Compatibility for new 128

LAST week saw the official Australian release of the Commodore 128 but stocks are expected to be scarce in WA at first because of Eastern States demand.

Its main feature is that it is three computers in one — the Commodore 128, the 64 and a CP/M machine — for only $899.

Commodore have been notorious for the incompatibility of their machines. The 128 is the first which is truly compatible, with the Commodore 64.

It will run the many programs that have been designed for the 64 and then at the touch of a button will switch to an 80 column protective CP/M and its own 128 language.

The 128 design is more ergonomic than the 64, having a lower front and better typing angle. It also has a larger keyboard.

It has the standard 64 layout plus a number keypad with the function keys placed above it and aligned horizontally. Also along the top are another four cursor keys: Up, Down, Left, Right.

These keys and the numeric keypad cannot be used in 64 mode. The 128 mode is an enhanced 64 mode, with all the features of the plus 90 columns and Basic 7.8. You select 36 or 80 columns when the machine is turned on.

The machine is a very fast 128K chip. The 64 of the Commodore 128, which will be available in two price ranges.

Three speeds — Commodore have released a special monitor for use with the 128; a composite input and output, as well as a separate RGB and IBM compatible monitor. The 128 should be priced at the 1200 level sometime during the first quarter of 1986 and will be available in two models.

In 128 mode, the disc drive will also operate as a disc drive. It will also be able to load 80 type programs.

Programs cannot take advantage of the graphics and sound capabilities of the 128. The Basic 7.8 is perhaps the best Basic ever, and performing the IBM Advanced Basic.

It incorporates the Dist. Basic of the PET 4000 series. Simon's Basic and Full Function.

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Only 20 available.

SUNDAY TIMES MAGAZINE, OCTOBER 27, 1985 M30
Multi-functional Commodore

THE COMMODORE 128 was released in Perth this week, but all initial shipments have been pre-sold and there are huge waiting lists. In fact the supply-demand situation is so critical that Commodore Australia has chartered a cargo and will be flying in 3000 more Commodore 128s.

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- 3 Disks of Software
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Full Range of economical Home and Business Software available.

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M 30 SUNDAY TIMES MAGAZINE, NOVEMBER 3, 1985

Painless way to take on boxing champions

By Andrew Stott

C P E R

Frank Bruno in this latest boxing computer game.


BOXING, the subject of films, documentaries, and controversy, combines physical skills, stamina, strength, courage and endurance to produce an immensely intense sport.

But anyone wanting the glory without the time and pain can do so with a computer game called Frank Bruno's Boxing.

Frank Bruno's Boxing was originally an arcade game called Knock-Out.

Transition

Very few games make the transition from arcade to computer successfully. This is an exception. It is Identical in the arcade version.

Considering the limitations of the Commodore 64 it is very well done. The only place it falls short of the arcade version is in sound effects.

The graphics are identical to the arcade game. For example, the centre of the ring with your back to the camera and you must fight the opponent for three minutes or until you have gone down the count.

The screen scrolls left and right as you fight. The scrolling is very smooth with no flicker. Colors are used very effectively, perhaps too well on a monochrome screen it is difficult to tell what is happening, so you should use a color screen or TV.

There are eight oppenents to fight ranging from hard to impossible.

Fight the Canadian, Chinese, American, English, French, Russian, Italian and Australian.

Personality

Each opponent must be loaded from the tape separately because each "personality" of the computer program terms that the Commodore cannot hold them all at one time.

Frank Bruno is controlled by either two buttons or one joystick and keyboard. If you are able to beat all eight opponents, you can claim the Heavyweight Champion of the World belt.

The sound is the only thing that is missing from this game. No crowd noise and only the occasional thud of gloves hitting and the bell ringing. This can be remedied on its graphics which are superb.
IBM released a new computer recently without any of the usual fanfare. It is the new IBM PCjr, called in this version, IBM PCjr.

The original IBM PCjr was not very successful, only a few made it to Australia before it was withdrawn because of poor sales in the US.

If IBM can break into this extremely competitive market, they could face new challenges with the small and enterprising Apple Computer.

**Disc drives**

The new PCjr is a single drive model that should be able to break into a market that is normally reserved for IBM compatible computers.

The new PCjr is a single drive model that should be able to break into a market that is normally reserved for IBM compatible computers.

**Good entry into cheap computing**

The PCjr is designed to be affordable and easy to use, offering features such as a 5.25-inch floppy disk drive and a built-in monitor.

**Powerful Crunch available**

A Californian spreadsheets spread crunch was described as the most powerful available on any personal computer, at its recent release at the Pan Pacific Computer Conference.

**Spectacular Paneline**

A better way to work and play.

The local computer store is offering a range of special deals on IBM computers, including a 128K home computer and business system for $119.50, a 32K Fast Disk Drive for $149.50, and a 64K SDRAM for $199.50.

