



The Genesis would run rampant over the North American video-game market until the release of the Super Nintendo two years later. In the ensuing battle for dominance, Sega would release a number of games that depicted graphic violence (such as Mortal Kombat) for the Genesis, causing public controversy and forcing Sega to found a video-game rating council that would eventually become the ESRB.

The original "Pack-in" game for the Mega Drive / Genesis, Altered Beast was a 1988 Sega arcade game that dispensed with any notion of intellectual complexity, instead opting for a simple "beat-emup" style where players punched, kicked or threw fireballs at an almost-endless stream of enemies. Collecting a certain number of "power-ups" released by defeating enemies would cause players to transform into werewolves, werebears, weredragons or weretigers, with extra strength and agility typically required to constant the strength and the

16-BIT

strength and agility typically required to defeat each stages "boss".

Developed by Makato Uchida, the creator of Altered Beast, Golden Axe expanded on the formula somewhat with the addition of z-axis movement and a greater variety of enemies and attacks. You can also collect magic potions which can be used to strike your enemies with lightning, fire or earthquakes. Golden Axe would become a successful franchise, with a number of sequels both in the arcade and for Sega's Mega Drive / Genesis console.





Lynx Eats boy's Lunch.

In the series of the



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LOTS OF GREAT GAMES AVAILABLE NOW!

Boy's lunch". The first colour handheld console, the Atari Lynx was a 16-bit powerhouse with integrated math and graphics co-processors and pseudo-3d graphics. You would have expected it to easily overtake the Game Boy in sales, but unfortunately Atari's habit of releasing excellent hardware with limited software continued, and the Lynx's library would remain small compared to its competitors.

Suffice it to say the Lynx did not "eat the Game

A unique feature of the Lynx was its ability to be used in a left-handed configuration, turning the unit "upside down". It could also network with up to 15 other Lynxes. Atari would be honoured in 2008 for its pioneering work in the handheld console space in part due to these "revolutionary"

features, but if only Atari had been better at business...

Warning: The Foll owing May Cause Chills, Dizziness And Shortness Of Breath.

Sadly, it never would figure that part out.

90 (One extra plans the Children that part out.



CELIFT

THE REPORT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROP

Game Boy in the U.S. in late August. Priced at \$89.95, the Game Boy costs only about half as much as the Lynx.

The Game Boy is also expected to have an advantage in the num ber of game cards available, at though Atari is working hard though that in working hard thangethat. In August, Atarispon forerence for software

arond a conference for software selevelopers interested in producing games for the Lynx, and more than 100 people showed up. Ron Stringari, president of Atari's Entertainment Product Division, says independent gams developers are attracted to the Lynx's color graphics, stere sound, and advanced animatio sound, and advanced animation.



aver must press the button at the right time, or move the joystick in the correct direction to survive and continue. However, Space Ace had selectable skill levels, and the "wrong" choice was not always fatal, with some scenes having multple ways in which they could be traversed. The main character can also transform from a boy into his adult self, and back again.

The Wizard follow three children, a boy suffering from PTSD, his older brother, and a girl on her way home to Reno, as they travel to California. On the way, they discover the boy has an innate ability for playing video games, and decide to take him to "Video Armageddon", a tournament with a \$50,000 grand prize. To get the entry fee, they hustle a number of video-game players as they make their way cross country.

The contestants in the tournament's final round compete in Super Mario Bros. 3, unreleased in the US at the time of the movie's premiere, providing a peek to audiences of the game that would become one of the best selling videogames of all time.

death, the game ate a lot of money!

It would take until the late 80s for Dragon's Lair (and its sequels) to appear in any reasonable way on home equipment since only 16-bit machines had the storage space or graphics ability to render the animation in any sensible way (although extremely poor 8-bit versions did exist!)

