

Notes for San Leandro Computer Club - Zoom Meeting Nov.12th, 2024

In Attendance Kevin, Robbie, Don, Bob, Scott and Garrett

Quick recap

The meeting covered a wide range of topics, including technical issues, personal experiences, and current events. The team discussed various projects and technologies, such as Atari systems, SpaceX's Starship program, and AI applications. They also shared travel anecdotes, particularly about Japan, and engaged in casual conversations about entertainment and global issues.

Next steps

- Garrett to look into getting access to a 3D scanner at Google for scanning the 1400 XL case.
 - Kevin to provide Garrett with the 1450 case for scanning once a scanner is available.
 - Garrett to post a picture of the Atari test harness in the relevant forum thread if found.
 - Kevin to test the Atari test harness if Garrett locates and shares it.
 - Garrett to investigate setting up a VoIP phone to test the Atari 1400 XL dialing and voice capabilities.
 - Kevin to consider organizing a 10-line programming contest for the 1400 XL boards once more are available.
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Summary

Technical Issues and Weather Updates

The team discussed technical issues related to a program running on Robbie's computer, which was causing other programs to integrate into itself. They also discussed the weather in different locations, with Scott and Donald sharing their experiences in the US. The conversation then shifted to a humorous anecdote from Robbie about a person with the same name as him causing payment issues. The team also discussed the possibility of Robbie logging in on a different computer to resolve the technical issue. Towards the end, Robbie expressed his happiness to be back after being out due to Covid and asked if he had missed anything important.

Casual Conversations and Current Events

The meeting involved casual conversations about personal experiences and current events. Robbie and Kevin discussed the recent political situation in the US, with Kevin mentioning that the popular vote was nearly 50-50. They also reminisced about the in-person meeting and Ron keeping Kevin company. The conversation then shifted to weather and snow conditions in different locations, with Kevin mentioning that many resorts were opening up for the season. The conversation ended with a light-hearted discussion about global warming and climate change, with a reference to the new US president.

Stargate, Bitcoin, and AI Conversations

The team discussed various topics, including a TV show, Stargate, and its movie adaptation. They also talked about a fan who built his own Stargate and the experiments conducted at the local lab. The conversation shifted to Bitcoin and the increasing power of computers. The team also reminisced about the movie War Games and the character Joshua. The

conversation ended with a discussion about an AI system that was transcribing their conversation.

Experiences in Tokyo and Vintage Electronics

The team discussed their experiences in Japan, including visiting the computer store in Tokyo and the Akihabara district. Bob1200XL shared his disappointment in not finding any Atari products in the Tokyo store, while Garrett showed pictures of vintage games and parts he found in Taiwan and Japan. The team also reminisced about their visits to Tokyo, with Robbie sharing his experience of trying sushi and encountering a less-than-friendly Japanese person. The conversation also touched on the impressive size and architecture of buildings in Tokyo and the vintage electronics found in stores.

Affordable Experiences in Japan Discussed

Garrett shares his experience of getting an affordable sushi meal in Japan due to the favorable exchange rate. Robert recounts a pricey buffet experience in Japan that was initially incredibly expensive but negotiated down. They discuss the high cost of hotels in Japan but the affordability of other things due to the exchange rate. Donald mentions staying for free on a naval base. Robbie talks about their cruise, stopping in Hawaii where they ended up shopping at Ross, because prices were so high at other stores. It was also very hot outside. Garrett describes his daughters wanting to eat Domino's pizza despite the amazing food options in Taipei. He also shares his experience navigating language barriers at convenience stores in Japan.

1,400 XL Case Scanning Discussion

Garrett shared his recent experiences with his Jaguar and the 1400 XL, including the discovery of a Bay Area Atari Users group and a SiCC Journal. He also mentioned finding a custom S video cable and a pile of SiCC Journals. The group discussed the possibility of 3D scanning the 1400 XL case, with Kevin suggesting using a phone to scan it. Scott suggested using a sticker to get the dimensions and texture of the case. Kevin mentioned a person working on a database of 1400 series machines and the different boards. Garrett mentioned that Brad was selling the bare boards for the X 2 board. The group agreed to ask the Google Maker community for help with 3D scanning the case.

Atari 1400 Community Project Progress

The team discussed the progress of a community project involving the Atari 1400. They discussed the need for faster drives and the potential of using the Atari to dial up and communicate via voice. Garrett mentioned his interest in getting a parallel bus interface working and possibly using an Arduino to simplify the process. The team also discussed the possibility of using the Atari to leave voice messages, which could be used in a programming contest. The project's progress was seen as exciting, with the team looking forward to the completion of the 1450 board and the potential for faster drives.

Exploring VoIP and Atari Communication

The team discussed their current phone systems, with Robert and Kevin mentioning their use of VoIP phones connected to their Xfinity gateway. Garrett expressed interest in getting a VoIP phone for its potential use in dialing into Ham radio nets. Kevin confirmed that his router has two phone jacks and four Ethernet ports, and suggested that they could potentially use their phones to connect to their Atari systems. The idea of using an AI program like Eliza to enable

communication between their Atari systems was also discussed. The team also mentioned the possibility of creating a YouTube video showcasing their system.

Atari Test Harness Reimagining Project

The team discussed a project involving the reimagining of a test harness for Atari machines. The original harness was built into an 850 case and used for testing 800s. The team member working on the project has condensed the design to fit into an 850 case or a smaller case for the 1200 or Excel models. The harness allows for the connection of joystick ports and SIO ports for testing. The team also discussed the possibility of using a harness that Garrett has, which Garrett agreed to try and locate. The project aims to provide a full diagnostic for Atari machines.

SpaceX's Starship Test Flight Plans

In the meeting, Scott provides updates on SpaceX's upcoming Starship test flight scheduled for April 18th. The plan is to catch the booster and land the ship in the ocean. Scott discusses SpaceX's long-term goals of in-orbit refueling and sending a thousand Starships to Mars, which would require thousands of launches per year. The group also discusses the Artemis program's plans to use Starship as a lunar lander in conjunction with the Gateway station. There is some skepticism about the ambitious timelines and bureaucratic overhead involved in NASA's programs. Overall, the discussion revolves around SpaceX's progress towards reusable launch systems and future plans for lunar and Mars missions.