is loading and the flexibility to cancel an operation still in progress. A more sophisticated hard-disk backup utility is also provided.

A major new feature of the AmigaDOS Release 2 is the introduction of scalable fonts to the Amiga platform. Now with Agfa Corporation's Intellifont scaling technology Amiga users can scale outline fonts on the fly. The Amiga's new font management program creates fonts on demand from the Intellifont Scalable Typefaces supplied in the operating system. As a particular point size is generated, it is saved in RAM and remains available to the application until the system is shut down or a new typeface is requested.

Additional features of the new AmigaDOS Release 2, in conjunction with the enhanced chip set, include screen resolutions up to 1280 pixels and 400 lines giving the user truer pictures and smooth operation at MIDI baud rates, enhancing the professional musician's artistic flexibility.

With all of the new features of AmigaDOS Release 2, artists, musicians and video producers have access to a super workstation that multitasks music, art, and video in one integrated system.

According to Jeff Scherb, vice president of Commodore applications and technical support, the new programmer features allow developers to create powerful applications easily and consistently.

Several upgrade programs are available to current Amiga owners in the U.S.:

Amiga 3000 owners who registered for Gold Service will receive a free five-disk set and manual addendum. Non-Gold Service owners can call CommodoreExpress at (800) 448-9987 to order this upgrade using VISA or MasterCard for $19.95 plus $3.00 shipping and handling.

The AS314 ROM upgrade kit, including a manual addendum, is available through Authorized Commodore Service Centers for $45.00 MSRP plus installation.

Amiga 500 and Amiga 2000 owners can get the AS214 upgrade kit, including a new manual and system ROM, for $99.00 MSRP plus installation through Authorized Commodore Service Centers.

Following shipment of AmigaDOS Release 2 Enhancer Kits, Commodore will gradually phase the new OS into production units.

Amiga users in Canada can call (800) 661-AMIGA for information on Release 2.

Abacus Releases New Amiga® Books

Abacus recently made two additions to their series of Amiga books: *AmigaDOS Inside and Out Revised* and *Using ARexx on the Amiga*.

AmigaDOS Inside and Out Revised (ISBN 1-55755-114-6 U.S. $34.95), by Kerkloh, Tornsdorf, and Zoller, covers how to make effective use of AmigaDOS from the users point of view. It contains a useful reference of the AmigaDOS commands which explain, in detail, the differences between the commands from Releases 1.2 through 2.0. The book describes how to use the Shell; from redirecting I/O from AmigaDOS commands, to writing AmigaDOS scripts, to spawning other processes. There is even a chapter on ARexx. The book comes with a disk containing various AmigaDOS and ARexx script examples, as well as some miscellaneous PD-Shareware programs.

The other book *Using ARexx on the Amiga* (ISBN 1-55755-125-1 U.S. $24.95), by Chris Zamara and Nick Sullivan, is a complete reference and tutorial of the Amiga version of the REXX language. Some of the features include: An overview of all ARexx commands with examples, ARexx macros for controlling software and devices, Accessing Amiga applications from ARexx, programming examples for both the beginner and the advanced user, and a companion disk containing many of the examples from the book.

AmigaVision™ Runtime Player

CATS has announced the availability of an *AmigaVision* runtime player program. This player is basically *AmigaVision* without its icon-based editor. You can include the runtime player with your own *AmigaVision* applications so that your users don't need to own *AmigaVision* in order to run your software.

There are many advantages to the player program. It supports all new features of the updated version of *AmigaVision* (version 1.70Z), like the new Expression Editor functions, the improved SMUS Player, the Chaining function and more touchscreen, joystick, and video drivers. The player will save over 350K of disk space compared to the complete version *AmigaVision*. Also, the player program consumes 50K less RAM than the complete version of *AmigaVision* does while it is running an *AmigaVision* flow.

The licensing terms consist of a yearly registration fee ($500 the first year, $100 each year after) and a per-copy fee (on a sliding scale, based on the retail price of your product).

If you are interested in licensing this program from Commodore, send a letter to:

Cathy Godfrey
CATS Department
Commodore International Services Co.
1200 Wilson Drive
West Chester, PA 19380