



Amiga Computer Users of Edmonton

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Executive Update - Amiga Status Announcement

April 12th, 2002

Greetings to the Amiga community,

A week ago we shared with you our joy as we move towards the rebirth of the Amiga desktop platform. The AmigaOne and AmigaOS4 are projects that have occupied almost every day of our lives for the last two years. For the community, the wait and the false dawns have been unbearable.

Contrary to the rumors spread in some circles, we have spent considerable time and resources in creating a strategy that will see the Amiga desktop platform move back into the mainstream and take its proper place in the market. The AmigaOne and AmigaOS4 are just the first and most visible signs of this strategy. It is very important to us that we provide a total and compelling Amiga experience to future customers.

The first measure we are announcing is that we have pledged ourselves to the production and development of a platform where both users and developers are guaranteed not just a quality product but a total quality experience as well. This will be achieved through a combination of a strict set of Quality Assurance certifications and the AmigaOS only being available to licensed solution providers for the shipping of combined hardware and software solutions.

From the top of the company to the bottom, we are committed to championing the cause of quality for the consumer and will ensure that substandard products do not make it into the Amiga market where they can do irreparable damage to the reputation of the

Asha's Sunday Chats

The network is ExodusNet

The new servers are:

irc.elric.net
irc.beaniefetish.com
fantasy.ExodusIRC.net
irc.darkspot.net
irc.reefer.org
irc.absolute-reality.org
Diesel.ExodusIRC.net
irc.betelgeuse.org
irc.starfyre.org
stats.exodusirc.net
chat.exodusirc.net
beerbong.exodusirc.net
services.ExodusIRC.net
irc.hostile.cx

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

Hope to see you there!

Please repost this anywhere you find Amigans
online!

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

Alberta Amiga is a publication of AMICUE the Amiga Computer Users of Edmonton.

Alberta Amiga is published monthly to inform and support the
Amiga Community in Northern Alberta.

AMICUE meets on the third Thursday of each month at Arch
Bishop Jordan High School 2021 Brentwood Blvd.. Sherwood Park.

Yearly Membership fees of \$20.00



**After Meeting
Get Together
Boston Pizza
Sherwood Park**

*Good Food
Good Friends
Good Times*

platform. Licensees will have to develop and resource a full customer solution, with guarantees on product quality, delivery, and most important of all post sales support, with firm commitments to repair, replacement and turnaround, elements that have blighted the platform over the last five years.

In addition, the close co-operation between Amiga Inc and solution licenses will ensure the tightest binding of the software to the hardware, providing the highest possible performance and providing the basis for rapid development as we move forwards together.

As a result, AmigaOS4 and all future versions will ship only on those hardware products to which Amiga Inc has specifically granted a license after reviewing the capabilities of both the solution provider and their product. The only exclusion to this policy is a temporary measure to support the community members who have invested heavily in existing PPC accelerators and will cover products where an Amiga manufactured or licensed Kickstart ROM is present (for instance A1200/A3000/A4000).

Currently this hardware comprises:

- o Eyetech's AmigaOne series of PPC motherboards
- o Cyberstorm-PPC accelerators by phase 5/DCE
- o Blizzard-PPC accelerators by phase5/DCE

We have also been approached by and are currently in negotiation with the following companies for the licensing of the AmigaOS to allow for a combined hardware and software solution:

- o The Shark card by Elbox
- o PPC accelerator cards for the Prometheus by Matay
- o Merlancia Industries MMC Toro Series

In the case of newly available hardware, including the Eyetech, Elbox and Matay products above, the license requires that OS4-specific extensions are included in the hardware's boot ROM as an anti-piracy measure. For hardware which is not capable of being used in conjunction with Amiga WB 3.1 (such as the AmigaOne) we will require, as part of the license conditions, that a copy of Amiga OS is purchased with all boards sold that are capable of running it.

The measures identified above have been put into place after consultation with our partners, developers, dealers and users, and represents a recognition that if the Amiga platform is to become successful again, it needs to exude professionalism and responsibility where the needs of the customer are paramount. With these measures, AmigaOS4 and the new hardware solutions, the Amiga desktop platform is primed to move forwards.

Bill McEwen CEO Amiga Inc Snoqualmie, WA

Eyetech CEO Clarifies

AmigaOne/OS4.0 Announcement

Posted on Monday, April 15 @ 12:14:38 EDT by Sinan Gurkan

"On ann and elsewhere there has been a lot of speculation about the nature of the ROM modifications to allow the A1-G3 (and any subsequent Amiga inc approved models) to run OS4 +

As most people here will realize we have always declared that we want to use the official Amiga OS and for Hyperion and Amiga to have their just rewards for licensing the AmigaOne and OS4 products. We are not the only possible licensee, but I guess that we committed to these conditions before anyone else. As a result we have worked in very close cooperation with both Amiga Inc and Hyperion throughout the A1 development program to ensure that piracy of OS4 is kept to a minimum. Jointly we have worked out that the best way to do this is :..."

