(List) K. Kobayashi H2000   T. Suzuki H2033   M. Kohno
       T. Sekimoto H2001   H. Kaneda H2046   (Circulate)
       A. Ouchi   H2002   A. Kato H5300
       A. Koike   H2011   I. Yamamoto F4001
       K. Kakita H2012   T. Inoue H5291
       Y. Ishii   H2022   K. Nakamura H4124
       T. Matsumura K2005   J. Kobayashi H438?
       Y. Mizuno H2032   S. Ohba H4400
       H. Kanai F2005   H. Osafune NECEL
                               K. Yawata   〃

3/15/83
List
M. Takagi

InfoWorld's Award to NEC (InfoWorld 社賞が NEC に)

雑誌名も会社名も同じ InfoWorld という雑誌があります. 最近とみに有名になり、日本の 週刊 コンピュータ ワールドにも、毎号 その抄訳が 掲載されております. この InfoWorld 社が NEC の 7220 GDC (Graphic Device Controller) チップを表彰したいが NEC のどの会社に Award を出したらよいかとの 内々の電話があり、NEC Information System の関係者 から、それは NEC Electronics U.S.A. であると 返答しました. 表彰式は InfoWorld の本社が Palo Alto にある関係で San Francisco で行われるとのことです. 正式文書が そのうち NECEL の方にゆくと思いますが, まず確実と思われます.

　ここに到るまでの 経過について 小生が興味で覚えましたので 以下 報告いたします.

　NEC Information Systems では APC の拡販には Advertisement は勿論, 大変重要であるが, そのほかに publicity も重要で, うまくそれを使おうということで, APC について マスコミに 売り込んでおりました. 過去 いくつかの 雑誌などの記事にでています. その 活動の一つの 対象が InfoWorld であり, 同誌が 掲載した記事が 添付のものであります. 実物は きれいな色刷りになっています.

　NECIS の関係者 は勿論, APC を売り込んだのですが, 他社より 秀れている一つの理由として 7220 chip を使っているので, グラフィック

表示がすばらしいと言ったようです。　InfoWorldの記者はこれに大変興味をもち　NECELにも取材し、7220とAPCの記事になり、7220 chipが表彰の対象になりました。

　7220 chipが表彰の対象になれば、受賞者は当然、NECELということになりますが、この際に示したNECISの関係者の反応は大変興味のあるものでした。

　今日、内々の電話があったわけですが、その後、NECISの関係者がこの受賞に大変興奮し、すごく喜んでいることです。理由を尋ねますとNECISの人々はIC、LSIなどについてNECELの人々からいつも教えられ、助けられ、協力を受けているので、NECELが受賞することは大変うれしいことであるということでした。

　アメリカの人々は協力とかグループ活動は大変苦手ということになっていますが、それぞれの責任分野がキチンと決まっていれば協力もできるし、喜びも分け合うことができるという一つの例となりました。

　今回のInfoWorldへの記事の掲載、また予想される受賞はNECの半導体技術の優秀性、それによるAPCのすばらしさを示すよいpublicityになっただけでなく、NECグループで協力することの重要性を身にしみて判りました。

以上

富 木 政 是

添付資料 — InfoWorld　3/24/83の記事。

Translation of this Fax

There is a magazine called "InfoWorld" with the same magazine name and company name. It has become famous recently, and the abridged translation is published in every issue of "Weekly Computer World" in Japan. "InfoWorld" made a private telephone inquiry to us saying, "We would like to award NEC's 7220 GDC (Graphics Display Controller) chip. Which NEC company should get the award?" An official of "NEC Information Systems (NECIS)" replied, "It should be "NEC Electronics, USA (NECEL)"". Since InfoWorld's central office is in Palo Alto, the award ceremony will be held in San Francisco. It seems almost certain that the official document will be handed over to NECEL soon.

Because I am interested in the process leading up to this point, let me report it below.

"NEC Information Systems (NECIS)" considered that publicity as well as advertising is of course very important for expanding APC sales. APC has been published in several magazines in the past. One of the targets of the activity is "InfoWorld" and the article published by the magazine is attached. The real thing is printed in beautiful colors.

Of course, the people involved in NECIS promoted APC but apparently said "One of the reasons why it is superior to other companies is that it uses a 7220 chip. Therefore, the graphics display is wonderful." A reporter from "InfoWorld" was very interested in this remark, interviewed NECEL and published an article regarding the 7220 and APC. Then the 7220 chip was awarded.

If the 7220 chip becomes an object of commendation, naturally the winner will be NECEL. At this time, NECIS officials showed a very interesting reaction.

After I received a private phone call today, NECIS officials were very excited and delighted to receive this award. When I asked them the reason, they replied "We are very happy that NECEL won the award because we were always taught, helped, and supported by NECEL about ICs and LSIs."

Americans are said to be no good at cooperation and group activities. However, if each area of responsibility is clearly defined, it is possible to cooperate and share the joy. This has been the one of the examples.

The publication of this article in "InfoWorld", and the expected award, not only became a good publicity that showed the excellence of NEC's semiconductor technology and the splendor of APC based on it but also a good opportunity to cooperate in the NEC group. I deeply realized the importance of it.

