



MCCC NEWS



Fort Worth

February 2016

Dallas

Amiga Music

AmigaVibes released another podcast of Amiga produced music on January 17, 2016. Below are the track names and my reviews.

Podcast 36 - Alchimie 0xb - Jayblood
Duration: 26'59

Created between November 13 to 15 in the digital recreation area with the Alchemy 0xb in Tain l'Hermitage in the Drome.

Here is a mix of music in the musicdisk Jayblood realized in the coding party.

Here is the tracklist of this podcast:

- AmigaVibes Jingle (0'26)
- Amphetamines (2'30)
A chiptune track. Energetic. Electronica.
- Ballade in Nantes (3'04)
Starts at 2:52. This is more the new age type of music I like. A good track to drive to at night.
- Nightmare (3'06)
Starts at 5:57 - This is another new age type with more bass beats to it.
- Night flight (2'35)
Starts at 9:02. This reminds me of the music you would hear in 80's sci-fi shows that depicted what future music would be. :D A bit of a Daft Punk feel.
- Again naked as a glass (7'38)
Starts at 11:35. A steady meditative piece.
- Patience (3'59)
Starts at 19:12. If you have the "patience" to get through the intro this one spins up to an eerie musical piece with a beat.
- Moon theme (3'57)
Starts at 23:01. As you might expect, a tune that seems to ponder the moon floating in the sky.

So my personal favorites this go-around would be Ballade in Nantes and Night Flight, but who knows, some of these other ones might be more your speed.

...Enjoy!! Greg Goodwin aka "Doctor Clu"

Direct Download:

<http://www.amigavibes.org/index.php/download/category/2-podcast-musicaux?download=43:Podcast%2036-Alchimie%200xb-jayblood.mp3&start=20>

Amiga Source Code Leak

There have been a handful of developments in the Amiga-and-related world, but there are a couple I'd like to focus upon this time. One, there is a public repository for source code of the Odyssey Web Browser, AKA OWB. OWB is a Webkit-based browser with versions semi-separately developed for most Amiga family platforms, the MorphOS version being one of the most developed. Having source code shared and centralized will hopefully boost development across all versions, and maybe boost the Amiga/Morph/AROS systems' web browsing powers in general.

In a separate but related bit of news, source code for the classic Amiga OS (version 3.1) was leaked, presumably illegally, to file sharing and torrent sources. Hyperion went on record that their OS4 is safely un-leaked. It would seem Cloanto, who holds a pretty-much exclusive license on the classic OS versions, would be the most directly affected, though there's also the possibility that someone unscrupulous could use the code to create a "Trojan" version of

the OS which could hide malware for Amiga systems or even another system running that Amiga OS under emulation. This hasn't been the first leak of this type, and likely won't be the last. The Amiga OS, classic or otherwise, has limited power to make money nowadays, so I doubt this will have much of an effect on the market either way. Even Cloanto probably sells more Amiga Forever packages on the convenience of having emulator, Amiga OS, and software configured together than any exclusivity.

Perhaps it's time for those who control the intellectual property that is the classic Amiga OS to just "own" this leak and officially release the source code publicly. As I see it, the potential benefits outweigh the downsides. For example, since the source code is said to include that of the Amiga Kickstart ROM, bug fixes and enhancements could be added to the Kickstart and a new ROM could be created, like would normally be applied with software patches, or like having the 3.5 or 3.9 system in ROM from the start. This may not be so appealing to those who would have to open their old systems and swap out a chip, but it could be a boon to those who develop "new classic" systems in hardware or emulation. Something akin to an Amiga 500 or 1200 which can use or boot from new terabyte-size hard drives or USB devices or SD cards without requiring extra software drivers could be quite appealing. Perhaps it could even go so far as to use all new CPUs or graphics hardware, which could still be classic-compatible and maybe even run metal-banging old hardware, as the abstraction layer is part of a low level in Kickstart. I'm sure someone with experience will tell me why that's either very difficult or totally impossible, but you might never know for sure until you try. Developments in "new old"

Amiga Kickstarts and operating systems could be shared in the community, and build upon one another to make an ultimate classic OS, though it may blur the lines between the 3.X classic Amiga systems and “next gen” ones such as OS4, MorphOS, or AROS. If developments in one arena can go to enhance another, it can’t be all bad though.

