DOWNLOAD PDF USING QUILL ON THE SIRIUS (PSION XCHANGE SOFTWARE)

Chapter 1 : EXTREMELY RARE BT Merlin Tonto Computer in carrying case

When CST brought out the Thor computer, an integrated version of Quill, Archive, Abacus and Easel was produced in collaboration with Danish software house Dansoft, called Xchange. Helmut Stuven of Dansoft was later to permit the free distribution of this version of Xchange and some other Dansoft Thor utility software.

The machine was intended for the busy executive with only limited computer skills. Most operations use multiple choice menus. The original machine was, like the QL itself, intended to incorporate a revolutionary new flat screen display being developed by Sinclair. However, the technical problems of developing a flat-screen display tube prevented it from being used with either machine the tube was eventually used for the TV80 pocket television. The OPD was finally released in early Another rebadged version was produced for Australian Telecom as the Computerphone. Many hundreds were sold to local authorities, government departments and large companies in both countries, but the OPD seems to be very rare nowadays - I understand that not even its makers, ICL, have one in their archive. As a result, the real time clock, screen management and dynamic RAM control method, all copy those of the QL. Of the K DRAM, 32K is allocated to the screen, leaving only around 75K as workspace, after other standard demands have been catered for. It is referred to as STORE, and is intended to remain continually active, since the machine is designed to be left permanently under power. This philosophy of instant availability extends to other aspects of the hardware and software. In particular the software is principally ROM based. This narrow PCB 19 x 4. The ROM-pack itself holds up to K, but can also take plug-in capsules around the size of a matchbox, with 8, 16 or 32K capacity each. Memory addresses for these slots differ from those in the 2-slot ROM-pack. On fitting a couple of large-capacity capsules, you have a respectable K of ROM software at hand, ready to operate on your data files held permanently in RAM store. Later improvements included disk drives from PCML with K extra memory , and another from Computer One, but these are no longer manufactured and can only be obtained on the second hand market. A variety of plug-in capsules were also provided, but most were to enable the OPD to link to ICL mainframe computers and are of little use to enthusiasts. There were later options to allow direct transfer of files direct from microdrive, via the telephone line, between OPDs and to import data into Quill or Abacus from bulletin boards. A K expansion unit was made but few seem to have been sold. The sloping console carries a telephone handset to the left of the keyboard. Above, a projecting ridge houses two microdrives. At the rear of the keyboard unit above , two expansion bays provide a plug-in socket for a ROM-pack and space for a large modem, which connects externally to the handset and to two telephone lines. Telephony The modem was designed as a plug-in to enable easy adaptation of the OPD for use in different countries or for future development, and additional versions were produced in small quantities for Australia, North America and south Africa. The British version was designed by British Telecom. The transmission protocol parity and stop, start and data bits is configurable from internal software. Pulse or tone dialling can be selected by DIL switches on the circuit board. The modem is built-in and capable of Viewdata and Glass Teletype communications. Text can be prepared off-line to save phone charges. The numeric keypad to the left of the main keyboard is arranged like that of a telephone, and is used for manual dialling. It also carries 12 command legends for activating telephone-related operations. The LIST key gives a single-screen directory listing of priority telephone numbers. These are a selected subset of the main telephone directory, which can hold over entries for automatic or 3-letter shortcode dialling. Names, addresses and descriptions in the directory can be located by a key-word search facility, or simply by browsing. Directory entries can specify a chargeband code to enable the costing of calls. A separate computer access directory duplicates the facilities of the telephone directory, but also stores information on the profiles of connection protocols for establishing each data link. Auto-answer data mode permits the reception and storage of data without any user intervention. In voice auto-answer mode, the speech synthesiser can select from 16 pre-assembled messages for replying to incoming calls. This can be set to reply to incoming voice calls by speaking a message selected from 16

pre-assembled responses. These are composed from two screens containing words, the individual letters A-Z and the numbers 0 to 59 together with 1st to 31st. Long or short pauses and -s or -ing suffixes are also allowed. The minimal Basic English vocabulary of the speech synthesiser consists of words. However, the OPD vocabulary is specifically selected for telephone responses, and so is quite adequate for the intended polite business-like messages, though the machine finds it hard to cope with anything beyond this. Display Two colour display models are found with OPDs. The earlier version is medium resolution, but was superseded by a high resolution model, distinguished by its central OPD badge below the screen. The 15 pins of the D connector to the monitor are as follows:

Chapter 2 : Apricot Computers - Wikipedia

Xchange for the Sinclair QL. When CST brought out the Thor computer, an integrated version of Quill, Archive, Abacus and Easel was produced in collaboration with Danish software house Dansoft, called Xchange.

