

A-EON Is The News

The holidays approach, and the year draws to a close. We don't even have a fun doomsday scenario to play with like we did in 1999 or 2012.

In the world of Amiga, it seems a lot of the news focuses on A-EON Technology in one way or another. Presumably to bring more attention to the Amiga OS4 systems, A-EON has been buying up source and development rights to software packages. Personal Paint was one, and a new version (7.3) with some additions and enhancements has already been released for OS4 and 68K Amiga systems (OS3), though one could argue the biggest enhancement was reworking the software to a more easily portable code base. It is available for sale/download from AmiStore and www.ppaint.com. I use the previous 7.1 version of Ppaint quite a lot still, as it is a capable 8-bit 256-color pixel-slinging program in the style of the old Deluxe Paint, and I am interested in new versions, especially if it's possible to have them work flawlessly on my MorphOS system (7.1 on MorphOS runs, but is charitably described as 'quirky'). So far I have heard mixed reports on the new 7.3 version, so I'm not yet in a hurry to spend for the update. The price isn't bad

(roughly \$25), and I will probably get it when disposable income is available, even if only to run on my 68K system, which is there for the previous Personal Paint currently.

Next in the A-EON shopping list is Aladdin 4D, a long also-ran in the Amiga 3D render software biz. For a long time attempts were made to develop Aladdin 4D by DiscreetFX and the developer of Pagestream, with little success. Perhaps the developer/programmer resources A-EON has access to will yield better results. I've never been much for Aladdin 4D back in the old days, preferring Sculpt, then Imagine, then Lightwave, but new developments in any Amiga software that is more than a small utility will always be welcome.

Since A-EON is a current producer of Amiga hardware running OS4, it's understandably in their interest to support the building of a software base to improve the fortunes of their systems. Where the uncertainty lies is what goes for people like me who threw their lot in behind the MorphOS system, or AROS, or whatever else. Since A-EON purchased the rights, would they allow the creation of a Morph or AROS port of software, perhaps even create it themselves? Or would they actively block any initiatives for Morph/AROS ports, even if they could potentially profit from sales or royalties,

because they are not part of their hardware/OS plan? At this point it's an unknown quantity, though I believe that the business marketplace is sparse and scattered enough that one OS camp is not a serious impact on another, where multiple options might offer multiple (small) revenue streams. Only time will tell the true motives of A-EON, especially if they manage to buy up more Amiga software packages. Personally, I would like to see a native MorphOS port of my standby graphics software Photogenics.

...Eric Schwartz
from the AmiTech Gazette,
December 2014

A-EON and More

A-EON Technology would seem to be out to become the new Amiga Inc. In ownership of things and not in practices though. Already owning the AmiApp shop and Amiga.org they have now acquired the Amiga (68K and PPC) side to Aladdin4D. This not only includes AmigaOS but MorphOS and AROS ports as well. DiscreetFX still has the rights to non-Amiga ports at this time.

This next item I have mentioned before for an earlier version. AmiKitReal is now at version 8.0

and it is still a free download. This is for those of us still with an Amiga or emulation. This is not to be confused with AmiKit8 which is made to run on multiple platforms. AmiKitReal is based on AmiKit8 but it's an unofficial port of it. One of the bigger additions to this version is that MUI4 is used although you can revert to 3.8 if you need. EasyNet Pro is also now available. If you have the original you can update for a lower price. The cost is about \$31.33 through Amikit. It supports quite a few SANA-II network devices. I may end up getting it if I can't get Miami to use the USB/Ethernet device I'm going to get my A1200. If you have the Amistore app you can download it, however without this you will need to wait for them to ship a CD with it.

In the MorphOS camp we have a beginning feature for Calimero 0.4: A Powerpoint (.ppt) loader. This is still in development but they seem to be making quite a few updates rather quickly for it. I'm still reading up on a few other items such as a new item called Romboot 44.4. It would seem to just be a new module but I'm unclear as to what exactly it is as they only point to a Youtube video that shows a different kickstart screen. I'll share what I can find out later on it.

Another year has passed. The group is still going but does seem smaller then ever. I've likely got more OSs in my home than any would have believed of this "Amiga Snob." The A1200 with Amiga 3.9, Pegasos II with MorphOS 3.7 an old A2000 even with AmigaOS 2.0 I think... There is the Win 7 Pro 64 Monster (But even that has Amiga Forever and soon AmiKit8 if I can figure it out. 2 MacMini G4s I may try selling soon and a Dual G5 Powermac. Once I get MorphOS to the Dual G5 Powermac, I will be happier still but that will take time because of funding for some time, sadly. While I have Windoze and older MacOS the Pegasos II and A1200 are still dear. The Pegasos II is still my primary system and I'm still working on the A1200 to improve it as well. I'll have a SATA drive on the Pegasos II soon and a larger IDE on the Amiga as well (I might be looking into a way to add SATA to the A1200 as well) so space will not be an issue anymore. I even found 128M SIMMs that I could use to raise the RAM to 256M on her as well....While I and many of us use other platforms, it's good to know there are those that still care for this elegant and lovely system. I constantly get bashed for this mode of thinking. Many of even our group say that things are dead, but as long as my Amigas are

working and useful Amiga isn't dead. Any that say it's fallen behind haven't been looking either.

Take care, stay warm and be safe.

...Michael D. Barclay
from the AmiTech Gazette,
December 2014

Editor's Note

My apologies for the lack of a December newsletter. I was in the midst of a move into a new home and it was quite some time before I was even able to get my computer up and running again. The move took place the week of Thanksgiving (we had a frozen pizza for dinner that day in lieu of our normal Thanksgiving turkey). Things still aren't totally settled, but they are getting there... slowly but surely. Things like this seem to take a lot longer now than they did in my younger days.

Please note the new mailing address for the club as indicated below.

Best wishes to all for the new year.

...Bill Raecke

January Calendar

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

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

January 26 — Newsletter Deadline — 8:00 AM

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