- To put ROM extensions (ie dongle code) in the boot ROM, in addition to the regular boot code.
- To put this in hard-coded, socketed ROM at a specific address in the PPC memory map, rather than in Flash ROM, which could easily be pirated/updated
- To ensure that OS4 calls this code from multiple points to make workaround patches difficult to implement
- To ensure that a copy of OS4 is sold with all hardware capable of running it (ie with the dongle code in ROM)
- To use similar routines that already exist in the 3.1 Kickstart ROM as an alternative for the PPC accelerator implementations.

Although a dedicated pirate could no doubt copy the boot code and dupe the ROM's, unless this was to be done in bulk - which would be easy to spot and close down - the overheads involved versus buying the ROM would mean few people would be likely to do it. The situation is analagous to OS3.1/3.5/3.9 in that you had to have/buy 3.1 ROMs to run the OS, unless you go to extraordinary work-around lengths.

We are producing all the developer/dealer boards and at least the first run of user boards with this dongle code in place in the ROM - and therefore the obligation to purchase OS4 with them. (They can of course be used to run Linux, but you will still need to buy OS4 with these boards). If there is sufficient demand from the Linux community we will probably then produce some boards without the AmigaOne name (and without the dongle code needed for booting OS4). In this case we will also make available an OS4 + ROM upgrade pack (similar to the OS3.5/3.9 +3.1ROMs upgrade packs sold by most Amiga Dealers) to purchasers of the Linux-only boards wishing to upgrade to OS4.

As far as other licensed stand-alone ppc hardware is concerned, it would, in my view, need to support a similar protection format (ie socketed hard coded ROM, not Flash ROM) to embody the same level of anti-piracy protection as The A1G3-SE. Whether, in the specific cases of other hardware manufacturers, this socketed ROM has already

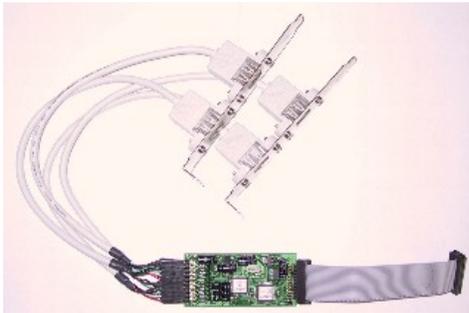
been implemented, or remains an option, or requires a partial redesign of the hardware is not something that I have any knowledge of. It is between Amiga Inc and the potential licensee concerned.

This tight anti-piracy regime has obviously upset some individuals on the mailing lists who clearly did not expect to have to pay for OS4, or hoped to buy unapproved/unlicensed PPC Linux boards to save a few bucks. Well tough, we dont want your business under those circumstances and will do all in our power to make sure that if you buy one of our boards for Linux-only use you will not be able to use it for running OS4+ unless you are prepared to pay Hyperion and Amiga Inc their proper license fees.

And I'm sure that all other potential serious licensee of endorsed Amiga hardware will see it this way too."

Alan Redhouse, Eyetech CEO Taken from AmigaONE mailing-list

Subway USB Controller for A1200 compatible clockports



Technical data

- o compatible with USB 1.1 and USB 2.0 specification (no highspeed mode)
- o integrated 4 port hub
- o all ports are protected against overvoltage and short circuit
- o integrated power management on port by port base
- o power saving 3.3V technology
- o compatible with all 68030/040/060 and PPC turbo cards
- o no mechanical problems with Amiga 1200 bus boards
- o compatible with all Amiga 1200 tower housings
- o standard Amiga 1200 clockport connector
- o highspeed clockport for fast data transfers
- o works with all Amiga 1200 compatible clockports

Software support

- o compatible with AmigaOS 3.1, 3.5 and 3.9
- o USB stack is fully compatible with MorphOS
- o integration into Amiga OS via system conform drivers
- o comfortable control of USB stack by GUI (MUI)
- o driver for USB mouse, keyboard, parallel interface (printers) and flash card readers (SCSI emulation) are included

Animation SIG



Meetings Last Friday of Each Month Contact:

Larry Bolch 484-9879

o further drivers (webcam, digicam) also by third companies under development

Included in delivery

- o 1 * 10cm clockport flat ribbon cable
- o 1 * SUBWAY USB controller card
- o 2 * holding plates with two USB connectors each
- o 1 * detailed English installation manual
- o 1 * disk with driver software

Requirements

- o Amiga OS 3.1 or higher
- o Processor 68030 (25MHz) or higher
- o 100% compatible Amiga 1200 clockport (see also tested boards)
- o power supply with 2.0 Ampere minimum on 5V (each used USB port will use a maximum of 500mA, depending on connected device)
- We recommend using a "selfpowered hub" when connecting more bus-powered high current (500mA) devices. Using AC adaptors with USB devices (if possible) is also encouraged. Powering all four USB ports with its maximum load of 500mA can lead to problems on some Amiga 1200 models.

