

TECH TOOLS

Commodore USA Announces C64x Extreme

Commodore USA, makers of the venerable Commodore 64 on which some of us wrote our first computer programs in BASIC – or perhaps that’s just me – has been breathing new life into the Commodore line with its modern configurations housed in old school Commodore cases.

The company’s latest offering is the Commodore 64 Extreme model (C64x-EX). According to the press release, the C64x Extreme is the most powerful Commodore computer

ever produced, running at a whopping 3.3GHz with Intel’s Turbo Boost Technology. It features a second-generation Sandy Bridge 2.2GHz 64-bit Intel core i7

and provides a massive amount of storage, RAM, and I/O options. It includes a 2TB hard drive, 8GB of RAM, two USB 3.0 ports, five USB 2.0 ports, one e-SATA port, SPDIF, HDMI, DVI, and VGA display connections, a slot-loaded R/W DVD drive, and built-in Ethernet and Wireless-N WiFi.

The C64x-Extreme comes pre-imaged with Mint 11 and will dual boot with the retro-inspired Commodore OS Vision when it’s released. Priced at US\$ 1,499, the C64x Extreme is available now.

Visit http://www.commodoreusa.net/CUSA_C64.aspx for pictures and complete details.



OpenBSD 5.0 Released

OpenBSD makes an official software release every six months or so – in May and November. The new features and systems in OpenBSD 5.0 include improved hardware support, including MSI interrupts for many devices on those architectures that can support them (AMD64, i386, and SPARC64 so far).

According to the announcement, a new `dma_alloc(9)` API makes it easier for kernel code to allocate DMA-safe memory. Many drivers (especially network drivers) and subsystems were adapted to use this. As a result, big-memory support has been enabled on all possible architectures. For more information, see the OpenBSD website at: <http://openbsd.org/50.html>.

To accompany the free software release on the FTP servers, the developers also produce a song parody and artwork, which are distributed with the software on CD. Proceeds from the sale of these products are the main funding of the OpenBSD project. You can see the artwork for this release featuring a parody of *MAD* magazine and read the song lyrics at: <http://openbsd.org/lyrics.html>.



BeagleBoard Releases BeagleBone

A new version of BeagleBoard, the BeagleBone, was announced recently. The BeagleBone is a low-cost, high-expansion version of BeagleBoard. It is a bare-bones board that acts as a USB- or Ethernet-connected expansion companion for an existing BeagleBoard, but it also works as a standalone model. The BeagleBone is small even by BeagleBoard standards; it measures 3.4x2.1 inches and ships with a 2GB microSD card.

According to the announcement, BeagleBone is capable of more than 1.5 billion Dhrystone operations per second and vector floating-point arithmetic operations. The BeagleBone can interface with robotics motor drivers, location or pressure sensors, and 2D or 3D cameras, as well as run image collection and analysis software such as OpenCV or OpenNI.

Pre-orders for BeagleBone are being accepted now at the retail price of US\$ 89, and units are expected to ship to distributors by the end of November. For additional details, visit <http://beagleboard.org/bone>.

