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Product Update Status

Basic-2C is now supported in the following environments:

Single-User MS-DOS Systems

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| AMSTRAD PC1512 | * IBM PC XT 286 | NEC APC IV |
| * AST PREMIUM 286 | * IBM PS/2 MODELS 30,50,60,70,80 | SPERRY PC,PC/IT |
| AT&T 6300, 6300 PLUS | ITT XTRA XP | TANDY 3000 |
| COMMODORE PC-10, PC-20 | * KAYPRO 1610 | TELEVIDEO TELE-PC |
| COMPAQ DESKPRO | * KAYPRO 16/E | TELEVIDEO TELE-XT |
| COMPAQ PLUS | * KAYPRO PC,PC10,PC30 | TI BUSINESS PRO |
| COMPAQ PORTABLE | * KAYPRO 286i | * TOSHIBA T3100,T3200 |
| * COMPAQ PORTABLE III | * KAYPRO 386 | TULIP COMPACT |
| * COMPAQ 286 DESKPRO | * KAYPRO 2000 + | * WANG PC,APC |
| * COMPAQ 386 PORTABLE | LEADING EDGE PC (D) | * WANG PC280 |
| * COMPAQ 386 DESKPRO | MAI/BASIC4 PC | * WANG PC380 |
| COMPUTERLAND PC | * MULTITECH LAN 500 (ACER) | * WYSE PC,PC286,2108,2200, |
| DEC VAXMATE | * MULTITECH 700,710 (ACER) | 3216 |
| EPSON EQUITY I,II,III | * MULTITECH 900,910 (ACER) | XEROX 6060PC |
| HONEYWELL PC AP | * MULTITECH 1100 (ACER) | XEROX 6065 |
| HP VECTRA | NCR PC6 | ZENITH 150 SERIES |
| * IBM PC,XT,AT | | ZENITH 248 SERIES |

* Tested and passed for 2.01. Note - to date no previously approved compatible has failed the 2.01 compatibility testing.

Multi-User Shared Logic Systems

Computer

ALTOS 686
 ALTOS 886
 ALTOS 1086
 ALTOS 2086
 ALTOS 3086
 ALTOS SERIES 2000
 DEC MICROVAX II
 DEC VAX 8000 SERIES
 HONEYWELL XPS-100
 IBM AT & IND. STANDARD 286
 IBM PC,XT,AT
 IBM PS/2 SERIES
 INDUSTRY STANDARD 386
 NEC ASTRA-XL SERIES
 WYSE PC 286 SERIES
 WYSE PC 386 SERIES
 WANG APC
 WANG APC

Operating System

XENIX 3.0
 XENIX 3.0
 XENIX 3.0
 XENIX 3.0
 XENIX 3.0
 XENIX 3.0
 XENIX V
 VMS
 VMS
 UNIX V
 SCO XENIX V 286 AT
 SUPERDOS
 SUPERDOS
 SCO XENIX V 386 AT
 ASTR-IX
 SUPERDOS
 SUPERDOS
 XENIX 3.0
 XENIX V

Multi-User Distributed Logic Systems (Networking)

NOVELL E/TI NETWORKING
 SPERRY USERNET
 (PLUS 35 OTHERS)
 IBM & ALL APPROVED
 COMPATIBLES
 (SEE SINGLE USER MS/DOS)

Upgrades, Upgrades, Upgrades

Over the past few weeks Niakwa has announced new revisions for the following Basic-2C implementations:

- SuperDOS
- MS/DOS and Novell
- Xenix 3 for the Wang APC
- Xenix 3 for the Altos 80286 line
- Honeywell Bull XPS-100

You can bring these improved Basic-2C products to your existing Basic-2C end-users through Niakwa's upgrade program. You should have received or will receive separate upgrade forms for:

- SuperDOS
- MS/DOS and Novell
- Xenix for Wang APC and Altos

Following is a summary of each upgrade.

SuperDOS

What is available for upgrade?

The following Basic-2C products for SuperDOS are available for upgrade:

- SuperDOS Rev. 2.01.08 or Rev. 2.01.13 running on IBM XT or Model 30 to SuperDOS Rev. 2.01.17.
- SuperDOS Rev. 2.01.08 or Rev. 2.01.13 running on IBM AT or Compatibles including PS/2 Models 60 and 80 to SuperDOS Rev. 2.01.17.

Why upgrade?