Document attached InfoWorld 3/24/83 issue

NEC's 7220 GDC chip allows high-resolution color graphics

By David Needle, IW Staff

A "resolution revolution" has begun, according to a press release from NEC Information Systems, the United States division of the giant Nippon Electric Company of Japan. At the heart of the revolution, says NEC, is the company's 7220 Graphics Device Controller (GDC) chip, a component that even some of NEC's competitors in the personal-computer field have found too good to pass up.

Introduced about a year ago, the 7220 is an integral part of an advanced optional graphics subsystem offered on NEC's Advanced Personal Computer (APC). Other manufacturers—DEC, Hewlett-Packard and Epson, to name but a few—have also incorpo-

> The 7220 GDC chip is a component that even some of NEC's competitors have found too good to pass up.

rated the chip into the graphics options designed for their personal computers.

A number of high-resolution color-graphics terminals and systems on the market use the chip as well. Literally dozens of other companies have ordered samples of the chip to evaluate its use in future, as yet unannounced, products.

What's all the fuss about?

NEC's technical support manager, Robert Scott, explains it simply. "There's nothing else like it; it's one of a kind," he said during an interview at NEC's chip manufacturing and sales facility in Natick, Massachusetts.

(Intel is a second-source manufac-turer of the chip. Theirs is called the 82720.)

Personal computers typically allocate part of the same central microprocessor used to control all its other operations to the task of attaining high-resolution graphics ability.

For example, the same 6502 chip that runs Apple DOS and the various

---

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NEC chip

functions of the Apple II computer also controls the necessary memory to give the machine its 256 × 192-pixel, or dot, resolution.

The NEC 7220 graphics-device controller, on the other hand, operates independently from the computer's main processor, thereby allowing for much higher resolution and a wide variety of other feature such as colors, zooming, customized character sets and so on.

It is a specialized 16-bit microprocessor that can address up to 256K of separate memory dedicated to graphics function.

Apple's advanced Lisa computer, with its integrated-software package that includes many graphics features, has only one microprocessor chip. Even though that chip is the powerful Motorola 68000, when it comes to graphics, Scott says the 68000 "can't keep up with the 7220, even by itself."

"It [the 68000] can exceed the 7220's drawing speed, but at two to three times the cost," Scott maintains. He doubts that the Lisa will ever come with a color display because so much of its 68000 is tied up already and adding more chips would raise the system's price too high.

In NEC's APC, the 7220 gives the computer, or the computer user, a choice of three modes of operation: Graphics mode, Mixed Graphics and Character modes.

Graphics mode

The Graphics mode would typically be used in design, animation (zoom display, drawing, panning and scrolling included) and other types of line and figure drawing.

The Mixed Graphics and Character modes can be used exclusively for graphics or solely for character display. More importantly, the chip has the ability of displaying both graphics and characters on one display screen in partitioned areas or windows on the screen.

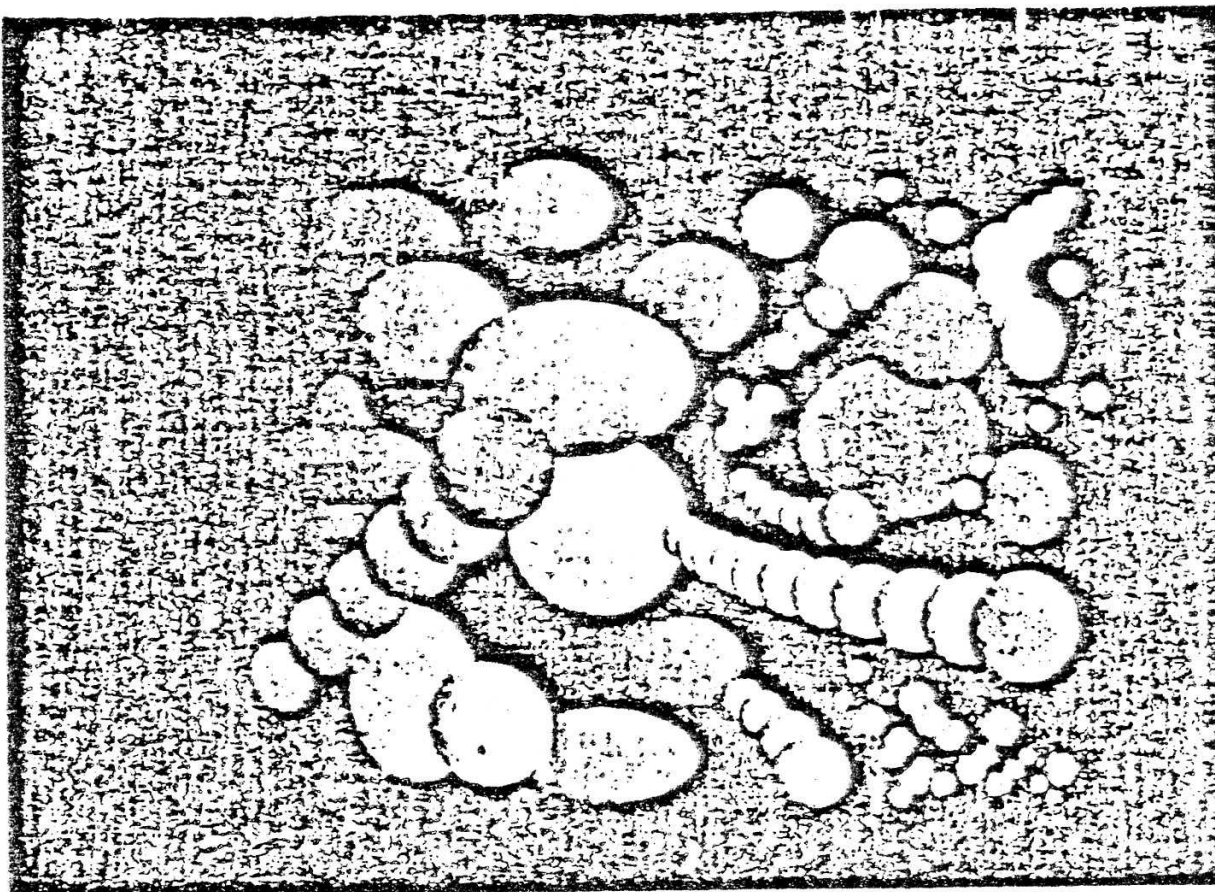The text and/or graphics on the various windows can also be merged.

