

The Machine That Wouldn't Die.

## ONTECHNOLOGY



Fred Moody

“Amigas raised the standard for computing in 1985 and have only recently been caught up to. It’s time to set those standards again and AmigaNG will do that.” Greg Scott, Amiga dealer.

Some computer users, those using Mac or Linux for example, have strong feelings about their machines and operating systems. But nothing comes close to the unabashed love a geek has for his Amiga. (Michael Dougan/Special to ABCNEWS.com)

Once upon a time, there lived a breakthrough in computing—the Amiga A1000, which burst onto the market in 1985 as the first legitimate full-color-interface computer—in effect, a color Macintosh before the color Macintosh. (It also was the world’s first 32-bit PC, well ahead of the Mac and fully 10 years before Windows 95.) The Amiga was dedicated to multimedia before the term was even coined in the computer industry.

Shipped under the Commodore name (Commodore had purchased Amiga prior to 1985), the Amiga led something of a fringe existence into the early 1990s, when Commodore finally went under, taking the Amiga with it. And with that, one would have expected, the Amiga surely disappeared, along with the KayPro, the Wang, the TRS-80 and God knows how many other proofs of concept that gave way to marketing juggernauts Apple and Microsoft.

### Man’s Best Hardware

But obsolete computers, like manual typewriters, seem to inspire undying loyalty in some people. I have a friend who still uses a TRS-80, another who still uses an original Apple, yet another who clings to an old PC loaded with Xywrite software. Certain machines or programs connect with certain people in a way that can only be described as “soul to soul”. These machines can inspire an almost immeasurable—and definitely irrational—love in the human heart.

And so the Amiga, which never really disappeared, is coming back. A group in South Dakota, having acquired the rights to the Amiga, are developing and marketing a new machine under the Amiga Inc. brand. You can actually buy an Amiga machine—to wit, a computer running an Intel X86 processor, with the Amiga operating system, the Amiga interface and a suite of Amiga applications installed in it. There are plans afoot to bring out successive generations of Amigas

over the next few years, and—as far as I can tell—a dream to bring the world around to the Amiga standard.

The question is...why?

The short answer, according to Amiga Inc. marketing director Bill McKewan, is the Amiga philosophy of “freedom and flexibility”. The underlying principle of the Amiga OS is to allow users and programmers to configure and outfit their machines in any number of ways. On the Amiga, for example, you can choose between the machine’s GUI—called *Workbench*—and an older CLI.

### Don’t Look Now, But ...

The long answer is something along the lines of this one, provided by Amiga maniac and dealer Greg Scott: “I’ve been a die-hard Amiga fan for 10 years and selling them for almost as long. I’ve populated my world with every Amiga model made available (and some that weren’t). It’s the best alternative out there.”

“Amigas raised the standards for computing in 1985 and have only recently been caught up to. It’s time to set those standards again and AmigaNG will do that. Long live the Amiga philosophy.”

An astonishing array of Amiga dealers now operates around the world, from Michigan to Amsterdam to Latvia. Amiga shows up regularly at computer expos and the Amiga presence on the Web can only be described as extensive and manifold.

I didn’t have much luck in finding information on Amiga’s market share, but who knows? Amiga may be the next company to be cited in a certain Washington, D.C., courtroom as proof positive that Microsoft does not have a monopoly in the operating-system market. Don’t look back, Red Hat—something may be gaining on you.

*Fred Moody is author of I Sing the Body Electronic: A Year With Microsoft on the Multimedia Frontier. His next book, The Visionary Position, is to be published in February by Random House. His column is published on Mondays.*

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**Contributions**  
Contributions can be soft copy (on 3½" disk) or hard copy. It will be returned if requested and accompanied with a self-addressed envelope. The editor of the Amiga Users Group Inc. newsletter *Workbench* retains the right to edit contributions for clarity and length.

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**Advertising**  
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**Deadlines**  
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The views expressed in the Amiga Users Group Inc. newsletter *Workbench* are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the editor or the committee.



Welcome to 1999! I trust everyone had a safe and merry Christmas and New Year break. Mine was taken up with moving house and finding a new job. My new employers, Skilled Engineering, have told me that I can choose what computer and packages I want to use to help me produce their tender documents. I wonder if I should suggest an Amiga platform? But I'm sure compatibility will rule over productivity and ease of use! The new job may mean your regular monthly newsletter may only come out once every two months but this has not yet been decided and the committee will keep you informed on any decisions made. In the mean time enjoy this month's edition which is filled with current Amiga products, happenings and items of general interest.

