Installing PiMAME on the RaspberryPi

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Outline

1. Download PiMAME (see links subsection)

2. Copy PiMAME image onto your SD card

3. Boot RPi

4. Find ROMs to Use

Install process

Download the PiMAME image from the first link in the links subsection. Once you've downloaded this, extract the file by:

1. [Windows] Double clicking the file, and right clicking the `.img` file selecting `extract`

2. [Linux] Open up a terminal and run `unzip -d pimame pimame-0.x.xx.img` where you fill in the x's with the correct numbers, for me it was 'pimame-0.7.10.img`. This will extract the file to the folder `pimame` which you can `cd` (change directory) into `cd pimame`.

Write the image (.img) file to your SD card:

1. [Windows] Use `win32diskimager` as outlined in the 'Copying PiMAME to SD card' link

2. [Linux] `cd` into the `pimame` folder and run `dd if=pimame-0.x.xx.img of=/dev/sdX bs=4M`. Make sure to replace all the `x's with actual values, for example I used:` 'dd if=pimame-0.7.10.img of=/dev/sdc bs=4M
`if` stands for *input file*, whilst `of` stands for *output file*, `dd` copies all the 1s and 0s in `pimame-0.x.xx.img` over to `/dev/sdX` which is the device file of your SD card (or it might be `/dev/mmcblkX`). Finish off by making sure the file is fully written to the device using `sudo sync`, this makes sure all the 1s and 0s are written to `/dev/sdX` and are not left in buffers

Now you've installed PiMAME to your SD card you can play some games! You could also learn how to configure game pads to control your games. I do believe Xbox 360 controller should be supported out of the box, others will probably need more configureation. PiMAME includes emulators (programs that simulate hardware systems) for the following systems:

- MAME
- Neo Geo
- Playstation 1
- Genesis
- NES
- SNES
- Gameboy
- Gameboy Advance
- N64 (Alpha quality)
- Atari 2600
- Commodore 64

It also includes the following games/programs:

- Cave Story - Side-scrolling platformer (NES mario/zelda style)
- ScummVM - A program that runs certain classic point and click adventure games

What next!?

After installing PiMAME on your SD card, plug it into your RPi and wait for it to boot up. Once booted you'll be greeted with a terminal screen displaying multiple options. Have a look inside these and see what you can find!

You'll probably want to get some games, so head over to CoolROM and download some ROMs for the supported platforms. I've whiled away many evenings playing 'Super Mario Kart' on SNES emulators.

Links

- Download PiMAME img file: http://blog.sheasilverman.com/pimame-raspberry-pi-os-download/ - http://goo.gl/yPl2wQ

- Copying PiMAME to SD card: http://elinux.org/RPi_Easy_SD_Card_Setup#Flashing_the_SD_Card_using_Windows

    - http://goo.gl/0dRjSt

- Win32 Disk Imager: http://sourceforge.net/projects/win32diskimager/ - http://goo.gl/WOLlar

- CoolROM (get games (ROMs)): http://www.coolrom.com/ - http://goo.gl/sudCYH

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