**AMSTRAD SHATTERS**

The Price/Performance Barrier

CPC 464 "Excellent Value" CRP 644 "Incredible Value" CPC 612S What can we say?

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Sunday Times (Perth) Classified
3rd & 10th November 1985
IBM hitting back at critics with powerful answer

IBM has finally answered its critics who say the IBM PC is too slow and has not enough user on-line memory.

IBM has announced its latest and most powerful personal computer as well as some new options which include the capability to link up to 72 IBM PCs for sharing information, programs and peripherals.

Called the IBM PC AT it uses an advanced high-speed Intel 80286 microprocessor, a larger capacity disc drive and expanded floppy disc drive options. The new processor allows the IBM PC AT to run at twice the speed faster than the normal IBM PC.

On board it offers three million characters of user memory and 412 million characters of on-line storage. Prices start at $3,512 for the floppy disk model and $4,975 for the enhanced version.

IBM has also announced a variety of options for the new IBM PC AT.

The IBM PC Network for linking personal computers includes economical use of the computer power the user can install himself. IBM also said it intended to connect the IBM PC Network to the future token ring local area network. Personal computers will be able to use the token ring network will also be able to use resource-sharing functions of the IBM PC Network programs.

A new IBM PC program, TopView, enables users quickly and easily to work with a variety of programs at the same time, using windows.

Barrel of good luck

Rohan wins it

WINNER of the Backgammon-Commodore 64 computer competition was Colin Coffee. The 28-year-old managing director, Jeff Krasantein, of Backgammon Australia, presented the winner with a barrel of good luck.

To celebrate the launch of the new IBM 128 computer — switchable between a Commodore 64 and Commodore 128, 80-column business format was presented to the Backgammon-Commodore 64 owners to drop their names in a barrel and the first one out could swap his Commodore 64 for a new 128.

Rohans was the lucky entry pulled from the barrel last week.

The Commodore 128 is expected to be in stock shortly after it arrives on the Commodore 64 coming out of production. The situation was that when a unit was dropped by the air freight company, bringing the products to Australia for Commodore.

So if you haven't ordered yours yet and want one for Christmas, you may not be able to get your order in.

While we are talking Backgammon Shop, they have a real stop press item. They will arrive next week.

Until then I have to keep mum on pain of death.

So stay tuned for next week's announcement.

Meet the First Nice Modem...

THE First Nice Modem is the first product from the Nice Computer Computers of Australia, and is a home-based modem the manufacturer is challenging all existing modems on price and performance.

There are two models of The First Nice Modem.

One in an RS232 version which runs on the IBM PC, Apple Macintosh and other RS232 orientedated machines. The other IS32232 version which IS32232 orientedated to the Commodore 64 computer to IS32232 user port.

The prices for these modems are $479 for the RS232 model and $699 for the Commodore version.

Both modems support Bell and CCITT standards. The Bell standard is supported automatically if you contact bulletin boards in Australia. The CCITT standard can be used in contact and overseas computer services.

Answer

Many computer servi- ces around Perth use the First Nice Modem as it has been very popular with users. A pushbutton tele- phone, with individual voice com ing from the modem. This is the Telecom-approved, as is the CCITT standard.

The modem can be used for Videotex because it has the 1200 baud system built-in. The Commodore version can handle 1200 baud transfer which is as good as a 1200 baud full duplex transfer which is unheard of on most modems.

There's a secret new one on the way

There is also a switch on the modem which allows you to pick up the phone and talk. The modem will automatically transmitting data until you have finished talking.

A spokesman for The Nice Computer Company said: "The First Nice Modem is the best value-for-money modem currently on the market offering more features at a high performance level."

Considering the modem's, called The First Nice Modem, the question must be asked is there will be a predecessor.

The answer is "Yes." The development is top secret, but it will not replace the First Nice Modem. It will be an advanced version of the modem aimed at the professional market. The First Nice Modem is an excellent product, and is available through most reputable computer information.

SUNDAY TIMES, NOVEMBER 17, 1985
Clever Amiga shows off its power and pace

LAST weekend I was one of the first people in Australia to have a hands-on session with the Commodore Amiga.

And for the next week the Amiga will be at the Compucon in West Perth and other computer fairs where it can get to know us and let us know it.

The Amiga will be on display in the West Perth Backgammon Shop from Monday for a week and the general public is invited to try this new machine that has been the talk of the town for the computer industry for about a year.

All art and soul owned it because they put it to the buyer of the company that developed it.

The Commodore Amiga computer is set to take on the Macintosh when it released next year.

Everyone can play computer scrabble

Game Review: Scrabble
Price: $29.95
For the Commodore 64
From Bruining Headlam Computers

The kids play at arcade-action games at their end of the house usually one against the computer, while dad is at the other end of the house mining his computer to balance the checkbook. Mum is left alone in the middle – in the kitchen.

Family games
The computerisation of some popular family games bridges the gap. It brings the family together to play the game.

The computer takes the place of a game centre has seen a decline in such family-type games.

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