Meeting summary for SLCC-Atari Zoom Meeting 11/26/24 7pm (11/27/2024)

Quick recap

The team discussed their personal activities, hobbies, and experiences with electronics, including their fondness for old magazines and their past projects. They also shared their experiences with AI transcription and summarization tools, the rapid advancements in AI technology, and various techniques for desoldering and soldering components. Lastly, they discussed various technical issues and solutions related to their projects, including issues with a handheld 3D scanner, audio output of a computer, and the potential of creating a table for next year's show.

Next steps

• Garrett to continue working on repairing the Epson HX-20 with corroded capacitors using the scraping technique suggested by Kevin.
• Garrett to upload 3D scan data of the Atari 1400XL case to AtariAge when ready.
• Garrett to investigate the audio distortion issue on his Atari 1400XL using a signal tracer.
• Kevin to prepare a display of the Atari XL line of computers for next year's Vintage Computer Festival.
• Scott to continue experimenting with sand casting techniques for his projects.

Summary

Personal Activities and Office Updates
In the meeting, Bob shared his recent acquisition of a box of magazines, including Analog and Antic, which he offered to share with others. Michael was baking cookies and checking on their progress. The group also discussed their upcoming in-person meeting at the San Leandro Library, where they plan to have cookies and a raffle. Bob showed his new soldering station and printer setup, which he is still organizing. The group expressed their appreciation for Bob's progress and the changes in his office.

Nostalgia for Old Computer Magazines
The team discussed their fondness for old magazines, particularly those related to Atari and computer technology. They mentioned the availability of these magazines online through the Internet Archive. The conversation also touched on the size of these magazines, with Computer Shopper and Byte Magazine being particularly large.

Electronics Hobbyists Share Experiences
Michael, Bob, and others discuss their experiences learning about electronics from magazines like Byte and authors like Don Lancaster and Steve Ciarcia. They reminisce about building video terminals, keyboards, and other projects from scratch. They also talk about the dangers of working on old TVs, including the high voltages involved and the risk of electric shocks. Michael notes that color TVs had even higher voltages than black and white sets. The conversation covers the technical details they learned as hobbyists working on these types of electronics projects.

3D Printed Atari 400 and 800
In the meeting, KLund1100 shared his discovery of a box containing printed items, including a 3D printed Atari 400 and 800, which he found in his garage. The items were 3D printed and had detailed features such as stickers and indents for the joysticks and keyboard adapter. The group expressed admiration for the quality of the prints.

Motherboard Repair and Capacitor Replacement
Richard has been repairing a motherboard with battery damage and building a computer for his daughter. KLund1100 experienced a similar issue when a capacitor exploded on his board, but he managed to remove it without causing further damage. Michael and Garrett discussed the cost of replacing the capacitor, with Garrett finding a suitable replacement at a relatively low cost.

AI Transcription and Summarization Tools
In the meeting, the team discussed the use of AI transcription and summarization tools, specifically Zoom's AI summary feature. They found it useful for capturing key points and decisions from meetings, and for sharing summaries with others. The team also discussed the potential for using these tools to analyze past meeting notes and identify recurring topics or issues. However, there was some skepticism about the accuracy and usefulness of these tools, with one team member joking about the "Robbie virus" being discussed frequently.

AI Advancements and Job Security Concerns
The team discussed the rapid advancements in AI technology, with a focus on its potential impact on their work. They noted the significant investment in the industry and the emergence of new startups. The conversation also touched on the importance of verifying AI-generated content to ensure accuracy and avoid potential issues. The team also shared personal experiences with AI, including its use in generating code and summarizing information. They emphasized the need to understand the capabilities and limitations of AI to maintain job security and effectively utilize the technology.

Desoldering and Soldering Techniques Discussed
The team discussed various techniques for desoldering and soldering

components, including using a vice grip, a torch, and a can of compressed air. They also discussed the use of different tools such as spring-loaded solder suckers and hot air stations. The team shared their experiences with surface mount soldering and the challenges they faced, including dealing with corroded solder and damaged components. They also discussed the importance of using the right tools and techniques for different types of components and the need for practice to improve skills.

Technical Issues and Project Solutions
In the meeting, the team discussed various technical issues and solutions related to their projects. Garrett shared his experience with a handheld 3D scanner and the challenges he faced while scanning the bottom of a 1400XL case. He also mentioned an issue with the audio output of the 1400XL, which he suspected might be due to corrosion on the chip legs. The team also discussed the possibility of overrunning the Fifo in a basic program. Additionally, they discussed the potential of creating a table for next year's show featuring all the Excel line of computers. Scott shared his recent work on sand casting and creating green sand for his workshop area. The team also discussed the possibility of using an exacto knife for their projects.