C256 – Developer Introduction Notes

# Introduction to the C256 System

## Hardware

The C256 system uses a 65C816 micro-processor.

System clock is 14MHz.

Power supply required is +12V 1A with a 2.5mm plug.

Keyboard requires a PS/2 connector.



# Git Repositories

Nu256 Emulator: <https://github.com/tomxp411/Nu256.git>

C256 Kernel: <https://github.com/Trinity-11/Kernel>

# Tools

To modify the Nu256 Emulator, you will need Visual Studio 2017 Community edition.

The emulator is written in C#.

# Memory Map

The CPU can access 24-bit worth of addresses.



|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| $FF:0000 - $FF:FFFF | Bank $FF | **16 MB Address Space** |
| $FE:0000 - $FE:FFFF | Bank $FE |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| $00:0000 - $01:FFFF | Bank $01 |
| $00:0000 - $00:FFFF | Bank $00 |

The address space is mapped as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| $F8:0000 - $FF:FFFF | 512 KB User Flash (if populated) |
| $F0:0000 - $F7:FFFF | 512 KB System Flash |
| $B0:0000 - $EF:FFFF | 4 MB Video RAM |
| $AF:0000 - $AF:FFFF | IO Space |
| $40:0000 - $AE:FFFF | <empty> |
| $20:0000 - $3F:FFFF | 2 MB RAM (optional) |
| $00:0000 - $1F:FFFF | 2 MB RAM |

On boot, Gavin copies the first 64KB of the content of System Flash (or User Flash, if present) to Bank $00. The entire 512KB are copied to address range $18:0000 to $1F:FFFF.

IO Space is mapped to Vicky: $AF:0000 to $AF:DFFF and Beatrix: $AF:E000 to $AF:FFFF.

## Gavin – Location $00:0000 to $00:FFFF



### 32-bit Adder

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Address** | **Name** | **Descripton** |
| $00:0120 | ADDER32\_A\_LL |  |
| $00:0121 | ADDER32\_A\_LH |  |
| $00:0122 | ADDER32\_A\_HL |  |
| $00:0123 | ADDER32\_A\_HH |  |
| $00:0124 | ADDER32\_B\_LL |  |
| $00:0125 | ADDER32\_B\_LH |  |
| $00:0126 | ADDER32\_B\_HL |  |
| $00:0127 | ADDER32\_B\_HH |  |
| $00:0128 | ADDER32\_R\_LL |  |
| $00:0129 | ADDER32\_R\_LH |  |
| $00:012A | ADDER32\_R\_HL |  |
| $00:012B | ADDER32\_R\_HH |  |

FYI: you can do signed (subtraction): don't forget to put the Number in the desired register in 2's complement

### Interrupt Controller

INT\_PENDING\_REG0 = $000140 ;

INT\_PENDING\_REG1 = $000141 ;

INT\_PENDING\_REG2 = $000142 ;

; Polarity Set

INT\_POL\_REG0 = $000144 ;

INT\_POL\_REG1 = $000145 ;

INT\_POL\_REG2 = $000146 ;

; Edge Detection Enable

INT\_EDGE\_REG0 = $000148 ;

INT\_EDGE\_REG1 = $000149 ;

INT\_EDGE\_REG2 = $00014A ;

; Mask

INT\_MASK\_REG0 = $00014C ;

INT\_MASK\_REG1 = $00014D ;

INT\_MASK\_REG2 = $00014E ;

------------------------ (edited)

INTERRUPT LIST:

-----------------------------

INT\_REG0 - Bit fields:

[0] - Not used Always 1

[1] = VICKY\_INT0 - Start of Frame (for now)

[2] = VICKY\_INT1 - Line Interrupt (For Split Screen)

[3] = Timer0

[4] = Timer1

[5] = Timer2

[6] = RTC Interrupt (Clock Alarm, etc..., See the chip spec for more detail for the registers: BQ4802

[7] = LPC\_INT[6] - Floppy Disk Controller

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INT\_REG1

[0] = LPC\_INT[1] Keyboard Interrupt (8042)

[1] = VICKY\_INT2 - Sprite Collision

[2] = VICKY\_INT3 - Tile Collision (TBD)

[3] = LPC\_INT[3] - COM2 - Serial Port

[4] = LPC\_INT[4] - COM1 - Serial Port

[5] = LPC\_INT[5] - MPU-401 - Midi

[6] = LPC\_INT[7] - LPT1 - Parallel Port

[7] = SDCARD Controller

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INT\_REG2

[0] = OPL2\_Right\_Channel

[1] = OPL2\_Left\_Channel

[2] = Beatrix Interrupt (TBD)