The Character-Display mode allows

for a variety of different character sets and type fonts.

The DEC Rainbow 100, outfitted with an $845 color-graphics option that includes the 7220 GDC, has a high-resolution mode of 800 × 240-dot resolution with four displayable colors and a palette of 4096 colors to choose from. When operating in the medium-resolution mode, it offers 384 × 240 dots and 16 simultaneous colors from the same palette of 4096— more than enough to do sharp business graphics.

The graphics option on NEC's Advanced PC gives it a 1024 × 1024-pixel resolution, although the bandwidth limitation of the monitor makes this a "movable window" of 640 (horizontal) by 475 (vertical)-pixel resolution, still, by most standards, an extremely crisp resolution.
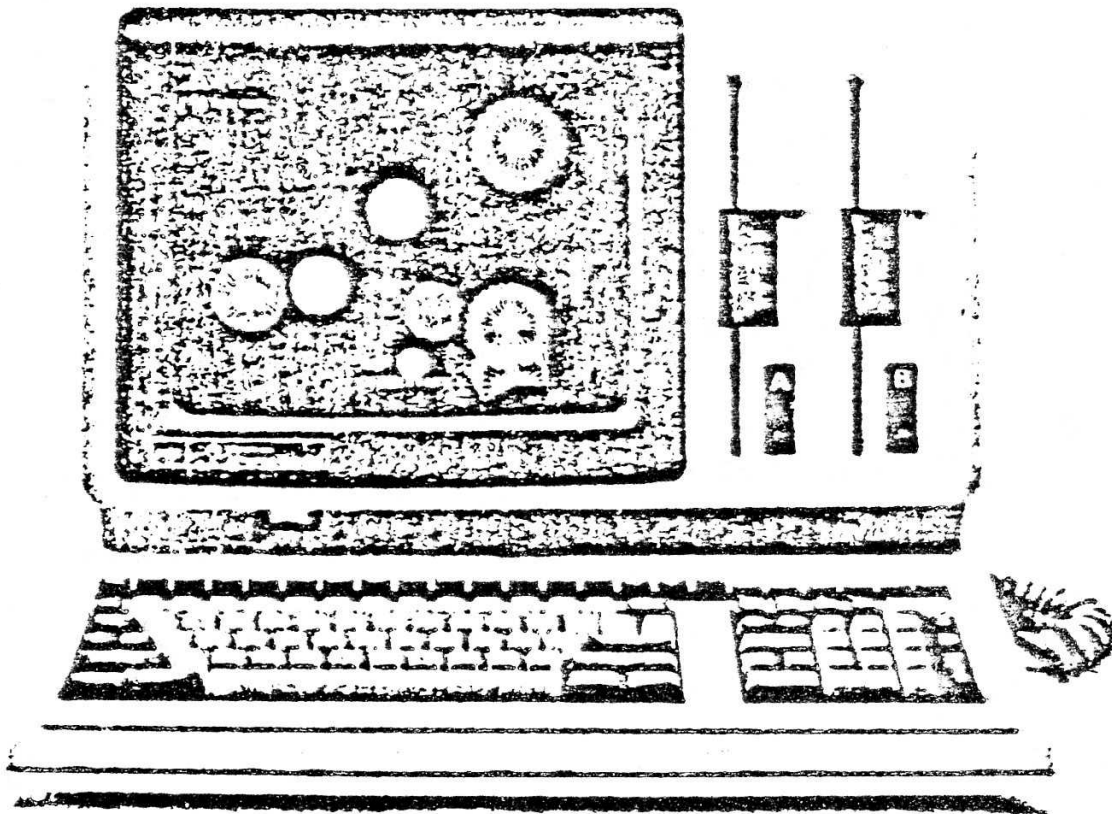
In addition, both the Rainbow and NEC machines offer the GSX graphic software system from Digital Research, Inc. (DRI), which functions as a so-called "virtual device interface." Basically this graphics system allows applications written for one machine to be transferred to another without being rewritten. It also includes a wide variety of "drivers, or programs, so that a single application package can run on any number of different plotters and printers.

Stan Devitt, of DRI's technical marketing staff, calls the NEC APC with the 7220 a "state-of-the-art" machine. "It's got hi-res, it's fast, has vivid colors and you can create extremely impressive characters."

While a DEC official concedes his company went with the 7220 because "there is no other chip like it available," he says the chip by itself has limitations.

