

# the domain

Issue 2 - July 1996

An International Amiga PD & Shareware Newsletter



Welcome one and all to the totally fantastic issue two of *the domain*! We've both had hours of fun sorting through all the stuff for inclusion in this issue, and I'm sure you'll agree, there's a much broader cross-section of stuff in here. Check over the page for an AMAZING offer on Epoch Org2 and Chronicle - all you have to do is mention this newsletter! Oh, and there's just space to mention that our catalogue disk is now available direct from us - just send an SSAE and 50p and we'll do the rest. Finally, next month sees news of a subscribers disk, and an increase in page content for *the domain*. Don't miss out!

KEITH AND ROB. xxx



## Cor!

Well we must apologise firstly for delaying this second issue. All for the benefit of you all, you do understand! We've been planning ahead for the future of the domain, would you like to be let into one or two of our secrets that we have up our sleeves for the very near future? We're going to tell you anyway....

After issue six, we hope the domain will double in size. A monthly subscribers disk will be made available to all who request one. A catalogue disk is nigh on complete - which is indescribably good, and should be available by the time you read this. PLUS! Something very different will be made accessible next month, we promise you, it's pant wettingly exciting. Will your bladder hold for much longer??? I think not....Ta ta 'til next time! Now swiftly on with the reviews.....

Title: *SHIFT-IT*  
Author: *PETER ANNUSS*  
Type: *GAME*  
No. of Disks: *ONE*  
Requirements: *AGA*

We all enjoy a good puzzle game once in a while, WHEN a good puzzle game comes along, and THIS is a good puzzle game. Loosely based on the classic Sokoban, the aim of the game is to position two or more of the same coloured blocks together, to cancel them out. It sounds fairly easy, but the difference between this, and Sokoban, is gravity. Rather than being given the option of pushing the blocks all over the shop, you are given the choice of moving the blocks either left or right, off platforms so they drop into their correct place. Things start getting tricky when you have to position three blocks of the same colour at the same time. The game is set on a picturesque Vista image, with a pleasant little chip tune plinking along in the background. The game doesn't pressurize you, you have no time limit, and no limited number of moves, although you can apply these in the options screen. You can also switch off the music, and have sound effects instead, or, if you prefer, incorporate your own mods. (Although, this, I failed to get to work in spite of the fact the manual being in German.) 40 levels are given in this freeware version, with, apparently, more to follow. But, if you can't wait, the game also comes with a level-editor, to obviously design your own. Each level has it's own passcode to save you starting from the beginning again. So, in conclusion, this is a small, charming, sweat-free puzzler, that's certain to waste a few of your hours.

**GRAPHICS: 74%**

Suitable main gfx, nice backdrop.

**SOUND: 68%**

Mediocre poppy tune.

**LASTABILITY: 90%**

The 40 levels will last you ages.

**OVERALL: 88%**

A spot-on brain taxer.

Reviewed by: Rob

## Please Note!:

First things first, we must really get this out of the way sharpish; Robert Iveson's address IS TO CHANGE! Yes, I'm currently in the middle of a move at the moment, so by next issue, hopefully, we'll be able to give you a new northern address to write to, to submit software, to send reviews to, or whatever. So, could you PLEASE send ANY correspondence to Keith Elcombe's address, being:

6 Saxon Court,  
Kingsway Gardens,  
Andover,  
Hants, SP10 4BU.

Thank You!

Title: *LIARS*  
Author: *NERVE AXIS*  
Type: *DEMO*  
No. of Disks: *TWO*  
Requirements: *AGA*

Now I'm quite 'into' the subject of UFOs, alien abduction, government cover-ups and all that malarkey, so I was quite intrigued when I booted up this demo cum slideshow cum documentary. I'm not one to believe everything I read concerning the alien phenomena, I'm more open to other explanations rather than jumping to the conclusion that 'YES, IT IS THE WORK OF ALIENS,' although I do, whole-heartedly believe. I must admit, during the viewing of this demo, I felt rather disturbed.

