

SYSTEM SOFTWARE
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TO: Distribution
SUBJECT: Using Mr Color on Blue Whale (TSX)

Attached is information about the programs Ucolor and Dcolor, the Blue Whale loaders for Mr Color operating under TSX+.

Also some notes on installation, effects, and the other as yet undocumented loaders: SPOUT, IMAGE, MAGIC, and LMAG.

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Mr Color on the Blue Whale

This document is an update to section 5 of the Blue Whale Users Manual distributed in SSB-32. Also refer to Mr Color page 11 under LOADING and SAVING. All software described is compatible with Blue Whale version 4d and later with one noted exception, version 5f introduced the Break feature using the <esc> key (SSB-29). When attempting to use the /G command after the filename in ORCA or IMAGE the Whale correctly starts execution of code but the downloading program continues sending escape sequences to the CIT-101. The first escape will cause the Whale to enter break mode. This is not obvious because the CIT is not directed at the Whale and does not receive the Status and Register contents message. The same happens when using the Whale vax downloader command: %whale -g filename.

Downloading Mr Color

The program for downloading on TSX+ is called DCOLOR and is executed as follows: (tsx prompt is the '.')

```
.dcolor <CR>  
  [filename] <CR>
```

The filename is the name of a set of files with the extensions MGR, CGR, BGR, and PGR. As indicated, the filename parameter is optional and will cause dcolor to download the default file set SY:CLEAN.mbcPGR. Notice the SY:. Dcolor defaults to the system device for GR.BIN and the CLEAN files so that only one copy need be maintained per system. This also means that a file set called CLEAN could exist on the user surface and contain other information.

Dcolor indicates its progress through each step of the process with appropriate messages. First it reads SY:GR.BIN and second the file set specified (filename, or SY:CLEAN) to build up an 8k decle image in memory. Lastly, dcolor connects to the Whale and loads the image into ram t-card at 0x5000.

Use the Whale command 'G' to start Mr Color.

Uploading Mr Color

The program for Uploading on TSX+ is called UCOLOR and is executed as follows:

```
.ucolor <CR>  
      filename <CR>
```

Filename is NOT optional. Ucolor connects to the Whale and uploads the low byte of 8k decles at 0x5000 from ram t-card. Next it severs that connection and produces the file set filename.MCBPgr (4 seperate files). These files can be left as is for more work by downloading or used as input to GRL.

Notes for Mr Color

The file sets produced should be completely compatible with Mr Color as used on a MAGUS and the same with existing files going to a Whale.

Uploading a Memory Image

To upload an 8k image file execute the program SPOUT:

```
.spout <CR>  
      filename <CR>
```

As stated in the users manual, spout reads 8k of memory from ram t-card at 0x5000 to 0x6FFF. The data read is full 16 bits wide and is placed in the specified file with an extension of filename.IMG . Spout also works on cartidges by Mattel, Coleco and Activision.

Downloading a Memory Image

To download a SPOUTed image, execute the program IMAGE:

```
.image <CR>  
      filename <CR>
```

Image reads an IMG file and loads 8k decles to 0x5000 through 0x6FFF. (I could not think of another name for this program so feel free to change it to avoid conflicts.)

Uploading an Imagic Cartridge

The program MAGIC operates in the same manner as spout:

```
.magic <CR>  
filename <CR>
```

The address locations read start at 0x4800 through 0x67FF. Magic produces a file extension of filename.MAG .

This is NOT the case for ALL Imagic games, some start at 0x5000 and spout is sufficient.

Downloading a MAGICed File

The program LMAG operates in the same manner as image:

```
.lmag <CR>  
filename <CR>
```

Lmag reads an MAG file and loads 8k decles to 0x4800 through 0x67FF. Switch 6 of the 6800 ram can be set to the alternate position to achieve 4800.

Notes on Image Files

SPOUTed and MAGICed files can be read into the ROMEX system to produce EPROMS and for other uses. These files can also be loaded into a MAGUS except that MAGICed data will most likely be useless. IMAGE can be used to load MAGUS images into a Whale.

Distribution

A single density floppy containing the following files will be distributed to Applications Software:

DCOLOR.SAV
UCOLOR.SAV
IMAGE .SAV
SPOUT .SAV
MAGIC .SAV
LMAG .SAV

GR .BIN
CLEAN .MGR
CLEAN .CGR
CLEAN .BGR
CLEAN .PGR

GRL .SAV

Some files will appear to be redundant, but this insures that everthing will be in the right place. GRL.SAV is included for remote site installation (France etc).

Installation

Copy the entire contents of the floppy to the SYSTEM device as in the example:

```
.copy dzl: sy:
```

As stated previously, this software will look at SY: for certain files.

As there was no official release of Whale version 4d and it was failed to be mentiond in 5f, so it is stated here. A change to TSX is required to expand the default terminal buffers to enhance operation of this software. Without this change, the uploaders will not work at all. This changes the buffers from 100 to 300 bytes of auto storage.

Arrangements have been made to incorporate this into the system. If you notice problems please contact Systems Software.