Once again I invite any readers who wish to contribute to this publication to do so. All articles are greatly appreciated, not only by myself but from the club as a whole.

Tom Heeren



**Meeting**  
This month's meeting will showcase some of the latest Amiga software including CyberGraphX version 4, Professional File System version 4.2 and the latest AmiNet 4 CDRom set.

**Forthcoming Meetings**  
If you can help with ideas for our monthly meetings please contact a committee member.

**February 21:** Next club meeting.

**March 21:** A Surprise In Store?

**Free E-Mail For All Members**  
The AUG is now offering members a web-based BBS, which gives you access to e-mail (user@members.aug.org.au), Amiga forums available just for members, access to all the Amiga Internet newsgroups, a new AUG helpdesk and links collection. Access to the site is free to all current AUG members, all you need is an ISP. You can either fill out the form that came with this newsletter or fill in your details at the new website,  
<http://members.aug.org.au/>  
from the 18th of January, if you have any queries about this service, e-mail the webmaster -  
webmaster@members.aug.org.au



The Amiga Users Group invites all Amiga computer enthusiasts to join our ever growing club. The group meets regularly on the 3rd Sunday of the month at the Moorabbin Arts Centre. Meetings involve demonstrations of the latest hardware/software and twice yearly swap meets are also organised. Membership entitles you to receive our monthly newsletter *Workbench*. This publication keeps you up to date with what's going on in the world of Amiga.

**For further information please contact Tom Heeren (Secretary) on 9787 0635 or visit our web site at <http://www.aug.org.au>**

**Amiga Users Group To Feature In Local Publication**  
The above ad will feature in the community notice board section of this month's *Living In Kingston* publication produced by APA Publishing, Hughesdale. This free magazine allows non-profit organisations to advertise their club's events at no cost. Look out for it in your letter box if you live in the Kingston area.

Tom Heeren

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# BVISION PPC

## BVision PPC 3D

### Graphics Accelerator Board for Blizzard 603e and Blizzard 603e(+) Systems

The BVision PPC Graphics Card represents a new Generation of Graphics boards for Blizzard 603e or Blizzard 603e+ accelerated Amiga systems. By use of the fast and modern display processor PERMEDIA 2 and the direct connection to the Blizzard 603e / 603e+, the BVision PPC provides an outstanding performance in all display operations and allows fast and efficient work with today's most demanding applications and at high resolutions. Performance and functionality of the BVision PPC define a new standard in its class:

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Because of its fast video-DAC with a bandwidth of 230 Mhz the BVision PPC can display resolutions of up to 1152x900 pixels at 24 bit and with 75 Hz vertical refresh rate, or 1600x1200 pixel at 16 bit with 72 Hz vertical refresh rate.

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The connector for the latest generation of 3D LCD shutter glasses allows for perfect virtual reality experiences and fascinating gameplay. Experience a so far unknown dimension of 3D visualization!

#### Full connectivity

The Cyberstorm PPC provides an 15pole VGA standard connector and an 3pole Mini-DIN connector for use with an optional LCD-3D-Shutterglasses system. (VESA standard).

Blizzard PPC 603e/603e+ SystemUpdate for trouble-free operation with the BVision PPC graphics board.

## Technical Data for the BVision PPC 3D

### Graphics Processor

Permedia 2 from 3DLabs with integrated 3D Geometry Setup Engine

### 3D Performance

Up to 80 Million 3D-Pixel/Second or 1 Million Polygons/Second

### Video RAM

8 Megabyte SGRAM

### RAMDAC

230 MHz

### Maximum Resolution

1152 x 900, 24Bit, 75 Hz  
1600 x 1200, 16Bit, 72 Hz

### Miscellaneous

Integrated Video acceleration; ready for the optional LCD-3D-Shutterglasses

### Availability

4th quarter 1998

### Product Pricing Information

DM 369.00

*At the time of publication no international prices were available. Please check with your local Amiga dealer for more details.*



**phase 5**  
DIGITAL PRODUCTS

Amiga! Tech Talk

# Dreams and Reality



**A**s the General Manager of Amiga, Inc. there are times when we can all lose sight of dreams vs. reality. I have to admit I would sometimes choose to dream. The impossible Amiga, however, is not just about dreaming; it's about implementing dreams and making them a reality. We've been working very hard to see that this happens. I believe that in order to take this company to the next level, we must stay focused on delivering the dreams not just talking about them in hopes that they will happen.