Early development[edit] Psion was established in as a software house with a close relationship with Sinclair Research. David Potter remained managing director until and was chairman of the company until late In early , Sinclair approached Psion regarding the development of a suite of office applications for the forthcoming Sinclair QL personal computer. Psion were already working on a project in this area and the QL was launched in , bundled with Quill, Archive, Abacus and Easel; respectively a word processor , database , spreadsheet and business graphics application. It included a simple-to-use database programming language, OPL, which sparked a large independent software market. A second effort, dubbed Project Protea, produced the Psion Series 5 for sale in , a completely new product from the bit hardware upwards through the OS, UI, and applications. However, the new feel of the product, and the removal of certain familiar quirks, alienated loyal Series 3 users, who tended to stick with their PDAs rather than upgrade. In , Psion released the Psion Series 7 , which was much like a larger version of the Series 5, but with a double-size VGA-resolution screen that featured colours the Series 5 had a half-VGA screen with 16 grey shades. It was followed by the very similar Psion netBook. The Symbian operating system as of [update] powered around million mobile phones such as the Sony Ericsson P series. The development of new and updated products by Psion slowed after the Symbian spin-off. The PDA, which was once a niche market, had become a global horizontal marketplace where it was difficult for Psion to compete. Teklogix was re-branded Psion Teklogix. This business developed push email solutions for Symbian smartphones, Microsoft Exchange and Lotus Notes. This business was sold to Visto USA in Launched in March , Ingenuity Working had more than 35, visitors per month within its first six months. It claims it did this to "demonstrate its new business model in action and to signal that it is no longer a consumer products company, which was symbolized by the old Psion logo". Trademark 77,, rejected 13 January Psion and Linux[edit] Psion PLC had a lengthy, but distant, interest in Linux as an operating system on its electronic devices. Although this project was one of the earliest attempts to port Linux to a handheld computer, [23] it did not come to fruition for Psion. The project soon transitioned to an informal open source project at Calcaria. After the project transitioned again to sourceforge. In â€"4, Psion Teklogix and its founder David Potter expressed interest in Linux as the operating system for its devices as it divested from Symbian.

Find nearly any book by Stephen Morris (page 2). Get the best deal by comparing prices from over , booksellers.

