

The X1000 on Display

June 21, 2010

There was only one place to be for Amiga enthusiasts this weekend: a tent at Bletchley Park. Saturday saw the unveiling of the first dedicated Amiga box for some time, in the shape an unusual and technically advanced system that maintains the Amiga's bleeding edge reputation.

The AmigaOne X1000 is a custom dual core PowerPC board with plenty of modern ports and I/O interfaces. It runs AmigaOS 4, and is supported by Hyperion, a partner in the project. The most interesting bit, though, is the use of an 500Mhz XCore co-processor, which the X1000's hardware designer describes as a descendant of the transputer —once the great hope of British silicon.

The XCore allows fine-grained parallel processing and the equivalent of 256 loosely coupled cores. At least eight threads are available at any one time.

The Amiga brought multitasking to personal computing, and when it first appeared in 1985 it made the rest of the market, including Apple's much vaunted Macintosh, look like overpriced toys. Commodore made its last Amiga in 1994. Various companies have rolled out PPC boards compatible with AmigaOS, since the last update in 2006, but this is the first new box for some time.

Long-time Amiga enthusiast Trevor Dickinson, director of the company set up to create the X1000, A-Eon,

said the team hadn't set a price for the box, but suggested it would be "North of £1,500", hopefully allowing the company to make something to reinvest. The X1000 should future proof the AmigaOS for some time.

The event took place at Britain's first Vintage Computer Fair (report to follow) in a tent sponsored by the Amiga enthusiast groups. These seem to be as busy as ever: the AmigaOS looks terrific, and ports of FireFox and OpenOffice are close to bearing fruit.

The box also houses an ATI Radeon R700 graphics card, 10 USB ports, four PCIe and two PCI slots, besides much else.

...By Andrew Orlowski
http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/06/21/amiga_x1000/



Amiga News

Anytime there's not a lot of news in the Amiga community at any given time, so when something actually does happen, it tends to stand out more. Even better, there's something going on for both sides of the PowerPC fence, Amiga OS4 and MorphOS.

On the OS4 side comes the early alpha release of Timberwolf, a first of the Mozilla Firefox Amiga porting projects to actually bear some fruit. I'm not an OS4 user (at least not currently), but I recognize the value of bringing Firefox to the Amiga. At an earlier time, I would have wanted to see this more than anything else, but with the proliferation of newer Webkit-based web browsers such as OWB, it's not quite the priority it once was. I can see one especially good reason for Timberwolf or other Amiga Firefox ports, and that's if they can support the wide range of plugins Firefox on other platforms uses. I don't know much about Timberwolf yet, so I can't say either way if it will. It would be a strong "selling point" though, especially if the port reaches a wider range of Amiga-related systems. 68K-based Amigas might be a bit much to ask for, but adding MorphOS and AROS would be welcome.

On the MorphOS side of the fence comes a new update to the operating system itself, version 2.5. Another PPC Mac model has been added to the short list supported by Morph. Unfortunately, (or maybe fortunately, depending on your point of view) the only new added model so far is the EMac, particularly the 1.25 Ghz model. (Other EMac models are not yet tested, but may work as well.) I've been waiting for support of one or more Mac laptop models myself, for

portability, and others are waiting on the promised Powermac G4 tower models, but the EMac (notable for being rather inexpensive on the secondary market, as well as being the last Mac model with an integrated CRT monitor) is it for the time being. Hopefully more Mac model support is coming sooner rather than later. Like many MorphOS 2.x updates, it's more a matter of tweaks and bug fixes than added features. The OWB web browser is included, now at version 1.8. This version of OWB adds HTML5 video support, which makes Youtube and similar sites accessible (though you will have to change settings on the site from using flash to HTML5). Along with the previously mentioned Timberwolf, it represents another step toward making web browsing as functional on Amiga and Amiga-like systems as it is on any other. Let's all hope that it only gets better from here.