[3] = Gavin DMA Controller

[4] = Always 1

[5] = DAC - Hot-Plug Interrupt

[6] = Expansion Port Connector Interrupt

[7] = Always 1

## Vicky – Location $AF:0000 to $AF:DFFF



### Vicky Memory

|  |
| --- |
| // $AF:0000 - $AF:00FF (Internal Memory) Vicky General Registers |
| BACKGROUND\_COLOR\_B = $AF0008 ; When in Graphic Mode, if a pixel is "0" then the Background pixel is chosen  BACKGROUND\_COLOR\_G = $AF0009  BACKGROUND\_COLOR\_R = $AF000A ; |
| // $AF:0100 - $AF:013F (Internal Memory) Vicky Tiles Registers |
| // $AF:0140 - $AF:014F (Internal Memory) Vicky Bitmap Registers |
| // $AF:0200 - $AF:03FF (Internal Memory) Vicky Sprites |
| // $AF:0400 - $AF:04FF (Internal Memory) Vicky VDMA |

|  |
| --- |
| // $AF:1000 - $AF:13FF - SUPER IO Devices --- (TOTAL USAGE) --- |
| // Super IO Details: |
| // $AF:1060 - $AF:1064 - LOGIC DEVICE 7 - KEYBOARD |
| // $AF:1100 - $AF:117F - LOGIC DEVICE A - PME (Runtime Registers) |
| // $AF:1200 - $AF:1200 - LOGIC DEVICE 9 - GAME PORT |
| // $AF:12F8 - $AF:12FF - LOGIC DEVICE 5 - SERIAL 2 |
| // $AF:1330 - $AF:1331 - LOGIC DEVICE B - MPU-401 |
| // $AF:1378 - $AF:137F - LOGIC DEVICE 3 - PARALLEL PORT |
| // $AF:13F0 - $AF:13F7 - LOGIC DEVICE 0 - FLOPPY CONTROLLER |
| // $AF:13F8 - $AF:13FF - LOGIC DEVICE 4 - SERIAL 1 |

// $AF:1F00 - $AF:1F3F (Internal Memory) Vicky Text Mode 16 Color Look-up Table Foreground Color

// $AF:1F40 - $AF:1F7F (Internal Memory) Vicky Text Mode 16 Color Look-up Table Background Color

### // $AF:2000 - $AF:23FF (Internal Memory) Graphic Mode LUT0

### // $AF:2400 - $AF:27FF (Internal Memory) Graphics Mode LUT1

### // $AF:2800 - $AF:2BFF (Internal Memory) Graphics Mode LUT2

### // $AF:2C00 - $AF:2FFF (Internal Memory) Graphics Mode LUT3

### // $AF:4000 - $AF:40FF (External Memory) 256 Bytes GAMMA LUT - RED

### // $AF:4100 - $AF:41FF (External Memory) 256 Bytes GAMMA LUT - GREEN

### // $AF:4200 - $AF:42FF (External Memory) 256 Bytes GAMMA LUT – BLUE

FONT\_MEMORY\_BANK0 = $AF:8000 - $AF:8FFF

FONT\_MEMORY\_BANK1 = $AF:9000 - $AF:9FFF

### Screen Page 0 – Location $AF:A000

Screen Page 0 memory is used to store text characters for display.

One page of text is 128 columns by 64 rows. This adds up to 8 KB of memory of text. C256 does not display the entire buffer on the screen. Typically, we render 72 characters per row, with 56 rows.

This uses 576 x 448 of the available 640 x 480 resolution. The border size can be modified or turned off completely.

The display process reads Screen Page 0 and for each character, displays it’s character set bitmap.

### Screen Page 1 – Location $AF:C000

An additional page of 128 x 64 is used to store the colors. Each byte is split into foreground (4bits) and background (4 bits). The high nibble (bits 7..4) are the foreground and the low nibble (bits 3..0) are the background.

The colors used (the 4 bits) are used to lookup RBG values in two lookup tables (LUT).

The foreground (FG) LUT is located at $AF:1F40 for 64 bytes – only 16 x 3 = 48 bytes are used. The extra byte may be used for alpha (transparency) later on.

The background (BG) LUT is located at $AF:1F80 for 64 bytes – only 16 x 3 = 48 bytes are used. The extra byte may be used for alpha (transparency) later on.

