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Notice. New forum software under development. It's going to miss a few functions and look a bit ugly for a while, but I'm working on it full time now as the old forum was too unstable. Couple days, all good. If you notice any issues, please [contact me](#).

[Forum Index](#) : [Microcontroller and PC projects](#) : DREAM-6800 computer

Author

NuttElec



Newbie
 ★★★★★
 Joined: 10/11/2011
 Location: Australia
 Posts: 6

Message

Posted: 10:22pm 02 Dec 2011

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You may call me old, even old fashioned but after having a play with the Maximate, memories returned. In my possession I still have a self built DREAM-6800 computer complete with all the documentation, managed to locate it amongst the relics in the shed loft. Resurrection is the key word, must have a go and get it operational again.

Can anybody else remember this machine which first surfaced in Electronics Australia in 1979?

Regards,
 Gordon

mookster1

Regular Member



★★★★★
 Joined: 10/06/2011
 Location: New Zealand
 Posts: 81

Posted: 10:27pm 02 Dec 2011

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I don't personally remember it but I remember an article on it in New Zealand PCWorld not too long ago. As I have a great interest in old computers (but don't actually own any!) I thought it fascinating.

Capacitance is futile - roll on 2012!

BobDevries



Senior Member
 ★★★★★
 Joined: 08/06/2011
 Location: Australia
 Posts: 259

Posted: 10:41pm 02 Dec 2011

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Hi all,

I built a DREAM 6800 years ago (around 80 or 81 I think). Sadly I don't have it now, but it's on my to-do list to build another one.

I have the docs for the some of the add-ons still, and also the newsletter "Dreamer" issues 1 to 14(?).

Regards,

Bob Devries
 Dalby, QLD, Australia

NuttElec



Newbie
 ★★★★★
 Joined: 10/11/2011
 Location: Australia
 Posts: 6

Posted: 10:54pm 02 Dec 2011

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Hi Bob,

No double sided PCB's in those days, I can remember placing a heap of insulated wire links on the board. Some of the games were quite addictive, remember playing "Depth Charge" a lot. If you require copies of the documentation for your rebuild maybe I can be of assistance.

Regards,

Gizmo



Admin Group
 ★★★★★
 Joined: 05/06/2004
 Location: Australia
 Posts: 4752

Posted: 11:16pm 02 Dec 2011

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I remember the articles. I was still at school at the time and didn't have any money, so my first computer was a couple of years after that. I do remember the 6800 has a big following, there were lots of program listings published in EA and ETI.

I also have faint memory of another similar kit computer, from ETI?

Glenn

"Treat the earth well, it was not given to you by your parents, it was lent to you by your children"

[JAQ Software](#)**NuttElec**

Newbie
★★★★★
Joined: 10/11/2011
Location: Australia
Posts: 6

Posted: 11:22pm 02 Dec 2011

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The ETI version was the 660 Learners Computer.
Regards,

Gizmo

Admin Group
★★★★★
Joined: 05/06/2004
Location: Australia
Posts: 4752

Posted: 11:33pm 02 Dec 2011

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That was it. I remember it caught my attention because it used a delay line, something new to me at the time.

Found some links. Magazine articles.

[DREAM 6800](#)[ETI-660](#)

Glenn

"Treat the earth well, it was not given to you by your parents, it was lent to you by your children"

[JAQ Software](#)**NuttElec**

Newbie
★★★★★
Joined: 10/11/2011
Location: Australia
Posts: 6

Posted: 12:22am 03 Dec 2011

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Hi Glenn,

Thanks for the links, Michael Bauer had posted PDF's of the original EA articles which will help save my old eyes as the original Owners Manual is a bit hard to decipher with the ravages of age.

Regards,

Ray B

Senior Member
★★★★★
Joined: 16/02/2007
Location: Australia
Posts: 219

Posted: 03:44am 03 Dec 2011

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Dream 6800 I have 2.

Last week I was cleaning out a shed from a previous home of mine and I found these two boxes. Just had to take them to my new home.

Original was built from a PCB kit but then to "prove I could" I built another in an old tin ashtray at work from veroboard.