Created in 1984 by Soviet artificial intelligence researcher Alexy Pajitnov, Tetris would prove popular with his colleagues, who ported the game to the IBM PC. The game spread around Russia, eventually reaching Hungary where it was ported to other platforms. UK software house Andromeda attempted to license the game from Pajitnov,

but before the deal was settled they on-sold the rights to Spectrum Holobyte, who, unbeknownst to them, published their PC version in the

Spectrum HoloByte

US, which was an instant success. The licensing issues were never entirely settled, and in 1988 Pajitnov gave the rights to the Soviet

government, who granted licenses to Atari for the arcade version, and Nintendo for consoles.





Atari's Tetris arcade machine and Nintendo's versions for Game Boy and its NES brought Tetris to the masses









Run. Driving a Ferrari, the player must defeat a computer controlled opponent driving a Porsche 959. To aid in this, the player has access to a brief "turbo boost" that becomes

available again over time. known as Stunt Track Racer

in North America, was a 3D racing game where players compete on an elevated track with substantial humps and steep curves. If you went over a hump too fast and missed a curve you would plummet to earth, eventually, and sometimes bounce! The game would end if you accumulated too much damage. It was awesome! Great fun.

The soundtrack to the Commodore 64 version, written by prolific computer video-game musician Jeroen Tel, was based on one of the songs contained in the arcade version of Out Run. It received an award for "Best music on an 8-bit computer" in 1989 for its closeness to the source material and inventive voice samples (spoken by Tel himself.)

In a single player game you compete in a league table that consists of twelve players racing on eight different tracks. which get progressively more difficult as the game goes on. It's also possible to compete against another human player with an Atari ST or an Amiga, and a null-modem cable to connect the two computers.





TENGEN
THE NAME IN CONTROL OF CONTROL OF CONTROL OF STREET OF CONTROL OF CONT

wed head-to-head racing.



The computer magazine, once hundreds of pages an issue in the early 1980s barely had 100 by the time 1989 rolled around. Most readers were no longer interested in program listings, and the devestation of the computer games industry wrought by the console resurgence cut ad buys down significantly, and with them article column inches.

Their heyday was over.

The Intel 486 was released in 1989, destined to become the brains behind the PC onslaught of the early 1990s that would kill off every other home computer architecture (and mortally wound Apple, saved only by Steve Jobs' return and his iMac.)



The predecessor to digital cameras, the still video camera stored images as single frames of video on a rotating floppy-style disc.



As the prices of laser discs decreased and households could afford both laser disc players and VCRs, adoption of the format increased in the late 1980s, and would become popular in Europe and Australia during the 1990s.

> Set in the fictional Battetech world, players in MechWarrior do battle using giant robots called Mechs.

signal bandwidth for higher quality

CD changers allowed multiple CDs to be played sequentially or "shuffled". Some also played

MechWarrior





fried himself running after me while firing wildly like that. Justin flexed the Centurion's left hand and looked at the gleaming blades on the last three fingers. Smiling to himself, Justin turned his 'Mech in

-Michael A. Stackpol Warrior: En Garde.









I Have Become Death

The Destroyer of Worlds MECHWARRICH

ACTIVISION



he Editor was dead: to begin with. There is no ubt whatever about that. Not, mind, as dead as a doornail, in the simile of our ancestors. Dead

"I don't make merry myself at Christmas, and I can't afford to make idle people merry," he had told the ragged staff when they invited him to join in the roistering at the nearest hostelry to the

office. Scroungers! They'd be wanting Christmas bonuses next..

And yet here he was as inebriated as a salamander, courtesy of a bottle of Tanzanian sherry sent round by his long-suffering printe Concentrating his vision wonderfully, the Editor surveyed his icy bed chamber. On the table sat his 12-year-old, free-with-Green-Si stamps Neanderthal 3 computer (3K, solar panel on the roof) and the only two pieces of software for which he had ever parted with money: 'Precis Plus,' which automatically halved the number of words in every feature submitted to him and saved fortunes on freelance linage payments; and 'Noughts and Crosses,' a Jung

and Fulisch game which for some reason he had bought at a Games..." shrieked the Editor.

