

Alpha
Micro
Uusers
Society

Newsletter

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MAY 1980

ALPHA MICRO USERS SOCIETY
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Secretary - Sharon Greene

Newsletter Editor - Steve Elliott

AMUS office hours are from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mountain time. Our overworked secretary is Sharon Greene who is happy to assist you with any question you might have about AMUS, the location of a piece of application software, getting help with a particularly nasty bug, or whatever. We're here to help.

AMUS has a library of programs that have been donated by members for distribution to other members. Programs are available either through the AMUS network, or via floppy discs. Discs may be ordered through Sharon Greene at a cost of \$10.00 each.

THE AMUS NEWSLETTER is available for \$25.00 per year which includes membership dues in AMUS. See the back inside cover for membership form. Additional copies of the newsletter are available to members at \$7.50 per year. The newsletter welcomes any bugs, fixes, articles, reviews of software, opinions, advertisements, or program listings concerning the Alpha Micro computer. Dealers are asked not to submit advertisements for products available through other local Alpha Micro dealers. Hardware manufacturers and software authors are encouraged to provide AMUS with descriptions of their product for inclusion in the newsletter. Please submit material as high contrast, camera ready copy on 8 1/2 by 11 inch white paper.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

AMUS will be holding two meetings at the NCC. They will be on Monday, May 19th. The first will be a meeting of the board of directors and officers and will be at 8:00 AM and will consist of discussions on future AMUS projects. The second meeting will be a general member meeting at 6:00 PM. Look in the lobby of the Registry for the room assignments.

The General meeting agenda will include elections of board members and officers, reports on the status of the AMUS Network, News from local AMUS chapters, reports on the year for 1979, and a chance to find out first hand what Alpha Micro is up to. We are expecting representatives from Alpha Micro who will bring us up to date, and be open for questions.

FROM THE EDITOR

This newsletter is a quickie since we are trying to make up for lost time, and get onto the schedule that we have set up for the rest of the year.

Network news

The Network is going to look a lot different from now on. We've acquired a User Accounting System from the Byte Shop of Reno which will change the log on procedure somewhat, and will also limit the AMOS system commands that you will be able to execute. This will hopefully prevent many of the crashes that we have been experiencing, and also let us control access to the system. The method we had previously tried to use, of publishing passwords in the newsletter did not work at all since several members have been on the slow end of the receiving line post office wise, and were locked out of the system, so we had to take the password off. From now on, each member will have his/her own account and password. We will be sending out postcards to all members advising you of the name, and password for the accounts. As long as membership dues are paid, the account will be active. you will be able to change your password at will once you get on the system.

The system will also now support mailbox capabilities. We will try to create some sort of index to users and their interests so that you can send messages to other members and see what they are up to. There will also be some special interest groups that will have their own mailbox name. Hopefully, by the next newsletter we will be able to give you a better idea of what will be available via the mailbox.

Software Survey

Sharon has developed a software survey form and sent copies to all of the AMUS members who now have software listed with us. This will allow us to have a more complete description of software, so that you will be better able to locate the programs you want. If you have software for sale that you would like to have listed on the AMUS network, please contact Sharon Greene at the AMUS offices, and she will send you a survey form to fill out. There is no charge to AMUS members to have software listed with us.

Bonus Bogus Bug

One of the AMUS members in Boulder who is too embarassed to be identified has discovered that if you just enter the name of a BASIC file from system monitor level the system will try to execute that program as if it were an assembled macro program. In this case the result was several blocks of disk randomly destroyed. Watch out for this one. We were too scared by his experience to try it out for ourselves.

Must sell. Alpha Micro Computer, Soroc Terminal, Perci disk drive and 64K \$7,500 cash or assume lease. Call 503-485-1538

Chris Brandin has sent us a new Diablo driver. If you are interested, it's name is DIABL.MAC and its in account number 114,1.

University of Guelph
25 Hales Crescent
Guelph, Ontario N1G 1P4
Canada 519-824-4120 ex. 2181

I have just discovered the existence of the Alpha Micro Users Society and would be very interested in making contact with this group. I have had an Alpha Micro for the past eight months but would very much enjoy being able to hear what others are doing with their machines.

I am particularly anxious to find existing software or at least be able to tap other's experience in reading/writing IBM 3740 or PDP 11 compatible floppy disks. Anything you might have in your file in this regard would certainly be of help.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Truly,
John Black

Starr Computer Systems
8010 Hascall St.
Omaha, NE 68124
402-397-6534

PRODUCT ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce new packages in our series of quality Alpha Micro utility software.

RECOVER ERASED FILES

If you've ever accidentally erased a file, you need this program. Use our ERS.PRG to erase files, then RESTRO.PRG can recover erased files and their directory entries. The following example shows how some accidentally erased DAT files would be recovered:

ERS *.DAT (Erases all the DAT files in the PPN.)
RESTOR (All the DAT files in the PPN are restored.)
DSKANA DSKO: (DSKANA must be run to restore the bitmap.)