Cut my teeth with 6800 machine code with these beasts but finally gave them up when I was able to buy a Dick Smith VZ200/300 which I could program in VZ-Basic. Wow they were the days....





RayB from Perth WA

BobDevries



Senior Member
 ★★★★★
 Joined: 08/06/2011
 Location: Australia
 Posts: 259

Posted: 05:19am 03 Dec 2011

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I also learned how to program on a DREAM-6800, in CHIP-8 and machine code.

I had the DREAMSOFT expansion ROM #1 and #2, which included an extra PCB with more RAM and two PIA chips.

I went from there to the Tandy Color Computer, and then to the Amiga 500/2000.

Sadly, I sold my DREAM, and I'm kicking myself for that error of judgement now.

As I said, I hope to build another, with some modifications such as revised RAM chip (6116 or similar).

Regards,

Bob Devries
 Dalby, QLD, Australia

brucepython



Regular Member
 ★★★★★
 Joined: 19/06/2011
 Location: Australia
 Posts: 64

Posted: 07:33am 03 Dec 2011

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Wow! That rattled a few synapses. Yes, I admit to building a DREAM and putting it in a fancy case. Pity about the daggy keypad plugged into the front. (But it taught me all about RSI.) CHIP-8 was handy, but I got most satisfaction by learning to write in hand-carved machine code even if calculating jumps to a lower address always was at best entertaining but usually catastrophic.

I added an EA 8K expansion board to it, along with a synthesiser chip and a TTY interface and the machine code to run it. Ah yes, and a joystick. I don't think I've had quite as many options hanging off any subsequent computer so at least all those cables taught me about "keeping it simple".

With the TTY it was used as a "word processor" in a junior primary class at a nearby school for a couple of terms with EVERYTHING PRINTED IN CAPS. However, the kids were keen to write and enjoyed sharing their stories. I've forgotten how I handled deleting erroneous keystrokes.

And of course when I moved interstate I sold it. Along with the TTY. Big mistake.

The DREAM was intended to educate and it certainly did that. I'd wanted a computer ever since I saw SILLIAC in action in 1957 at Sydney Uni, even playing "Waltzing Matilda", and DREAM fulfilled that wish.

Bruce

NuttElecs

Newbie



Joined: 10/11/2011

Location: Australia

Posts: 6

Posted: 08:06am 03 Dec 2011

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Hi Bruce,

The days of leather helmets, goggles and flying by the seat of your pants, certainly good stuff and learnt a lot along the way, unlike today where everything is GUI and you do not want to delve into the bytes.

Just had an email from Michael Bauer, at the forefront of the DREAM-6800, he still has a preference for a code with graphics capabilities, don't blame him. Chunky graphics on the DREAM would get you hooked.

Regards,

aargee

Senior Member



Joined: 21/08/2008

Location: Australia

Posts: 251

Posted: 11:53pm 03 Dec 2011

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In high school a mate and I built the EA 2650 computer, complete with TTL based terminal PCB, cassette interface and paper tape reader.

They weren't quite as impressed as we were, getting the whole thing going as they thought they were getting something similar to the TRS80, programmable in BASIC.

I still have the Signetics 2650 programming manual at home.

- Rob.

For crying out loud, all I wanted to do was flash this blasted LED.

marcwoolf

Senior Member



Joined: 08/06/2009

Location: Australia

Posts: 119

Posted: 03:18am 07 Dec 2011

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Ah. So many projects that take me down memory lane.

I have the book of the EA EDU-8 which was a non microprocessor computer written back in 75-76.

I also remember saving up my pocket money and buying a Signetic's 2650 complete with white ceramic case and gold cover. I also brought a NS SC/MP

Cut my programming teeth on the schools PDP11-40 where if you crashed the memory you had to load it using paper tape and bootstrap from the front panel.

And yes - it had REAL core memory.

Still programming by the ways too :->

Dave

Coding Coding Coding..

Keep those keyboards coding..

RAW CODE!!!!