Mitsubishi eventually shut down the Apricot brand; a management buyout resulted in new company Network Si UK Ltd being formed. In a new, independent Apricot company was launched in the UK. This coupled with a smart and aggressive engineering team allowed Apricot to be the first company in the world with several technical innovations including the first commercial shipment of an all-in-one system with a 3. This left the company at a technical dead-end without the financial or market power which helped IBM survive the failure of MCA. This long-running pattern of tenaciously investing in technical innovation and complete end-to-end system design and manufacture created technically excellent computers, but meant that Apricot was slow to adapt as the worldwide market grew and changed. By the mids major PC OEMs such as Compaq and Hewlett-Packard were outsourcing their own complete end-to-end system design and manufacture to Original Design Manufacturers ODMs based in Taiwan, and were moving at least some of their manufacturing to cheaper locations overseas. Apricot was very late in adopting this method of manufacturing, even though a motherboard designed and manufactured in Asia cost Apricot as little as a third of the cost of design and testing in Birmingham and manufacture in Scotland. Apricot eventually tried to move to outsourcing but the market outpaced them, and MELCO closed the company down, selling off the final assets in In America it was a moderate success. It had two floppy disks, and was one of the first systems to use 3. The keyboard contained an integrated calculator; the result of a calculation could be sent to the computer where it would appear on the command line, or in the current application. A flap covered the floppy drives when not in use. The industrial design of the machine was well conceived. The keyboard could be clipped to the base of the machine, and an integrated handle used for transporting it. The supplied green phosphor monitor had a nylon mesh glare filter. The machine was only successful in the UK. It was bundled with software for graphics, communication, word processing, a spreadsheet, some games, and system tools. It had one 3. The same infra-red trackball pointing device used with the Apricot Portable was also available for the F1. Also in , the Apricot Portable was released, with an infra-red keyboard, a voice system, 4. Some F1e computers shipped with an expansion card that could also be used in the F10, that would modulate the RGB video signal to RF enabling the computer to be used with a domestic television set. This card also contained a composite video output. The machine was unusual in that it contained the same way Centronics parallel port that appeared on many contemporary printers and continued to do so until virtually replaced with USB and ethernet. This means that a standard way centronics male to centronics male cable needs to be used to connect a printer - and these were hard to find since IBM had introduced the DB25F connector. This would transmit the date and time settings from the keyboard to the computer via IR, setting the RTC in the computer. The Infra-Red trackball could also be used as a mouse by tilting the unit forward - the ball protrudes from the top and bottom of the unit and can roll on a surface. The Xen-i initially shipped with a 5. These and their other systems were manufactured in their state-of-the-art factory in Glenrothes, Fife, Scotland. British magazines dedicated to the early Apricots were Apricot User , which had the official approval of Apricot Computers, and the more technically oriented Apricot File. Apricot took the opportunity to change its name back to the original, ACT. Subsequent products were far more conventional designs. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. September Learn how and when to remove this template message Mitsubishi continued to use the Apricot name on several computers until However, this suffered from poor reviews [11] [12] and the new Apricot Computers Limited was dissolved in May

Chapter 4 : Early QL Software

Using Quill on the Sirius [Psion Xchange Software] Using Archive on the Sirius [Psion Xchange Software] (Paperback) Using Easel on the Sirius [Duckworth business computing] (Paperback).

The following software was released for the One Per Desk computer: This program was also released for the Sinclair QL. The Compiler was in 2 capsules and the Assembler in one. BASIC version 07 was available in The early Basic versions included features which were discontinued in later versions e. These allow Basic programs to be saved in a coded form with a table of keywords and commands. Graphics may be viewed and stored on microdrive but cannot be altered or edited by the OPD. Facilities include auto-retry and transmission at pre-set times. Programs are written and tested in Basic then compiled. The package was written by Computer One and consisted of: MC Basic Compiler Assembler Editor The menu also lists a linker, but it has been confirmed that this section was never completed. The compiler output carries a large overhead of library sub-routines making small applications uneconomic in terms of memory. Should a suite of programs be running together, it is necessary only to load the library once. An option exists at compiler run time to exclude the library. The compiler also has the ability to compile Basic lines that MC Basic rejects, for example the command line x,y - a,b is rejected by MC Basic but can be compiled and actually allows the user to draw a line on screen, despite the fact that ICL BASIC does not contain any graphics commands!! The compiler writes a run-time library for each program that takes up about 20k. Small programs will therefore occupy relatively more space. Medium to large programs will save space due to the re-using of library routines. It was available for the Sinclair QL as four separate programs originally Quill - word processor: The integrated package included several enhancements over the original individual programs, including the TSL Programming Language which allowed you to create a program to control XChange. Xchange has since been made available for the Sinclair QL, with the permission of Psion. Thanks to the BT archives, we have also received permission to make the notes from an Xchange Training Course available, which may be of assistance to some users.

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Chapter 5 : Mail merge with Quill, a powerful feature for an historical software â€" Quantum Technology

Psion Xchange is much improved over the original versions of the four separate programs and a real benefit to the Sinclair QL. We are however, able to supply microdrive versions of the latest Psion software (the four independent programs) if you are you looking for this.

