

NATIONAL

OS9

NEWSLETTER

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SEPTEMBER 1988

NATIONAL OS9 USER GROUP NEWSLETTER

EDITOR : Gordon Bentzen

HELPERS : Bob Devries and Don Berrie

SUPPORT : Brisbane OS9 Level 2 Users Group.

Well here we are again, the time sure does pass quickly when you are having fun. It seems that we only just get to complete one newsletter and it's time to start the next. This September edition is the third following our decision to revive the National OS-9 User Group and we do hope to keep making improvements as we go along. We mailed out some 70 copies of our July edition and about 60 copies of the August edition in the hope that these would encourage a membership of at least 20. The response, I am pleased to say, has resulted in a current membership of 38 with a few others who have contacted us and indicated their intention to subscribe. A current list of members is included in this edition for your information. Perhaps this list includes an OS-9 enthusiast in your area of whom you were not aware.

The August editorial stated that we would include ads of a non-commercial type in these pages on a no charge basis, and there has been some response to this invitation. To clarify our policy a little, I guess what we should say is that we will not include PAID ads in these pages. We are quite happy to include ads or other material which the editor feels will promote the use of OS-9 and provide information to existing OS-9 users. There is no intent to make this newsletter or the National OS9 User Group a profit making concern. The subscription of \$18.00 per year covers the cost of production and mailing of twelve issues. As there is no other income we are not able to afford any other expenses, so please bear this in mind when you request material such as copies of our public domain disks. Likewise, we are not in a position to make any payments for material provided for inclusion in this newsletter or for the public domain library.

Library Disks. We do have a small but growing library of public domain disks which was described in the August editorial. These are available to financial members of the National OS9 User Group at a copy cost of \$2.00 per disk. With the above paragraph in mind, why a \$2 copy charge? The logic is this - the copy charge levied should allow us to meet the costs of updating and increasing the library. Such costs would include postage, disk media and the like. So if you are able to send in public domain disks for inclusion in the library and would like your disks returned by post, we expect that the National OS9 group will be able to meet such costs. Please advise us if this is the case. To obtain copies of our library disks please send your formatted 5.25" disks together with \$2 for each copy and return postage stamps. Of course tell us which disk you want a copy of and what OS9 format you are using. Our library disks are in CoCo OS9 80 track D.S. 5.25" format which we can transfer to any common 5.25 format and we believe any common OS9 format. Sorry, we can not handle 3.5" disks due to the lack only of a 3.5" drive.

September Edition :-

We do have a few interesting inclusions for this issue thanks to a few members who have already submitted material. A software review by GEORGE FRANCIS will interest you if you have been considering the purchase of Tandy's MULTI-VUE for the CoCo3. George has also included a "letter to the Editor" which is included in this issue. Many thanks George, for these submissions.

Sculptor We have some very interesting information for Sculptor users and also for those who may be considering the purchase of this fourth generation language with integral database. Some promotional material has been provided by MPD Australia Pty Ltd through their marketing director BRAD McMASTER. Brad, by the way is now a member of the National OS9 User Group and is keen to help out with any Sculptor application problems.

CC1_Patch This you can use to patch the Microware 'C' compiler to use RMA and RLINK from Tandy's OS9 development System. This patch has been submitted by our own BOB DEVRIES. 'C' fans using a CoCo3 will find this useful.

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IconEditor The icon editor Basic09 programme by DON BERRIE included in last month's newsletter has created some interest, and it seems some problems. Don has received a couple of calls from members who have experienced difficulty in getting it to run. Don has included in this issue some further instructions which should prove to be very valuable if you are having trouble too.

We do hope that you find this edition to be useful and/or interesting in some way, and if so, it is only through the efforts of those members who have taken the time to pass on the results of their hard work.

In all newsletters that one reads, the common cry is for articles and submission material, well this one is no different in that regard. So come on please help us make this newsletter something worth reading, and something that can provide us all with a bit more knowledge and enjoyment from OS9. Remember that you don't have to be an expert in OS9 to make a worthwhile contribution.

Gordon.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Gordon,

First of all I will introduce myself, I have been interested in family computing since buying my first TANDY CoCo when they were first introduced in Australia, and became part of the late Greg Wilson RAINBOW network, along with Geoff Spowart forming the first computer user group East of Melbourne, called the LATROBE VALLEY TANDY COLOUR COMPUTER USER GROUP (Valley CoConuts).