The atmosphere was well and truly set; it had just past midnight, the lights were off, and all was peaceful. The deep, booming, rap tune breaks in, and we are shown a ray-traced Babylon 5 type image. The whole demo tells the ('true-life') account stemming from the year 1947 onwards, when an alien spacecraft crashed landed on earth, spawning many a government cover-up, such as Alien Grey / U.S President relationships, information exchanges, secret bases built here, on Earth, as well as the Moon. Plus many other points that will seriously make you think. I'm not trying to say that everything seen is to be taken as the truth, there are some extracts that seem very doubtful, but are worth dwelling upon. It is all terribly biased, but I suppose it's telling it how it is FROM true-believers TO true-believers, and I will own up to feeling rather scared.

So what about the let-downs? It would stand up amazingly well on it's own, but is let down immensely by the end-part. Once all the text is passed, we're given the normal demo effects, consisting of zooms, plasma and coloured spheres rotating around each other. This is all very well and good, but it really did spoil it for me. It shattered what I just read, and I was brought back to the real world. But my computer did spookily reset itself after it was all over, which sent the final shiver down my spine. All in all, it's not overly outstanding, but I guess it's not supposed to be. Viewed in the right atmosphere, it can give you one heck of a fright.

**GRAPHICS: 76%**

A mix of ray-traced and digitised images.

**SOUND: 89%**

A perfect, spine-chilling track.

**LASTABILITY: 78%**

You'll probably load it again just to check if you

READ IT RIGHT?!!

**OVERALL: 82%**

Thought-provoking, and totally terrifying.

Reviewed by: Rob

Title: *LOVELY GIRLS Vol 2*  
Author: *ANDY*  
Type: *SLIDESHOW*  
No. of Disks: *TWO*  
Requirements: *AGA*

What more can I say about this nuddy lady slideshow that wasn't already covered by Keith last month for *Lovely Girls Vol 1*? Okay, let's quickly investigate.... Here we have two disks full of very high quality GIF images of attractive, young ladies each flashing their boobs, bums and bushes, all backed to a standard 'pop' tune. That's all there is to it.

Alright, I'm not gonna completely put this slideshow down. No young man can deny disliking these pics, it's all very nice keeping these slideshows in your disk box, I'm sure you will be digging them out in the future. I can't really award any more points, or less for that matter, that were given last issue. It's all what we've seen before. Ho hum.

## More....?

Also available in the *ANDY* series;

*PIN UP BABES Vol 1* (2 disks): Very similar to the *Lovely Girls* collection.

*EBONY GIRLS Vol 1* (2 disks): Again, like the above, but this time involves ladies of the tinted nature. DOES CONTAIN STRONGER IMAGES!

*BIG 'BOOBS' Vol 1* (2 disks): Basically what the title suggests. It does include some stronger images, and I'm afraid, turned my stomach. Aaaargh! Some of these women scared me!! (I suppose it all depends what you're 'into'.)

Oh, by the way, our apologies to *ANDY* for mentioning that these pics were taken from 'Penthouse'. THIS IS WRONG! All the pics are from various sources, it was just his way of expressing the fact that the disks contained pics of naked ladies. Sorry mate!

## OVERALL: 65%

Nothing out of the ordinary, yeeess, we have seen it all before, and doesn't really offer anything new. But, there again, we all need this sort of thing once in a while.....

To obtain software reviewed in this, or any issue of *the domain*, simply enclose the required number of disks, and a chq/po for 30p per disk and return postage. Don't forget to include your details.

To obtain details on how to subscribe, or how to submit items to *the domain*, please write to Keith Elcombe at the opposite address, not forgetting to include an SAE.

Introduce A Friend and receive an item of reviewed PD software for FREE! (Obviously excludes Shareware material)

And finally, a rather smart AmigaGuide Domain Catalogue Disk is now available. To receive a copy, send a SSAE and a chq/PO for 50p, and it'll be sent forthwith. Updates are then FREE from then on....

The Domain's Cool, Corking Catalogue Disk is available NOW!

## Shareware Special

Jack Pritchard may not be a name familiar to a lot of you, but with the amount of affordable and highly useful software this man is bringing out, I would urge you to take a look at his wares.

Jack is the man responsible for the incredibly sound Epoch Organiser - a file-o-fax on your computer, that works better than you would at first believe. Other programmes coming from Jack's stable include Chronicle (a database programme), Accountability, and Spondulix (both personal account programmes). All of these programmes share and display Jack's incredibly solid programming, both in terms of the way they operate, and the way in which the user can get to grips with them in a matter of minutes - on-line help is only a mouse-click away.

