

## Not Much News

It's been a curious time, for me personally, if no one else. Checking around the Amiga news sources, there's not a ton of stuff going on, not that there usually is. A new game from Cherry Darling, makers of Flappy Bird clone "Voxel Bird Saga," is available, called "Voxeloid," apparently a Breakout/Arkanoid type of game, using the same voxel engine as their other game(s). So if you enjoy pixely stuff with 3D effects, and you have an OS4 or MorphOS system, this might be right up your alley. On the hardware front, the ARES-II system is available for 249 Euro. It is described as a "Raspberry Pi on steroids," and is a complete system with a case, and is pre-installed with AEROS, an AROS/ Debian Linux hybrid with XBMC (media controller). Could be valuable to the right person, even if it's not the low base price of a bare Raspberry Pi board. In software, an update to AROS Vision, (version 2.8.1) an AROS distro for classic Amiga hardware, is now available. I'm not too certain exactly what the benefits are to using AROS over Amiga OS on your classic system, but I'm sure there's someone out there interested in finding out.

I had a chance to go to Cincinnati recently, visiting a convention briefly. For me, going to Cincinnati or Columbus is also an opportunity to drop by Micro Center. I was also in the market for a new system or

two (or five), as the Lenovo laptop I use as my primary web-surfing system is showing its age, not to mention years of accumulated dirt and crumbs in the keys. Micro Center was advertising a laptop from ASUS for about \$220, down from \$300. The CPU is a form of Celeron, but as my demands for the system will be pretty low, I believe the system will be adequate to my needs. Like the computer market itself, it's interesting to think how, out of three laptop systems I've purchased in my life, each is less expensive than the last, as the specs increase. One I got around 2007 cost me over \$500, with a netbook picked up a year or so later being about \$325. This new one for around \$220 has a larger screen (not a touch screen this time around) with a 500GB SATA drive and 4GB of RAM. (Since pretty much every other computer I own doesn't exceed 1 gigabyte, this will be a step up. I'm reminded of when I last shopped for a new car, as I was impressed at all the features and electronics found in even a low-end auto trim package. That 4 Gig of RAM is similar to me, as most PC systems I saw had about 4 gig even on the low end. Presumably the proliferation of 64-bit processing and Windows 8 make that much RAM more a requirement than a luxury. I can only imagine what an Amiga or MorphOS system would do with that much RAM (if they actually can make use of it). Hopefully a nice efficient Linux distro will make that about of RAM seem luxurious too. It appears I'll have to look into picking a distro sooner rather than later. I tried

turning the new laptop on just to check it out, but the first boot procedure under the pre-installed Windows 8 wouldn't keep going without me setting up an account with Microsoft. Since I have no intention of registering with MS just to preview a system I don't intend to have running Windows anyway, it would seem I may never see the Windows home screen on my laptop, not that that's a negative really. I don't know what state I'll have the new machine in by this month's meeting, but I may bring it by regardless. I suppose if anyone has any live CDs for any distros they advocate, I'll be happy to give them a look-see.

...by Eric Schwartz  
From the AmiTech Gazette  
October, 2014

## Belkin Routers Choke

Millions of Belkin router owners around the world today complained after their routers mysteriously refused to let them on the Internet. Complaints exploded on Twitter and Facebook this morning indicating that an unspecified number of Belkin routers couldn't access heartbeat.belkin.com in order to function properly. When users (and many ISP employees) went to the Belkin website to complain or investigate, they found the Belkin website down as well.

After a morning of user anger, clogged phone support lines and total Belkin silence on the issue, the company finally posted this notice to their website shortly after noon:

“We are aware of reports of an interruption to Internet service when using some Belkin routers with several Internet service providers. Our team is diligently working to root cause the issue. Our call centers are also experiencing a higher than normal call rate so hold times are longer than normal. Our call centers have no solution to this problem at this time. Please check this status page for further updates.”

[Note from khisel: Belkin is the same company that programmed web ads into some of their routers a few years ago. After viewing and displaying a number of web pages, the router would hijack the connection and attempt to sell the user additional Belkin services. Given that, and now the news that some of their routers require the company’s web site to be up and running to function, I think that this is clearly a company that does not understand how a router is supposed to work.]

...by Karl Bode  
Tuesday Oct 07 2014  
<http://bit.ly/1y7eS23>

# Microsoft Loves Android

Microsoft makes more money from Samsung than from Skype, Windows Phone, and Xbox combined

Android—the most widely-used mobile operating system in the world made by Google--actually owes a lot to patents owned by its erstwhile rival, Microsoft. There has been a lot of speculation about just how much Microsoft makes from royalty fees from Android handset users like Samsung and HTC. A glimpse was revealed when Microsoft said in a legal filing that Samsung, the biggest Android phonemaker in the world, paid the software maker more than \$1 billion a year to use its technology in Samsung phones.

To put that into perspective, that is more than the \$848 million that Microsoft made last year in operating income in its Entertainment and Devices Division, which includes the Xbox console—including Kinect and Xbox Live Internet gaming network—as well as online video-calling service Skype, and its Windows Phone line. Samsung’s fees also compare favorably to Microsoft’s search engine Bing and the MSN Network.

That division made a loss of \$1.3 billion last year.

Another way to put that in perspective—Microsoft makes more from Samsung in a year than Apple won in court after famously suing Samsung in California over violating its patents. And that doesn’t include the money that Microsoft makes from the other Android phone manufacturers. As the Wall Street Journal reported, the filing that revealed the \$1 billion figure was previously redacted and included in documents in court, where Microsoft is accusing Samsung of failing to honor a 2011 patent-licensing agreement.

How much is Android actually based on Microsoft technology? When the Chinese ministry of commerce approved Microsoft’s purchase of Nokia in April, Microsoft said the authorities “concluded after its investigation that Microsoft holds approximately 200 patent families that are necessary to build an Android smartphone.”

...by Kabir Chibber  
<http://bit.ly/ZjVvEd>

## November Calendar

November 10 — Amiga-By-The-Loop Chapter  
7:30 PM — Main Grand Prairie Library  
901 Conover Drive, Grand Prairie

November 10 — Board of Director’s Meeting  
Approximately 9:15 PM — Location TBD

November 28? — Newsletter Deadline — 8:00 AM

MCCC 4418 Sharpsburg Drive Grand Prairie, Texas 75052  
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