Another company, attracted to the 7220 for its animation applications, claims to have improved the chip's performance. "We've done the most innovative work with the 7220," boasts Richard Katz, president of Vectrix Corporation in Greensborough, North Carolina. "We've pushed it to its maximum limits."

Vectrix makes a very high resolution

The Advanced Personal Computer (APC) from NEC Information Systems, model APC-H03, displays high-resolution color graphics with the optional high-resolution graphics board installed. (All photos on pages 33 and 34 are courtesy of NEC Information Systems of Lexington, Massachusetts)

(672 × 480) color-display terminal system designed to run off several popular microcomputers.

"It's a stand-alone device with a serial and parallel port so that any computer with a printer or serial port can run it," explained Katz. The firm's $1995 unit includes a terminal that can display up to eight colors at a time from a choice of 512 colors. A $3995. model also displays up to eight colors at a time but has a choice of two million colors.
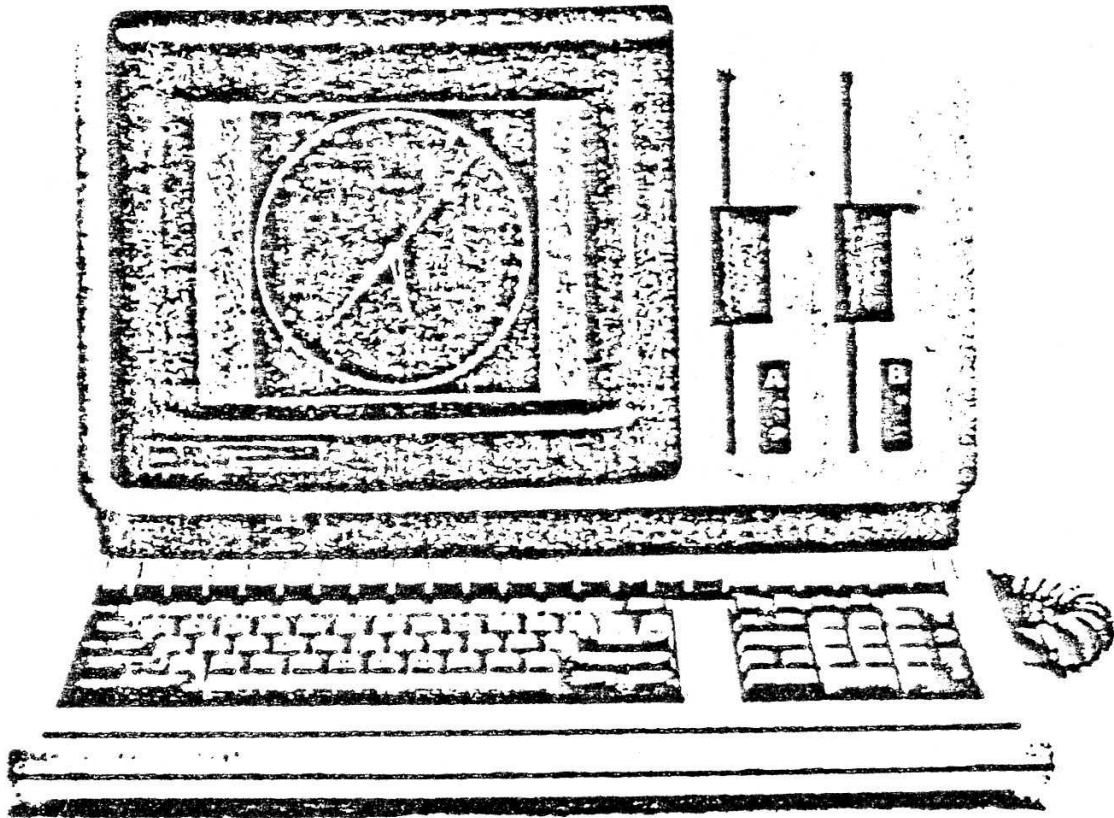
Singer/composer Todd Rundgren wrote a paint program using the Vectrix terminal and an Apple II with a graphics tablet. It is scheduled to be on display at the upcoming West Coast Computer Faire.

At the present time, NEC is selling about 5000 GDC's a month in this country and "many times more than that in Japan" where many computers, including NEC's APC, are manufactured.

NEC is working on a 7220-A chip that will run faster than the present model. NEC officials here say the parent company in Japan is rumored to be working on an Advanced Graphics Device Controller, which might be ready in about three years.

In the meantime, notes Scott, the 7220's potential has barely been exploited. NEC already has a voice-input board that can be added to the company's PC-8000 microcomputer. Once

