"It isn't easy, being green..."

Kermit, ca. 1982

I'd started to think my Apple 2GS RGB monitor was immortal. It had always worked for me just as it did when I first turned it on in 1987 or thereabouts. Then without any precursor warnings my monitor's screen lit up with a hurt-your-eyes green raster and no video. 50-dollar bills flashed before my eyes.

I'm no stranger to tv servicing, so there was no question but that I 'd give it my best effort before spending the big bucks for repair or replacement. I hit the wall without service data. The local electronics-supply dealer told me, "Nah, there is no Sams Photofact for the Apple 2GS monitor... Apple never did sell many 2GSs, so Sams didn't do anything for the 2GS!" I drew myself to my full height, started to tell him about the millions of Apple 2GS computers still in use then said, "Ok..." and left the store. I'm tired of arguing the point.

I made my own Sams by tracing out the pc-board circuitry. A boring but necessary step. The paper schematic helped to make sense out of the voltage readings on the pc board's various test points.

The excess greenness was the result of an open peaking coil. Peaking coils are small inductors used to extend the frequency response of video amplifiers. A transistor amplifier has unavoidable capacitance that bypasses high-frequency video components. It's these high-frequency signals that enable the CRT to change brightness quickly as it forms sharp edges.

Inductance, such as that found in a peaking coil, cancels capacitance. If you choose just the right amount of inductance you can compensate for the unwanted capacitance, which is exactly what happens when a peaking coil is doing its thing.

The open inductor in my monitor's circuitry allowed the green cathode on the CRT to drop about 100 volts lower than normal, and this action biased the green gun into saturation.

It was obvious that something was amiss once I'd determined that the peaking coil had100 volts across it's terminals. I had two good peaking peaking coils for comparison in the red and blue circuitry. Each of these good coils measured about 10-ohms resistance. The flakey coil was open. Shorting the open coil for a test eliminated the excess green on the screen but at the expense of poor green bandwidth.

How do I get a replacement peaking coil? The local electronics supply dealer was about as helpful as he'd been with the Sams Photofact deadend. "Peaking coils almost never fail. You have to go back to the manufacturer to get a replacement! Forget it!" This time I stood up to him, asked to see his stash of peaking coils. I needed a 20-microHenry inductor, and he did have a 22-microHenry unit. $1.95.

The 10% excess made no noticeable difference and my monitor seems as good as new.

Being green is not so bad if your monitor can also be red and blue.

Contents

Meetings - Regular Membership

The regular membership meeting is held on the third Thursday of the month, with a start time of 7:30 p.m.. The meeting is held at:

"the computer store",
444 Ferry Street, Salem, OR.
The general public is invited to attend.

Meetings - Board of Directors

The Board of Directors meeting is held before the regular meeting or as otherwise arranged.

Annual Membership Dues

Individual member $15.00

The WAC BBS is currently provided at no charge, however if you would like to make a donation to keep the BBS running, contact:
Neal Layton
P.O. Box 18435
Salem, Oregon 97305

Authors should submit their articles in hard copy , 3 1/2 inch disk or send it via modem to the editor at the above number by the first of the month. Copy should be submitted in ANY form you wish. I can read any format from any computer types so if you have something that looks good send it in.

The WAC Journal is published monthly.

Contributing writers are needed, especially for the Who's Who column. This is a member written column dealing with what each individual is doing with their computer, what kind of computer and programs you use, and how long you've had your computer. I can accept your article at any time for this column. Call me!

This newsletter was produced 'Entirely' on an Apple //GS using the following software and hardware products: Appleworks   GSv1.1, Appleworksv4.0,   Pointless,   Inwords, Quikie scanner and printed on a Hewlett Packard HP DeskJet 550C.

More Bad News for the Apple //GS......

I just got a letter from Quality Computers today.

I had ordered the v2.0 upgrade to Appleworks GS. Guess what the letter said?

Here it is:

Dear Neal,

Our records indicate that you have an order for AWGS 2.0 on account with us. We regret to inform you that this upgrade of AWGS is being cancelled.

We had originally hoped to release this product sometime in may but due to many difficulties with the development of this product we have come to the conclusion that finishing the upgrade is not feasible. WE hope that you will understand that we have already invested a large amount of time and money in the developmeny of AWGS 2.0 and that this decision was not made lightly.

Please accept our apology far any inconvenience the delay may have caused you. No charges have been applied to your account for AWGS.

Sincerely,
Quality Computers

HHHmmmmm, seems as if they are back pedaling. I hope they don't scrap plans for other upgrades. Thaey seems to be the last real company that is holding up the A2-line.
-neal

Since this post I have seen several posts on a few major BBS services, (Compuserve and AOL), that the Appleworks GS project may still be alive. It is said that a group of 'VOLUNTEERS' has picked up the project and are now currently discussing it on 'GEnie'. Also it has been mentioned that if you are a talented programmer and would like to donate some of your expertise in the GS programming area, that they are looking for help to complete the project.