The vision of David Potter and the other Psion founders seems not to have faltered in the intervening 14 years. How it all started Dr David Potter was and is an academic at heart. After a scholarship to read Natural Sciences at Cambridge in , he progressed to a doctorate in Mathematical physics including chaos theory at Imperial College London. After nine years of teaching during the seventies in both London University and the University of California, he became determined to raise money to start his own software business, involving himself in various money-making projects. These included driving trucks and selling encyclopedias to American Air Force officers in Germany. At one point he even resorted to selling ice creams in Hyde Park! Several early employees were ex-students of his from university days, some of whom are still with the company today. It had an instrument panel and even a very basic representation of the outside world, both updated in real-time. Interestingly, Flight Simulation had a quirk whereby there were degrees in a circle, i. In retrospect, the association with the reputedly shambolic QL project was not a commercial or critical success, but reviewers noted the quality of the Psion applications and documentation as highlights of the QL package. In all, four applications were provided for Sinclair: Each application could share data via intermediate files. Perhaps slightly under the influence at a Greek Taverna in London, David Potter and his partners were bemoaning the lack of portability of the home computers of the day - when you removed the power you lost all the information inside. What was needed was something that was not only portable but could also retain data without mains power. One napkin-sized sketch later, a completely new concept had been born. A 14cm by 9cm brick-like unit with an alphabetic keyboard and sliding cover, it boasted 2K of RAM, 4K of applications in ROM and a free 8K datapak which had to be specially reformatted using ultraviolet light when the time came to erase it. It claimed a battery life of six months on a single 9 Volt PP3 battery - impressive by any standards. Extra packs were available, including a programming language POPL and mathematical and financial functions. The most striking thing about the Organiser, when compared to modern day palmtops, is its incredible robustness. With almost no moving parts, many of the units are still working 15 years later, and the only worry you might have when dropping the solid Organiser was whether the thing you were dropping it onto might be damaged. Urban myths Several urban myths have grown up around the initial production of the Organiser. The plus and the minus had been reversed, but it was only the prototype and the bug was quickly quashed. Enter the launch of the Organiser II in with more memory, more screen pixels and more style. The basic sliding-cover brick design was retained, complete with the familiar segmented-letters Psion logo for the very first time. Over the next decade, over half a million of this improved model were to be sold, a huge testament to the viability of the concept. A number of variants were introduced over the next three years. The CM, XP and LZ, with memory sizes from 8K to 64K, all gave more scope for both Psion to increase the amount of applications bundled and for users to store a greater variety of information. A diary and alarm clock featured in all models, plus a world time utility in the LZ. The screen resolution had steadily increased, from one line on the Organiser, to two on the CM and XP to four lines on the LZ, finally making such add-ons as a spreadsheet and a third-party word processor AutoScribe more practical. This extra expansion capability and the legendary toughness sent companies out in their droves to buy the Organiser II. Psion improved the concept in the HC and Workabout in later years, but have continued selling all three product lines for those companies that really want to buy them. Although not destined for huge sales, the A4-sized MC was ground-breaking and years ahead of its time in many ways. Even today, in , these machines are very saleable on the second-hand market and are either owned or remembered with affection by many Psion users. Firstly, there was the new EPOC operating system, fully multi-tasking with a usable graphical user interface