By upgrading, your users will be able to take advantage of the following:

- Support of SuperDOS/Basic-2C under Protected Mode. Protected mode provides the:

Ability to have more extended partitions (120k) while operating under Protected Mode.

Ability to have more concurrent users while operating under Protected Mode (up to 66 users).

Support of SuperDOS/Basic-2C running under SuperDOS 4.0:

SuperDOS 4.0 - Protected Mode will address up to 4MB of linear memory.

Support of new high performance, buffered serial I/O boards for improved performance.

Support of the new SuperCoder, which will eliminate the SuperSecure board and free up an expansion slot at existing installations.

Support of 360k and 1.2MB 'raw' diskette formats for convenience of porting and system 'backups'.

The ability for Basic-2C developers to use the "PAL Chip" security mechanism provided by Bluebird to secure their own application.

MS-DOS and Novell

What is available for Upgrade?

This release will be supported on the following systems:

IBM PC Systems - Includes models PC/XT/AT and the PS/2 systems, as well as any Niakwa approved compatibles running under MS-DOS 2.0 or higher. Note that certain hardware options may require higher revisions of DOS or Novell.

Wang PC/APC Systems - On Wang PC/APC Systems running under Wang DOS 2.0 or higher. Note that certain hardware options may require higher revisions of DOS or Novell.

Novell Networking System - Running Netware, ELS or a Niakwa approved Novell Compatible System. Note that certain hardware options may require higher revisions of DOS or Novell.

Why Upgrade?

This release will contain a set of general 2.01 enhancements, a set of specific enhancements to take advantage of specific features on the IBM and compatible PCs, and bug corrections to the 2.0 release. These features are summarized below:

General 2.01 Enhancements of the Basic-2C Language

- 1) Diskimages larger than 16MB are now supported. A single diskimage may be up to 4096MB in size.
- 2) The \$PACK/\$UNPACK statements have been extended to allow for storage of signed or unsigned binary numbers using the field format specification.
- 3) The LINPUT and INPUT statements may now optionally accept characters above HEX(80).
- 4) Printer translation capabilities are now supported.
- 5) Math co-processor support for transcendental functions (LOG, SIN, COS, TAN, ARCSIN, ARCCOS, ATN, LGT, A B) is now built-in to the RunTime Package.
- 6) Application programs may now determine if the separate program segment ('S' option) is in use.
- 7) Support for 'raw' access to 360k and 1.2 MB diskettes (as implemented under SuperDOS).
- 8) Limited input from serial port.
- 9) User definable table method for determination of terminal number (#TERM) on the Novell version.
- 10) Support for direction of output from Print Control to a specified print address.

Machine Specific Enhancements (IBM MS-DOS and Novell only)

Install/Deinstall security for 5-1/4" RunTimes (as currently implemented on the existing 3-1/2" versions). Anyone who objects to the "once a day" check with the "gold key" diskette can eliminate the daily diskette check by upgrading.

Machine Specific Enhancements (Single User IBM MS-DOS only)

One of the significant new features of this release is the introduction of enhanced color/graphics support for the single user IBM MS-DOS version of Basic-2C. Graphics support will consist of support for 'true' box graphics and character (pixel) graphics on EGA and Hercules compatible controllers. Color support consists of support for specification of background, foreground, perimeter and underline colors, both on a general and dynamic basis on IBM CGA controllers with color monitors. More details about controller/monitor requirements for these features are contained in the IBM MS-DOS Development Package (Rev. 2.01.20).

Bug Corrections

Bug corrections will basically be minor but will resolve a few significant problems:

- 1) Operation of the Wang version of Basic-2C on the Wang PC/APC under Wang MS-DOS 3.20 will be supported.
- 2) Operation of the RTP on the console (non-dedicated file server) under Novell ELS software will be supported.
- 3) All bug patches addressed with PATCH.TBL file for release 2.00.04 will be addressed in this final version.

New SCD Driver for IBM and Wang

Niakwa is pleased to announce the availability of a new improved SCD (Scientific and Communications Drivers) Package. As part of the new SCD Package are enhancements for the 2227 emulation driver for flow control support, and for support of COM1 or COM2 serial ports on the IBM PCs under MS-DOS or Novell (the current version supports use of COM1 only). In addition, enhanced plotter drivers for use on IBM PC's will be available. These plotter drivers will support EGA and HERCULES resolution.

Xenix 3 for Wang APC and Altos

What is available for upgrade?