Synergetic

Newbie



Joined: 14/01/2013

Location: New Zealand

Posts: 22

Posted: 06:35pm 02 Sep 2014

[Copy link to clipboard](#)[Print this post](#)**NuttElecs said**

You may call me old, even old fashioned but after having a play with the Maximate, memories returned. In my possession I still have a self built DREAM-6800 computer complete with all the documentation, managed to locate it amongst the relics in the shed loft. Resurrection is the key word, must have a go and get it operational again.

Can anybody else remember this machine which first surfaced in Electronics Australia in 1979?

Regards,

Gordon

Yes I built one and still have the DREAM 6800 laying around somewhere.

First Asemmbeler and Machine language we learnt ..

CHIPOS and the DREAM schematic are permanent eached in my nuerons .

Lead on to IBM 370 assembler and machine code and MVS/370/XA OS internals

Edited by Synergetic 2014-09-04

palcal

Guru



Joined: 12/10/2011

Location: Australia

Posts: 1251

Posted: 10:35pm 02 Sep 2014

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Does anyone remember the Applix 1616, it used a Motorola 68000 chip, I think that may have been in EA. I built one in the early 80's and still have it in working order. My first floppy drive and a RAM disk.

Paul.

Bill.b

Senior Member



Joined: 25/06/2011

Location: Australia

Posts: 184

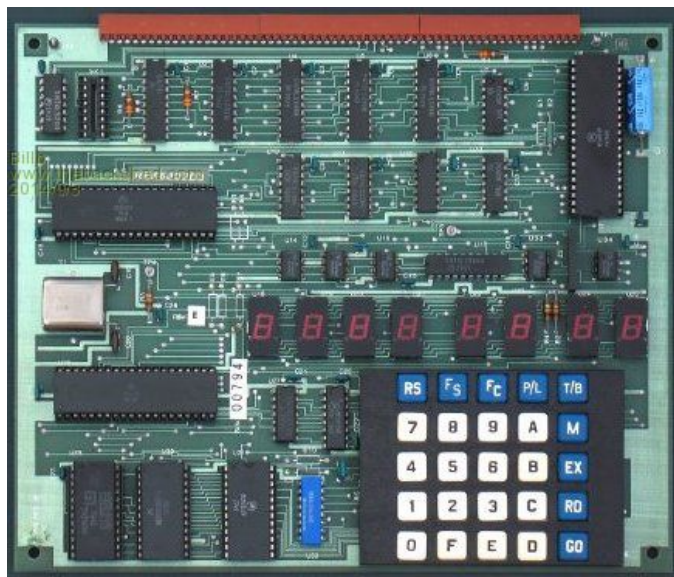
Posted: 01:11am 03 Sep 2014

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When I was doing my engineering course back in the late 70s,
We use the MKE 6800D2 development boards to learn machine language programming.

I purchased the MKE6802D3 single board development kit at this time.

I still have the unit and it still works (some of the segments of the display don't work so I may have to replace these in the future).



Bill

Edited by Bill.b 2014-09-04

In the interests of the environment, this post has been constructed entirely from recycled electrons.

BobDevries

Senior Member



Joined: 08/06/2011

Location: Australia

Posts: 259

Posted: 11:32am 03 Sep 2014

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puts hand up

I own an Applix 1616 (or 2) complete with disk drives, and hard disc (SCSI).

I also remember the articles about the EDUC-8 computer. I didn't have the resources to build one, tho.

Regards, Bob Devries
Dalby, QLD, Australia

Bob Devries
Dalby, QLD, Australia

BobDevries

Senior Member



Joined: 08/06/2011

Location: Australia

Posts: 259

Posted: 11:34am 03 Sep 2014

[<a> Copy link to clipboard](#)[Print this post](#)

I'm still kicking myself for letting the DREAM 6800 go.

SIGH!!!!

Regards,

Bob Devries
Dalby, QLD, Australia

pkretro

Newbie



Joined: 29/12/2014

Location: Australia

Posts: 1

Posted: 08:53pm 29 Dec 2014

[<a> Copy link to clipboard](#)[Print this post](#)


Greetings

I would like to aquire an applix 1616 , as mentioned in these posts , if anyone has one . Please contact me via email .

Regards
pkretro

philip.kocent@bigpond.com

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