NEC

the new board, which is being designed to fit in one of the five slots in NEC's Advanced Personal Computer, is ready, it will be able to perform graphics routines in response to voice commands.
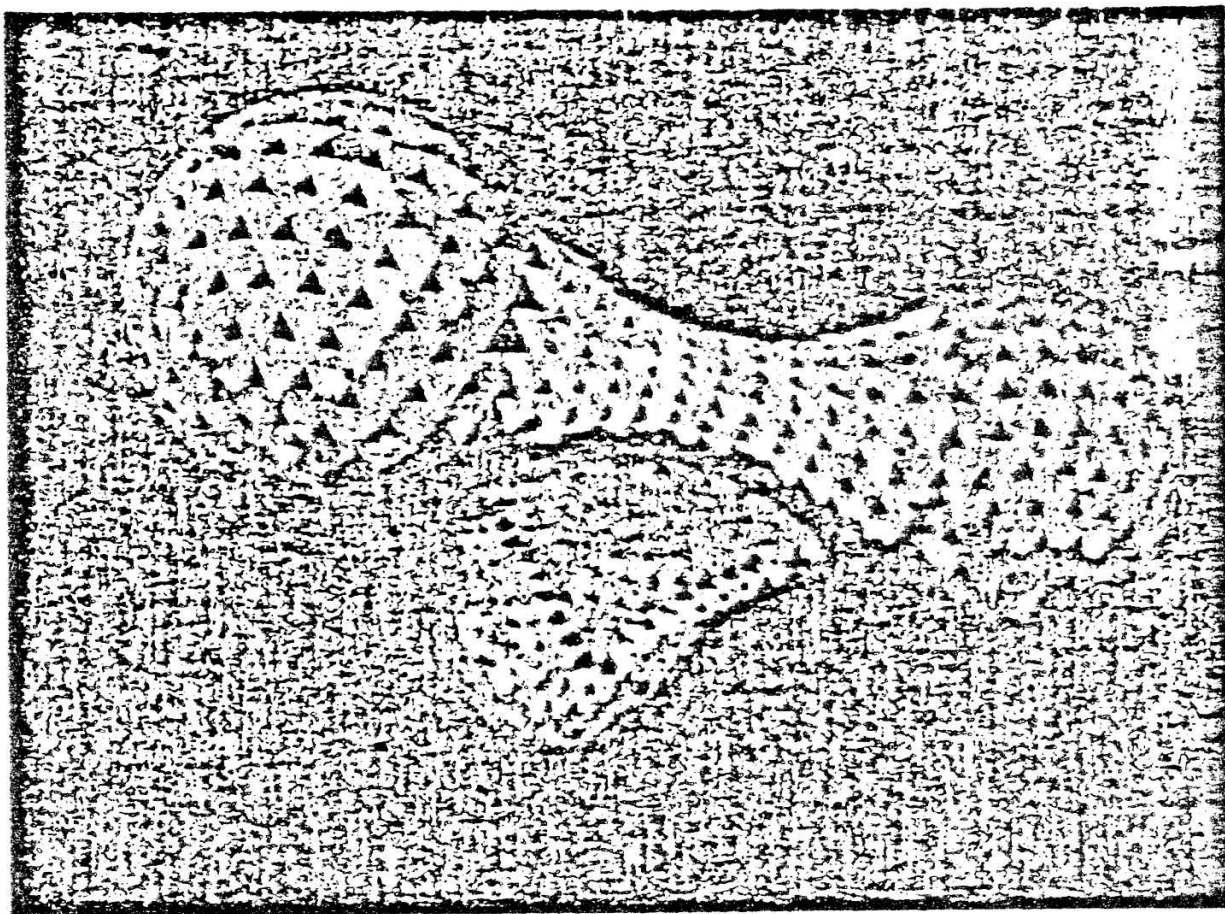
Theoretically you could "tell" the computer to graph a given range of data and separate a chunk of a pie chart and give it a different color without the user ever touching the keyboard. Similar tasks could be accomplished as quickly with other input devices such as light pens and mice that the APC can respond to.

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Of course, "everyone's working on a gumby," Scott told *InfoWorld*. A *gumby*, if you haven't heard, is in theory a device that allows you to create and input three-dimensional images that can then be incorporated into an existing design on the monitor or stored for use later. (*InfoWorld* will have more on gumbies in a future graphics column.)

"Other companies are probably working on imitations of the 7220, but we'll be ready to leapfrog the current technology by the time those come out," concluded Scott.

InfoWorld

The Newsweekly for Microcomputer Users

March 21, 1983 Volume 5, Number 12 $1.25

HOME IS WHERE THE COMPUTER IS
23 HOME COMPUTERS COMPARED (Page 35)
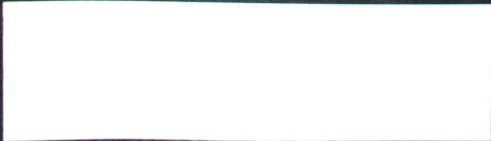
Coping with Documentation (Page 25)

Our Man in Japan (Page 60)

'Taxmode' Software Review (Page 79)

Breakthrough in Portables (Page 1)