The following Basic-2C products for Xenix are available for upgrade:

Wang APC XENIX 3 Rev. 2.00.04 upgrade to Wang APC XENIX 3 Rev. 2.01.18

Wang APC XENIX 3 Rev. 2.00.04 upgrade to Wang APC XENIX V Rev. 2.01.18

Altos XENIX 3 Rev. 2.00.05 upgrade to Altos XENIX 3 Rev. 2.01.18

Altos XENIX 3 Rev. 2.00.05 upgrade to Altos XENIX V Rev. 2.01.18

Why upgrade?

By upgrading, your end-users will be able to take advantage of the "2.01 enhancements" such as:

- Simplified installation and security procedures.
- Support for diskimage files larger than 16 MB.
- Expanded printing capability - allows printing of international characters, scientific and other unique characters.
- Extensions to keyboard entry - allows use of non-English keyboards and direct entry of scientific and other unique characters.
- Support for direction of output from Print Control to specified print address - allows more flexibility in printing.
- User determination of Separate Program Segment (/s option).
- Enhanced serial port support - allows Altos users to use serial devices other than printers.

- Expanded support for serial terminals. New terminals supported include:

Altos 5 Wyse 50 VT200

Wyse 60 Wang 2110A

- Simplified and enhanced local printing.
- Terminal support for 132 column mode - allows full screen viewing of wide reports before printing.

In addition to the 2.1 enhancements:

- Wang APC XENIX 3 to XENIX V upgrades will support serial terminals.
- Altos XENIX 3 to XENIX V upgrades allow users to take advantage of the field upgrade offered by Altos to upgrade your 2086 to the Series 2000.

Honeywell Bull

Revision 2.01.08 of Basic-2C for the Honeywell Bull XPS-100 is now available on a controlled release basis. This revision supports two additional terminals, the Wyse 60 and the Wang 2110A. In addition, all known bugs from the initial release of Basic-2C for the Honeywell Bull XPS-100 have been corrected.

Since this is a relatively minor upgrade in terms of new features, there will be no charge to existing users for this upgrade. Please contact your Niakwa account representative for further details.

Other News

Delivery Date Update

Following are the delivery dates for all of the recently announced Niakwa products.

Basic-2C for:	Revision No.	Release Date
SuperDOS	2.01.17	Now
MS/DOS	2.01.20	Now
Demonstrator Diskettes IBM and Wang	2.01.20	Now
SCD - IBM and Wang	2.01.20	Now
Xenix 3 Altos	2.01.18	Now
Xenix 3 Wang APC	2.01.18	Now
Xenix V Altos 2000	2.01.18	Now
Xenix V SCO	2.01.18	Now
Xenix V Wang APC	2.01.18	Now
Novell	2.01.20	Now
Honeywell Bull XPS-100	2.01.08	Now
NEC Astra	2.01.08	Now

Run DOS Applications with Color

With the release of Basic-2C for IBM MS-DOS single user machines Rev. 2.01.20, you may now easily add color to your new and existing single user IBM MS-DOS Basic-2C applications. You may select from a palette of 16 colors to set the background, foreground, perimeter and underline attributes. All color options are ignored when encountered by an actual 2200 terminal (on 2200 systems) or when using an older version of the RunTime package. Therefore, colors can be safely added to programs without fear of encountering compatibility problems. It should be noted that support of color by Basic-2C is dependent on the type of monitor/controller being used on the system. For information regarding supported hardware, please refer to the IBM MS-DOS Basic-2C supplement, or contact Niakwa technical support.

New Feature for Remote Support

Previous MS-DOS Novell and Xenix releases of Basic-2C had limited capabilities for support via a remote terminal. When an error occurred the end-user and the programmer were forced to undertake several lengthy steps to accomplish remote support. The new REDIRECT option provides for a more straight forward approach to remote support. The REDIRECT option consists of four simple steps:

1. Establish a communications link.
2. Turn control over to the remote terminal.
3. Trouble shoot the problem for remote site.
4. Relinquish control back to end-user site for continuation of processing.

The REDIRECT option will allow the programmer to offer better support of their software in a more efficient and confident manner.