I strongly advocate the release of source code for any Amiga software which might otherwise be abandoned—not just operating systems, but productivity applications and games too. Some apps, such as Aladdin 4D and Personal Paint, have been “bought out” for future development for OS4 and others, which is a start, but we could use more, whether it be commercial development or releasing the source code for free public development. It would be nice to see Deluxe Paint or Brilliance or Moviesetter or Photogenics brought up to modern standards, running on newer hardware. Some software has moved on to other platforms like Windows and Mac and continue there, so there is little incentive to release sources, but I’d still be tickled to see sources for the old Amiga versions of TV Paint, Cinema 4D, or the venerable Lightwave 3D to continue life in public hands. I wouldn’t expect it to cause any real competition or issues for the Windows software with an extra decade or two of updates under its belt. Mostly it’s just selfishness. I’d like to see and use the software I already enjoy, but with more features or power afforded by new hardware and ideas. Regardless, I’m pretty sure I’m not the only one.

...Eric Schwartz
From the AmiTech Gazette,
January 2016

Broadband Definition Too Fast?

Last year the FCC had us all rejoicing when it upped the minimum requirements for broadband from 4Mbps to 25Mbps. It means that many Internet

service providers can no longer classify their service as broadband. So while it didn’t instantly improve speeds, it did shame ISPs and cost them in tax breaks and grants that come with this classification.

What’s good for us isn’t good for telecoms and their puppy dogs in congress. While we all high-fived each other and talked about how we were one step closer to competing with the South Koreans in how many K-dramas we could stream at once, six United States Senators looked at the FCC announcement and they said NOPE. Then they waited a few months before getting together to pen a letter to the FCC.

The Senators?

Steve Daines (R-MT)
Roger Wicker (R-MS)
Roy Blunt (R-MO)
Deb Fischer (R-NE)
Ron Johnson (R-WI)
Cory Gardner (R-CO)

These six are smart men. Real smart. They went to college and have degrees and they know how much Internet an average household needs. It ain’t the 25Mbps Tom Wheeler, Chairman of the FCC, announced. That’s too fast! Too much speed.

“We are concerned that this arbitrary 25/3 Mbps benchmark fails to accurately capture what most Americans consider broadband,” they said in their letter.

Well yes. Less than 1 in 4 Americans—24.3 percent to be exact—have access to speeds higher than 15Mbps. Bully for them, but that means that more than 75 percent of the population hasn’t even come close to experiencing broadband speeds. Of course they’re not going to define 25Mbps as broadband. That’s like expecting a peasant in Elizabethan England to define clean as “not wreaking of excrement and general filth.”

In their letter, sent to Tom Wheeler and the FCC on January 21, 2016, the senators note that “we are aware of few applications that require download speeds of 25 Mbps.”

“Netflix, for examples, recommends a download speed of 5 Mbps to receive high-definition streaming video, and Amazon recommends a speed of 3.5 Mbps.” This is very true. They do recommend those speeds. For one stream. In one home. If three different people live in a home and watch three different shows? That’s 15Mbps and 10.5Mbps needed respectively.

If those same people want to enjoy entertainment on their new 4K TV—because that is almost exclusively the kind of television currently available for purchase. They will need 25Mbps for a single stream.

But hey, these Senators are just looking out for you. They know what’s best because they can find the lowest speed requirement on the Netflix site.

And they know what’s best for all you folks living in the bumtits of nowhere. Way back in 2010 the FCC launched a new program called the Connect America Fund. This was designed to help improve speeds in rural America. At the time companies could receive subsidies if they provided speeds of 4Mbps.

This was upped in 2014 to 10Mbps after a little battle with ISPs. They were peeved about the new requirement. It was not, officially, upped to 25Mbps in 2015 when Wheeler announced the new definition for broadband.

The senators point this out, because “we would remind you that the FCC is tasked with implementing policies and procedures that advance universal service—ensuring all Americans have access to comparable service at comparable rates.”

They don’t actually want anything. Except to complain about the discrepancy and say that it’s not fair. Also they stamp their feet a lot. But, you know, in letter form.