The colors are assigned 8-bit blue, 8-bit green, 8-bit red, 8-bit alpha (not used) for each of those colors in Text Mode.

#### Example – Color Lookup

Consider the following Foreground and Background Lookup Tables

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Foreground Color Lookup Table, starting at address $AF:1F40 | Background Color Lookup Table, starting at address $AF:1F80 |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Index | Blue | Green | Red | Alpha | Color | | 0 | $00 | $00 | $00 | $FF | Black | | 1 | $00 | $00 | $80 | $FF | Maroon | | 2 | $00 | $80 | $00 | $FF | Green | | 3 | $80 | $00 | $00 | $FF | Navy | | 4 | $00 | $80 | $80 | $FF | Olive | | 5 | $80 | $80 | $00 | $FF | Teal | | 6 | $80 | $00 | $80 | $FF | Purple | | 7 | $80 | $80 | $80 | $FF | Gray | | 8 | $00 | $45 | $FF | $FF | Orange | | 9 | $13 | $45 | $8B | $FF | Brown | | A | $00 | $00 | $20 | $FF | Dark Red | | B | $00 | $20 | $00 | $FF | Dark Green | | C | $20 | $00 | $00 | $FF | Indigo | | D | $20 | $20 | $20 | $FF | Dark Gray | | E | $40 | $40 | $40 | $FF | Slate Gray | | F | $FF | $FF | $FF | $FF | White | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Index | Blue | Green | Red | Alpha | Color | | 0 | $00 | $00 | $00 | $FF | Black | | 1 | $00 | $00 | $80 | $FF | Maroon | | 2 | $00 | $80 | $00 | $FF | Green | | 3 | $80 | $00 | $00 | $FF | Navy | | 4 | $00 | $20 | $20 | $FF | ?? | | 5 | $20 | $20 | $00 | $FF | ?? | | 6 | $20 | $00 | $20 | $FF | ?? | | 7 | $20 | $20 | $20 | $FF | ?? | | 8 | $1E | $69 | $D2 | $FF |  | | 9 | $13 | $45 | $8B | $FF | Brown | | A | $00 | $00 | $20 | $FF | Dark Red | | B | $00 | $20 | $00 | $FF | Dark Green | | C | $40 | $00 | $00 | $FF | Blue | | D | $10 | $10 | $10 | $FF | Midnight Gray | | E | $40 | $40 | $40 | $FF | Slate Gray | | F | $FF | $FF | $FF | $FF | White | |

If a character in Screen Page 1 is $ED (the default text color combination), then the foreground color index is E and the background color index is D. Looking up the index for E will make the foreground “Slate Gray” and the background “Midnight Gray”. The image below shows this color combination in text.



### Text Gamma Lookup Table

The Gamma lookup table is used to adjust the color between different display devices (such as DVI versus VGA). Each of the red, green and blue can be corrected. Each table consists of 256 values.

GAMMA\_B\_LUT\_PTR = $AF:4000

GAMMA\_G\_LUT\_PTR = $AF:4100

GAMMA\_R\_LUT\_PTR = $AF:4200

Gamma can be enabled or disabled.

### Master Control Register

The Master Control Register (MCR) is used to enable/disable various video mode. The MCR is located at address $AF:0000.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Master Control Register ($AF:0000)** | | | | | | | |
| 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Disable Vid | Gamma | Sprite | Tilemap | Bitmap | Graph Mode | Text Overlay | Text Mode |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **MCR Bit** | **MCR Name** | **Description** |
| 0 | Mstr\_Ctrl\_Text\_Mode\_En | Enable the Text Mode |
| 1 | Mstr\_Ctrl\_Text\_Overlay | Enable the Overlay of the text mode on top of Graphic Mode (the Background Color is ignored) |
| 2 | Mstr\_Ctrl\_Graph\_Mode\_En | Enable the Graphic Mode |
| 3 | Mstr\_Ctrl\_Bitmap\_En | Enable the Bitmap Module in Vicky |
| 4 | Mstr\_Ctrl\_TileMap\_En | Enable the Tile Module in Vicky |
| 5 | Mstr\_Ctrl\_Sprite\_En | Enable the Sprite Module in Vicky |
| 6 | Mstr\_Ctrl\_GAMMA\_En | Enable the GAMMA correction - The Analog and DVI have different color value, the GAMMA is great to correct the difference.  NOTE: This could also be used for fade-in and out. |
| 7 | Mstr\_Ctrl\_Disable\_Vid | This bit disables the Scanning of the Video Memory, hence giving 100% bandwith to the CPU to access graphic data.  NOTE: In this case the Border color or the background is displayed on the screen (I can't remember) to be advised |

### Displaying Graphics

C256 has 4 MB of Video RAM available, starting at $B0:0000 and ending at $EF:FFFF.

