

# Commodore Goes Out Of Business

April 29, 1994

WEST CHESTER, Pa. (AP) — Commodore International Ltd., a pioneer in the personal computer industry, said late Friday it is going out of business.

The company plans to transfer its assets to unidentified trustees “for the benefit of its creditors” and has placed its major subsidiary, Commodore Electronics Ltd., into voluntary liquidation.

“This is the initial phase of an orderly voluntary liquidation of both companies,” Commodore said in a brief statement.

Company executives could not immediately be reached Friday evening.

The company last month reported an \$8.2 million loss for the quarter ending Dec. 31 on sales of \$70.1 million. A year earlier, Commodore lost \$77.2 million on sales of \$237.7 million in the same period.

In the latest report, Commodore said

financial limits had thwarted its ability to supply products, leading to weakened sales. One of its new products, the Amiga CD32 video game, had sold poorly in Europe, where the company did most of its business.

The company’s net worth turned negative in the fiscal year ended last June 30.

Its stock, which had traded at around \$3 per share before the quarterly results were announced last month, closed unchanged at 87 1/2 cents per share on the New York Stock Exchange Friday.

“This is a company that briefly captured the attention of the American market and didn’t go where the market was going,” said David Coursey, editor of the newsletter P.C. Letter in San Mateo, Calif. “They just never managed to change with the marketplace.”

While grabbing some market share and attention in the late 1970s, Commodore’s products were something between PCs and game machines “and never quite became either,” Coursey said.

Commodore started 40 years ago as a typewriter repair company in the Bronx. Its extension to the adding machine business paved the way for it to make calculators and then personal computers by the mid-1970s.

Commodore competed with Radio Shack for the first computers sold to homes and co-founder Jack Tramiel became a highly-regarded figure in the fledgling PC industry.

By the early 1980s, it was overshadowed in the PC business by Apple Computer Inc. and IBM. Software manufacturers didn’t create as much software for Commodore’s Amiga line as it did for Apple and IBM-compatible machines.

In recent years, most of Commodore’s business was in Europe.

NewTek Inc. of Topeka, Kan., created a product called Video Toaster that converted Commodore’s Amiga to a video-editing system. The \$2,500 product was popular



with small advertising agencies and home hobbyists.

The company's phones were busy Friday night.

...The Associated Press

<http://bit.ly/1iBlisH>

## I Am a Software Pirate

Some years ago I came across a really great Windows program (Creative Element Power Tools) that added a ton of cool, geeky, power-user features to the operating system. I immediately registered and happily paid for the program mostly to support the authors and to escape the trial-version time limit. I liked this software so much that I bought a second copy for another machine I use frequently.

A few weeks ago, I installed a new boot drive on my main machine and the program popped up an error that it had expired and I needed to enter my registration code. No problem, I thought, since I meticulously save all registration codes. No dice. The developer has ceased development of the

program and apparently disconnected the online registration key validation mechanism. The website was of no help and the company would not respond to multiple emails.

Today I needed one of the features and was frustrated that this function, which I paid for, was not available. After more fiddling with trying to get the program to recognize my valid registration key I did what I had to do: I looked for a "cracked" copy of the software.

That was pretty easy to find but I was nervous about installing something so dubious on my beloved main PC. The first attempt to install the faux version failed since Windows (rightfully) demanded administrator privileges to modify anything in the Programs directory. Now I'm really on the brink of totally toasting my machine if this illicit software includes a trojan or other malware. I scanned the file for malware, checked that my boot-disk-image backup was up to date, gritted my teeth and selected "Run as Administrator." The "cracked" program copied some files and reported a successful installation. I rebooted and lo and behold, Creative Elements Power Tools was happily running on my machine providing me with the

paid-for features I have grown to rely on. As far as I can tell, after a few weeks I am malware free.

Something is wrong with a software distribution model that disables the product if the developer decides to discontinue support. I was forced to the underworld of the Internet to unlock something I have already paid for. I guess I am happy that the pirates who "cracked" the program are out there, but I'm not pleased that I was forced to live in their world.

...Kevin Hisel

from The Status Register of the CUCUG, April 2014

## May Calendar

May 5 — Amiga-By-The-Loop Chapter  
7:30 PM — Main Grand Prairie Library  
901 Conover Drive, Grand Prairie

May 5 — Board of Director's Meeting  
Approximately 9:15 PM — Location TBD

May 26 — Newsletter Deadline — 8:00 AM

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