'Computer games? Humbug...! He wondered idly whether he could raise much on it third-hand.

These musings were inter rupted by a low grinding, then a rattle, and finally by a clanking noise as if of the dragging of chains 'cross a wine merchant's cellar. Damn! He must have left the disk drive running again. But his colour changed as it came in through the door.

'Tony Tyler!" gasped the Editor. "What do you want with me? I signe that 1978 expenses form last year. It must be lost in the accounts department..." But the shade said not a word. Instead, it sat down at the word processor and methodically keyed in the following copy...

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST

apoplectically, "Utter bloody Activision. But even as he spoke the spirit faded, only to be replaced by an even more ghastly sight. The apparition staggered from an excess of cold medication. Its pockets spewed jammie dodgers, clearly long past their sell-by date

"My God," stammered the long-pocketed journo, "Andy Wilton! But I've told you six times already this week, the cheque's in the post. First class - at least I assume 7p still goes first class. I'll bet those thieving devils at Mount Pleasant have been opening the envelopes again...

This Christmas-themed story, printed in Advanced Computer Entertainment, provides an amusing look back at the the history of the magazine, and at the 8-bit computing era, particularly in the UK.

Unfortunately the scans are not the greatest, but are legible if you zoom in with your PDF reader.

...but once again, before the Editor could even think of trotting out his world famous 'I'll have it cancelled and draw you a postal order straight after the New Year holiday' excuse, the transparent apparition sat at the eerily glowing screen and keyed in...

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT



For the first time in his life, the Editor felt a pang of conscience seeping into his sodden brain. Desperately, he rushed to the wind threw it open and peered into the morning mist. "What's he shrieked anxiously at the paperboy delivering his November issue of 'Bang!' . "Why, 'tis Christmas Eve, Sir, as everyone knows!" returned the scruffy urchin

The Editor rubbed his hands in glee, before rummaging in his pockets for loose change. "Ha ha! I haven't missed it! Listen, young fellow, you know

the computer store on



As he gently peeled away the brightlycoloured wrapping a chill ran through the room. The baubles on the Christmas tree jingled ever so slightly; the embers flared momentarily in the grate. Timothy felt he not alone. Slowly turning round he found himself staring into an ashen face. Timothy jumped up with surprise. The person was dressed in white, his ankles shackled with.

...could they really be old Spectrum power supplies? And were those loading leads that framed his face like straggly hair? The strangest thing of all was that if he squinted, Timothy imagined he could see right through the figure.

" Who are you?" Timothy managed to utter. The figure rep chral tones; "I am the ghost of Christmas Presents Past. Call me Gwyn Hughes. What have you there?"

n S-S-ST..." Timothy stuttered. The ghost let out a low moan. "Well, you needn't sound so gloomy," Timothy smiled. "This is the best computer available." The ghost groaned again. "How soon they forget." "Forget what?" said Timothy, wrinkling his brow.

"The Lynx, the Oric, the Enterprise..."
"Like in Star Trek?" Timothy sparked up.

The third groan was even more sepulchral than the previous two. For several seconds the wraith stared at Timothy then, suddenly, the French windows blew open of their own accord. "Come with me," the spirit commanded, holding out its hand...

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS



be taken up by Sinclair PC200 owners.

Tiny Timothy blinked as he opened his eyes. The Christmas morning sun streamed in through the window and upstairs he could hear his parents stirring. He had fallen asleep with his head resting against the box containing the ST. "The state of the art," he thought. "Better colours better sound... but what about better marketing? Isn't that what really counts? And in ten year's time...? I'd better b my table at the Alternative Micro Show for 1998," he concluded "Otherwise they'll all





Thanks to you, pools to coming...

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Advanced Computer Entertainment December 1989 Amazing Computing December 1989 Amiga Format December 1989 Amiga World December 1989 Analog December 1989

Antic December 1989 Apple 2000 December 1989

Commodore User December 1989

Compute! December 1989

Compute's Gazette December 1989

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