The reason I got into computing was that I wanted to interface a computer with my HAM Radio equipment to keep up with high technology; computer graphics; music; and family computing as required. I've since been successful using RTTY and WEFAX (weather patterns) using my CoCo in conjunction with my Amateur Radio Station VK3HV.

Started off with cassettes and LPVII Printer, then one night our user group members along with the Geelong COLOR COMPUTER CLUB upgraded our CoCo's to 64k, then a year later purchased TANDY DRIVE 0/1, a DMP400 printer, etc.

When OS-9 was released by TANDY I purchased the first version together with Basic09, and like many others found the manuals supplied and to use OS-9 very difficult, even with my experience gained up to that stage. This prompted me to run an OS-9 class in a separate room at our monthly User Group meeting at TRARALGON, which I based on 'The complete Rainbow Guide to OS-9', much easier to follow with good examples.

A year and a half ago, in the Valley, our area contacts decided to divide our group up into four, TRARALGON, MORWELL, MOE and the OS-9 groups, each meeting on a different Tuesday evening and venue during a month.

At the OS-9 meets which are either held at my place or at Glen Azlin's in TRARALGON I spoke about the National OS-9 Users group and its Newsletter, and handed out application forms to join. Some members did. Others may soon. Actually I subscribed to the original Newsletters and OS9-User-Group of Australia 1984 run by Kevin Holmes and Bob Thompson. Then in October 1985 Kevin's group was reorganised, restructured, and amalgamated with the New South Wales OS9 User group under Graeme Nichols and assisted by Kevin. This new grouping changed its name to the NATIONAL OS9 User Group in April 1986.

Our Latrobe Valley OS-9 group members who did subscribe to the NEWSLETTER found the contents very helpful especially the tutorials and OS-9 Hints and Tips, etc

I have a WordPak I which I used with OS-9 giving me true upper and lowercase and 80 columns. I purchased a CoCo3 from Bob Parkinson when they were released, and brought OS-9 Ver.2 Level 2 from Tandy which gives me 80 columns and more, so if someone wants to buy my PBJ WordPak I, it is going cheap, or for exchange? My CoCo3 is still 128k as the Tandy upgrade is too expensive for me.

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Another interest I have is learning JAPANESE (Written and Spoken), and I purchased A Japanese OS-9 handbook when I was over there in 1984, OS-9 in a big way over there, see my article in the NEWSLETTER for September 1987. I also have a HITACHI model S1/10 computer using a 6809, but the OS-9 card is far too costly to buy, can anyone help me in this area, also I'm looking for a KANJI ROM chip/card to suit?

In the last edition of the NEWSLETTER, Dec. 1987 I agree with Graeme's Editorial personally. I am still persevering with OS-9 both Level 1 and 2, and have reviewed Multi-View (see this review in this edition of the NEWSLETTER). During December I sold my MSX computer and purchased a 1 Meg AMIGA computer and am now waiting for the porting of OS-9/68.

Our Latrobe Valley Group and myself are very pleased that Gordon Bentzen has been able to carry on the NATIONAL OS9 USER GROUP and its Newsletter with the support of Brisbane Group. Our group will support the team's effort both in INPUT and Subscriptions, etc. Please find attached the Review and my Application Form

George Francis

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Patch for Microware 'C' Compiler.

Here is a couple of files you can use to patch the Microware 'C' compiler so that it will use the new RMA Relocatable Macro Assembler and RLINK the new linker from Tandy's OS9 development System. The actual patches came to me from Don Berrie, and as such work fine, but I felt that it would be easier to write a script file so that those not so familiar with the OS9 modpatch utility can use it also. A couple of points should be addressed first though.

Firstly, the following modules should be in memory or in the execution directory.

- Echo
- Load
- ModPatch
- Save
- Attr
- Unlink

Secondly, both the patch files must reside on the same disk as the C compiler and the working directory must be changed to it. For example, if your C disk is in /D1 then type 'chd /d1' and then type the name of the first patch file which is ccl_patch. You can use Edit to type in both listings.

```
echo loading ccl
load ccl
echo patching...
modpatch -s <ccl_cc2
echo saving new cc2
save ../cmds/cc2 cc2
echo changing attributes...
attr ../cmds/cc2 e pe -a
echo ...and unlinking module.
unlink cc2
echo finished
```

That was the first file. You will notice that in line 4 the modpatch utility is called with input redirected from the file called ccl_cc2.

