"THE NEXT GENERATIO

REVIEW
by Faye Deere

I just received a Beta copy of GoDOS. It is, without a doubt, quite exciting! GoDOS is a new operating system, written by Solomon Swift. He and Tony Patterson are marketing this creation through The Softworks Factory, which they organized as the parent firm of Digital Express Company.

Solomon has aptly called GoDOS "the next generation in Adam Software." This truly is a product which opens up a whole new world for Adam users. Notice that I said Adam users, not Adam *owners*! You have to *use* it to appreciate it.

GoDOS, the operating system, goes hand-in-hand with GoBASIC, which is BASIC with an additional 200 commands at your disposal. It allows you to do things in the BASIC mode you would not believe. The command Macroson allows you to use the SmartKEYs to do certain things in one keystroke that would take considerably more if done manually.

After activating the SmartKEYs with this command, the SmartKEYs become:I=RUN; II=BRUN;III=LOCK; IV=UNLOCK; V=CATALOG;VI=DELETE;SHIFT I=LIST; SHIFT II=SAVE; SHIFT III=LOAD; SHIFT IV=RENAME; SHIFT V=TEXT;and SHIFT VI=TEXT40.

Checking it Out

To get a catalog of what's on your disk, all you have to do is press SmartKEY V, then Return, and the catalog appears as if by magic! If the catalog is so long that the top of the list falls off the screen before you reach the bottom, just type DBLCOL, press SmartKEY V, then Return, and you will get the catalog in two columns on your screen. Most of the time, this will allow you to see the complete directory on one screen, thus allowing you to choose the file you want without guessing.

Your normal text screen contains a 30-column video. The command TEXT40 completely clears your screen and initiates a 40-column video. However, you can't use sprites in this mode. GoDOS boots up with a light-blue screen with white text. If you don't like this color

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combination, just type TXTCOLOR f,b. "f" is the foreground color, and "b" is the background color. Just replace these letters with the colors you prefer, using the same color numbers you would use in SmartBASIC.

Sol Swift has also set up GoBASIC so that you are greeted with "A:" as your prompt. This way, you know what drive is currently in use, with no guessing games; I like being able to tell where I'm at with just a glance. To change the designated drive, just type the command DB. This changes you to drive B, which is Disk drive #2. TXTFONTS sel,set allows you to change the fonts to the style you want, "sel" being a choice of seven fonts, and "set" being 0 (normal) or 1 (inverse). You have the option of using 10 different drives, A being Disk drive #1, K being Tape drive #1, H being OBS Hard drive, and M being the RAMDRIVE. There are a number of different output settings. PR#0 is the same as SmartBASIC, as is PR#1. PR#3 outputs to the dot matrix printer, and PR#4 outputs to both the screen and the dot matrix printer. PR#6 outputs to the screen in double-size fonts in the graphics mode, and PR#9 outputs to the EVE 80-column unit.

As far as I can tell at this point, all the commands that you used in SmartBASIC are also used in GoBASIC, and are used in exactly the same way. For instance, HOME still clears the screen and puts the cursor at the top left hand corner of the screen or window that you are currently using. SPEED=255 still governs the speed with which information is delivered to your screen. INVERSE still changes the displayed fonts to the selected inverse fonts. The fact that you have seven fonts to choose from only makes it that much better. GoBASIC seems to be singing that old song, "Anything you can do, I can do better!" As you can see, there is a tremendous amount of potential here, and it has been made extremely easy to use. The new commands are as close as possible to normal English, making them easier to remember and use. Since this is a new operating system, you cannot run most SmartBASIC programs with GoDOS. You might be able to run a very simple pro-

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gram that did not contain any POKEs or graphics, but these are few and far between. Swift has made POKEing almost obsolete. Switching to graphics is an easy matter, and you can use both text and graphics in the same environment. In fact, you can do more in the graphics mode than you can in the text mode.

GoDOS Opens a whole new world.

Trying Out Graphics

To go into the graphics mode, type GRAPHICS—that's about as straightforward as you can get. The graphics mode is the most versatile one in which to work. It has the most options and allows you to program in that mode, as well as view and execute graphics. In the graphics mode, you can type text, and then draw over it, or even set sprites on top of it. Swift has provided us with pull-down menus, alomg with windows allowing us to see several things at once. You can utilize as many windows as you have space for. The command STARTDIALOG opens up a dialogue box in the middle of your graphics screen where you can enter something that's separate from what you're doing in the rest of the screen. It comes in handy when you want to try something before you insert it in the program being written. EXITDIALOG closes the box. However, when you close the dialogue box, you lose everything that you've typed in it. I haven't figured out a way to save what I had in there.

While in the graphics mode, GM2COLOR f,b allows you to

FONTS rotates your text clockwise in 90-degree increments every time you type that command. The command COLUMN60 in the graphics mode allows you to print a 60-column line. If you want to go back to a 30-column line, COLUMN30 does it. This is the normal configuration.

You can even play music with GoBASIC. As with SmartBASIC, you have three voices at your disposal. TEMPO=x sets the tempo, KLICON puts you in key click mode, and KLIKOFF turns it off. After you've written a song, PLAYSONG causes it to play. BELL produces a bell sound the same as the command "? CHR$(7)" did. As you can see, Swift has made it a lot easier and faster to do or produce a lot of the SmartBASIC commands. These are only a few of the new commands that he's put at our disposal.

As you read this, you have to remember that the developers have not yet completed the GoDOS and GoBASIC manuals. Therefore, I've had only a few DEMO and DOC files to tell me what to do. But don't worry. By the time you read this, the manuals will be finished, and GoDOS and GoBASIC will be on the market, ready, able and willing to do just about anything you can think of!

There are to be a couple of other programs to use with GoDOS which should also be available by the time you read this. If I'm not mistaken, GoWRITER and GoFILER are next on the agenda. I'm not sure if these are the programs Swift was referring to when he said he would be bringing a couple of new programs to the

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While in the graphics mode, GM2COLOR f,b allows you to change the colors of your foreground and background, just as you did in the text mode, using the same color codes. HMIRRORFONTS causes your text to be printed as though seen in a mirror...backwards! VMIRRORFONTS flips your text so it prints upside down. ROTATE-umn line. If you want to go back to a 30-column line, COLUMN30 does it. This is the normal configuration.

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GoDOS is an exciting environment to work in, and I'm sure it won't take long for all those nimble-minded programmers out there to take advantage of it.

Rating

As you have probably guessed by now, I rate both GoDOS and GoBASIC a whopping big A+! I think both the operating system and the GoBASIC mark the beginning of great things to come. They offer exciting things for the future of Adam. Remember, though, that to use them, you must have at least a 64K expander and two drives in any configuration. It would be even better if you had a larger expander, and at least one disk drive. GoDOS really operates best when used with a disk drive. To reach either Tony Patterson or Solomon Swift of The Softworks Factory, their new address is P.O. Box 732, Ocean Springs, MS 39574. If you would like to correspond with me, my address is 411B North Sea Lane, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548. If you'd like a reply, please enclose a SASE.

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