Support

- o two years warranty on parts and work
- o excellent technical support team
- o worldwide reputation for quality and durability
- o online documentation and support messages

Amiga® Anywhere Entertainment Pack #1

PRESS RELEASE For More Information, Contact: Bill McEwen Amiga Inc. 425-396-5660 (x226) (voice) 425-396-5671 (fax) bill@amiga.com FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 10, 2002

Amiga Inc. announces the Amiga® Anywhere Entertainment Pack #1 for Pocket PC, Pocket PC 2002, Windows CE 3.0, and Windows CE .NET-based devices.

Rich multi-media applications designed for handheld systems to be released on April 15th, 2002

April 10, 2002 Snoqualmie, WA - Amiga, Inc. announced the release schedule of the Amiga Anywhere Entertainment Pack #1 for Windows Powered Devices. The Entertainment Pack will run on devices using Windows CE 3.0, Windows CE .NET, Pocket PC, and Pocket PC 2002 including handhelds, smart phones, web pads, and set-top boxes.

The Entertainment Pack #1 will contain four applications and the Amiga Anywhere Content Engine. These include the award winning Planet Zed and Convex games from ZeoNeo as well as Gobbler and Solitaire from Pulsar Interactive (see screenshots below). The Amiga Anywhere Content Engine allows access to more Amiga Anywhere applications available now and in the future.



Planet Zed



Convex



Gobbler



Solitaire

“Since announcing a change from hardware to software Amiga has strived to create and distribute content that can run on numerous digital devices. Amiga is now focused on the vision that all digital content should be available on all digital devices,” said Bill McEwen, President and CEO of Amiga Inc. “To that end Amiga has announced distribution of dozens of applications that can run on a wide range of different types of devices with hundreds more currently in development”.

“The Amiga Anywhere Entertainment Pack #1 will provide an exciting experience for owners of Windows Powered handheld devices without using the amount of resources consumed by other applications. Amiga developers are creating rich content using few resources. The average size of an Amiga Anywhere application is under 300KB and yet delivers a more robust experience than titles that are over 2 MB in size.”

“As mobile devices become smarter and more powerful, users are asking for rich entertainment and gaming experiences,” said Scott Horn, director, Embedded and Appliance Platforms Group, Microsoft Corp. “The combination of the Windows CE operating system’s multimedia functionality and Amiga’s software solution allows developers to deliver rich applications for a broad range of Windows Powered devices.”

Amiga Anywhere Entertainment Pack #1 will ship on April 15, 2002.

Some graphics contributed by Andre Siegel All content copyright © 2000-2002 Amiga Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Highway USB controller for Zorro II Zorro III bus



Technical data

- o compatible with USB 1.1 and USB 2.0 specification (no highspeed mode)
- o integrated 4 port hub
- o all ports are protected against overvoltage and short circuit
- o integrated power management on port by port base
- o power saving 3.3V technology
- o compatible with all 68030/040/060 and PPC turbo cards
- o compatible with Zorro II / III busses
- o bus interface logic can be updated without hardware modifications !
- o 38pin expansion header for ethernet module (10MBit) or serial/parallel port expansion (hyperCOM 3i)
- o fast clock port
- o expansion header can be used simultaneously with USB operations

Software support

- o compatible with AmigaOS 3.1, 3.5 and 3.9
- o USB stack is fully compatible with MorphOS
- o integration into Amiga OS via system conform drivers
- o comfortable control of USB stack by GUI (MUI)
- o driver for USB mouse, keyboard, parallel interface (printers) and flash

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Music
SIG

Contact Larry Bolch
484-9879

- o card readers (SCSI emulation) are included
- o further drivers (webcam, digicam) also by third companies under development

Included in delivery

- o 1 * HIGHWAY USB controller card
- o 2 * holding plates with two USB connectors each
- o 1 * detailed English installation manual
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- o Amiga OS 3.1 or higher
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- o 100% compatible Zorro II / III bus
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- o worldwide reputation for quality and durability
- o online documentation and support messages

Quo vadis, Amithlon?