But before I go on, here's a word from the man himself:

*"...Basically I always wanted to work for myself, and as I had an Amiga I thought what better way than to write programmes. Unfortunately I had no idea how to programme at all, and as all I had was the old Amiga Basic, it took me a while to get into it. However, I soon got a copy of GFA Basic, and really got stuck in.*

*The first programme that I ever wrote was a card game called Jack's Blackjack. This got a review in a shareware magazine - 'Rubbish' is the term that I think they used.*

*Epoch started when I was wondering how to get the day, i.e. Monday by simply using the system date. After I had worked that out, I thought I might as well write a calendar or something. The rest they say is history. I am currently working on EpochOrg2 (Editors Note: This is out now. See below for full review.) which is set to be the most powerful personal organiser ever written on the Amiga. At least that's what I'm saying. The only real competition that I will have if Organiser 2 from Digita, and I don't think I've got much to worry about there!"*

**Title: EPOCH ORGANISER 2**  
**Author: J. PRITCHARD**  
**Type: PERSONAL ORGANISER**  
**No. of Disks: ONE**  
**Requirements: A1200**

Few people see the need for a personal organiser on their computer, but when you spend as long in front of your Amiga as I do, a personal organiser on your hard drive soon becomes essential.

Epoch 2 is the follow on from Epoch Senior - greatly improved, with even more features than you could ever imagine.

What you get is your bog standard file-o-fax comprising of diary, calendar, notepad, address and telephone number storage, and conversion lists (measurements). Nothing too mind blowing really, but it's the way in which this is all put together that makes Epoch 2 so powerful. Flicking through the pages is fast and fluid, as too is jumping to any date you require. The address and telephone entry section includes a telephone tone dialler too - very smart! Other features include a daily schedule list, an anniversary list, search and replace options, the ability to link IFF images to certain entries, a calculator (scientific) and a shopping list. All of these options are selected from buttons on the screen, as to is the help menu/instructions, which are very well laid out, and easy to understand. Oh, and you can print all this out of course!

Graphically, the screen is packed with buttons, but it is all clearly laid out, and finding what you want is no major strain on the eyes.

Once loaded (which takes a matter of seconds), everything you need is in front of you - this is made easier by the ability for the user to define which diary files, address files etc. he/she wants loaded upon start-up, via the config menu.

Another aspect of Epoch2 that makes it special, is the way in which the user can write their own modules (in Blitz or GFA basic) to run with Epoch2. These modules can take the form of anything from a timetable, to a London Underground map. Included with the program are 4 modules to show you what can be done, the most useful of which is the finance module.

In summing up, I cannot sing the praises of Epoch 2 highly enough - it's solid, reliable and very useful, and even quicker than some other commercial organisers that are on the market. I urge you to get hold of this package now.

**GRAPHICS: 95%**  
**SOUND: N/A**  
**LASTABILITY: 95%**  
Once you start using it, you won't stop!  
**OVERALL: 96%**  
You don't know you need it till you use it!  
**Reviewed by: Keith**

**Title: CHRONICLE 3**  
**Author: J. PRITCHARD**  
**Type: DATABASE**  
**No. of Disks: ONE**  
**Requirements: A1200**

Chronicle 3 is a text based database program, that allows you to set up and create your own databases.

It's really quite simple to use, and once mastered, can become a very powerful tool if, like me, you have trouble keeping track of things like addresses and telephone numbers.

Loading takes no time at all, and the user can tell the programme what, if any, default database to load upon booting up.

Setting up a database couldn't be easier. The user simply defines the fields for each record, and the size of each field. Once done, you can start entering data. But what happens if, once using it, you decide that you need another field in with each record? It's easy to do - just simply add another field! There is no need to lose all your data and re-create the entire database. In actual fact, adding, deleting, moving or even renaming a field is possible from the main menu.

Other features include the ability to add IFF images to records, a calculator, a text editor, a telephone dialler, the option to insert bookmarks into the database, and an auto-save option. Naturally, records can be printed out, with the user being able to define how they want the information printed in terms of which fields. The search option I particularly liked, as it searches the entire database, as you're typing in the string to search for. This makes searching for a certain entry very fast, and it is a delight to use this function.