The disk is not restored to its original status.

AMSORT CONFIGURATOR

CONFIG.PRG patches our modified AMSORT.PRG module so that the sort work files can be on a different device than your sort file. Make sorting a file as large as an entire disk possible.

See page 32 of the Nov. 1979 issue of the AMUS for a description of these other packages.

TTY300.IDV

An AM300 driver with full control of a Teletype Model 40 printer running at 9600 baud.

RANVUE.BAS

An interactive program to "view" the contents of any random file.

Each program is \$195.00 distributed on floppy disk and \$285.00 on a Hawk cartridge.

HARDWARE NOTE:

We supply TELETYPE MODEL 40 PRINTERS from stock.

American Medical Software, Inc
AM/MOS
Alpha-Microsystems Processor/Medical Office Software

1. The software has been designed over several years from both the practitioner's point of view and from a medical record-keeping point of view. It is not a program developed for a unique practice designed to solve practice-peculiar problems.
2. It is designed to track the service provided to all members of a family account from the moment an appointment is made until that service is logged as paid and placed in an historical file. The program allows many flexibilities in the practice-unique approach to patient and account filing and invoicing.
3. The day's appointments can be printed out prior to the beginning of the doctor's workday. At this time each appointment is also provided with an appointment (or charge) slip which provides the doctor with patient data, responsible party data and account status. It also provides space for the doctor to enter post examination diagnosis and charge codes, next appointment, special instructions, etc. to the receptionist.
4. As the patient prepares to leave, the receptionist can enter the doctor designated charge codes and present the patient with a receipt slip which shows account balance and can show optional information such as account terms or other payment-encouraging notices.
5. Appointments are simple to enter, either on line or at the end of a day. Account numbers need not be known as the system can be searched by patient name as well.
6. There is no real limit to the number of accounts or even the number of patients in an account or number of insurance coverages per patient or account.
7. Authorized access to account data is limited to persons who know the security code. This code can be selected to be different for each operation so protected.
8. There is no need to change paper during the main part of the work day.. A single preprinted form (which can be custom printed for the practice) is used as appointment (charge) slip, receipt and statement. These forms are available through your dealer. Insurance forms, patient correspondence, mailing labels, appointment list, practice analysis reports and the like, are designed to be printed in "batches" to minimize paper changing time. Printing of reports does not change any file information so printing can be interrupted without harming any file. Printing a batch of statements, reports, etc. is done on a time-shared basis with the terminal, thus other activities need not be terminated while printing is being accomplished.

9. The filling out of insurance forms by both patient and doctor has become very complex. AM/MOS maintains an insurance log which shows the billing and history of each insurance account for each patient. The system can handle individual insurance claims or monthly insurance billings. New insurance form printings may be arranged by your dealer at a nominal charge.

10. Account management is as simple as we can make it. Statements can be printed on any cycle - monthly, bi-weekly, weekly or even daily. Statements can be printed for a segment of the accounts receivable file by specifying a starting and ending account number. The practice can smooth out cash flow by billing at the optimum cycle for its accounts. Accounts are automatically aged by comparison of the billing date and the current date. Account age data are also shown at the bottom of the statement so that the responsible party can identify overdue amounts easily. An accounts receivable report which specifies a particular "age" (say 90 days past due) can be prepared at any time. Specific three-line messages can also be printed on all statements. These messages can be changed at will by the operator so that responsible parties do not ignore them out of habit. At any time (especially around income tax time) a patient ledger may be prepared which will print out all of the charges and payments on an account for the calendar year. Patients on public assistance (to whom a statement cannot be mailed) are identified within the program so that no errors on billing can be made.

11. AM/MOS contains a "Word Processing" function and directory where up to 400 separate items of correspondence can be prepared and stored. These items may be called up and discreetly addressed to a patient (appointment reminder?), responsible party (pay up or else?), supplier (please send me?). These can be used to reduce the time necessary for efficient practice management.

12. The AM/MOS program also contains a hospital register which will provide the doctor with a listing of his "rounds". When he returns this to the receptionist with charge-coded notations, charges can be entered in the account.

13. The date entered for service provided to a patient need not be the same as the date that the information was entered.

14. Custom features can be developed for your program as required. Your dealer can arrange for that service.

Contact your dealer for further information.

Champaign Computer Co.
406 Elm
Mahomet, IL 61853
217-586-4131

BIDIRECTIONAL DRIVER FOR NEC PRINTERS

Champaign Computer Company is proud to announce the release of a bi-directional device driver for the NEC 5510 and 5520 printers. This driver will work through any serial port that works with your Alpha Micro machine. The driver was written by a programmer with almost three years experience on the Alpha Micro system.

