

So What Software

Call Box Edition
Number 2

Newsletter

April 1990

What's new?

The past few months have been interesting to say the least. Some of the new things I have heard are simply rumors, conjured by wishful thinkers. The big rumor is that Apple is going to sell off the Apple II division and concentrate on MAC full time. This rumor is unfounded... let me give some substantiation for my claim. We are authorized to purchase Apple hardware directly from Apple Computer Inc. and this is just what we do from time to time. We placed an order for another IIs 6 weeks ago and Apple is still unable to ship it. They explain that the factory is pumping them out just as fast as they can but this volume is still inadequate for the orders on hand... Now, I do not know what the capacity of this factory is but it is a fair guess that it is the same factory that has produced 1 million of them already! This does not sound like a business enterprise in decline! And, it does not sound as if demand is low either.

Our contact at Apple informs us that the orders being filled now are mostly European (the IIs is very popular abroad) and our sales records reflect this trend as well. Europe is taking off and the U.S. is mired in superstition, innuendo and rumors... typical!

Some other rumors I have heard have been that Apple is going to introduce a faster GS... hogwash! Apple is going to expand the vertical resolution from 200 to 400 lines... baulderdash! Apple is going to release a 6.0 version of GS/OS... incredulous! All of the rumors that you hear are just that, RUMORS! First off, Apple Computer Inc. runs a tight ship, they do not let you know about something until it's fact and their security on these matters is impeccable. Second, anyone that deals with Apple Computer Inc. directly is sworn to secrecy by legally binding contracts when dealing with experimental, Alpha or Beta products. Any breach of this security is illegal and the source of the information

should be examined with great scrutiny. Anyone who flagrantly breaks the law is probably not above embellishment and outright lies as well.

I believe what Apple says and not Nibble, not Incider/A+ and especially not non-commercially franchised user group newsletters.

So much dis-information has been spread that it has crippled the U.S. group of Apple IIs users... You don't know what to believe.

My solution to this problem is to believe NO-ONE! unless they are the folks making it happen. This means that your buddy down the street is probably not tied into the professional networks and could not possibly know about these things... the same applies to almost everyone.

Rest assured that the Apple IIs will continue to be a major player in the personal computer industry for a long time to come and if the U.S. users do not self generate some enthusiasm then Europe will have it first and the U.S. will have to play catch-up from this point forward. It happened with Transistor radios, Televisions, VCR's and Automobiles, what makes you think that the U.S. can hold the cutting edge in personal computing without a little effort on their part.

Businesses such as ours and others are focusing on Europe and the Far East because the U.S. sales have been disappointing to say the least. I can not equate 1 million machines with the poultry sales in software all of us have been experiencing

The final word... Companies like our own must make a profit to keep the doors open. If the profit is not in the U.S. then we must find it elsewhere. Currently the score is Europe 1, U.S. 0 but the game is not over yet. If we play this thing right then we all

can enjoy the fruits of our labors... If we continue, fat and lazy then we are doomed for destruction. And some foreign language speaking guys will be eating your peach!

William Stephens, President

Bingo Leads...

Bingo leads is a term used in the publishing game to identify the "Circle Reader Service Number" things found at the end of ad's and articles in magazines. You circle the articles number on a card in the magazine and send it back to the publisher. The publisher in turn makes up sheets of labels and send them to us with your name on them. There is a code on them as well specifying how many other Bingo's were circled. The upper limit for this code is 20+ and we must assume that people who have 20+ codes are circling things just because they are there and not because they are seriously interested in our product... We ignore these! As a matter of fact we will ignore leads with codes above 3 or 4. It is not our business to supply them with FREE paper goods to keep their winter fireplace going. In addition to this, the article they have seen is probably far more detailed than the product brochure is in the first place... what do these people hope to receive?

C.B.P.A.

This is an acronym for the Call Box Programmers Association. This is the forum for Tech Notes, New software module releases, Software upgrades and other niceties for the Call Box Programmer. This newsletter was the forum for this but it is totally inadequate for that job. The complexity and detail that needs to be presented is just not possible thru this newsletter and it is impossible to give you sample program code, a task that is better suited for a disk. This is why C.B.P.A. exists and why it will be the primary conduit for information and implementation of

undocumented or obscure Call Box programming procedures.

C.B.P.A. requires membership and a nominal annual fee to join (\$25.00). This membership will keep you up to date and will outline procedures that you thought were not possible.... there are thousands of procedures possible with the Call Box BASIC Driver.

The first C.B.P.A. mailing is in April 1990 and will contain a revision to the file CB (V2.0.1), 13 tech notes and 6 software notices covering subjects like Memory Allocation, Custom Desktops, Using GS/OS Class 1 calls, Using Sound and ACE calls, Special Edit menus, Grafport access, Line numbering standards, and the latest convenience, program templates. The mailing also includes sampler disk #1 which includes several program templates, a new editor used to merge program templates together, An ampersand interpreter plus an editor for it, several program demos showing how to use Call Box BASIC in both desktop and non desktop type programs. There is more there as well, and there is more to come in future C.B.P.A. releases. If you are not a member then become one immediately! Call or Write us for your membership.

Installer Problems??

Some people have had a problem with the Installer program provided in the V2.0 release of The Call Box TPS. The problem seems to be that when they go to make a bootable Call Box BASIC disk, the disk crashes when they try to run it. This problem has been traced down to GS/OS and is quite puzzling.

If you use another method of copying the file CB like using the Finder, this problem does not occur. This kind of thing only happens on just a very few computers and not all the time! We have no solution to this and Apple is either unaware or indifferent to this problem... afterall the Installer program is their software, not ours.

Do not construe this as an admonishment of Apple Computer Inc. Sometimes things do not work out properly when systems are used for purposes for which they were not exactly designed.

The Last Character

The Call Box TPS Dialog Editor gives you the ability to put text in dialog boxes among other things. When these dialog templates are used from S16 type applications everything works out fine, however, when these templates are used from the BASIC Driver something strange happens.

The last character of a text item does not show up. We do not know why this is but we do know when it happens. The fix for this is to add an extra space character at the end of the line which will guarantee that the last real character shows up. The problem is so minor that we will not put up heroic efforts to find this problem seeing as it is not destructive or even annoying as long as you know about it. Eventually we will correct this but first we have to determine whats going wrong.

In Conclusion...

Please FEEDBACK!!! or forever hold your peace. We are and will be offering the most comprehensive programming system outside of the Apple IIgs operating system available. Your input is needed to make everything sylogistic and proper. If you have comments, questions or suggestions please call or write us and let us know whats on your mind. If you do not participate then you have no justification for complaint. We are here to serve you, the Call Box Programmer.

How to interact with So What Software

1. By mail....this is the

best way for us because listings can be sent and a permanent record can be referred to. It also gives us some time to reflect upon your suggestion / problem and respond.

Send mail to:
So What Software
Call Box Edition
10221 Slater Ave. Suite 103
Fountain Valley, CA. 92708

2. By modem...this

is the next best way for us much the same reason as "By mail..." is.

Send E-mail to:

Applelink
Mail stop: D1462

GENie
Mail stop: SO-WHAT

3. By hotline.. this

is the quickest but is the most time intensive for us... please use it only in a pinch!

Hotline number:
(714) 963-2344
Call between 6 and 10 PM P.S.T.
weekdays only.

The So What Software Call Box Edition Newsletter is published by So What Software All Rights Reserved ©1989. No part of this newsletter may be copied, reproduced, translated or reduced to any electronic medium or machine readable form without the prior written consent of So What Software. AppleIIgs, Applesoft, ProDOS, GS/OS are registered trademarks of Apple Computer Inc.