Apple recently sent us sign up kits for E-WORLD, a new on line service developed by Apple. If your interested see Neal. But I must warn you unless you own a MAC your out of luck. The software is MAC only and even the ads say for MAC users only. However it is also mentioned that Windows software is coming soon. What will they do to kill us next?? Order us to burn our machines?

THE PROGRAM CLINIC (NO. 2) by Ken Franklin, M.D.

Courtesy of Club Apple U.G.
Charleston, W.Va.

Good afternoon, and aren't air conditioners wonderful? Spring cleaning is well underway, and I'm glad to say that includes cleaning out of my in box - which is full of interesting questions like these:

DR DR. KEN:
What is multi-tasking? - - Synchronous Shirley from Sausalito

DEAR SHIRLEY:
Simon says rub your tummy with your left hand. Simon says pat your head with your right hand at the same time. Simon says say the Gettysburg address while continuing with both hands. Now hop on one foot. Ah-ha! I didn't say Simon says; you're out. Now you know what multi-tasking feels like to a computer.

Most microcomputers are programmed to run one program at a time (like a word processor). But sometimes a program needs to run without your help (like sort 20,000 names and addresses, or calculate a huge spreadsheet, or download a file by modem), and you're forced to watch while it chugs away. I usually pick up a good book during these times. Wouldn't it be nice if you could play a game or run another program during these times?

Multi-tasking allows this. Each program thinks it's the only one running, but the computer's operating system switches back and forth between them several times a second. To you it looks like they are running at the same time, albeit a bit slower. The Amiga crows about its ability to do this. However, for most of us micro-munchkins, it is rarely very useful - and for system programmers, it's a major migraine.

Limited multi-tasking, called "background tasking," is more practical. The most common example is a "print spooler". It grabs print requests from other programs (like a word processor) and tells the programs they're done. Then, while you work on other things, the spooler feeds the printing job to the printer. If you have several long letters to edit, this can be a real time saver.

There are two more good examples of background tasking. One is the digitized sound hardware on the IIGS, which plays sounds without stopping or slowing the main program. The other is a screen blanker utility, which sits and watches how long since you've touched a key (and pounces on your screen if it's been too long).

DEAR DR. KEN:
I heard that Apple now sells a 1.44 megabyte high-density disk drive for the IIGS. For which purposes would someone buy such a drive? I use my GS about once a week, with a database application, to sort and print the 17 active people in my church group. Would a high-density drive help? Supposing I had a choice of buying a 40MB hard drive or the high-density drive. Since the price would be about the same, when would each of these drives be recommended over the other? - - Solly Schneider from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

DEAR SOLLY:
Forget about the hard drive - let's worry about your church group. Seventeen members? We gotta get a MAJOR revival going in Saskatoon!

For you, I'd buy the hard drive. It's much faster than the high-density drive, and will allow you flexibility should your needs change in the future.

In general, the high-density drive has two advantages. First, it allows you to save more stuff on a disk for backups; and second, it allows you to read MS-DOS and Macintosh disks (if you have the software). This second advantage only applies to II users with a PC Transporter, or to IIGS users who want to convert files from Macs (like Hypercard stacks, sounds, and graphics). It is MUCH slower than a hard drive at reading and writing information, and you must buy a special kind of 3.5" disk to be able to format for 1.44 megabytes. These special disks cost 50-90% more than standard 800K

floppy disks.

I only use 1.44 MB disks to make hard drive backups, because it makes a shorter stack. And by the way, the TMS Shadow 52MB hard drive is about the same price as well, so don't settle for a measly 40MB.

DEAR DR. KEN:

What is Teach text and how does it differ from ASCII? - - Sharp Sven from Chicago.

DEAR SVEN:

Teach text carries imbedded rulers, which your computer uses to rap your knuckles if you daydream or throw spitballs at the monitor. It also automatically generates pop qu   izzes every fourth time you access the file.

Now if I were part of the "Wayne's World" fad, here's where I would say "NOT!!!!". But I'm not, so I won't.

Teach text is a format created by the Macintosh folks and recently moved over to the IIGS world. It's a file with two parts: one is straight (or ASCII) text, and the other is a set of codes with font and formatting information (like boldface, italics, and so on). Straight ASCII files cannot contain formatting information (unless you want sentences like "This is *BOLD START*not*BOLD END* a pretty way to *ITALIC START*communicate*ITALIC END*!)

Teach files are most commonly used for on-disk program documentation (the "Read Me" or "Latest Release Info" files), though you can use them for any text information.

DEAR DR. KEN:

When running with an accelerator board, should it be slowed to normal speed when doing supercritical things like optimizing or backing up a hard drive? - - Slinky Sparky from Soda Springs.

DEAR SPARKY:

You should only slow the accelerator down when processing school or hospital files, or when a police memorandum wants the right of way. Otherwise, floor it, bubba.