remember, Microsoft had still not got Windows up and running at this time. Two docking bays at the back of the machine allowed the user to in theory add accessories such as modem, fax, barcode and card readers in wireless fashion within the overall form factor of the machine. Most impressive of all on the option list was a voice-compression module which made the claim of squeezing sound recordings down to an unbelievable 64K per eight minutes! Even the power arrangements were well appointed, especially when compared to PC laptops of the same period. Two battery units were available, one with a rechargeable pack and one with room for eight AA batteries. Both gave the unit exceptional battery-life, measured in many tens of hours. Although only a fraction of the price of PC notebooks of the same era, this starting price missed the mark on both fronts. There was also a half-screened MC, but these proved to be even less popular! At roughly double the price of the already expensive MC , this hybrid machine was doomed right from the start, especially considering the poor state of PC software at the time blocky x CGA graphics and a largely text-based interface. Between the two MC variants, if rumours are to be believed, Psion very nearly went out of business. A nice anecdote in this history, but a very serious situation at the time. There were technical difficulties with the MC too, despite or perhaps because of the overall level of innovation. The small clam-shell Series 3 was launched to rave reviews, although as with several subsequent launches consumers had a fairly long wait before significant numbers of reliable machines reached the shops. Whereas certain applications especially games had been hard to implement properly on the small, blocky Series 3 screen, the overall 3a package was so well tuned that over third party programs were written for it, more than for any other similar computer before or since. In all, over 1. Amongst the other improvements a backlight was notable by its absence. Most European users promptly turned round and said "Then neither shall we! There was only one way that Psion were going to win this one, and after a few months they introduced the backlit model to users on this side of the Atlantic. And then straight to FIVE No-one knows for sure what happened to the Series 4. Other people have pointed out that the spoken word "Four" carries unpleasant associations in Chinese and Japanese languages. The Series 5 featured a slide-out keyboard with desktop-style keycaps, plus a touch-screen, external recording buttons and enhanced software throughout. The Series 5 was received with enthusiasm and won many press awards, despite niggling problems with screen contrast and reliability. There were also a few bugs and omissions in the 1. Symbian formed Summer saw Psion take a visionary step. Having already split itself into various operating arms, including Psion Computers, Psion Enterprise and Psion Software, the latter was merged with similar teams from Nokia and Ericsson to create Symbian. The brief was to develop EPOC into a world-beating operating system to be used on everything from small phones to multimedia communicators. By the way, although Symbian seems to have worked well for them as a name over the years, staff at the the time were taking great pains to spell it out to journalists. The 5mx was twice as fast 36MHz and had twice the memory 16MB , and there were significant improvements to its software, including a new Contacts application to match both Microsoft Outlook and similar applications on other handhelds. Good as the Series 5mx was, anyone with their ear to the ground also noticed that Psion Enterprise had been showing a larger, colour-screened unit, the netBook, at CeBIT. So much so that Psion Computers did a deal with the Enterprise division. The Series 7 was welcomed by many, although its lack of screen contrast outdoors was a big problem compared to the Psion generations that had gone before it, all of which had better clarity outdoors than in the office. This time round it was the use of budget NiMh rechargeable batteries with a Heath Robinson combination of sensors and software. The end result was a lot of battery unreliability, some of it misleading - the software simply needed a kick up the backside. Add to this the low capacity of the cells, which meant that a fully-charged Revo Plus, unused, would only keep its data for a week or so. The Revo had its fans, impressed by the size and weight, but most serious Psion users stuck to the AA-powered Series 5 range. A rumoured Bluetooth Revo project was also shelved at the same time. With their backs to the wall, no new product in the wings for the new millennium, and slowly decreasing sales of their existing palmtops, the Psion board decided to call it a day mid and preserve their capital. Living on, or dead in the water? What of the future? And its name is still revered in the circles of those who use their Psion SIBO and EPOC palmtops to this day, keeping them going

for as long as repair facilities exist. Many of the things that made a Psion palmtop so great are still alive and well in Symbian OS products; the proper multi-tasking, elegant interfaces and filing systems, OPL, etc. Note also that all prices given were official recommended retail prices, quoted in UK Sterling, including Value Added Tax.

Chapter 6 : The Psion QL Writers

Quill is the first wordprocessor package written by Psion and packaged with the Sinclair QL home computer. The US version of the software is simply called 'Word Processor' The US version of the software is simply called 'Word Processor'.