At Computer '98, we announced our alliance with QNX as the foundation for the Next Generation Amiga Architecture. We have taken the flying leap and I saw the enthusiasm in many people's eyes, and could feel the electricity in the air at this announcement! The excitement that the future holds is great; we are looking forward to working with QNX and their team. QNX brings the foundation of technology and the values of what Amiga has always been. The QNX RTOS is a foundation that we can build on. It's only with a secure foundation that the tallest of buildings arise. This will not just be an architect's dream, or a contractor's vision, we are dedicated in making this a reality. The reality is that the tallest buildings are not built overnight. They take planning, commitment, focus, and a lot of sweat.

We are embarking on new territory, and there maybe those who will oppose our strategy. Some will struggle with change and not support our future plans. Some will disagree with the path we have chosen. To those I would say, "Lets not get stuck in the past or live in a dream world." Let's all work together in making Amiga not just a community name, but a name that will be recognized throughout the world. A name we can all be proud of.

The recent events over the last few weeks, have hit the community like a shock wave rippling with excitement and fear. It's unfortunate that we have had so much confusion and rumors. Change is difficult and please believe me when I say, I understand the value that the community brings. I empathise with each and everyone one of you through these hard times of rebuilding. You must remember that Amiga is bigger than any one person or computer. It's about people who aren't afraid to walk up to the edge, look over, see all that's there, and then take the leap to fly. We don't live in a dream, we live in reality and this is where the rubber meets the road.

The vision is in place, the architects have started work, now we must be patient to see the building rise. In order for this to happen, it is vital that community is united. The User Group community support is essential in evangelizing the world (come see this new building). The Development community is critical in expanding and networking it from one building into many. This is Amiga and now more than ever we must all take the leap towards flying as the world stands back in awe. We can do this a community of not only dreamers but dreamers who know reality and aren't afraid to fly.

Thanks for your support and always keeping Amiga in your heart.

*Jeff Schindler  
General Manager  
Amiga Inc.*

WWW.AMIGA.COM



**A** *Amiga of Minnesota Interest Groups Alliance (A.M.I.G.A.) is happy to announce that the CDTV upgrade project has reached the release stage of development. The preliminary tests have shown that with the new prom chips installed the CDTV will operate correctly under OS 3.1 and the built in CD drive will function correctly. The upgrade requires that the ROM chip for OS 3.1 be installed, and the two internal proms that govern CDTV be changed.*

The 3.1 Rom is the same chip that fits the 500 or 2000. The two proms for the CDTV are only available from A.M.I.G.A. by a license agreement with Amiga International, Inc.

There will be further testing, but so far it has been determined that the CDTV will boot from a 880k floppy disk drive containing the workbench 3.1 disk, and operate exactly as a 500/2000 with 1 meg would, except that you will have a fully functional internal CD drive, and S-VHS output. *At this moment the CDTV is the only CBM developed unit to have this high definition output.*

It will also boot the Fred Fish Collection CD Roms that were released by Hypermedia Concepts, to a 1.3.1 workbench with the floppy drive active. BUT, it will reset as soon as the eject button on the CD is touched.

If you have Email available, request information from  
[thedoctor@wavetech.net](mailto:thedoctor@wavetech.net)  
and an order EMail form will be sent to you. PUT *CDTV UPGRADE PROJECT* as the subject please.

If you must use SNAIL Mail, write to:

A.M.I.G.A.  
c/o Ben Deemer  
14501 Sunfish Lake Blvd  
Ramsey, MN.  
U.S.A. 55303-4578

An order form will be mailed out to you, and US\$0.35 will be added to your cost.

This is a *not for Profit* enterprise of a user group, and the license is restricted for this project. Therefore it is necessary to PREPAY for the upgrade proms, and by special arrangement, a discount on the 3.1 Rom if on the same order.

