Meeting summary for SLCC-Atari Zoom Meeting 12/17/24
Hosted by Kevin
In Attendance:Kevin,Robbie,Scott,Ron,Bob,Garrett

Quick recap

The team discussed a range of topics including extraterrestrial life, computer hardware issues, and workspace organization. They focused on repairing and maintaining Atari computers, exploring solutions for various technical problems, and sharing personal experiences with technology. The meeting also covered scheduling changes, book acquisitions, and considerations for optimizing their work environment.

Next steps

• Scott to order 10 of each type of rubber feet (rounded top and pure dome) for Atari 800 computers.

• Kevin to look into the cassette player Robbie gave him to check if it has the right spring.

• Ron to clean and reseat chips in his Atari 800 XL to troubleshoot the black screen issue.

• Bob to research KVM switches for potentially reducing the number of monitors needed for his setup.

• Kevin to follow up on creating SLCC t-shirts.

• All attendees to note the next two meetings will be held on Mondays (December 23rd and 30th) instead of the usual Tuesday.

Summary

Aliens, Atari Feet, Tornadoes, Balloon Incident

The team discussed various topics, including the possibility of extraterrestrial life and the presence of aliens. They also discussed the dimensions of feet on an Atari 800, with Scott suggesting that they might be able to order fresh ones if they could find the correct size. The conversation also touched on a tornado warning in Scotts Valley and the potential for tornadoes in San Francisco. The team also mentioned a Chinese balloon incident.

Replacing Atari 800 Computer Feet

In the meeting, Scott, Kevin, and Robbie discussed the need to replace the hard and dried-out feet on their Atari 800 computers. They examined various options, including a rubber replacement foot that could be ordered in bulk for a lower cost. Kevin took measurements of the existing feet to find the right size for the replacement. Scott suggested using a caliper to measure the thickness of the plastic and the size of the hole. They also discussed the possibility of ordering more feet to get free shipping. The team agreed to proceed with the replacement of the feet to ensure the computers function properly.

Testing Items and Meeting Schedule

The team discussed the possibility of ordering 10 units of a certain item to test their functionality before ordering more. They also agreed to change their meeting schedule for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve to the 23rd and 30th respectively, with the in-person meeting scheduled for the 7th. Robbie mentioned bringing an 800 with its feet to the meeting

and raffling off another Atari computer. Kevin was asked about the Walkman he received, which he had forgotten about. Ron shared that his 800 XL had died and he was attempting to fix it.

Repairing 800XL Machine and Troubleshooting

Ron is trying to repair an 800XL machine and has removed the RF shield to access the components. Kevin suggests reseating the socketed chips using deoxit to clean the sockets, starting with simple steps before attempting more complex repairs. Scott discusses potentially replacing the rubber feet, noting the dimensions needed. bob1200XL identifies some wires as factory low-impedance connections for noise reduction, not modifications. The group provides advice to Ron on troubleshooting and potential issues with the machine.

Computer System Issues and Troubleshooting

The team discussed issues with a computer system, specifically focusing on a resistor for the SIO core port and a reset line. They considered the possibility of cold temperatures affecting the system and suggested checking the reset line with a meter. They also discussed the potential for broken solder joints and the possibility of a faulty power supply causing the system to fail. The team agreed to further investigate these issues and possibly replace or repair the components.

Misleading Atari Excel Book Discussion

Kevin received a box of books, including an Atari book titled "Atari Excel" that does not actually contain any information about the Atari Excel computer! Instead, it covers general computing topics unrelated to Atari. The book was published in London in 1984. Kevin shows off two other books he acquired - one covering obsolete Atari models like the 1400 and 1450, and another in good spiral-bound condition. The group discusses the misleading nature of the "Atari Excel" book's title and content.

Surround Sound System Evolution Discussed

Kevin shared his experience of having a surround sound system and his house remodel which allowed him to install a 9.2 surround system. Garrett shared his recent achievement of solving a long-standing mystery with his surround sound system, which involved changing the channel to avoid interference from his Wi-Fi. The team also discussed the evolution of computer storage and processing power, with Kevin mentioning his AMD 9,800 CPU and PCI5.0 M. Dot 2 SSD. The conversation ended with reminiscing about the early days of computing, with Garrett mentioning his uncle's involvement in the early stages of data storage.

Optimizing Workspace With Limited Space

The team discussed the organization of their workspace, with a focus on saving desk space. Bob mentioned that he has multiple computers and devices, including a logic analyzer and a PROM burner, which take up a lot of space. Kevin suggested using a KVM switch to consolidate the devices, allowing for one monitor, one keyboard, and one mouse to be used for all computers. However, Bob pointed out that some of his devices, like the PROM burner, need to be physically connected to the processor they're tracing, limiting the use of a KVM switch. The team also discussed the possibility of using a printer switch, but Kevin indicated that such a device might not exist for combining USB and parallel printer ports. The conversation ended with the team considering ways to optimize their workspace without sacrificing functionality.

Technical Topics and Monitoring System

The team discussed various technical topics, including the use of Centronics plugs and modems for long-distance data transmission, and the implementation of a monitoring system for cold rooms using calibrated transistors. They also discussed the use of telephone lines and the potential for using a book with a built-in relay to shock people. Scott decided to order two different types of plugs for testing, and the team agreed to reconvene the following Monday.
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Best,
Zoom