

●Notes For SLCC Zoom Meeting 8-26-2025

●Hosted by Kevin

●In Attendance Kevin, Robbie, Michael, Bob, Don, Scott, Ed, John, Chris, and Richard

●Meeting summary

●Quick recap

●The group welcomed a new member and discussed challenges related to organizing receipts and accessing past orders, while also exploring potential business expansion opportunities. Technical discussions centered around vintage computer hardware, including Atari and HP equipment, with members sharing experiences about assembly language learning, peripheral devices, and reverse-engineering projects. The conversation ended with conversations about upcoming events, website updates for Atari-related resources, and discussions about manufacturing options for various hardware projects.

●Next steps

- Ed: Purchase a power supply for his Atari 130 XE
- Ed: Find or purchase a power supply for his XF 551 disk drive
- Ed: Purchase a Fuji Net device for his Atari
- Ed: Consider using Max 65 Assembler instead of the Atari assembler as recommended by Scott
- Ed: Look up "Mapping the Atari" book for reference in 6502 assembly programming
- Ed: Consider using PC emulation for development before porting to real Atari hardware
- Ed: Consider purchasing an SD card adapter as an alternative to the disk drive
- Ed: Continue setting up his Atari system to learn 6502 assembly programming

●Summary

● Group Explores Receipt Management Challenges

●The group welcomed Ed as a new member from Southern California and discussed the challenges of organizing and accessing past receipts and orders. Bob mentioned having a physical drawer full of receipts, while Michael shared his experience of losing access to previous orders on McMaster-Carr, suggesting the need for better organization. The conversation also touched on the potential for the group to expand and the possibility of incorporating as a business in the future.

● Atari 130XE Revival Project

●Ed shared his journey of reviving his Atari 130XE computer, which he plans to use to learn 6502 assembly language. He discussed the challenges of finding missing components like the power supply and disk drive, and considered using an SD card as an alternative storage solution. Ed expressed excitement about finally pursuing his long-held goal of learning assembly language, and received recommendations from Michael and Scott about using the Max 65 Assembler and the book "Mapping the Atari" for his project.

● Fuji Net: Atari's Versatile Peripheral

●The group discussed the Fuji Net, a versatile peripheral for 8-bit Atari computers that combines multiple functions including Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, network capabilities, and print server functionality, with Kevin recommending it as the best peripheral for Atari users. The device, which costs around \$60, can emulate up to eight disk drives, generate PDFs in standard Atari printer fonts, and connect with other platforms like Apple and Cocos computers, though it's not yet available for the Whopper. Ed shared his progress in learning Atari assembly language through a YouTube tutorial series by a French instructor and received suggestions from Michael about using PC emulators and development packages as an alternative approach.

● Vintage Atari Debugging Device Discussion

●The group discussed various vintage computer equipment, including Atari and HP units, with Chris sharing details about a rare debugging and development device designed by Joe Decor after his departure from Atari. Chris explained that the device, which includes custom CPU and personality modules, was used for remote debugging and code single-stepping, though complete systems are now rare. The conversation concluded with positive remarks about Joe's involvement in the vintage computer community and his enthusiasm for historical technology, particularly his reaction to seeing the Amiga 40th exhibit at VCF.

● Expandable PC Board Design Challenges

●The group discussed hardware design and manufacturing, with Michael and Chris exploring the idea of creating an expandable PC board similar to an Apple II, using off-the-shelf cases and incorporating modern components. They acknowledged the challenges of case manufacturing and component sourcing, with Michael noting that he no longer updates his bill of materials due to the difficulty of keeping it current and validating all permutations. Chris shared his experience with purchasing custom-built hardware from a UK-based marketplace, which took an unusually long time to deliver.

● Atari Project Transition and Reverse Engineering

●Michael discussed his transition from actively working on new projects to Brian taking over many responsibilities, highlighting Brian's expertise in Atari architecture and his ability to create functional systems using PLD code. Chris shared insights about reverse-engineering projects, mentioning the use of CPLDs to replace older components due to voltage issues and the shift away from through-hole components. Michael explained his initial project, which involved creating a PS/2 keyboard adapter for the Atari, and how it led to designing custom systems, reflecting his ongoing interest in the Atari community.

● Custom Atari XLD Project Discussion

●Michael discussed his custom-built XLD project, which is based on real Atari VSL chips and designed to be portable and versatile. He explained the layers and components of the device, including a Pico cart, Fuji net, and an S Drive. Michael also described his XLD project, which uses a 1050 disk drive case and includes custom features like an RGB output and dual CF drive. He suggested that if he were to build another XLD, he might use a PCB for the front panel instead of the current engraved aluminum panel, and potentially include more functionality like a cartridge port.

● Laser-Cut Acrylic Manufacturing Options

●The group discussed manufacturing options for a panel project, with Chris explaining that laser-cut acrylic could be a cost-effective alternative to PCBs, involving etching through a paper layer before peeling and spraying with paint. Michael noted that 3D printing would be limited for small text sizes, while Chris shared examples of successfully creating small text with laser-cut acrylic. The conversation then shifted to Richard joining from his car at the airport, where he discovered his Tesla's built-in camera had zoom functionality, though it struggled with low light conditions.

● Bambu Printer Discussion

●The group discussed printing technologies, with Michael announcing his intention to purchase a new large format Bambu printer (H2S model) due to the slow printing speed of his current AnyCubic printer, which takes three days to print a single piece. Chris shared his positive experience with the Bambu printer, mentioning he recently added a laser cutter attachment and found the printer's insane print mode to be particularly effective for fast printing. The conversation concluded with Richard joining back into the call after a brief interruption to discuss his wife's reaction to his continued participation in the meeting while driving.

● VCF Midwest Event Planning

●The group discussed the upcoming VCF Midwest event on September 13-14 outside Chicago, which has 209 individual exhibitors and vendors registered. John shared that he is preparing a guide to showcase various items including Telegames versions and discussed his plans to display multiple Atari systems. The conversation also touched on the Atari Historical website, which has recently been restored after Kurt's death, with Marty having worked on server relocation to ensure its continuity.

● Atari Museum Website Discussion

●The group discussed the Atari Museum website, which Kevin identified as a new site containing the latest 1450 information and recently launched. Chris raised concerns about the site's reputation, noting that it appears to be a mirror of the original site and lacks proper attribution. John mentioned that Marty was working on a redesign in December 2021, but no updates have been made since then. The group agreed that having multiple Atari resources online is beneficial, even if some sites may not be entirely official.