

CP/M Choices:

CP/M is finally available for PET. To run CP/M on the PET, a Z-80 chip and add-on memory are required. There are 2 contenders: **Small Systems Engineering** and **Madison Computing**. Neither is sold directly by Commodore here.

Users have to choose between the SUPERPET, the 8096, and the 2 CP/M's, since they all tie up the same space on an 8032 motherboard. It's not an easy decision, as all four products seem great! CP/M (and/or CP/M-86) will supposedly be available on the forthcoming Commodore 64, 'P', 'B', and 'BX' models. CP/M options include:

OPTION #1: Small Systems Engineering advertises a price of \$900 retail for a SOFTBOX that allows an 8032 to use CPM software. This unit attaches externally to the rear of an 8032. It reportedly turns the PET into an intelligent terminal on this separate computer box.

OPTION #2: Madison Computers, is producing an internally-mounted CP/M board, called Z-RAM. It is slightly less expensive (+\$700), and sits nicely out of the way under the video screen inside the case. It is being marketed through Computer Marketing Services Inc as well as AID in Minneapolis.

OPTION #3: Wait for the 64, 'P', 'B', or 'BX'.

Disk Drive Line:

Due to the huge 2 Megabyte capacity of the 8250 disk, the previously-announced 8061 and 8062 8 inch disk drives probably won't appear. They cost as much as a hard disk and store less, not to mention their weight and noise or the cost of 8 inch diskettes.

Read about the 8250 and hard disks under Commodore Previews: Disk Drives.

Printer Line:

Commodore may be working on a 4 color printer.-Lyle Phillips

WHAT THOSE LUCKY BRITISH USERS CAN GET:

Here's what Americans are missing in the way of British software, as of the third London PET Show in June, 1982. Great, but amazingly expensive!

ADMINISTRATOR II, from Stage One. An applications generator, in new 8096 and Mator hard disk versions. The new version allows restructuring of data.

DIALOGUE, from Kingston Computers. An "ultra-safe" interface, which is said to be able to talk at one speed while listening at another.

DMS, from Compsoft. Claimed to be the most popular data management system in the UK. The new version includes a mini-word processor, which shows they've heard about SILICON OFFICE.

HORNET, from Claremont Controls. A project planner and management package that links into SILICON OFFICE.

KEYNET, a local network scheme from Commodore. Said to be able to link up to 200 of most any of the Commodore machines over a distance of up to about a mile at about 250 kilobaud.

MW-1000, from Small Systems Engineering. A 12MB hard disk that can be divided into separate sections for CP/M. Includes a Z80 computer, and CBM DOS, and simply plugs into the PET.

OFFICE MATE, from Microcomputer Centre. A multi-terminal accounting package of 40 programs for the 8032 or 8096.

PC BASIC 8096, from Intex Datalog. A compiler that generates either true machine code or optimized speedcode (showing they've heard of PETSPEED.)

SILICON OFFICE 2 for the new 'B' series machines may have been previewed at the show.

VICSWITCH, from Datalect Computers. A way to link up to 15 VICs.

NEW SOFTWARE PACKAGES:

The SuperPET is in production again. Owners can ask for a free upgrade at the end of July, '82. The upgrade includes an interpreted COBOL. Eventually, there may also be new ROMs available to make slight changes in the communications code and to include COBOL in the menu. Since most, if not all SuperPETs, have EPROMS instead of ROMs, that upgrade could be a quick, cheap chore for owners with EPROM burners.-JS

SuperPET BASIC and FORTRAN compilers are still rumoured for 1982, along with the already-announced COBOL and MUMPS interpreters.

For the 8096:

A quick peek inside the 8096 at the NCC showed that the 8096 is still not a single-board unit but the existing boards have been improved in their layouts to make EPROM changing easier.-from a forthcoming issue of **Hardcopy**

UCSD Pascal, version 4, is available for the 8096, and eventually promised for newer machines; it costs \$175, and is both fancier and cheaper than the previously-available TCL Pascal.-JS