Prices are as follows:

CDTV proms kit and instructions:  
US\$23.00

3.1 OS Rom if ordered with proms  
US\$30.00

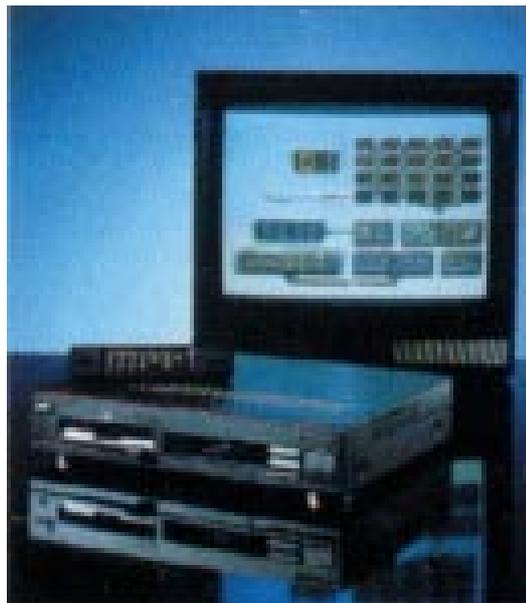
All shipping will be by US Postal Priority System 2/3 day. Rates as follows:

US - \$3, - Canada, Mexico, Western Europe, Middle East - \$3.75, - Pacific Rim, South America - \$4.95

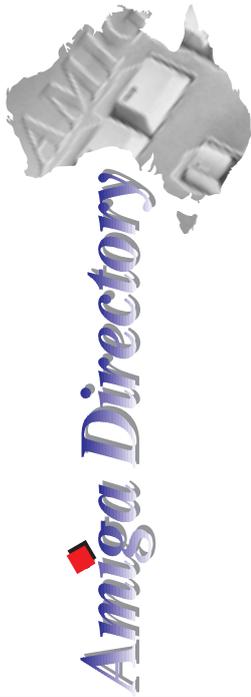
No orders will be shipped to anybody until the ORDER FORM IS RETURNED with the required information and signature, and the PAYMENT IN US FUNDS IS RECEIVED (no personal or business cheques)

This upgrade set of 2 - proms is not available from any other source, and will only be available while supplies of the now obsolete out of production parts is available. The 3.1 Rom is a special offer and only available to upgrade purchasers through A.M.I.G.A.

thedoctor (not MD) Ben Deemer



**CDTV Lives Again**



### Victoria

**Amiga Technology Australia**  
17 Thompson Circuit, Mill Park, 3082 Phone: (03) 9436 5555

**Byte One Computers**  
24 Silverton Drive, Ferntree Gully, 3156 Phone: (03) 9752 3991 or 015 316 147

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**Megatron**  
156-160 New Street, Ringwood, 3134 Phone: (03) 9870 4017

**MVB Computer Supplies Pty. Ltd.**  
508 Dorset Road, Croydon, 3136 Phone: (03) 9725 6255

**Software Buyers Service**  
Arnie Robbins  
PO Box 290, Bannockburn, 3331 E-mail: arnie@ne.com.au

### South Australia

**Amiga 'n PC Centre Pty. Ltd.**  
644 South Road, Glandore, Adelaide, 5037 Phone: (08) 8293 8752

**G-Soft Computers Pty. Ltd.**  
Shop 4/2 Anderson Wlk, Smithfield, 5114 Phone: (08) 8284-1266

### New South Wales & Canberra

**Amiga Genius**  
826 Hunter St, Newcastle West, 2302 Phone: (049) 623-222

**Computer Affair**  
337 Penshurst Street, Willoughby, 2068 Phone: (02) 9417 5155

**Desktop Utilities**  
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**Software Circus**  
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**Unitech Electronics Pty. Ltd.**  
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**Vince Schubert Computers**  
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**Commodore Amiga Centre**  
96 Bentinck St, Bathurst, Phone: (063) 322 611

### Western Australia

**Amiga Innovations**  
111 Cambridge Street, West Leederville, 6007 Phone: (08) 9388 1665

**Computer Man**  
611 Beaufort Street, Mt. Lawley, 6050 Phone: (08) 9328 9062

### Queensland

**Don Quixote Software**  
PO BOX 786, Toowoomba, 4350 Phone: (076) 391 578

**Image Domain**  
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**Synapse Computers**  
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Paulshome@bigpond.com

