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CET

Council for Educational Technology

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Dr. M.E.B. Moffat,
Head of Studio Group,
BBC Research Dept.,
BBC,
Kingswood Warren,
Tadworth,
Surrey, KT20 6NP

Dear Dr. Moffat,

Telesoftware Formats

My colleagues and I found our meeting with Acorn Computers and the BBC last week useful and constructive in ensuring compatibility between CET's Telesoftware Format and the plans for data transmission for the BBC microcomputer.

It might be helpful if I summarise what I felt were the main areas of agreement. We discussed both videotex and teletext and agreed that with an eye to the future it was sensible to adopt a flexible approach to the transmission of data. However in the interests of promoting the development of these new computer software delivery systems now CET has established a format for telesoftware transmission via videotex systems, and Prestel in particular. We agreed that it was to the benefit of the user and program provider for the BBC micro to make use of the CET format and indeed this is incorporated in Mr. Rayers document 'Teletext Telesoftware'.

Having accepted this as a starting point we went on to consider the implications for the BBC and agreed that:

1. The BBC micro videotex/teletext decoder would, when set in videotex mode, download telesoftware to CET format by default;
2. In the short term the programs distributed by the BBC via Prestel would be formatted to the CET format;
3. In the medium term if it was desirable to make extensions to the CET format, by including additional commands (that is escape sequences not mentioned in the CET format) then such extensions would be incorporated in the "window" facility provided by the CET format;

.../...

4. "in the long term we will all be dead" as Keynes pointed out but since this may not apply to computers then the flexibility of the BBC teletext telesoftware proposals will allow for transmission of data in different formats at some future date.

While CET's format is exclusively concerned with videotex transmission, my colleagues are studying your proposal for teletext and I hope their comments will be of use to you. They will communicate directly with Mr. Rayers.

Yours sincerely,



Vincent Thompson
Programme Manager

cc (Dr Hauser, Acorn
Mr D Allen, BBC