NEWSPAPER

MAR 14 1983

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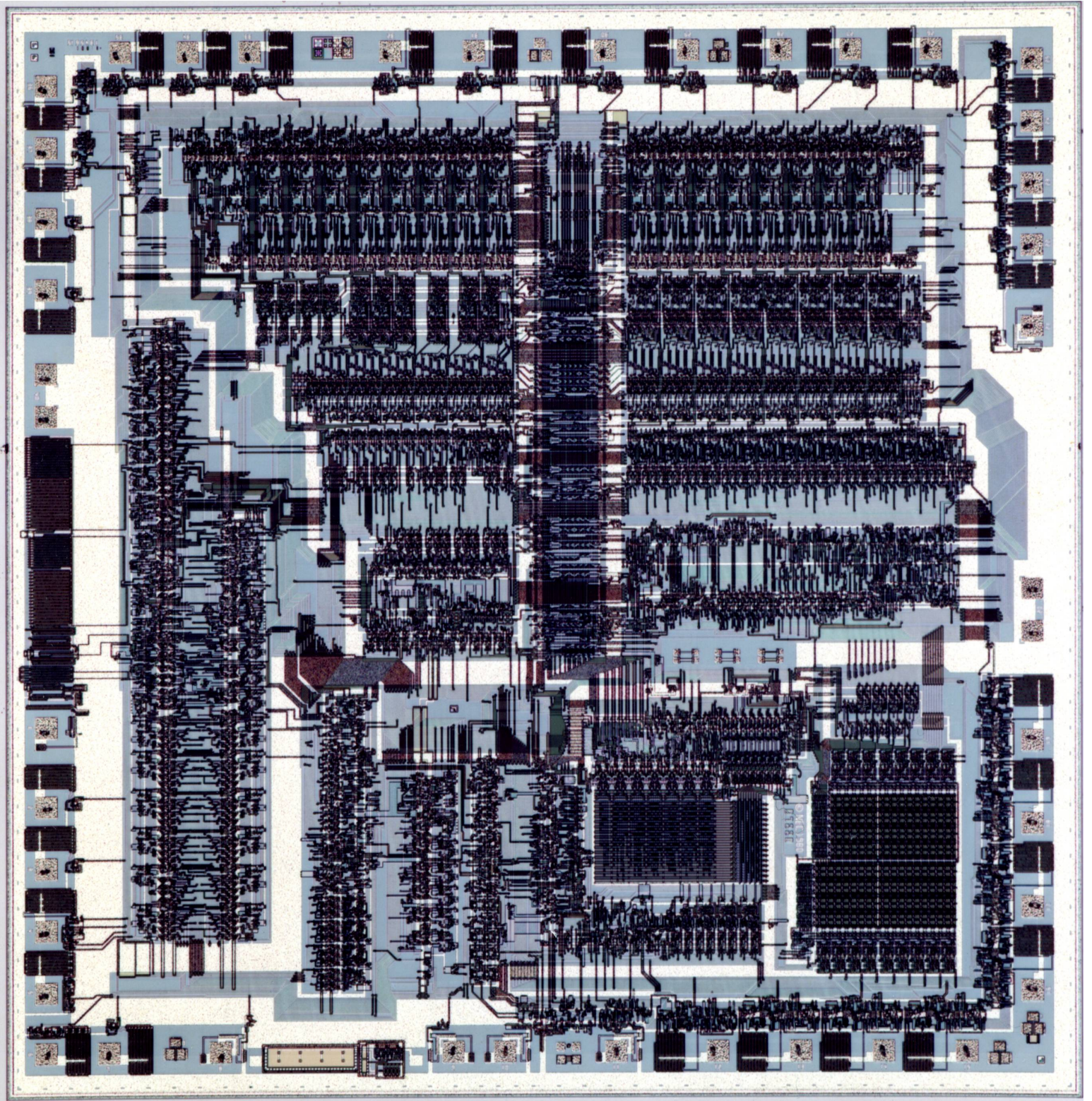
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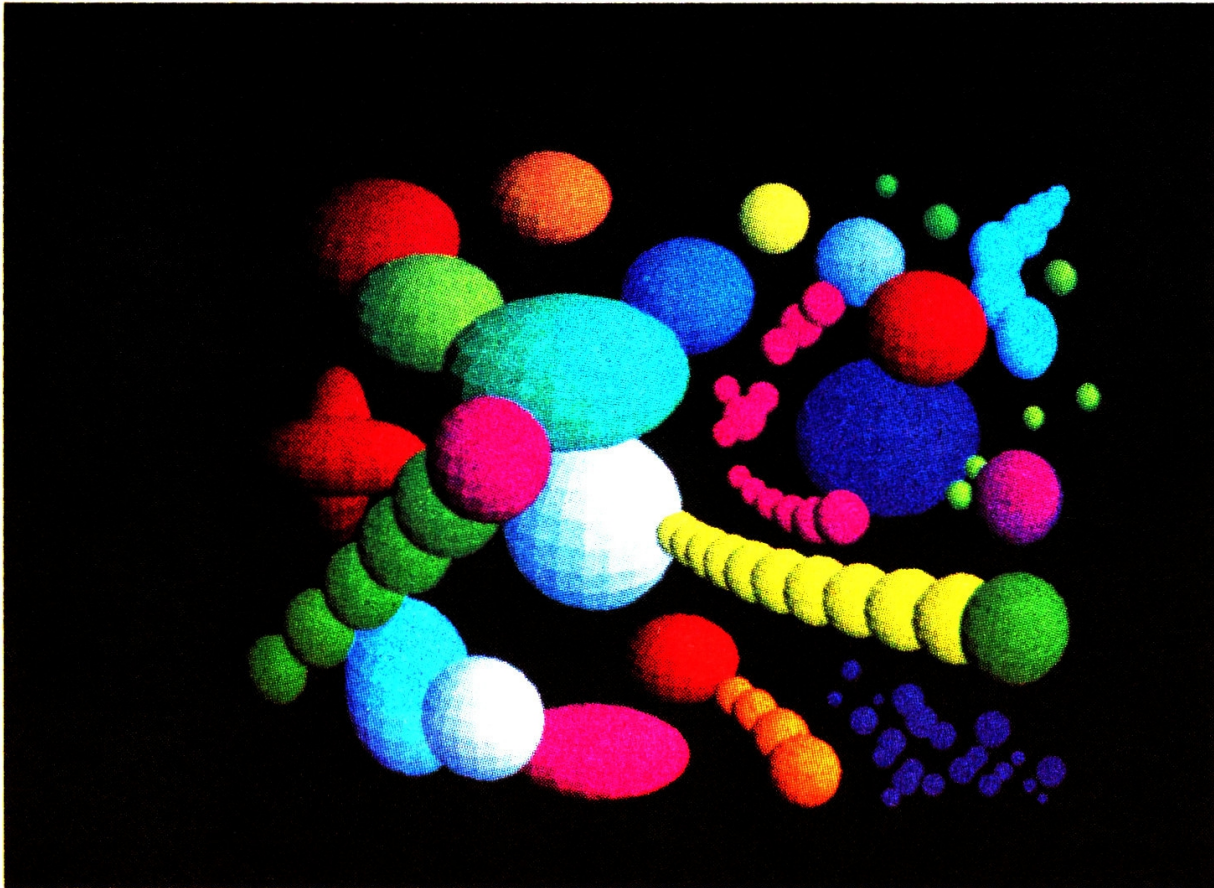The text and/or graphics on the various windows can also be merged.