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IBM Analog Joystick Interface  
VidiAmiga12 Image Capture

Free To Good Homes  
(1 item per customer)

Tom Heeren, 9787 0635



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**TO GOOD HOMES**

**More Amiga!**

## *In Store Now!*

NetConnect2	\$ 199	BlizzPPC 160MHz/060/SCSI	\$ Call
ST-Fax Professional	\$ 125	BlizzPPC 200MHz/060/SCSI	\$ Call
AmigaWriter	\$ 175	BlizzPPC 240MHz/060/SCSI	\$ Call
Developer Survival Kit	\$ Call	CyberStormPPC 233/060/UW	\$ Call
CyberVisionPPC	\$ 549	BVisionPPC	\$ 499
Apollo A1240 040/25 + SCSI	\$ 525	Apollo A1240 040/40 + SCSI	\$ 659
Buddha EIDE Controller	\$ 149	Catweasel MkII A1200/A4000	\$ 149
Kywalda Boot Adapter	\$ 49.95	Catweasel Zorro II	\$ 225

## *Arriving Soon!*

Ariadne II	Make CD
Black Amiga Mice	IOBlix
Picasso IV	3.1 Roms
More Amiga Software	

Dealer Enquires Welcome

E&EO

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incorporating Byte One Computers

506 Dorset Road  
Croydon Victoria 3136

Phone (03) 9725 6255  
Fax (03) 9725 6766

*Reader Classifieds*

# About the Group

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<b>Disk/Book Librarian</b>	Colin Roberts		

## Amiga Users Group

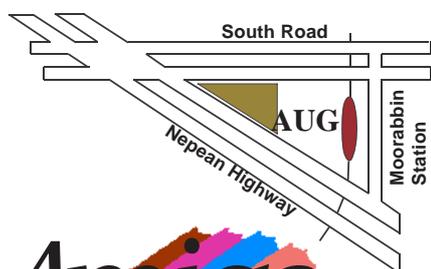
The Amiga Users Group Inc. is a non-profit association of people interested in the Amiga family of computers and related topics. We do not support or condone software piracy. To contact us call our Secretary; or visit our home page at:

<http://www.aug.org.au>

## Membership

The AUG Inc. membership year runs from September to August. If you are joining in:

August–September.....	\$25
October–November .....	\$21
December–January .....	\$17
February–March .....	\$13
April–May.....	\$9 or \$33
June–July .....	\$5 or \$29



## Disk and Book Library

AUG has a collection of Amiga books and magazines. Members can borrow for a period of one month. The library is available at most meetings. Programs from the public domain library are available at many meetings.

## World Wide Web Access

Chris Quonoey can provide a very competitive Internet connection to all AUG members at reduced rates from BlazeNet. Connection costs are as low as \$0.95/hr. There are no joining or monthly fees and your access time is paid for in advance. For details contact Chris (0418 377 975).

## The Dead Letter Department

The AUG's new BBS run by Craig Hutchison has access to all the latest AmiNet files as well as other goodies. Registration is free to all members. Phone: (03) 9571 7194

## Meetings

The Amiga Users Group meets at the Moorabbin Arts Centre Complex, 979 Nepean Hwy, Moorabbin (see map) on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 2:00pm. There is ample parking at the rear of the complex off South Road. Meetings are held in the "Sun Room" or on the 2nd floor (up the stairs then turn left). Ask at reception if you get lost. Cost: \$2.00 members; \$4.00 non-members. This is to cover some of the rental costs of the venue.



## Membership Form

First Name: ..... Surname: .....

Address: .....

Post Code: ..... E-mail: .....

Phone (AH): ..... Phone (BH): ..... Fax: .....

*I have enclosed a cheque or money order as outlined in the table above. Once admitted as a member of the Amiga Users Group (Vic.) Inc. I agree to abide by the rules of the association for as long as I continue to be a member.*

Signed: ..... Date: / /1999

*If joining by mail please allow 2-3 weeks for your membership to be processed.*

*(The following is optional)*

Year of Birth: ..... Amiga model(s): ..... Occupation: .....

Interests: .....

Where did you hear about AUG?: .....

What services would you like AUG to provide?: .....