The order in which images are drawn are:

* L0 - Sprites (Closest to the Viewer)
* L1 - Tile Layer 0
* L2 - Sprite Layers
* L3 - Tile Layer 1
* L4 - Sprite Layers
* L5 - Tile Layer 2
* L6 - Sprite Layers
* L7 - Tile Layer 3
* L8 - Sprite Layers
* L9 - Background (bitmap)

#### Bitmaps

Once the Bitmap bit is set in the MCR, Vicky will retrieve the Bitmap Control Register at address $AF:0140.

The Bitmap Control Register is shown below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Bitmap Control Register ($AF:0140)** | | |
| 7 .. 4 | 3 .. 1 | 0 |
| Reserved | LUT | Enable |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **BCR Bit** | **BCR Name** | **Description** |
| 0 | Enabled | Enable the bitmap |
| 1 .. 3 | LUT | Lookup Table Index 0 to 7 |
| 4 .. 7 | Reserved | Reserved |

The address pointer of the bitmap in the Video RAM is located at addresses $AF:0141 to $AF:0143. The address stored must be offset by $B0:0000. As an example, if the bitmap data is stored in at address $B1:4000 in memory, the address pointer must be $01:4000.

The bitmap width is saved in the word $AF:0144 to $AF:0145.

The bitmap height is saved in the word $AF:0146 to $AF:0147.

#### Tiles

Once the Tile bit is set in the MCR, Vicky will retrieve the Tile Control Register at addresses $AF:0100, $AF:0108, $AF:0110 and $AF:0118 to determine if a tileset should be displayed. There can be four tilesets at any given time in the display.

The Tile Control Registers are shown below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tile Control Register ($AF:0100, $AF:0108, $AF:0110, $AF:0118)** | | | |
| 7 | 6 .. 4 | 3 .. 1 | 0 |
| Tile Striding | Reserved | LUT | Enable |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **TCR Bit** | **TCR Name** | **Description** |
| 0 | Enabled | Enable the bitmap |
| 1 .. 3 | LUT | Lookup Table Index 0 to 7 |
| 4 .. 6 | Reserved | Reserved |
| 7 | Tile Striding | 0: sequential, 1: 256 x 256 Tile sheet striding |

Each tile has its own control register, video address pointer, X and Y stride.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Tile 0 | Tile 1 | Tile 2 | Tile 3 |
| Tile Control Register | $AF:0100 | $AF:0108 | $AF:0110 | $AF:0118 |
| Tile Start Address | $AF:0101 .. $AF:0103 | $AF:0109 .. $AF:010B | $AF:0111 .. $AF:0113 | $AF:0119 .. $AF:011B |
| Tile Map X Stride | $AF:0104 .. $AF:0105 | $AF:010C .. $AF:010E | $AF:0114 .. $AF:0115 | $AF:011C .. $AF:011E |
| Tile Map Y Stride | $AF:0106 .. $AF:0107 | $AF:010E .. $AF:010F | $AF:0116 .. $AF:0117 | $AF:011E .. $AF:011F |

Tile maps are stored at addresses $AF:5000, $AF:5800, $AF:6000 and $AF:6800.

#### Sprites

Once the Sprite bit is set in the MCR, Vicky will display sprites in the appropriate layer. There can be 32 sprites displayed for each screen refresh.

The Sprite Control Registers are shown below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sprite Control Register ($AF:0200 to $AF:02F8, offset by 8 bytes)** | | | |
| 7 | 6 .. 4 | 3 .. 1 | 0 |
| Tile Striding | Layer | LUT | Enable |

## Beatrix



// $AF:E400..$AF:E4FF // SID (Still to be defined) Not Implemented yet

// $AF:E500..$AF:E5FF // OPL2 - Left Side

// $AF:E600..$AF:E6FF // OPL2 - Right Side

// $AF:E700..$AF:E7FF // OPL2 - Both Side (Write Sequence Only)

// $AF:E800..$AF:E807 // Joystick + AD Channel + SD Controller

// $AF:E820..$AF:E823 // CODEC Register

// $AF:E810..$AF:E81F //SD Card Stat