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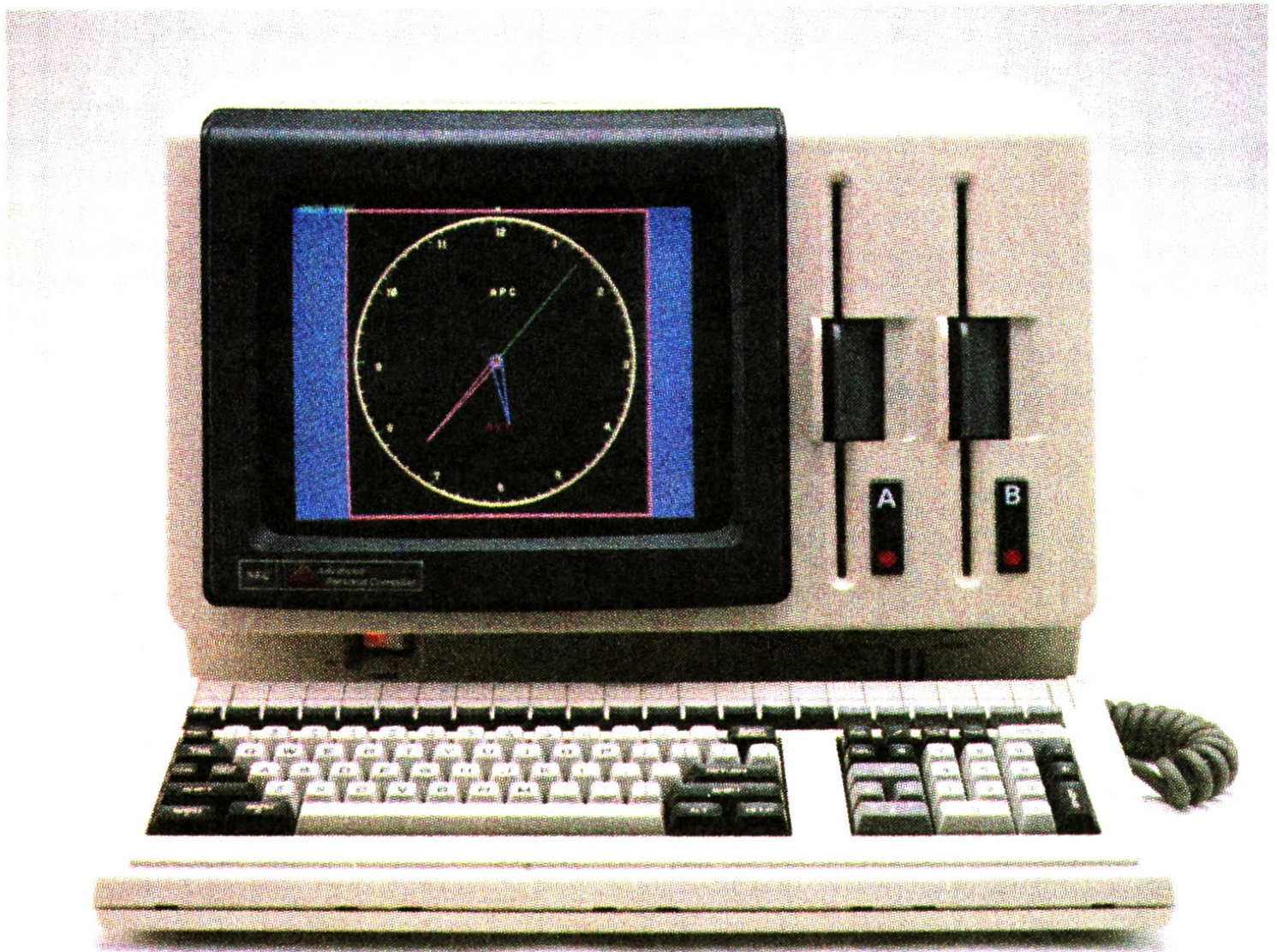
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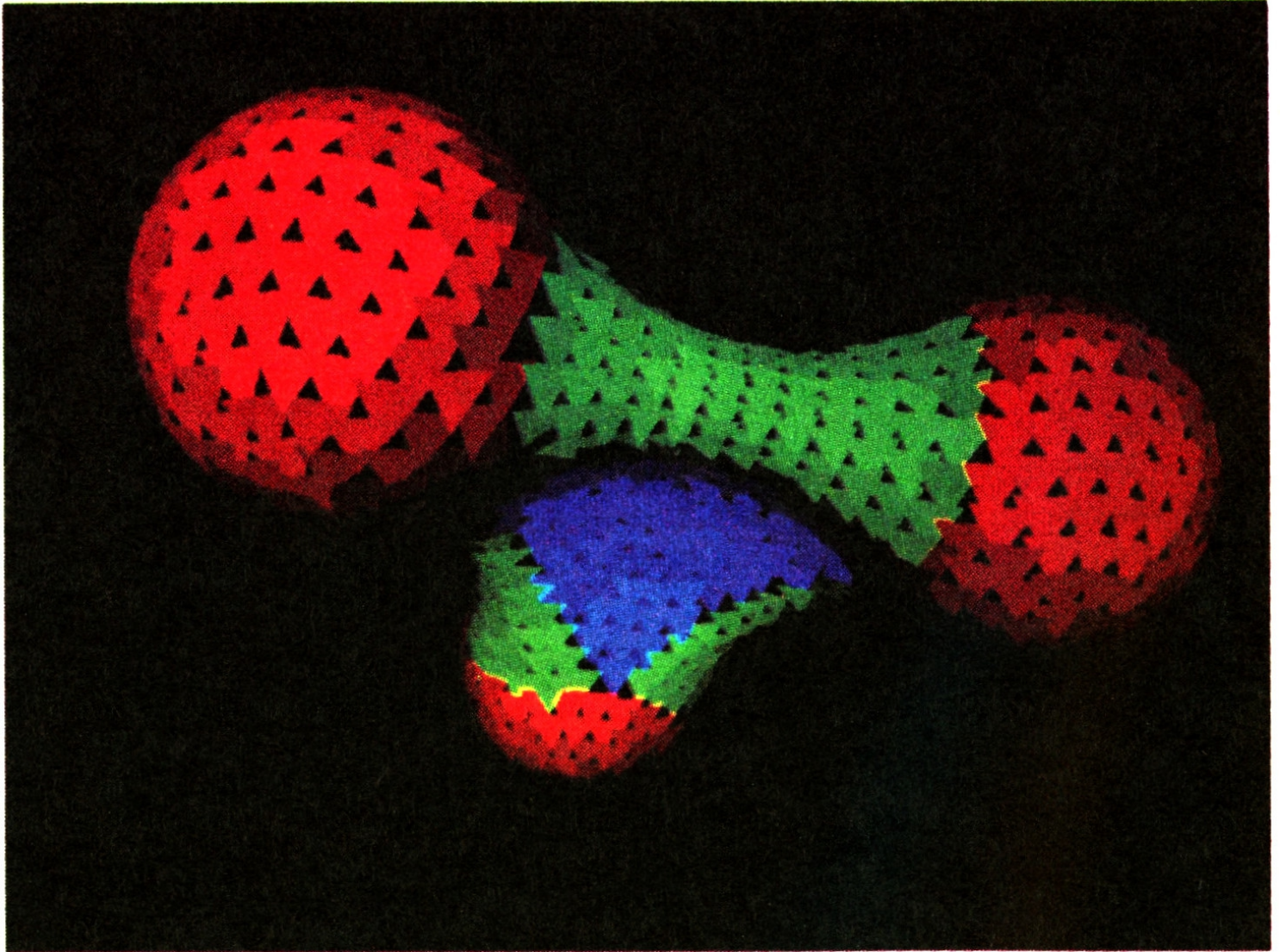
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NEC N5200 (APC)