Oh yeah, I hear that iPhone and iPad are pretty popular too.

...by Eric Schwartz
from the AmiTech Gazette,
June 2010

Vintage Computer Festival

Announcing the upcoming
Vintage Computer Festival
South 1.0

Saturday and Sunday, August 7-8, 2010,
Nedderman Hall, University of Texas
Arlington

Sponsored by:
the Museum of Information Technology
at Arlington and the University of Texas
Arlington College of Engineering

We are in the early planning stages. Right now we need to find volunteers for the following very important positions. If you would like to be responsible for one of these areas, please contact Gil Carrick at gilcarrick@gmail.com.

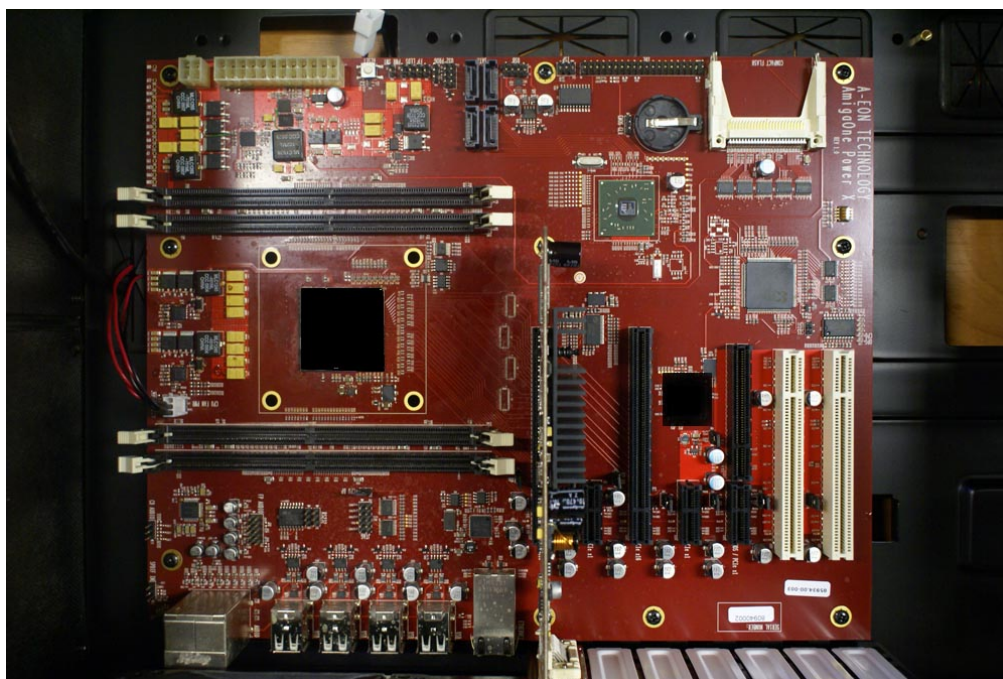
- Exhibit Manager
- Speaker Coordinator
- A/V Grip
- Powermeister
- Vendor Manager
- Special Event Manager

- Registration Manager
- Badge Checkers
- Runners
- Contest Judges

We have not yet established prices for attending or for vendors or exhibitors but if you are interested in coming, selling or showing please let us know.

I plan on being there showing my TI CC-40 collection, and will probably also have an A2000 and possibly my Minimig up and running.

We definitely need a strong Amiga presence! Surely there is someone near the DFW area who can set up a table demonstrating the Amiga line!



The X1000 Motherboard

July Calendar

July 7 — Amiga-By-The-Loop Chapter
7:00 PM — South Grand Prairie Library
760 Bardin Road, Grand Prairie

July 7 — MCCC Board of Director's Meeting
Approximately 9:15 PM — Location TBD

July 24 — Newsletter Deadline — 7:00 AM

MCCC 4418 Sharpsburg Drive Grand Prairie, Texas 75052
<http://www.amigamccc.org>