Melbourne, April 3rd, 2002

There has been a considerable amount of discussion and speculation about the future of Amithlon on Amiga news sites as well as on the Amithlon mailing list recently. I suspect it has not gone unnoticed that I have been uncharacteristically quiet on the subject, avoiding to get drawn into discussions which I obviously have passionate opinions about.

The reason, regrettably, is a legal one. All is not well where Amithlon is concerned. In fact, all is far from well.

In the early hours of March 9th, Melbourne time, I received an email from Amiga Inc, In which Amiga Inc informed me that they considered the distribution of AmigaOS XL to be in violation of their intellectual property rights and thus illegal. The details of their third party intellectual property claim were such that they related, among other parts of AmigaOS XL, to the Amiga IP embedded in the file "isolinux/bigird.gz" on the AmigaOS XL CD.

According to the distribution contract for Amithlon, I am fully and exclusively responsible for defending and/or settling any third party intellectual property disputes that arise from any part of the software I have provided under the contract. The file "isolinux/bigird.gz" was provided by me to Haage & Partner, and was included on the AmigaOS XL CD

unchanged.

I would like to state that, when the Amithlon distribution contract was agreed upon, I was led to believe that Haage & Partner had secured the required licenses to Amiga Inc's IP. In fact, being able to provide such licenses was the main, if not the only reason H&P was chosen as the distribution partner. Until I was informed by Amiga Inc of their different view of the situation, I had no doubt that Amithlon, as distributed as part of AmigaOS XL, was a fully licensed product.

I need to stress that I have no way of verifying whether Amiga Inc's claims are justified. I also have no way of determining whether Haage & Partner have negotiated for, or hold through some other means, the licenses to Amiga Inc's IP which would be necessary for the distribution of AmigaOS XL.

However, the claim was made. Legal action was mentioned. And I am contractually required not only to defend any claim at my own cost and in my own name, but also to assume full and unlimited liability should the claim be found to be justified.

In order to minimize the resulting personal legal risk, I immediately sent an email to Haage & Partner, invoking a contract clause that allows me to prohibit any further use and/or distribution of Amithlon, taking effect immediately, in such a situation.

In a response email dated 5:05pm on March 8th (German time), Mr. Haage confirmed that "no agreement [had] been reached" with Amiga Inc.

As Mr. Haage's email did not acknowledge that the contract clause prohibiting further use and distribution had been invoked, I sent another email at 3:29am, March 9th (Melbourne time), clarifying that the claim did indeed touch upon parts of AmigaOS XL provided by me, and stressed again that I had invoked that clause. I also suggested that Mr. Haage, who assured me that I neither would nor could be held legally responsible for anything, sign an addendum to the Amithlon distribution contract, stating explicitly that any intellectual property claims by Amiga Inc are fully and exclusively the responsibility of H&P, and that in no case would I be required to defend, settle or be liable for any such claims.

No reply was ever received, despite logfiles confirming that the mail was indeed delivered to Haage & Partner's mail server.

Distribution of AmigaOS XL by Haage & Partner is continuing. In fact, a new preinstalled "Monster System" was introduced on March 15th. This exposes me personally to a substantial legal risk.

I consider any copies of Amithlon shipped by Haage & Partner after March 8th, 5:05pm German time, to have been distributed in direct violation of the Amithlon distribution contract. I explicitly refuse any responsibility or liability resulting from such distribution. I also need to point out that as far as I am concerned, the purchase of any such copies does not provide the purchaser with licenses for the use of any parts I contributed to Amithlon, which includes the main emulator executable.

As a freelance software designer, I depend for my livelihood on proper handling of intellectual property issues. I would like to stress that under no circumstances would I knowingly approve of or condone the distribution of a product for which unresolved yet credible third party intellectual property claims have been made.

I very much regret being the messenger of such unfortunate news. Amithlon is a product I have poured my heart and soul into, and one I am rather proud of. Having had to stop its distribution like this pained me greatly; Having to deal with the implications of the ongoing distribution is taking a toll on my psychological and physical well-being, and stops me from doing what I do best, which is to write useful software (if I may say so myself...).

Over the last few weeks, I have been working with Amiga Inc, trying to resolve these issues and to find a common way; Unfortunately, it is my understanding that due to the ongoing nature of their dispute with Haage & Partner, they are unable at the current time to comment; At the same time, the stresses this whole affair put on me started to seriously interfere with my life, my health and my continuing support for the users of Amithlon. That could not continue.

Bernd Meyer, BComp(Hon), main Amithlon developer

