

Software Tested and Working on StrongARM



We have now had the opportunity to do some testing with the StrongARM samples and third-party software. This is showing very encouraging results - both in terms of speed and overall software compatibility with StrongARM. We hope to have more information in due course, both as to compatibility and to performance. The information below is subject to continuous update as developers come to ART and test their software; all results below are published with the permission of the developer involved: Information from ART.

Acorn C/C++ – C/C++ essentially works on StrongARM; the changes required to make the C compiler (and the CFront C++ parser) work were confined to the shared C Library, which will be supplied in a new version as part of the RISC OS 3.7 ROM. ObjAsm also works, although not all of the extended ARM Architecture 4 instruction set is currently available via it; a useful tip if you need to gain access to the 64-bit multiply is to set the target CPU to ARM7M.

A new version of DDT will be required for StrongARM code; a patch to update to this will be made available on the disc accompanying the StrongARM upgrade.

TCP/IP Release 2 – The TCP/IP kit Release 2 essentially works on StrongARM; a new enhanced IP stack is provided in the RISC OS 3.7 ROM, although some of the apps require patching. !vt220, for example, requires new protocol modules; these modules have been written, and will be supplied as a patch on the disc accompanying the StrongARM upgrade.

OmniClient – OmniClient works on StrongARM. AUN Level 4 – The Level 4 fileserver software requires a module update to work on StrongARM. It is intended that the appropriate module will be made available on the disc accompanying the StrongARM upgrade.

PocketFS – PocketFS works on StrongARM; file conversions are particularly fast. Information from Apricote Studios.

Prophet 2 – Prophet 2 works on StrongARM, and typically runs 5 times faster than on an ARM710. In tests, it was able to load and parse a database containing records for over 3600 customers in just under 3 seconds.

Shares 5 – Shares 5 works on StrongARM, and typically runs 5 times faster than on an ARM710.

ArchiTech – ArchiTech works on StrongARM, and runs up to 5 times faster than on an ARM710.

Tabs+ – Tabs+ runs successfully on StrongARM.

DaVinci 90 – DaVinci 90 runs successfully on StrongARM.

Spex+ – Spex+ (and its associated environment libraries Spex Home, Spex Street, Spex Moonbase, Spex Classroom, Spex LeisurePool and Spex IT Room) runs successfully on StrongARM. Some early versions of Aspex products use self-modifying code during their initialisation sequence, so these versions will not work on StrongARM. If any of the products listed above exhibit this failure mode, contact Aspex for an upgrade. Information from Beebug.

Sleuth 2 – The file "kidsbook" as supplied with Sleuth 2 takes 72 seconds to convert on a Risc PC 700. It takes 20 seconds on StrongARM - at a conversion rate of 1,944 words per minute. Ovation Pro Picture runaround Dolphin image takes 9 seconds on a Risc PC 700, reduced to less than 2 seconds on a StrongARM. Sleuth, Masterfile 3, Hard Disc Companion, TypeStudio, Desktop Thesaurus, PlayBack, ArcScan, Chartwell, DeskEdit and MenuBar have also been tested with successful results. Information from Clares.

ProArtisan 2 – ProArtisan 2 works successfully on StrongARM.

Topographer – Topographer works successfully on StrongARM, exhibiting a very significant speed-up; it runs circa 10 times faster than on ARM710.

NightSky – NightSky works successfully on StrongARM.

Plot – Plot works successfully on StrongARM.

Schema 2 – Schema 2 works successfully on StrongARM, and recalculates significantly more quickly than on ARM710.

Celebration – Celebration works successfully on

StrongARM.

CardShop — CardShop works successfully on StrongARM.

Knowledge Organiser 2 — Knowledge Organiser 2 works successfully on StrongARM.

Titler — Titler works successfully on StrongARM.

Sequencer — Sequencer works successfully on StrongARM.

RhythmBed — RhythmBed works successfully on StrongARM.

ScoreDraw — ScoreDraw works successfully on StrongARM.

Render Bender 2 — Render Bender 2 works successfully on StrongARM, and renders significantly more quickly than on ARM710.

Illusionist — Illusionist works successfully on StrongARM.

AlphaBase — AlphaBase works successfully on StrongARM.

Armadeus — Armadeus works successfully on StrongARM.

Composition — Composition 1.02 does not work on StrongARM; however, changes have been made which will enable a new release, provisionally 1.03, to work. Upgrade details will be made available by Clares.

Serenade — Serenade 1.10 does not work on StrongARM; however, changes have been made which will enable a new release, provisionally 1.11, to work. Upgrade details will be made available by Clares.

Virtualise — Virtualise 1.06 does not work on StrongARM; however, changes have been made which will enable a new release, provisionally 1.07, to work. Upgrade details will be made available by Clares. Information from Desktop Projects. QuickTile — QuickTile v. 1.03 works successfully on StrongARM.

QuickLynk — QuickLynk v. 1.04 works successfully on StrongARM.

QuickSound — QuickSound v. 1.00 works successfully on StrongARM.

QuickShow — QuickShow v. 1.00 works successfully on StrongARM. Information from Gnome.

!X — The !X X server runs approximately twice as fast as on a Risc PC 700. Information from Irlam Instruments.

RiscTV — The RiscTV card works successfully on StrongARM. {tab}VideoDesk The VideoDesk card works successfully on StrongARM.

24i16 — The 24i16 digitiser card works successfully on StrongARM.

ReplayDIY — The ReplayDIY software works

successfully on StrongARM. Information from Intelligent Interfaces.

Dual High Speed Serial Interface Expansion Card — Using the current version of the IIDual module (V3.72) the Dual High Speed Serial Interface works with a StrongARM.

IEEE488 Interface Expansion Card — Using the current version of the IEEE488 module (V1.04) the IEEE488 Interface works with a StrongARM.

16 Bit Parallel I/O Interface Expansion Card — Using a new version of the 16BitPIO module (V1.03) the 16 Bit Parallel I/O Interface works with a StrongARM.

STEBus Interface Expansion Card — Using the current version of the STEBus module (V1.10) the STEBus Interface works with a StrongARM.

Desktop Fortran 77 — All the components of Desktop Fortran 77 (The compiler, the linker and the !Fortran77 application) work with a StrongARM. Information from David PillingChess II, Trace, d2font, Snap and Spark have been tested and are known to work (Chess II and Trace both exhibit an impressive increase in speed); SparkFS required a small patch to be implemented, and the patch kit is now available via <http://www.netlink.co.uk/users/pilling/>[1] Information from Spacetech.

Photodesk — Photodesk runs successfully on StrongARM, at a speed significantly higher than on a Risc PC 700 (up to a factor of 10 times faster). Information from TBA Software.

'TAG' engine — The TAG' engine has been tested on the StrongARM and found to be compatible and significantly faster. [IMAGE]Comments on these pages are welcome and can be made by using the [IMAGE][2]comment facility[3] or by emailing webmaster@art.acorn.co.uk All trademarks acknowledged.

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References in this document:

1. <http://www.netlink.co.uk/users/pilling/>
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