Your accelerator board, if it's working properly, should not have any problem accessing your hard drive. But if you have problems, before you toss the card, check a few things.

Does your SCSI card (the hard drive interface card) have a "DMA" switch? If so, turn your computer off, turn that switch off, and try again. Some accelerator boards and SCSI cards modify memory without telling each other, and that confuses your computer.
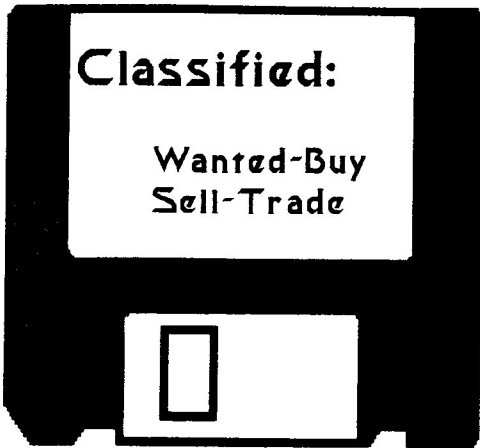
Are all the cables and sockets firmly seated? Sometimes a poor connection makes these boards intermittently flaky - and you'll hate it when that happens. Try taking each card out (with the power off, of course), wiping the contacts with a clean T-shirt, and reinserting them.

Is your Apple full of cards? You may be overtaxing your power supply, which causes the computer equivalent of low blood sugar - confusion and shakiness. Consider buying a heavy duty power supply.

Finally, do you have quality software? I would recommend a quality package, like Glen Bredon's "Prosel" or Vitesse's "Salvation" series, over a utility like "Bill and Rusty's Disk Tookit and Bowling Simulator."

Once again, campers, I'm out of blathering room.

BBS News
By Neal Layton

Here's part of a list of Apple // Bulletin Boards that has been on the internet for all of the millions of users to see. The WAC BBS is even on it. Meaning anyone who looks up such info on the internet plus all A2-Central on disk subscribers have thiis info.
The third part will be printed next month.
These are all Apple // Bulletin Boards.

International Apple II BBS List, April 1994

Compiled by Mike Shecket
Additions, corrections, comments to:
Mike_Shecket@tap.colum.fnet.org (Futurenet) shecket@delphi.com
(Internet at large)
Updated 3/8/94

Name	Location	Phone Number
Pro-Entropy	Miami, FL	305-265-9073
Big Apple	Miami, FL	305-948-8000
ORB BBS	Wyoming	307-635-0715
Nottingham	Cheyenne, WY	307-637-7620
Pro-Jackalope	Sheridan, WY	307-674-5310
The Bart's Tale	Washington, IL	309-444-3978
AppleByters BBS	Quad Cities area, IL	309-788-0314
Dementia	Silvis, IL	309-796-0314
Game Central	California	310-426-4485
Pro-Palmtree	Santa Monica, CA	310-453-8726
Original Apple Corps BBS	Los Angeles, CA	310-454-4660
Appleholics Anonymous	Gardena, CA	310-516-6017
Pro-SBACC	Torrance, CA	310-538-1913
Mike and Matt's Tavern	Torrance, CA	310-539-8723
N. Ill. Computer Society BBS	Arlington Heights, IL	312-351-4374
Feminist	Chicago, IL	312-624-8771
Jokertown	Chicago, IL	312-907-0047
Pro-FAC	Flint, MI	313-230-7754
Pro-Applejacks	Fenton, MO	314-225-8008
Something In The Attic BBS	Missouri	314-275-7357
OMEGA PRO	Wichita, KS	316-721-7735
Pro-Ict	Wichita, KS	316-733-8440
The Hairy Buffalo	Indianapolis, IN	317-783-5122
Apple Pickers BBS	Indianapolis, IN	317-897-1989
Tarnished Knight	DeRidder, LA	318-463-2100
Pro-Gumbo	Shreveport, LA	318-861-1012
TI BBS	Calgary, AB, Canada	403-273-0492
The New Chalkboard II	Edmonton, AB, Canada	403-461-2983
Trojan Horse	Edmonton, AB, Canada	403-471-3150
EAGLE	Edmonton, AB, Canada	403-481-3133
The Dark Tower	Grnd Centre, AB, Canada	403-594-1402
Lightning Strikes Here	Orlando, FL	407-297-7288
Southern Exposure	Oviedo, FL	407-359-5227
Pro-Magic	Oviedo, FL	407-366-0156

Membership Application
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P.O.Box 18435   Salem, OR 97305-8435
Voice 838-5870   BBS 363-0861

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Please list computer(s) and software you use regularly:

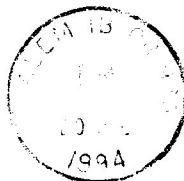Please list areas of interest (i.e. DTP, graphics, spreadsheets,etc.):

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