AMICUE

Amiga Computer Users of Edmonton

October 2002

Inside

AmigaOne Firmware Development

Wednesday October 9, 2002

Amiga Inc is delighted to announce that its partner, Hyperion, has completed development of the AmigaOne firmware. Based on the PPCBoot GPL project, it provides the low level foundation that will allow AmigaOS4.0 to be integrated into the AmigaOne hardware.

The new firmware provides:

o x86 BIOS emulator capable of initializing and using nearly all PCI and AGP graphic cards based on the chipsets of ATI, nVidia, 3DFX, S3, 3Dlabs (Permedia), Trident etc.
o Auto detection of SDRAM modules
o Auto detection of bus and CPU speed
o Support for PCI and AGP
o General ArtiticaS support
o General VIA686 southbridge support (686A and 686B)
o IDE support (harddisk and CD-ROM booting)
o Floppy support
o Booting over network

AmigaOS4.0 will thus be able to support the following at a Firmware level:

o Serial port
o USB UHCI
o USB keyboard
o USB storage devices
o PS/2 compatible keyboard
o i8259 interrupt controller
o 3com 3c920 ethernet with full bus mastering
o VIA IDE controller (A and B revision)
o Real time clock (RTC)

Our congratulations to Hyperion.

Amiga Inc.

AMICUE Saturday Coffee SIG
Every Saturday
1:30-3:30
Haps Hungry House
159 St Stoney Plain Rd.

After Meeting Get Together Boston Pizza Sherwood Park

Good Food
Good Friends
Good Times

Asha's Sunday Chats

Every Sunday evening (in most places) a few Amigans (and former Amigans hoping for the best) gather to chat and share information on a wide range of topics. Subjects will range from the Amiga (of course) to books, TV, and movies to whether or not aliens have visited our planet.

Come join us on the IRC
The network is ExodusNet
The new servers are:

irc.superhosts.net, irc.midnightrose.org, irc.codemain.com
The channel is #team*Amiga

The time(s) are each Sunday evening (9:00pmEST-11:00pmEST 2:00am Monday to 4:00am Monday GMT)

For those who can use Java chat, point your browsers at:
www.reefer.org/chat4.html
or
http://www.reefer.org/chat.html

I put my cam up Sundays so that you can see me as we chat. If you're using an Amiga, get WebVision Aminet, or, if that's down, email me and I'll send you the latest version I've got). It can live on the same screen (MUI) as AmIRC and is easy to use and setup. You can also see the cam on the Web (using a browser). The cam address is www.ashafx.com/cam. There's always a picture up, but it's only live on Sunday nights.
We also love playing with sounds. You can grab all (or some) of the sounds we are playing by going to:
http://enja.org

We have a nice group of friendly folks sharing information, help and humor as we wend our way through the Great Amiga Oddessy.

Hope to see you there!

Please repost this anywhere you find Amigans online!

Asha, asha@ashafx.com,
http://www.ashafx.com

Shark PPC Cards now for Sale!
(17/9/02)

Elbox are now have the Shark PPC cards for sale at their website (release will be sometime Q4 2002).

Two versions are available:
Shark PPC+ G3/G4 for EUR 449.95
or
Shark PPC G3/G4 EUR 299.95

The PPC+ board features:
* PCI format motherboard
* PPC 750CXe, 750FX or MPC7450
* FSB 133MHz
* 2 sockets x PC133 SDRAM upto 2Gb
* Memory transfer of 582MB/s
* A 2x AGP slot
* UDMA EIDE controller 2 channels
* AC97 sound system
* Optional USB 2.0 controller

The standard PPC board features:
* PCI format motherboard
* PPC 750CXe, 750FX or MPC7450
* FSB 133MHz
* 3 sockets x PC133 upto 1.5Gb
* Memory transfer of 582MB/s
No official news on OS4 compatibility though.
http://buy.elbox.com

Hints & Tips
Article by Mark Tierno

Nearly everything in YAM can be configured but some things take a bit of hunting around. Perfect example are the colors. In tyhe YAM config itself, the Settings–>Read allows ypou to set the colors for colored text and old quotes, while through the MUI menu you can set just about every other color of text, background, and button... with one exception. When reading an email, your lower half of the window has the text of the message while an upper window has the more technical info such as Recieved, From, and the rest. In this latter these titles are printed in a glaring red which is inaccessible from either YAM or MUI. Annoying when you're trying to keep it from clashing with the background you've chosen and really like. The answer is in the Workbench's Palette Preferences program. The color that YAM uses for these header labels is that of the "Important Text" in the Palette Prefs and can be altered via that interface.

Another common YAM question regards html text and the reading thereof.
Personally, I think html wastes bandwidth in an email, but for those that want it, one good way is through the use of YAM2URL. Just set it up in the Settings—>MIME of YAM, with the Attachment Type being "text/html", Extension being "html", and the viewer set to "rx SYS:Rexx/YAM2URL.rexx %s". Another one is a script called "HTMLmail.rexx". The docs in both will tell how to configure them for

use between YAM and your chosen browser. For opening up a clicked-on URL there is OpenURL or Hurl, both of which can be found on Aminet. The Rexx script that comes with OpenURL is a bit twisted, however, so just configure it in YAM under "When Clicking On A URL" as "OpenURL NEWWIN" and it'll work just fine (the rest is in OpenURL's own prefs program).