Preservation RWAP Services is run by Rich Mellor, a programmer with a long history of updating old software to run on the latest machines. Some of that software, including several adventures and games, has been released as commercial programs, with the consent of the original copyright holders. We are also converting these games and adventures to low cost shareware for Windows based PCs. We are however pleased to be able to supply various public domain programs in which we have had a small part. We have tested these various programs on a wide variety of Sinclair QL setups and have modified them where necessary to ensure that they will run on modern systems. If you find that any of the programs which are supplied do not run on your computer, please do not hesitate to contact us, as we are only too pleased to help. We are glad to add any other public domain software which is similar to that listed, particularly more adventure games. The following downloads are available: Adventure Disk 1 Starburst - a graphical adventure - fly a spaceship through a maze of caverns avoiding the enemy ships and missiles. Fantasia Adventure - a massive text only adventure that as far as we know, no-one has ever completed. Unfortunately not QPC compatible does anyone still have the source code. Ye-Classical Type Adventure - A classic text only adventure by the popular author, Alan Pemberton, full of his renowned sense of humour. Adventure Playtime - Another text only adventure by Alan Pemberton. The Lost Tombs of Ornac - A fairly simple text only adventure - author unknown. Underground Adventure - A well-written text only adventure - by Marianne van Loenen. Farce - A small comical text only adventure - author unknown. Haunted House - text only adventure - explore a haunted house - compiled, with source code. Treasure Hunt - text only adventure originally supplied with the QL, now compiled. No source code at moment. Voyage of the Beano An engrossing large text adventure by Alan Pemberton with graphics for most locations. Adventure Utilities This includes various utilities to assist with creating adventures. The following utilities are included: Convert adventures written in Quill by Gilsoft to SuperBASIC allows graphics to be added - this can be used to overcome the difficulties with running Quilled adventures on later operating systems. Read text in adventures written with Quill allows you to cheat!! Spook - a good implementation of the original Pacman game. A quick guide to playing Pudge is available as an Adobe Acrobat file. The Source Code for these programs is now available as follows:

Chapter 7 : 3-Lib History of Psion

Psion Xchange suite â€" which is still popular in its more powerful network version â€" and provide a major challenge to all other integrated packagesat a price of only Â£69 (ex' VAT).

Quill is the first wordprocessor package written by Psion and packaged with the Sinclair QL home computer. Written at the time when dot matrix printers were just beginning to emerge, Quill only offers a limited range of fonts and styles, although more could be added through the printer translates program. As a result, its output now looks dated compared to modern word processors, although it still remains very popular, due to its simplicity and ease of use. Quill was also included as part of the Xchange package. It was this table-language which led to a lot of criticism over the original v1 Psion programs, which had to be loaded in parts from microdrive during use. Some further improvements were added to Quill by third parties, such as TurboQuill to enhance its speed, and Spellbound and Qtyp spellcheckers. Payment We happily accept the following payment methods: We do not pass on PayPal fees to customers. Cheques or Postal Orders. Sterling cheques drawn on a UK bank account or UK postal orders. We accept cash on collection within 7 days of the auction ending. We do not accept any forms of payment other than those above. In particular, we do not accept: Money transfers of any kind. Please use your credit card to fund a PayPal account and pay using that method. We often pack and dispatch items same-day. We use professional packing materials and comply with all courier packing guidelines to minimise any chance of damage during shipping. To fulfil delivery we use a variety of courier services based on your location and the item to be transported. They are all professional services and work to ensure reliability of delivery to you. The cost of using a postal service or courier 2. The cost of the packing materials used for the item. We are not responsible for any applicable customs charge, taxes and duties. Combined Shipping is offered on all multiple purchases. Collections If you would like to collect an item you have purchased from us, please email or phone us to arrange a convenient time. Here is a list of frequently asked questions about collections: Can I collect my item? All items can be collected in person from our Home. Is there a charge for collections? Can I pay cash on collection? But we need payment within 7 days so please collect promptly. Where do I collect from? Unless stated in the listing all collections are from our Home: When can I collect? Collections are by appointment only during normal office hours 9am We do need at least 24 hours notice of your arrival to ensure your item is ready for you. How long do I have to collect my item? Requests for returns will only be considered within 14 days of items being received and if items are returned in the same condition as sent out.

Chapter 8 : Stephen Morris: List of Books by Author Stephen Morris

Psion was established in as a software house with a close relationship with Sinclair Research. The company developed games and other software for the ZX81 and ZX Spectrum home computers, released under the Sinclair/Psion brand.