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This second file is as follows:-

```
l ccl
c 000f b1 b2
c 0cd1 31 32
c 0cdd 0d 20
c 0d0f 0d 20
c 0d23 30 78
c 0d24 30 78
c 0eb1 63 20
c 0eb2 2e 20
c 0eb3 61 72
c 0eb4 73 6d
c 0eb5 6d 61
c 0eb9 43 52
c 0eba 2e 4d
c 0ebc 53 20
c 0ebd 4d 20
c 0ed3 63 20
c 0ed4 2e 72
c 0edc 43 52
c 0edd 2e 4c
c 0ede 4c 49
c 0edf 49 4e
c 0ee0 4e 4b
c 0ee1 4b 20
v
```

The complete patch will work in any drive so long as all the programmes necessary are either already loaded or in the execution directory. Note also that the original CC1 is not interfered with and a new file CC2 is produced! Of course, you must now have the new RMA and RLINK in the execution directory of your C disk to use the new CC2.

My thanks to Don Berrie for the code for this one.

Regards,
Rob Devries.

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NEW GRAPHICAL INTERFACE FOR YOUR CoCo3.
by George Francis.
typed in by John Oxley.

Your CoCo3 can now sport a friendly mouse driven graphic interface just like its big brothers; it's called MULTI-VUE and is put on the market only this year by Tandy.

What do we mean by a graphical interface? There are two user interfaces employed on micro computers, the first is the command-driven type using the prompt, and you as a user by now are well used to typing in commands in this manner. The newer one is called the Icon-driven, graphical interface.

This "Xerox/Mac" user style graphical interface, enabling a working environment using windows, icons, mouse and pointers called WIMP (for short) includes "pull-down menus, gadgets, requesters, alerts, and may include desktop items such as a calender, calculator and a clock etc., and may provide preference menus which allow you to change your printer settings, monitor/screen setup file/disk maintenance etc.

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What is MULTI-VUE?

You have seen this sort of stuff before on your CoCo's because CoCoMax and Deskmate uses some or most of these features.

Multi-Vue also allows the user to open several windows at once and several programs can share the CoCo's screen at the same time - this is called true multi-tasking. Even most of the 'bigger' computers will not multi-task at this stage. This is due to the Tandy CoCo's OS9 disk operating system.

Multi-vue is a part of the three part package of OS9 level 2 system sold by Tandy especially for their COCO 128k and 512k (upgraded) computers. The other two parts are the Level Two operating system itself (released late last year) which is required before Multi-vue can be used; and a development package (now just being released in Australia) which can be used by programmers and the more experienced users who program in assembly language.

What is the OS9?

OS9 is a disk operating system designed by Microware in conjunction with Motorola who designed the 6809 cpu. It was first introduced some five years ago and was used on the CoCo 1 and 2's and was called level 1. To use the extra memory on the CoCo 3, level 2 OS9 was introduced. Incidentally, the OS9 Level 1 and Level 2 has already proved to be an excellent operating system for the CoCo's and also is run on other 6809 computers like the Gimex, Hitachi SI's, Fujitsu's and even the Apple using a 6809 co-processor board (as used by myself (George) last year and by one of our friends (David) in Canberra). OS9 is also slowly becoming popular on the newer 68000.

OS9 is modelled after the much older multi-user/multi-tasking system called Unix made popular by the American College usage. Unix is also used by the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education at Churchill. OS9 has tree-like heirarchical directories and sub-directories similar to Unix and MS-DOS, and has very flexible I/O capabilities, which makes it very powerful, but because of these features it can seem complicated and confusing, especially to the beginner and first time user. So much so that the beginner puts the package up on the TOO-Hard shelf after his first (few?) play(s).

This is where the Multi-Vue package comes into play,(excuse pun) which in theory should make using OS9 operating system child's play.

What is Multi-Vue?

The package consists of a 100 page manual in a three ring binder, which includes a flippie (double-sided flap-jack) and a pretty little software registration card which may either decorate your wall or someone else's here in Australia.

The version given to us by the manager of the Tandy store at Mid-Valley (Morwell) was Version 01.00.00 (Cat. No. 263033.) As stated above, Multi-Vue is a Graphical Interface meaning the screen displays Icons (small pictures) which you roll over with a pointer controlled by a mouse or joystick. This makes it so simple to select programs or disk drives etc, together with pull-down menus that are also pointed to, makes operating nearly fool-proof.

This concept has been around for some time and was first used on the main frame terminals. The mouse itself was invented by Douglas Engelbart of San Jose, California who was a senior scientist, one of the Hypertext (word knowledge) gurus. As we all agree, it has made the personal computer far more useful than without the mouse.

