TatungBytes

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A FORTNIGHT'S WORK

Forty Two New Pages in Fourteen Days

Seven courses, twenty downloads, eight articles, five guides and two new contributors, all added to tatungbytes.co.uk since the last newsletter.

Hello again,

When the last newsletter went out a fortnight ago, the site had one course on it. It now has eight, running from the BASIC that came in the box to Logo, Forth, two Pascals, C and Z80 assembly. There is also a great deal else: new tools, new games from new contributors, and the beginnings of something we have wanted to do for years, which is to dump original discs properly and see what is really on them.

Here is everything worth your attention.

COURSES

Seven New Courses, and a Disc for Each

Dr Logo, SuperForth, Xtal BASIC 4.2, BBC BASIC 2.31, Turbo Pascal 2.0, a HiSoft Pascal primer and, as of this week, HiSoft C. Each is written from the very beginning, each ends in something you have built, and each comes with its own disc image holding the software, the finished programs and room to save your own work.

Between them you can draw with the turtle, write a text adventure, push crates around a warehouse, build a platform game, define your own words in Forth, and knock the bricks out of a wall in C. Nothing in any of them is taken on trust from a manual: every listing was typed into the machine and run, and where a manual and the machine disagree, the machine wins.

SEE ALL THE COURSES →

CONTRIBUTORS

Two New Names on the Site

Simone Voltolini has been preserving and cracking Spectrum software since 1985, runs Outsoftware, and keeps 66 machines set up and working. He is now converting games to the machines that never got them, and the Einstein 256 is one of them.

L. Boffin has been writing small programs for old machines since the ZX81, mostly for the BBC Micro. He has brought 1D Life to the Einstein in C, written up the whole route so anyone can follow it, and written our new Speculator quick start guide as well.

MEET THE CONTRIBUTORS →

GAMES AND SOFTWARE

New Games, and the Tools to Build Your Own

Simone has brought Skool Daze, Back to Skool, Contact Sam Cruise, Everyone's a Wally, Westen House and Tiny Quest to the Einstein 256, all new to the machine and all playable now. The 256 has always had a thin games library, and that is six more than it had a fortnight ago.

On the software side: the Einstein Disc Tools build, read and check disc images from the command line on any modern machine; there is a complete Windows emulation and development package; and EinTrans, Ste Ruddy's 2002 transfer program, is back after being lost with the old site.

BROWSE THE LIBRARY →

PRESERVATION

What an Original Manic Miner Disc Was Hiding

We have started dumping original boxed discs properly, reading the magnetic flux rather than copying the files, and the first big one paid for itself immediately. The Einstein Manic Miner master turned out to be carrying three deleted files: a complete Jet Set Willy, and two unreleased test builds of both games with the speed limiter taken out. The deleted Jet Set Willy runs, and asks for its code book exactly as it did in the shops. All three are now in the library.

READ WHAT WE FOUND →

FROM THE NEWS

Also Worth Reading

The Xtal BASIC Compiler: Crystal Research sold a compiler for the Einstein's own BASIC in 1987. We dug it out, ran our course's platform game through it, and the game ran twice as fast.

We Use AI Here, and We Think You Should Too: how this site is built, and why we say so rather than quietly not mentioning it.

READ THE NEWS →

GUIDES

Five New Guides, Starting With Start Here

New to the machine, or coming back to it after thirty years? Start Here is the one page that points at everything else. Alongside it: which of the Einstein's BASICs you are actually looking at, what is on the System Master and how to run it, and a plain explanation of DSK, MFI and SCP disc images and which one you need.

START HERE →

THE FULL LIST

Everything Added Since the Last Newsletter

Every page added since 9 September, in the order it went up.

Courses (7)

- Dr Logo for the Tatung Einstein
- SuperForth for the Tatung Einstein
- BBC BASIC 2.31 for the Tatung Einstein
- Xtal BASIC 4.2 for the Tatung Einstein
- HiSoft Pascal Primer for the Tatung Einstein
- Turbo Pascal 2.0 for the Tatung Einstein
- HiSoft C for the Tatung Einstein

Contributors (2)

- Simone Voltolini
- L. Boffin

Downloads, Games (10)

- 256-Back to Skool
- 256-Contact Sam Cruise
- 256-Everyone's a Wally
- 256-Skool Daze
- 256-Westen House
- 256-Tiny Quest
- 1D Life
- Jet Set Willy (Original, with Code Protection)
- Jet Set Willy FAST (Unreleased Test Build)
- Manic Miner FAST (Unreleased Test Build)

Downloads, Tools (3)

- Einstein Disc Tools
- Tatung Einstein Emulator and Development Environment
- EinTrans

Downloads, Course discs (7)

- Dr Logo Course Disc
- SuperForth Course Disc
- BBC BASIC Course Disc
- Xtal BASIC Course Disc
- HiSoft Pascal Primer Disc
- Turbo Pascal Course Disc
- HiSoft C Course Disc

Guides (5)

- Start Here: A Newcomer's Guide to the Tatung Einstein
- BASIC on the Einstein: Which Version is Which
- DSK, MFI and SCP: Which Disc Image Do I Need?
- The TC01 System Master Disc: What's On It and How to Run It
- Speculator Quick Start: How to Play a Game

News (8)

- A Complete Einstein Emulation Package for Windows
- Einstein Disc Tools: Disc Images Without the Old Windows Box
- Simone Voltolini Joins TatungBytes With Five Einstein 256 Ports
- We Use AI Here, and We Think You Should Too
- Tiny Quest Brings the Commodore 64 to the Einstein 256
- The Xtal BASIC Compiler: Twice the Speed Without Leaving BASIC
- Life in One Dimension: L. Boffin Writes C for the Einstein
- What the Manic Miner Master Disc Left Behind

Got an original disc, a manual, or a program you wrote yourself back then? We would love to hear about it. Reply to this email or get in touch on the site. Some of this month's best finds arrived exactly that way.

GET IN TOUCH