And yet for the company writing these programs, this was its first real foray into the cut-throat world of business software. They invited us to submit proposals for a suite of business software. The attraction of carrying out development work on a VAX is clear enough; why work on a home micro with a poor keyboard and no debugging software in assembler, when you can work in a professional programming environment in C? And - perhaps equally important in an industry where it seems almost common practice to launch first, design later - you can actually develop software before the hardware exists. But was Psion given an image of the typical user? The whole emphasis was on sitting down and using the packages from day one - without needing to refer to the documentation. The prompt box at the top of the screen tells you exactly what you can do at any time and provides brief prompts. And the in-context help screen can be called for more detailed instructions. How long was it before Psion received its first QL? But in all other respects the system was a QL. We had the choice of writing our own operating system to work with, or waiting for Sinclair to produce QDOS. But some have said, too, that there were bugs in the Psion packages. There were a lot of different versions of both the hardware and the Psion packages, and this caused problems of compatibility. But the versions which have gone out to customers are fully working. Close To Basic Switching to the individual packages, the database program, Archive, seems noticeably different from the other three. Quill, Abacus and Easel are all very easy to use from the first few minutes of sitting down with a QL. Archive seems less friendly. With the database, however, we found from talking to experienced users that what they want is power. For this reason, we decided on a language driven system. This is inherently less friendly than a menu-driven, single-key system, but provides the sophistication that we know users want. It provides full prompting and in-context help at all times. You also get a lot of dedicated commands, like automatic sorting. Basic programmers will find very little difficulty with Archive, but we have to cater for inexperienced users too. The bit-mapped screen presented both problems and opportunities. We had to keep track of what was on the screen at any given time. But it has its compensations, enabling us to display underlining, superscripts and subscripts and soon. For example, once in block mode, you have to use the cursor keys to define a block of text. This is a very slow method of defining a large block of text. How would Stamp answer these criticisms? It would be too much power; people can go terribly wrong that way. But when a beginner does something, he wants to see it happen. I can see it competing with much more expensive machines. I asked Colly Myers, author of Abacus, what that means to a spreadsheet. Anyone can have the package up and running for straightforward applications within a matter of minutes. But the more complex and powerful features are there when you need them. We think that Abacus compares well with traditional spreadsheets in terms of speed and power, but is friendly enough for people to be tempted to use it to balance their bank account. While the combination of a database, word processor and spreadsheet has long been the established formula for a business system, the addition to the trio of a graphics package is something relatively new. We wanted to go for a genuinely interactive approach. With Easel, you can sit down in front of it, type in a few figures and instantly see those figures displayed as a bar-chart. If you want to turn the chart on its side, you can. If you want a graph instead or as well, you can do that too. I put it to Brown: Easel has simple spreadsheet functions built-in which allow you to combine different sets of data. Mathematical functions are also incorporated, enabling you to produce sine waves and so on. Will we be seeing the four QL packages on other machines? And how about QL games software?

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Chapter 9 : Sinclair QL Software-Psion Software Page

The Psion QL Writers The authors of the QL's bundled software, Charles Davies (Archive), Martin Stamp (Quill), Martin Brown (Easel) and Colly Myers (Abacus), what they'd set out to achieve.

Of course the asterisk will be deleted from the printed document. If you want to use a different marker because e. It is possible to declare up to thredd different methods to insert your data into the template: After creating the template, with all the relevant variable fields, select the Mail option from the Mail command writing: For every variable field, Quill will show the relevant position and will ask to write the corresponding data. Press Esc any time you finish substituting; after reaching the document end, Quill will ask to confirm that inserted data are correct. It is possible to create another document, containing the variable data to be inserted into the template. The first paragraph of this document contains the list of the names for the variable fields, separated by a specific delimiter. Every following paragraph corresponds to a record â€" a copy of the document. Remember that on Quill, to finish a paragraph it is necessary to press Enter. Here is an example, took from XChange manual: Save the secondary file as always: The entire operation will then proceed unattended. Quill will then alert of the problem and ask if you still want to proceed or stop. This will occur for every copy you will want to print. In the above written example, some fields are reported more than once. Anyway, the data must be defined just once in the secondary file: Quill will take care of the substitutions. Variable data not present into the template will be discarded. The procedure is the same as using another document: Where is the advantage, then? If you want to produce quality printouts, or complex tabulates, or need to use complex layouts subject to frequent modifications, this is the best solution available.