Dan Ingalls of Xerox and a team of researchers were the first to use Graphical interfaces on the mini and maxi (main-frame) computers, before Apple's Steve Woznick and Steve Jobs used it for the first time on their ill-fated Lisa personal computer, and again on their successful Apple Macintosh computer series.

This graphical or WIMP environment makes computing fun. As we said above, you just move the mouse around on your desktop to point to any item or box on the screen to select or literally move the icon or display around the screen.

Similar approaches to the graphical interface environment are used by both personal computers and software companies alike. Companies who followed the original theme of Xerox, are Apollo, Sun, the MacIntosh 'Finder', Digital Research's 'GEM' initially available for the IBM PC's, and more recently part of the supplied system on the Amstrad range of computers, and the Atari ST series, and even the Commodore 64 has a cut down version called 'GEO'. Perhaps the most recent (prior to Tandy's Multi-Vue release) effective implementation was the Amiga Workbench 'Intuition' designed by a Mr. R.J. Mical, used on the Commodore Amiga series of home computer. Intuition is a very powerful windowing environment, and will take some "tossing".

Time will tell if Tandy's Multi-Vue will match it or be better and if as popular. However we believe Tandy has taken the right step in the right direction making a standard graphical interface for OS9, thus making it easy to use for many CoCo 3 users.

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In the Wimp system, gadgets are important as they allow overlapping windows, able to select front or back windows or planes and can be used to resize windows, and even change their position on the screen. Also you can simply close a screen by pointing to the upper left-hand close box and click (away) at the mouse button. As mentioned, pull down menu's make life easy, showing the state that the program is in. Not all items on a menu may be available at all times, the ones shown in bold lettering work and the ones ghosted don't work, (even if selected.) Simple windows are a convenient and vital part of this flexible style of screen display, using icons comparing it to folders in a file (on disk or memory); or papers on a desk, even a rubbish tin to put the old dead files in etc. (after you killed them.) Windows also allow many simultaneous displays on the same screen.

To manage these multiple windows, the G SHELL (the actual Multi-vue program) provides various gadgets as outlined above.

In a mutli-tasking computers such as the COCO 3 and the Amiga series, allow multiple windows and screens, each running a separate program (subject to RAM available) like tiny independent video monitors or separate monitors/terminals.

How to get Multi-Vue up and running? The manual provided is one of the best user manuals Tandy has so far produced and is reasonably easy to follow allowing you to get Multi-Vue up and running. You must have the OS9 level two system and its config disks to enable you to place a bootable Multi-Vue on two formatted disks, by religiously following the directions in the manual, (both single and double disk drive owners are catered for.)

Unfortunately, for Australian users, Multi-Vue comes set up for the American Date and Time system (ie. 60 Hertz) so it hurts losing time in a big way (like most other Tandy OS9 software), this of course could be changed by experienced OS9 Hackers. If your OS9 system disk is configured for 50 hz, this should overcome this short-coming but I was concerned that the manual states "you SHOULD NOT use a customized system disk to create BuildMV", so as the package was only on loan I followed the directions correctly, and had to put up with the depreciating time. So, this was the first problem that we came across. The next one was the using of the graphical interface menu to format a blank disk in /d1 (drive 1) or /d0 (drive 0), both actions failed with a process error 207. Most modern computers and their operating systems hardly use format or dskini (only for making data disks) and most disk copy supplied utilities usually format as they copy the disk, for example Apple II's Dos 3.3 and ProDOS, Amiga-DOS and PC/MS-DOS. But OS9 does not allow this.

How Good is Multi-Vue?

After many hours of playing over a period of several days, our experience with this package and having used other graphical interfaces we are convinced that this program will make OS9 very popular on the CoCo 3's as many have found using the OS9 command driven interface just over-whelming and difficult. I think that it resembles the screen display somewhat like GEM, clean and simple, but not quite as impressive as the Amiga "Intuition", as it lacks some of the Amiga's functions. Multi-Vue provides a desktop function as well. Another problem I found is that it boots up in the 40 column mode and would require a fix to the G Shell to make it default to 80 columns. I must stress this program can only be used on the Tandy CoCo 3, and requires at least one disk drive, and the purchase of the OS9 Level 2 System Package.

Conclusion .