Our Spinwriter driver supports the BOLD function of TXTFMT to give your print-outs more impact. Characters are printed bold if the top bit of the character is one.

This driver double buffers data inside the Alpha Micro and the printer for maximum speed and low CPU usage. Recently, another software house said that printing bi-directionally "slows the system down". HUMBUC. Our driver is faster because it finishes printouts faster. Their comment sounds like sour grapes to me since their driver does not print bi-directionally nor does it support BOLD PRINTING. Again, I must stress that our driver does not slow the system down.

The SPN driver will work with either the REVERSE CHANNEL or XON-XOFF protocols supported by the NEC printers. It will work at any baud rate the printer supports. A three wire cable can be used with the XON-XOFF protocol for cabling ease. THE SPN driver comes with complete installation instructions which even tell you how to set the switches on the printer and a simple program to change the driver interface parameters. The price of the driver is \$100.00 for object code on a floppy disk and installation documentation.

We also have a similar driver that will work for the Diablo 1610 and 1620, NEC 5515, and QUME Sprint 5 printers available for the same price.

Peter Jacobson
451 Park
Birmingham, Michigan 48009

UTILITY DISKETTE

The following programs are all assembly language programs and operate extremely fast. The diskette contains program (PRG) as well as source (MAC) files. Detailed instructions on the use of the programs is included.

- STRIP removes line numbers from BASIC source file.
- NUMBER inserts line numbers in BASIC source files. Properly handles continuation lines.
- COM compares the content of two files. Input files may have the same name and may be located on disk, in user memory, or in system memory. An output device may optionally be specified. COM supports the Alpha Micro ersatz DSK0:PPN's.
- LIST displays a sequential file on the user's terminal twenty-two lines at a time and then prompts for a carriage return before continuing.
- TYPIMG displays a sequential file on the user's terminal in image mode without expanding tabs. Useful for transferring source files over phone lines.
- MEMBNK displays a memory bank map similar to MEMDEF, but also maps the jobs as they are assigned to the various banks and address ranges.
- SYMGEN builds a file from *.SYM of all program labels and their relative locations.

Price: \$50.00, all orders prepaid/ specify diskette format.

Note: DIS/PRG (two pass based disassembler) included for \$40.00 (20% off) if the utility disk is ordered before July 1, 1980.

RB Graphic Supply Co.
7291 Garden Grove Blvd.
Garden Grove, CA 92741
714-897-0341

RB has developed a few very handy word processing programs, and a nifty automatic compiling program.

A problem has always existed when a letter of more than one page is to be spooled using single sheets of paper. The spooler ends a page and immediately does a top-of-form and continues printing out, not waiting for the next sheet of paper to be inserted into the printer. The PAGE and PPAGE programs solve this problem.

PAGE allows the user to scan a file to be printed, searching for the top-of-form (CHR(11)) character. This is important, so that the page break is at the desired point. If the file requires a change, it may be edited again, and a manual 'TOF' may be inserted, and the old one taken out.

PPAGE prints a file, constantly searching for the 'TOF' character. If it is detected, the printer will eject the current sheet of paper on which it is printing, and the video screen will await carriage return to continue printing.

STRING will insert data into a file. The insert position is determined by a bracket and a number. A sequential file, "STRING.VAR", is created by the user, listing each variable, one per line. STRING reads 'STRING.VAR', and inserts the variable present on line one in 'STRING.VAR' into the corresponding number in the bracket ((1)) in the file which required insertion. As many sets of variables (i.e. mailing list names, addresses, city, state, zip, etc.) may be used as is desired. Within each set there may be up to nine variables. STRING will print out each newly inserted file as it is read, and also display it on the screen, along with the variable list in that set. STRING allows personalization of form letters.

The COMP program will compile all basic programs in a given PPN, and allows the use of wildcard selection when desired.

We have found these programs to be real time savers, and we hope you do, too. The pricing below includes all four programs, with BASIC source codes.

PRICES: Floppy Disk -\$48.00 Mastercharge & VISA are welcome
 Hawk Disk -140.00 (name, card # & expiration date)

P.S. RB also has a long list of applications software available, as well as customization of those programs. Don't hesitate to call us if we can help.

Richard Brock, President

ALPHA MICRO USERS SOCIETY Membership form

Please fill out as much information as possible.

Name _____ Company _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Business Phone _____ Home phone _____

Circle one: Own Lease Thinking

Check all applicable: Dealer OEM User: Corporate Individual

Describe equipment: _____

AMUS may use my name for mailing lists Make checks payable to AMUS

Annual dues are \$25.00 per member.

AMUS
c/o Community Free School
P.O. Box 1724
Boulder, Colorado 80306