These Senators are incredibly short sighted and it’s clear that they haven’t done any research or read any periodicals or spoken to any experts beyond the lobbyists begging them to write this letter in the first place. Their letter suggests that they operate in a vacuum

where Netflix isn't nearly 40-percent of all Internet traffic and 4K televisions aren't rapidly increasing their market-share and their own constituents aren't clamoring for better access to the Internet.

Particularly egregious is that these senators are all from relatively rural states where the Internet, when available, is slow and expensive and competition between ISPs is virtually non-existent. There are 3 millions residents of Mississippi and only 34-percent of those residents have Internet speeds of 10Mbps or higher. But sure senators, the real problem is Tom Wheeler trying to hold the ISPs to some kind of reasonable standards.

Read the senators' entire letter here: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/296712134/Republican-Letter-to-FCC-Concerning-Broadband>. Bonus points if you can see where they just copy and pasted sentences from ISP lobbyists.

...<http://gizmodo.com/six-ignorant-senators-want-to-slow-down-high-speed-inte-1755181779>

Amiga Developments This Month

Hello again. Welcome back to my ramblings of things. I hope you all had a good Western New Year. Between Christmahanakwanza and The western New Year it would seem that somebody "leaked" the source code of AmigaOS 3.1 and additional content dating back to

1994. Nothing that was leaked effects AmigaOS 4, but there are many speculating this is going to hurt Hyperion. I don't exactly see why it would. I guess we'll have to see. Hyperion is investigating it and I would suspect Cloanto might be too as the current owners. Oddly, while torrents would be near impossible to kill, this can still be found on legit code sites like GitHub.com. In honesty the whole thing seems a bit staged in some ways.

For the Programmers in AmigaOS 4 there is a new version of StormC5ED. This is a code editor for the new Amigas only it seems. Most of the support in it seems to be for C/C++. Sadly I don't think I can use that as C/C++ is just whacked to me. That said there is another tool out, Portable r6 beta. This is a recreation of the AmigaE programming language. There have been improvements made in it though. It's supposed to work on MorphOS, AROS, and OS4. You could use it on an AmigaOS 3.x system but it would have to be a very powerful one to handle compiling. While earlier versions of this were more for existing AmigaE programmers, this one is hoping to attract new users to it. To use this you need a working copy of GCC for compiling to an executable. From what I can find the way this one works is it translates your AmigaE into C++. I never learned AmigaE but I have to say this might be interesting.

Now then, something I am interested in is that MUI version 4.0-2015R4 for AmigaOS4/PPC and AmigaOS3/m68k has come out. The site is not the original, but has his permission to distribute it. As always you don't get full functionality for it unless you buy a key,

and that is from the original authors' homepage <http://www.sasg.com/> Registration uses PayPal. If you already have the old 3.8 key you're already set. Remember me mentioning GitHub? Well you can also find the new Odyssey Web Browser Public Source Code Repository. Since it is public anybody can now work on OWB. Whether this is good or bad depends on how they handle it I suppose. For those interested you can find this at: <https://github.com/deadwood-pl/OdysseyWebBrowser>. One of the things you can find is the latest source code which is 1.25. MorphOS 3.9 shipped with 1.23. Also available for Morphos: SimpleMail v0.42. Supposedly it will also work with the Gmail/Google IMAP4 servers. To do this one has to activate the "less secure Option" in Gmail. I know some folks prefer this one but I think I'm going to stick to YAM.

Another item for MorphOS: OnyxSoft celebrated their 20th revolution about the vile evil Daystar this year. As a Christmahanakwanza gift for their supporters they have given us RecentFiles.sbar v1.0. It's a small screenbar module that will notify you about new files for MorphOS. It tells you recent changes from MorphOS Files Portal as well as MorphOS releases from the MorphOS Team.

A very busy end and start to the years. This is the kind of busy I like though. Here is to hoping that this year is a good one for us all.

...Michael D. Barclay
From the AmiTech Gazette
January 2016

February Calendar

February 1 — Amiga-By-The-Loop Chapter
7:00 PM — Grand Prairie Airport
3116 S. Great Southwest Parkway, Grand Prairie

February 1 — Board of Director's Meeting
Approximately 9:00 PM — Location TBD

February 27 — Newsletter Deadline — 8:00 AM

MCCC 2507 Tamaron Cove Cedar Hill, Texas 75104
<http://www.amigamccc.org>