Tandy has given this part of the Trilogy OS9 system package a lot of thought and planning, even though it has several bugs as I (George) and others have found out. Tandy has made Multi-Vue as a STANDARD Interface, meaning any future programs if they follow the Microware/Tandy guidelines of this new standard then their programs will run under Multi-Vue using OS9 with no problems. This will make each program execute and have the same feel to one another, and used in the same manner, like they do on the Macintosh and Amigas. Multi-Vue will not be everyone's cup of tea. It is expected, Software companies will follow this standard for future Tandy Color Computer programs. But to be successful, considering InterTan's very late release of a graphical interface, they will have to get their act together in the pricing of this package, like the Apple and the Amiga, it should be supplied free with each computer and disk drive sold, and the total package price kept under a total of \$A999, which its competition is selling for.

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The following is a print out of a couple of the DOC files taken from the Sculptor public domain disks sent to us by Brad McMaster of MPD. I think that you will find these files to be self explanatory and are presented here only to give some idea of the information to be expected from the MPD public domain disks. The two 35 track single sided disks are now in the User Group Library and will be available on the same basis as other public domain material held. Thank you Brad, for this contribution.

SCULPTOR EXAMPLE APPLICATION (public domain)

MPD is pleased to make available a working example Sculptor application complete with menus, source code, and test data.

You are encouraged to copy it to your hard disk, run it, examine its source code and menus in detail, and use it as a basis for learning and for developing applications. You may use or copy any part of the example, and you may provide copies of it (preferably unmodified) to other people, but not for profit.

While based on a simple customer master file and mailing list structure, the application contains examples of many simple, compact, but highly useful techniques and tricks to unleash the full power of Sculptor, including:

good database management practices, multiple indexing, sequencing and sorting, scrolling screens with detail explosion, menu styles, report writing, ascii file import/export.

The example application is the result of considerable accumulated Sculptor software development experience, is based on well-tested programming structures and techniques, and is constantly being improved. MPD believes that it is, like Sculptor itself, as close to being bug-free as is possible, but naturally cannot accept responsibility for any consequences of its use.

These Sculptor examples have been created and deposited in | Version 12 .
the public domain for the benefit of Sculptor developers | 25 Mar, 1988 .
by Brad McMaster (Marketing Director) |
of MPD Australia Pty Ltd, distributors of SCULPTOR 4GL+database .
GPO Box 2094, Sydney 2001 * portable .
New South Wales, AUSTRALIA * fast .
phone +61 2 436-0422, fax +61 2 439-2157 * multi-user .

You may freely use and give away this application, preferably unmodified. .
If you do change it, please be careful to enhance and not deteriorate it ! .
Do print out and read all the source code - it contains documentation. .
THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING SCULPTOR !

TO INSTALL: (a) Create a new directory on your hard disk, e.g. "example"
(b) Make this your new current directory.
(c) Copy all the files over from this diskette.
(d) Ensure that you have a PATH to Sculptor if necessary.

To EXECUTE, enter the command: menu example

When running this application for the first time, choose the COMPILE option in the main menu before before choosing any other menu options.

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(Contact Brad McMaster, and tell him
that you are a member of the
NATIONAL 059 USER GROUP)

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..For those examining this example Sculptor application without
..get having purchased Sculptor to run it on, the following
..documentation is provided to help you find your way around.

Descriptors for mst.d

KEY FIELDS

1:mst_id,Record Id,i4,"#,###,###"

DATA FIELDS

2:mst_business,Business Name,a36,

3:mst_surname,Surname,a24,

4:mst_othersname,Other Names,a12,

5:mst_initials,Initials,a2,u

6:mst_address1,Address Line 1,a30,

7:mst_address2,Address Line 2,a30,

8:mst_locality,Locality,a30,u

9:mst_state,State,a3,u

10:mst_postcode,Postcode,a4,u

Descriptors for xna.d

KEY FIELDS

1:xna_surname,Family Name,a24,u+

2:xna_othersname,Other Names,a12,u+

3:xna_id,Master Record Unique Id,i4,"#,###,###"

..

..Screen layout for menu1.f

..

