

Meeting summary for SLCC-Atari Zoom Meeting 12/10/24 7pm (12/11/2024)
Hosted By Kevin
In Attendance: Kevin, Robbie, Don, Garrett, Mariano, Bob, Scott

Quick recap

The team discussed various topics including the porting of an Atari bot to a new social network, issues with submitting applications to a library, and problems with a damaged solar panel system. They also shared personal experiences, such as purchasing a used Atari 800 computer and reminiscing about their first encounters with the original Star Wars series. The conversation ended with a discussion about the original Star Wars movie, its impact on movie-making, and the challenges of finding a complete, high-quality version.

Next steps

- Robbie to confirm library reservation for January 7th Meeting and inform the group.
- Don to search for and report back on the Star Wars audio recording from KCSM radio station.
- Bob to look for his old Star Wars videotape recording.
- Mariano to check with his friend about the original theatrical release of Star Wars on Beta tape.
- Garrett to send Kevin information about the Star Wars Definitive Collection laserdisc set.
- Mariano to send Garrett a link about gaming PCs.
- Kevin to follow up with group members about potential Star Wars original version sources.

Summary

Atari Bot Ported to Blue Sky

Mariano ported the old Atari bot to the new social network called Blue Sky. He faced challenges with dependencies and had to install Rust and other libraries to make it work. The bot allows users to submit code in BASIC, Logo, or machine code, which is then compiled and run on an emulated Atari 8-bit system, with the output displayed as a video. Kevin Savage will be running the bot going forward. Mariano has made the code available on GitHub for others to use and avoid the dependency issues he encountered.

Library Application and Solar Panel Issues

In the meeting, Robbie discusses an issue with submitting an application to the library, which bounced back twice due to an email problem. He was assured by the library staff that the application would be reviewed within 15 days, hopefully in time for the Club's January meeting on the 7th. Kevin mentions that Scott needs to make a note of the

meeting date, and Bob offers to drive down for it

Atari Stories

Robbie shared a story about using an Atari 800 to digitize fire extinguisher information at his old job, which impressed his boss at the time.

New 3.5-Inch Drive Adapter Discussion

The team discussed a new 3.5-inch drive adapter they had received. Kevin mentioned that it arrived about 5 hours ago and they had yet to test it. The adapter came with a disk and was found on eBay. The team also discussed the aesthetics of the adapter, noting that it was very well made and had a similar design to the Excel line. They also discussed the possibility of building a 1450 with 2 or 3 3.5-inch drives. The adapter was described as being very light and having a texture similar to the 800 color. The team also discussed the possibility of the corner notches being functional vents or just decorative.

Power Supply Issue and Drive Compatibility

The team discussed a power supply issue with a device, specifically a 3.5-inch drive. Kevin identified the problem as a lack of ventilation and a faulty power supply, which was not providing the required 5 volts, 2 amps. The team agreed that the device needed a replacement power supply and that the drive was likely incompatible with DOS 2.5. They also discussed the possibility of using alternative operating systems like Sparta DOS or My DOS to access the drive. The team concluded that the device was not functioning optimally and needed further investigation and potential replacement parts.

Vintage Atari Price Realities Discussed

Kevin discusses the unrealistic prices some sellers list for vintage Atari items on eBay, like \$500 for a Telengard cartridge or \$5,000 for an 810 disk drive and manuals. He questions why sellers waste time listing items at absurdly high prices that no one will pay. Robbie mentions that rare items can fetch high prices from collectors, citing the recent multi-million dollar sale of the ruby slippers from The Wizard of Oz. Bob suggests checking completed eBay sales to see realistic prices, but Kevin explains most sellers just look at current listings and price higher than those.

Damaged Atari Purchase and Single Parenting

Kevin shared an experience of purchasing a used Atari 800 computer that arrived heavily damaged during shipping. Despite the poor condition, he was able to get a full refund from the seller and keep the usable internal components. The group joked about the excessive damage and discussed obtaining replacement parts. Garrett joined the meeting late after having trouble connecting, explaining he is currently single-parenting while his wife is at a conference. He humorously noted his goal is to avoid injuries or major incidents during this time.

Casual Conversation on Movies & Games

The meeting was primarily a casual conversation among friends discussing various topics, including movies, TV shows, and video games. They discussed the upcoming Minecraft movie, the new Indiana Jones game, and the Star Trek series. They also talked about the new Star Trek Convention in San Francisco and the upcoming launch of the next Starship. The conversation then shifted to the new Star Trek series, Strange New Worlds, with discussions about the musical episode and the season finale. They also mentioned the Orville series and the actor who played Kirk in Strange New Worlds. The conversation ended with a discussion about the actor's facial structure and bone structure, which was deemed not suitable for the role of Kirk.

Preserving Original Star Wars Memories

The participants discussed their experiences and memories of the original Star Wars series. Garrett and Don shared their first encounters with the series, while Mariano mentioned a friend who had the original theatrical release on Beta. The group also discussed the difficulty of finding the original version of Star Wars, with Kevin suggesting that any existing copies should be digitized and preserved for the community. Donald mentioned that he had recorded the audio version of Star Wars on reel-to-reel tape, which he planned to search for. The group agreed on the importance of preserving these original versions for future generations.

Star Wars Movie Memories and Formats

The meeting involved a discussion about the original Star Wars movie, with participants reminiscing about their first viewing experiences and the impact of the film on movie-making. They also discussed the various versions of the movie that exist and the challenges of finding a complete, high-quality version. The idea of re-releasing the original Star Wars in theaters every 10 years was proposed. Additionally, there was a mention of a definitive laserdisc collection and a discussion about a new movie format. The conversation ended with plans for a future meeting and a reminder to stay warm.