TatungBytes

Issue #6 · November 2026

TWO NEW GAMES

Novatryne and Blackwater Hall

A shooter built hard against the limits of the Einstein's video chip, and a text adventure set in October 1928, in a house that should be empty.

Hello again,

Two new games for the Einstein went into the library in the last fortnight, both written from scratch: Novatryne, a vertical shooter, and Blackwater Hall, a text adventure. You can play both in your browser right now, or download the discs for MAME or a real Einstein.

Also in this issue: Obake, a ghost chase by Andrés; two new courses about the Einstein's discs; Mike Pugh's radio and disc software; more magazines; and, at the end, a list of everything that has gone on the site since the last newsletter.

NEW GAME · A SHOOTER

Novatryne



Novatryne is a new vertical shooter for the Einstein, written from scratch in Z80 assembly. You launch from a docking arm on NOVATRYNE, an orbiting fortress that forges ships from enemy wreckage, and fight through six waves of an alien invasion, each with a hazard of its own: a debris field, curtains of enemy fire, an asteroid belt, laser fences, a gravity well, and ships that cloak and vanish while still shooting at you. Every wave has a mid boss and a boss, and between waves the upgrade bay turns your salvage into twin and triple guns, shields, missile strikes and new hulls.

It set out to show how far the Einstein can be pushed. Its video chip has no scroll register, so the starfield, your shots and everything that falls are tiles redrawn a line at a time; the chip shows only four sprites on a line, so the whole game is built to stay inside that and never flicker; and every ship banks into its turns through five sprite poses. The news article explains how each trick works.

It runs on a real TC-01 as well as in MAME, and you can play it in your browser with nothing to install.

PLAY IT NOW → | HOW IT WAS MADE →

NEW GAME · A TEXT ADVENTURE

Blackwater Hall



England, October 1928. Blackwater Hall, on the Essex marshes, has stood empty since the night its household sat down to dinner and was never seen again. The house is to be sold, but the front door is bolted on the inside. You are Keane, a private inquiry agent, sent by the heir's solicitors to find out who is living there.

It is a full text adventure in the style of H. P. Lovecraft, with 53 places to explore and a parser that takes plain English, adjectives, several commands on a line and UNDO. A clock runs and the tide comes in and out across the estuary, Keane's nerves fray as the night goes on, and there are twelve endings, each with its own card.

Like a boxed adventure of the time, it comes with the papers of the case as printable PDFs: the solicitors' letter, a surveyor's report, the vicar's letters, a newspaper cutting, the tide table you will need in play, and Keane's own sketchbook of 46 charcoal drawings and hand drawn maps. A walkthrough is available on request.

DOWNLOAD THE CASE → | PLAY IT NOW →

ALSO NEW · A GHOST CHASE

Obake, by Andrés

You are a ghost, the screen is covered in fruit, and the clock is running: eat the lot before time runs out and keep clear of the other ghosts. Obake began as an MSX listing by Kazuhisa Yoneyama in MSX Magazine in 1986; Andrés rebuilt it with CVBasic, which builds the same program for several machines with the Einstein's video chip, the Einstein among them, and has let us host the Einstein version.

PLAY OBAKE →

TWO NEW COURSES

The Einstein Disc, From Python and From Z80

Inside the Einstein: The Disc needs no programming to start: over twenty seven sections you write edisc.py, a Python tool that takes an Einstein disc image apart byte by byte, lists and copies its files and makes new discs, checking every step against XtalDOS itself.

The Assembly Disc Access Primer does the same from the Einstein's side, in Z80 assembly: reading files through the DOS, then without it through the MOS, down to the floppy controller's own ports.

READ ABOUT BOTH →

NEW IN THE LIBRARY

Mike Pugh's Radio and Disc Software

Mike Pugh, G4VPD, wrote amateur radio software for the Einstein in the late 1980s, and both of his discs are now in the library. The G4VPD Collection has a Morse tutor and decoder, a packet radio driver, a locator and a contest log, with four programs recovered from deleted files. Disktools 4.01 formats discs to 41, 42 and 80 tracks with matching DOS builds, and copies them, from a menu you can drive with a mouse, a joystick or the keyboard.

MAGAZINES

Alternative Micro News, and Einstein Magazine 75

Four issues of Alternative Micro News from 1990 and 1991, starting with the first, in which Einstein Monthly takes its new name and Einstein support passes to Sharwood Services. And Einstein Magazine No. 75, from the summer of 1995, printed on 1970 letterpress proofing paper, with a drive belt repair for the 256 and a sprite tutorial to type in.

GUIDES

Chess, a Wargame, a Sticky Keyboard and More

New guides take you through Kuma's Super Chess, your first turn in Theatre Europe, and repairing a sticky keyboard, following Einstein Magazine No. 74. Today they are joined by Which XtalDOS Do I Have?, and two on drawing: Screen Plus and CrafDraw.

IN THE WORKS

Four Booklets, and Both New Games Are in One

We are making four one off booklets about Einstein software, each a free PDF download when it is finished. Novatryne and Blackwater Hall are going into First Run, the booklet of new software, alongside Send in the Clones and 1D Life. Written something new for the Einstein, or made a port? Send it in and it could be in one too.

SEE THE BOOKLETS →

SINCE THE LAST ISSUE

Everything New on the Site

NEWS

Novatryne: A New Shooter for the Einstein
Obake: A New Ghost Chase for the Einstein
Two New Courses: The Einstein Disc, From Python and From Z80

COURSES

Inside the Einstein: The Disc
Assembly Disc Access Primer

GUIDES

Which XtalDOS Do I Have?
Drawing with Screen Plus
Posters and Slideshows with CrafDraw
How to Play Super Chess
Getting Started with Theatre Europe
Repairing a Sticky Einstein Keyboard

DOWNLOADS: GAMES

Novatryne
Blackwater Hall
Obake

DOWNLOADS: MAGAZINES

Alternative Micro News Vol.1 No.1
Alternative Micro News Vol.1 No.2
Alternative Micro News Vol.1 No.4
Alternative Micro News Vol.1 No.5
Einstein Magazine No.75

DOWNLOADS: SOFTWARE AND TOOLS

G4VPD Collection
Disktools 4.01
Novelit (TC01 Version)
Novelit (Einstein 256 Version)
Screen Plus, now the fuller disc
Inside the Einstein: The Disc Course Files
Assembly Disc Access Primer Course Files
Tatung Einstein Development VS Code Extension, now 0.7.0

PAGES

Booklets

If you beat the mothership in Novatryne, or find out what happened at Blackwater Hall, we would love to hear how it went. Reply to this email or get in touch on the site.

GET IN TOUCH