NEC N5200 (APC; Advanced Personal Computer, exported to USA) designed by NEC peripheral equipment division (端末装置事業部) at Fuchu plant (府中事業場) appeared at Japanese market in April 1981, one year earlier than NEC

PC-9801 designed by NEC computer technology headquarters (コンピュータ技術本部) at Fuchu plant (府中事業場) which dominated Japanese PC market for a long time until IBM PC clone became popular in Japan in 1990's.

Both PCs implemented two μPD7220 GDCs (Graphics Display Controllers) I designed. It is no doubt that N5200 provided a terminal design idea to Apple Macintosh later on.

N5200 installed two eight inches floppy disk drives which worked under ITOS (NEC Interactive Tutorial Operation System) disk Operation System (http://museum.ipsj.or.jp/en/computer/ofos/nec/index.html). At that moment, there was no MSDOS (MicroSoft Disk Operation System) although DRDOS (Digital Research Disk Operation System) existed with no Japanese front processor implementation.

NEC peripheral equipment division requested Digital Research to make graphics library called GBIOS (Graphics Basic Input Output System). I participated in the GBIOS evaluation handling the N5200 along with an 132 columns Kanji dot matrix impact printer installed at my laboratory.

I wrote design notes and reports by Japanese word processor and spread sheet applications running on the N5200 since its early stage. I was a sole person who was able to freely handle such applications because Microsoft did not have Microsoft Word and Excel as well as Microsoft Office Suite at that time.