

From: David Allen, Project Editor, Computer Literacy Project

Room No. &
Building:

811 V.H.

Tel.
Ext: 218

date 4.8.81

Subject: TELESOFTWARE EXPERIMENTAL TRANSMISSIONS FOR BBC
MICROCOMPUTER

To:

Gordon Parker (H.D.D.)
Derek Morse (Eng. Inf.)
Frank Beresford (End. Inf.)
Bob Longman (C.E.O. Tel.)
Colin McIntyre (Ceefax)
Graham Clayton (Ceefax)
Mel Draper (DOI)
Richard Russell (Designs Dept.)
Richard Downs (Eng. T.C.)
Richard Hewlett (BBC Data)

c.c. Scott Paxton (Eng. T.C.)
Tony Stanley (Eng. T.C.)
John Radcliffe
Charles Sandbank (H.R.)
Mel Pullen (Acorn)
Leslie Gilbert (C.E.T.)
H.C.E. Tel
C.E.B.

As you know, Acorn Computers are waiting for experimental telesoftware pages to be transmitted by Ceefax and also on BBC Data pages to enable work to proceed on the viewdata decoders for the BBC microcomputer. Various delays have now been resolved, so I hope we can now go ahead. Perhaps I could explain the current situation as I see it

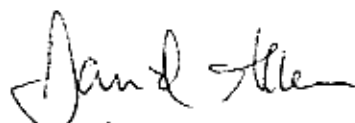
1. I have supplied Mel Draper (our Software Editor) with a program written in BBC BASIC. He is arranging for this to be sent on disc to Richard Russell in Designs Dept., who will transfer it to punched paper tape in a form which Ceefax can read.
2. Mel Draper and Richard Russell will ensure that the code conforms to the protocols set out by C.E.T. (The Council for Educational Technology). There will be two forms - both readable, but one will make more economical use of screen space than the other.

The program is a simple maths test for a primary school child - it tests multiplication and simple addition. It is innocuous!

Richard Russell will send the tape to Richard Downs at T.C. who will be able to feed it into the Ceefax Computer. A listing will also be supplied for direct keyboard entry by BBC Data.

If anyone has any anxieties, please contact me if the anxieties are editorial, or Richard Russell (B.H. 4126), if they are technical.

It would also be extremely helpful if Editor, Ceefax would let me know when the pages are being transmitted and I can then inform Acorn.


(David Allen)

From: David Allen, Project Editor, Computer Literacy Project

Room No. 6
Building:

811 V.H.

Tel.
Ext.: 218

date: 7th July, 1981

Subject: TELESOFTWARE TESTS

To: Head of Special Projects, R.D., Richard Russell,
Richard Downes, Ed. CEEFAX, Mel Pullen (Acorn Computers),
Mel Draper (DoI), Richard Hewlett (BBC Data),

c.c. C.E.B., E.Ed.B.S., H.R.D., H.D.D., AH.F.I.D.,
H.C.E.Tel., H.M.E., C.A.C.E.Tel., David Savage,
John Radcliffe, Paul Kriwaczek, Dr. Hermann Hauser (Acorn
Computers), John Coll, Bob Salkeld, Sue Lynas,
Eileen Mullen

As you will know, Acorn Computers are developing a teletext receiver as part of the BBC Microcomputer System, so that we can use teletext and viewdata as a means of disseminating telesoftware in association with the Computer Literacy Project. Research Department have been giving technical advice to Acorn on the initial development of the design, bearing in mind developments in enhanced teletext. Designs Department will be responsible for monitoring the development and production of the equipment, as part of the System.

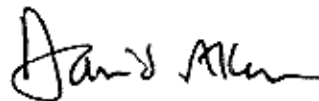
The company have experienced some delays in developing a prototype but are now ready to receive test transmissions, both by teletext and by Prestel, and the aim of this note is to set out the agreed arrangements for these transmissions. The tests will comply as far as possible with the published CET protocols, and will involve a small number of cycling pages of code, written in BBC BASIC. It is hoped to have test transmissions on the air by July 16th.

1. Richard Russell has agreed to consult John Chambers, Richard Downes, Mel Draper + Mel Pullen to check on the precise, acceptable form in which the BASIC code is to be produced initially.
2. Mel Draper will produce both a listing on paper for BBC Data in a form agreed with Richard Hewlett and on punched paper tape in a form agreed with Richard Downes for Teletext.
3. The program (which I have supplied to Mel) will be produced in two forms: first a straight, uncluttered listing suitable for copying 'by hand' from the screen. (This system will use space uneconomically but will enable us to keep faith with an audience who have existing teletext receivers and who are expecting to

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be able to copy down listings of simple BBC programs). Secondly, a more compacted form. Both versions will be capable of downloading on the Acorn telesoftware decoder into the BBC microcomputer prototype. As agreed, I will provide details of the nature of the test CEEFAX pages to A.H.E.I.D. so that the Home Office can be kept informed.

If there are queries or uncertainties about these arrangements, please get in touch with me as a matter of urgency.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David Allen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Allen" clearly distinguishable.

(David Allen)