On another subject, this tip comes in response to a question from one of our readers. He asked how to open up LHA files on his PC so he could unarchive his issue. One answer is the program PCOpus on the PC includes built-in LHA support; it's available from http://www.sonic.net/alanwall/i.html and it's free. PowerArchiver 2002 s also a good choice with about 30 built in formats including LHA.

A Closer Look at MorphOS on the PEGASOS

By Mike Bouma - Posted on 2002-10-08 20:50:39

Last Saturday I attended a MorphOS demonstration in Rotterdam. MorphOS is a PPC AmigaOS clone capable of executing many 68k and PPC classic AmigaOS software titles through seamlessly integrated emulation. This article takes a close look at MorphOS' current state of development and includes some recent screenshots of the PPC native Ambient GUI environment.

MorphOS has already been under development for several years, and an early version has been available for PPC equipped Amigas for quite some time now. This early version however did not yet have its own GUI environment, but instead can emulate a Workbench 3.x AmigaOS GUI environment. Initially, MorphOS was even being evaluated by Amiga Inc. to become the official new AmigaOS4 desktop operating system, but as Amiga Inc. had just spent almost 5 million dollars on acquiring Amiga's assets, they understandably wanted to remain the owner and fully in control of future AmigaOS releases. However bPlan, just as understandly, could not agree to such terms as they had already done alot of work themselves and view MorphOS as a fundamental part of bPlan's future products. So, no agreement could be reached and the legal status of the OS has been in doubt within the Amiga community ever since (mainly because the development team has had access to AmigaOS source code). Of course many different aspects and views are to be considered, which however go far beyond the purpose of this article.

Currently MorphOS runs with its own PPC native AmigaOS-clone GUI environment , called Ambient, on 600 Mhz G3 powered beta-tester PEGASOS boards. This microATX form factor motherboard includes a processor slot which can take a processor card with up to 2 MPC 7450 G4 PPC CPUs onboard and most likely G5 CPU in the future. Two G3 beta-tester boards equipped with ATi Radeon graphic cards running MorphOS were being demonstrated in Rotterdam, and my first impression was: "Wow, this OS boots really FAST!". The OS only takes 5 seconds to boot into a full desktop GUI environment as shown in the provided screenshots. Certainly something you would only expect from AmigaOS! After this, several 68k and PPC Amiga applications were being demonstrated, and all of these ran with remarkable performance. The OS and most applications seem to fly, especially compared to Macintosh OSes as while running similar software titles, which in the case of the Macintosh simply seem to crawl on similar specification hardware!

To summarize, first impressions were: impressive bootup speeds, fast and seamless retargetable AmigaOS 3.x 68k and PPC software compatibility and a fast overall GUI experience. On the hardware side, the PEGASOS is a compact, well designed motherboard and a complete system operates very quietly. However, my impression was also that still quite some work needs to be done until MorphOS is ready for general consumers. The three beta-testers/developers demonstrating MorphOS had just received a new software update from the core MorphOS team, which broke compatibility with quite a few applications as well as

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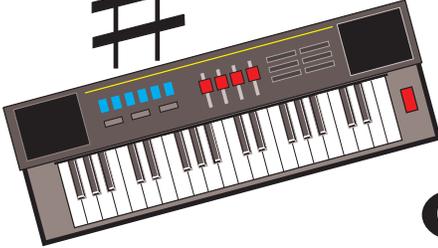
Music SIG

Contact Larry Bolch 484-9879

introducing some bugs. Although the OS itself was still pretty stable, many emulated applications did not function properly. There was also a bug in the sheduling which caused performance problems while running some software titles simultaneously. For instance, window dragging with a movie playing simultaneously inside was being demonstrated and the movie indeed continued to play flawlessly while dragging, at least until it suddenly stopped playing. Most of these problems are expected to be solved by the time the MorphOS/PEGASOS teams attend the big German Amiga fair, which is to be held on the 7th and 8th of December 2002 at the Eurogress in Aachen. This video coverage of last year's main German Amiga event includes an interesting interview with bPlan's technical director Gerald Carda.

Thendic-France, has acquired the rights to organize and manage the worldwide distribution of bPlan's PEGASOS motherboards, which should ship with both MorphOS and Yellow Dog Linux operating systems when available. For the future this company also plans to make a handheld computer called the Eclipsis, which will be based on PEGASOS and MorphOS technology. Additionally, an AGA compatible custom chip is also planned, which should allow usage of classic AGA chipset bound software, as well as adding some new powerful features.

For the latest news on the MorphOS/PEGASOS project specificly, see the MorphOS-News.de community website, or for more general Amiga community news, the Amiga.org community portal.

Next AMICUE Meeting

November 21st 7:00 PM
ArchBishop Jordan High School
Sherwood Park

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Boston Pizza

Wye Rd.
(Sherwood Park Freeway)

Sherwood Blvd.

Baseline Rd.
(101 Ave)

ArchBishop Jordan High School

Oak St.

Broadmore Blvd

Doors

Parking