'True' Box Graphics Now Supported

Previous releases of the Basic-2C RunTime Package for IBM MS-DOS single user machines lacked the availability of downloadable fonts, pixel graphics, or 'true' box graphics. With the release of Basic-2C for IBM MS-DOS single user systems Rev. 2.01.20, specific controller/monitor combinations can be used in graphics mode to allow the use of downloadable fonts, pixel graphics, and 'true' box graphics. If graphics mode is not enabled 'character' box graphics can still be used. This will allow IBM monitors to more closely resemble the output available on Wang PC monitors and 2236 class dumb terminals.

PC's Needed for 2.01 Testing

As announced in our last newsletter and restated in this newsletter, both DOS and Novell versions of the Basic-2C Development Package, RunTime Package and Scientific and Communications Drivers Package will be upgraded to Release 2.01.

All single-user MS-DOS systems currently supported (see front cover) must be retested for compatibility under the new release. One of the features that will be tested is the introduction of enhanced color/graphics supports for the single user IBM MS-DOS version of Basic-2C.

In order to complete this project, we need your help. If you need a specific PC supported by Basic-2C, please send one to us or provide us with a reference in the Chicagoland area so that we can perform the compatibility check. We would need the system in-house for approximately a week; a few hours, if we can evaluate one at a local site.

Only those PC's that have been tested with Release 2.01 will be listed as Basic-2C compatibles in future newsletters.

Please contact Jennifer Mondy at Niakwa, (312) 634-8700 with your requests of supported systems. We will notify you if those systems have been evaluated.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

#TERM and #PART under Novell

Previous versions of the RunTime package under Novell provided terminal identification via the #ID statement, yielding each nodes physical identification number on the network. With the release of Basic-2C for Novell Rev. 2.01.20, you are now able to assign different values to #TERM and #PART based upon the value of #ID. One of the benefits of this is that application programs that actively use the #TERM and #PART statements will no longer need to be modified to run on a Novell Network.

Basic-2C Success Stories

Since 1984, there have been over 20,000 Basic-2C installations of our RunTime package. Sometimes we hear of some pretty interesting applications of Basic-2C software packages.

It's nice to be able to share in the accomplishment of the wide variety of applications that can now be executed on any of the seven major operating systems Basic-2C operates under. Here are just a few that have come to our attention.

Gilmore Research, Inc. in Illinois plans to install the largest TOM System running SuperDOS to date, which has a potential of 26 users.

Photo-Trak Corporation in New Jersey has a fast running 55 user system on an Altos 2000 machine at a Paris publication company.

Morrison-Knudsen Co., Inc. in Idaho, one of the largest construction companies in the world utilizes Basic-2C at nearly every job site, ranging in size from 2 to 50 workstations.

K & R Custom Software in Virginia is keeping our Army, Navy and Air Force well stocked with over 100 RunTime Package sales to date.

A "Big 8" accounting firm based in **Chicago, Laventhol and Horwath**, uses Basic-2C along with the Niakwa 88's accounting software, a proprietary software package.

KRP Management in Australia has installed a Novell 1-32 User system at a large retail chain of men's clothing stores throughout Australia.

Basic-2C has been used on a submarine.

Segment Data in Sweden has a user who packages reindeer meat and fish.

And for vacationers, you can look up an installation on the island of **Grand Cayman**.

If you have any notable or interesting Basic-2C installations please contact Cyndee Philyaw at Niakwa, (312) 634-8700, for future newsletters.

NEC Astra XL

Niakwa is pleased to announce the availability of Basic-2C for the NEC Astra XL family of computers. The NEC Astra XL is based on the Motorola 68020 processor and uses the NEC ASTR-IX operating system (derived from Unix System V). It provides a high performance solution for configurations up to 32 users.

Basic-2C revision 2.01.08, controlled release, is now shipping for the NEC Astra XL series. An upcoming special edition Niakwa newsletter will provide more details about this product. Please contact your Niakwa account representative for further details.

Altos Unix V

Please be advised that the current version of Basic-2C for Xenix (revision 2.01.18, 06/30/88) does not work with the Altos Unix System V operating system version 5.3b. Both the Altos 1000 and Altos 2000 machines are affected by this problem. Note that the Altos 2000 can continue to be used with Basic-2C with the original Xenix V operating system released by Altos. Niakwa will publish further information when it is available.

Newly Approved Compatibles

Wang PC 380
Ast Premium 286

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If there are others in your firm that should be receiving the Niakwa Newsletter, please forward this one or make them a copy. If you would like them to receive it on a regular basis, please fill out the following and return to Niakwa.

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Title

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Title



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