Also included is a 'Main Index' option, that allows the user to view a summarised version of the database on the screen all at once. A sort of 'at a glance' view. Very useful if you're not sure what you're looking for.

Screen colours can be changed via the config menu, as can fonts via the main menu.

Post-it notes can be attached to a particular record of the users choosing by clicking with the mouse on the Post-it note icon. This I felt was a nice touch.

As with Epoch, Chronicle is a very solid program, and yet easy to use. On line help is only a mouse click away, and given instructions are clear and easy to follow. The screen layout is tidy and uncluttered, and once you get used to where everything is, it'll take you next to no time to select the options you need.

I thoroughly recommend this program, and lets face it, who doesn't need a database these days? You'll be missing out if you don't get this.

**GRAPHICS: 80%**  
**SOUND: N/A**  
**LASTABILITY: 80%**  
**OVERALL: 90%**

A totally solid and user-friendly data base!

**Reviewed by: Keith**

**Don't just take our word for it.... A testers view.**  
**Stephen C. Nicole gives his views on Epoch Organiser 2.**

*"I've been testing Jack's program for a long time now. Initially a few bugs were found, but after going back to Jack to tell him about them, they were soon corrected.*

*After giving it a good bashing (even with a hammer!), it still won't crash.*

*The layout is good, and very simple to use. The parts I like are the telephone dialler, and of course being able to write your own modules for it either in Blitz or GFA basic - which I'm doing at the present.*

*Marks for the program? Layout 99%, Graphics 98%, Ease of use 100%. That's my verdict, I hope it'll be yours too!"*

**Title: MULTITUDINOUS**  
**Author: K. WINSPEAR**  
**Type: UTILITY**  
**No. of Disks: ONE**  
**Requirements: A1200 / HD**

Multitudinous is a Hard Drive menu system, that allows the user to configure various buttons on the Multitudinous screen to activate and run certain programs and applications.

It's a nice idea - having all the programs on your hard drive displayed on a full screen as buttons, which you just click on to load the program of your choice, but I feel that you really have to like this approach to launching your favourite program, when you consider that there are many other ways of doing this, on the market already (Toolmanager for instance).

When you load up, you are greeted by a screen full of buttons, 4 rows of vertical buttons to be exact, which you, the user, can configure to your hearts content - you can choose what the button launches, the colour of the button, and the text font too. The editor menu that enables you to do this is very well laid out, and very solid, so even the most novice user will soon get to grips with it.

Advantages of using Multitudinous? It saves time opening drawers looking for programs, and it is a very quick and easy way to get into the application of your choice in the shortest possible time.

Down-side? You really have to like this approach to HD menu systems for it to be beneficial - indeed, many already do (as Kevin has been overwhelmed by registrations), but it isn't for me I'm afraid. I'll stick to what I've got.

In all, Multitudinous is solidly coded (using Blitz Basic), and is very robust. Layout is clear and informative, and it is easy to use. If you're looking for an easy way to access your HD, then this could be for you.

**GRAPHICS: 70%**  
Plain & functional  
**SOUND: N/A**  
**LASTABILITY: 65%**  
If you like it, you'll use it lots!  
**OVERALL: 75%**  
Tidy and very usable to some.  
**Reviewed by: Keith**

### How to get your hands on these programs.....

**Do not write to us for them.** These programs are Shareware, which means the programmer would like some cash for his trouble.

In this instance, write to:  
**Jack Pritchard, P.O. Box 65,**  
**Gosport, Hants, PO12 4YB.**  
Epoch Org 2 costs **£16.95**, but mention *the domain* and it'll cost **£14.00!!**

Chronicle 3 comes in 3 flavours:  
5000 records - **£14.00**, 10,000 records - **£18.00**, Chronicle 3+ - records only limited by memory size - **£21.95**.

**Buy Chronicle 3+ and get a printed manual, AND 7 months free subscription to the domain!**  
Make cheques or postal orders payable to J. Pritchard.

**Multitudinous** is available from **TORNADO Software, 10 Colenso St, Hartlepool, TS26 9BD**  
Cheques payable to **K Winspear for £5.99**.

**That was the domain issue 2: What was used...?**  
2x Amiga 1200s, with 6mb each, running Pagestream 2.2UK, and printed on a Canon BJ printer.  
.....Riveting.

Issue 3 of the domain available late July. With lots of stuff in it!