



Global Village Newsletter

Published by **Dark Star**
SYSTEMS

WELCOME TO ISSUE NUMBER 3 OF DARKSTAR'S GLOBAL VILLAGE NEWSLETTER, CONTAINING DETAILS OF ALL OUR PRODUCTS

Why Apple users need the Snapshot system.

Many computer users were originally attracted to the Apple II by the sheer number and diversity of the programs written to work with it.

Unfortunately, because so many programs for the Apple are copy-protected and/or use outdated or customized disk operating systems, many users cannot even begin to exploit its full potential.

Copy-protected programs restrict your ability to make backups, make screen dumps, and tailor software to your own requirements. Protection also means that many innovative utilities, such as the "program manager" for Cirtech's one Megabyte "PlusRAM" card, just won't work with most commercial programs.

In order to give Apple users a way to get the most from their hardware and software investment, Dark Star's engineers set out to design a system that could by-pass any operating system and all copy-protection. The result of their endeavours is the Snapshot card, a device with a remote trigger switch that can be installed in any vacant slot of the Apple II. When Snapshot's trigger is pressed, it causes a hardware interrupt that lets you suspend any running program, manipulate it, and then resume running it from the point of interruption.

The "manipulation" part is handled by a family of Snapshot software packages (Shuttle, Printerrupt, etc.) that can be loaded into the card and give you complete control over a variety of the Apple's essential functions.

Even Great Products Need Great Backup

Certainly, a lot of Apple users find the Snapshot system very useful. But as one of our quoted customers suggests, the usefulness of a system is only part of the story. Buying computer products can sometimes be a risky business. Even the best-designed hardware and software manufactured to the highest possible specifications can present the unwary with unforeseen difficulties. We want you to feel confident about ordering products from us. That's why we at Dark

Star Systems back up everything we sell with an unbeatable service package that includes a 12 month no-quibble guarantee and free-of-charge technical support.

There are no hidden costs with the products we sell; everything you need to get up and running is included. And, in the United Kingdom, there is no charge for postage and packaging. If your configuration is unusual, we'll bend over backwards to support it. (Our engineers will sometimes spend weeks rewriting one of our programs to work with obscure equipment unavailable in the UK.)

We're happy to say that we've received many acknowledgements of our efforts to provide good service. Here are some extracts from our correspondence

on the subject:

I am an owner of the Snapshot Card. It is one of the greatest computing tools that I have run across. Thanks again for a great product.

*Timothy Esche -
Washington, USA.*

Thank you for the quality of your service. I am VERY satisfied with Snapshot and the programs.

*Guido Bettiol -
Saint Gilles, France.*

I've seen it, it works, I like it.

*The Editor -
Open-Apple Magazine.*

We're with you all the way.

Here's what some of our customers think of our service:

Dark Star Systems personnel have proved to be **helpful and responsive beyond the call of duty**. With their card and its associated software packages there seems to be virtually nothing you can't get out of your Apple onto the screen, disk, or printer.

...any company that makes a copy card on Robin Hood Way deserves success.

*Paul Pagel -
Connecticut, USA.*

I would like to suggest that user groups compile a list of suppliers graded according to customer satisfaction in terms of sales and service, to be made available to members on request. For starters I would give **Dark Star Systems 10 out of 10**, A.C. Interaction 8 out of 10, Cirtech 7 out of 10... etc.

*Geoffrey Williams -
(Open-Apple)*

I would like to congratulate the shuttle software which happens to be the best addition to the Apple IIe computer. I use it the following way: configure the shuttle for only the first 64k of my RAMworks card which is otherwise 512k and the last 384k of my Ramfactor card (which is 1024k). Now I load the expanded version of AppleWorks in space 1 which loads into the RAMworks card and 3 additional 128k programmes in the last 384k of the Ramfactor card. I still have a huge memory left for a RAMDISK.

Now comes the real fun! With such a set up I can easily manage to print graphics in my word processing document; like this:

I love you
Dark Star!

A much better proposition than the Pinpoint:Graphmerge isn't it, which doesn't allow any text formatting options.

*Dr S Datye,
Akureyri, Iceland*

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