EXAMPLE OF MENU WRITTEN IN SAGE Date []

CUSTOMER MASTER FILE EXAMPLES

MISCELLANEOUS EXAMPLES

- =====
- 11 - Scroll Customer Names
 - 12 - Scroll Cust. Bus. Names
 - 13 - Scroll Names View Details
 - 14 - Master File Update 1(1 by 1)
 - 15 - Master File Update 2(1 by 1)
 - 16 - File Integrity Check

- =====
- 21 - String Manipulation Examples
 - 22 - Sculptor Import/Export
-
- 00 - Exit from menu

Which option do you require? []

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OS9 NATIONAL USER GROUP -- FINANCIAL MEMBERS as at 08/31/88 mm/dd/yy Expiry

AMBROSI	JULES	172 OGILVIE STREET	ESSENDON	VIC 3040	31/08/89
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BISSSELING	FRED	P.O. BOX 5477	BORKO N.C.D. PAPUA NEW GUINEA		31/08/89
BRODIE	MICHAEL	P.O. BOX 109	HUNTINGSDALE.	VIC 3166	31/08/89
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McKAY	ROSS	24 WILKINSON AVE.	KINGSLANGLEY	NSW 2147	31/08/89
McLINTOCK	GEORGE	7 LOGAN STREET	NARRABUNDAH	ACT 2604	31/08/89
McMASTER	BRAD	119 WILLOUGHBY ROAD	CROWS NEST	NSW 2065	31/08/89
OBLAK	GERD	58 ELIZABETH PARADE	LANE COVE	NSW 2066	31/08/90
O'DONNELL	BILL	47/2 FRANCIS STREET	ARTARMON.	NSW 2064	31/08/90
OOSTERBEEK	ROBIN	P.O. BOX 1123	DANDENONG	VIC 3175	31/08/89
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SPOTSWOOD	GARY	10 DOUCH STREET	WILLIAMSTOWN.	VIC 3016	31/08/89
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USHER	JOHN	47 POLARIS AVE.	KINGSTON	QLD 4114	31/08/89
WHITE	GREG	2/23 LOWER PLENTY RD	ROSANNA.	VIC 3084	31/08/89
WRIGHT	SEAN	8 SWORDFISH AVENUE,	RABY.	NSW 2566	31/08/89

Total Members : 38

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5. PRICE INCLUDES INSTALLATION (BRISBANE)
6. FULLY TESTED AND VERIFIED.

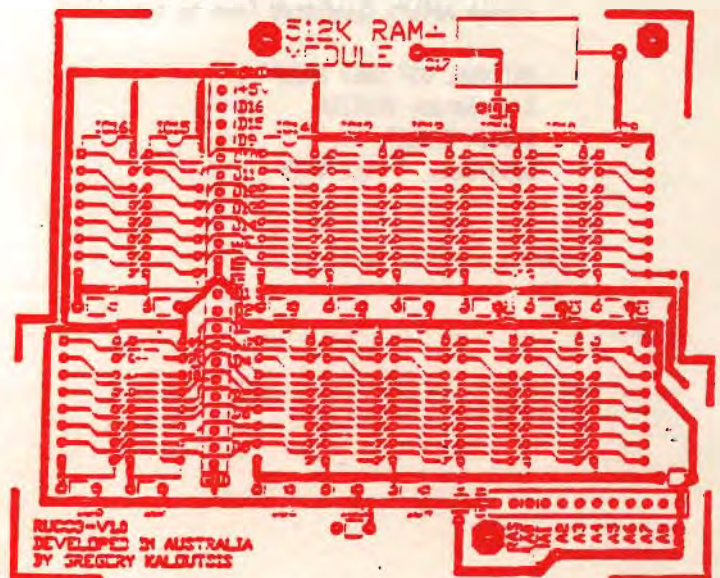
Available From :-

Nick Marentes

61 Cremin Street.

Upper Mt.Gravatt QLD 4122

Phone 87 343 2452 6pm - 8pm EST. Ask for Nick.



RUCO-VLS
DEVELOPED IN AUSTRALIA
BY GREGORY KALOUTZIS

NATIONAL OS9 USER GROUP NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL OS9 USER GROUP APPLICATION FORM

Surname : _____ First Name : _____ Title (Mr.,Dr.,etc) : _____

Street : _____

Suburb : _____ State : _____ Postcode : _____

Home Phone : _____ Business Phone : _____

Do you run OS9 Level 1 [] and/or OS9 Level 2 [] (please tick)

Type of Computer for OS9 : _____ Type of system : _____

Diskette Size (inches): __ Number of Cylinders (tracks per side): __ Sides: __ Number of Drives : __

Printer Type: _____

Modem Type : _____

Other hardware : _____

Special Interests : _____

Can you contribute articles to this Newsletter : _____

Date : __/__/__ Signature : _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ __. __ (\$18-00 will cover you for 12 months)

Please Return Completed Form to :-

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