

to buy one again because you're partial to candles. Candles get the job done. Why waste money on a light bulb, and the lamp to use it with, and the fixtures to plug it into, and the electricity to use it? A candle illuminates still the same, doesn't it?

Yes, I love my old 8-bit. And I have left it set up in my house now so that I can use it for those odd days when I'm in the mood for a good rousing game of M.U.L.E., but when I need something typed, why go back to it? Why not buy an IBM to suit my needs? I already have. You don't have to spend \$2000 on an IBM 486 DX/2 with 8 Meg RAM and a 17 inch SVGA monitor.

For under 800 dollars, you can purchase a 386 SX 33mhz machine with VGA graphics that will run most of today's software fast enough.

Why live in the dark ages and refuse to use light bulbs because you've used candles all your life and don't see why anyone needs to change. If we all had that mentality, I think we'd all be dead of polio by now.

Jeff

Date: 11-26-94 Msg # 181
To: ALL Conf: (107) ATARI8-INTER
Stat: Public
Subj: Re: Atari 8-bit still use

> Jeff

I think you are making a big generalization here. Not everyone who reads this group believes the 8-bit is the ultimate piece of hardware. Many of us also use other computers for the things the 8-bit isn't very good at.

I am also an OS/2 user/programmer because yes, the computer world does move forward, but would you approach a classic car buff and tell him his car is worthless because it has no air conditioning, fuel injection, power options, etc..? Sometimes it's nice just to enjoy a hobby in a controlled environment. The Atari 8-bit is hardware that is accessible, well documented, and not in danger of becoming any more devalued by external forces. Just as someone might sit down at a table for hours with an old-fashioned jig-saw puzzle,

the 8-bit offers hobbyists a way to truly understand and control their hardware. I use a PC, but I don't pretend to control or really understand how everything works, and that's the point of the modern computer, to isolate the user from the hardware, and make him/her interact with a high level metaphor, which may help you get more done, but doesn't satisfy those who want to really master the machine.

The home mechanic may understand every part of his classic 'relic', but the modern car he drives to work goes right over his head with its computerized driveline and all.

The sensible 8-bitter doesn't try to take on the world, just defend his love for an old design, a lost way of thinking, which was probably what attracted him to computers in the first place.

-Bry

Date: 11-26-94 Msg # 183
To: ALL Conf: (107) ATARI8-INTER
From: RICHARD A LINK Stat: Public
Subj: Re: Atari 8-bit still use

Jeff

I have kept all of my old computers, including several TI-99/4As, and Apple II+, Laser 128, 800xl, 600xl, and recently picked up 2 1200xls and an 800.

I also have a 486 that I use for 90% of my computing. But the old stuff still intrigues me. Just this past week, I used my 800xl to log into the Internet at 9600 bps in 80col mode, downloaded a few files from the UK, just to show a few of our ST users that "it can be done". Granted, using MOSAIC is a bit easier on the eyes, but still it can be done if necessary.

If I had never hacked the power supply in my TIs and Ataris, never handwired memory upgrades into them, never hacked dual disk drives into a TI p-box, or used a sector editor to fix blown directories on a disk, then I probably wouldn't be willing to open up a PC, change motherboards, add memory and new hard drives, and pick around in a Windows INI file. As it is, I used the machines for learning, and that alone was probably a lot cheaper than if I had

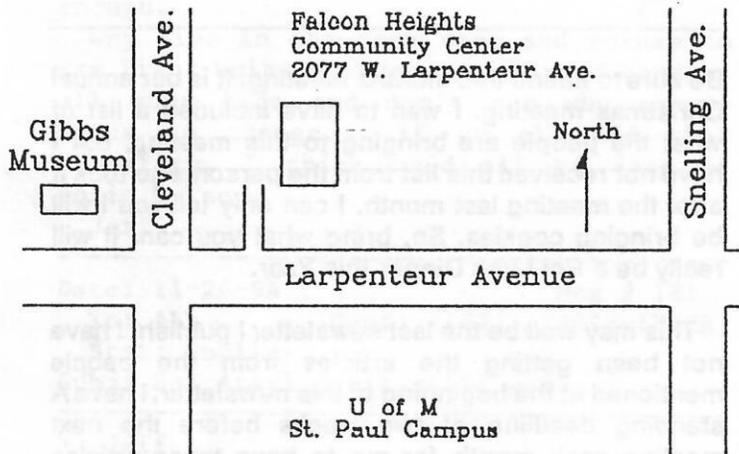
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Saint Paul Atari Computer Enthusiasts (SPACE) meets on the second Friday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Falcon Heights Community Center at 2077 West Larpenteur Ave. Doors open at 7:00 PM.



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