NEXUS
SHARED
HARD DISCS

FOR ARCHIMEDES® SYSTEMS

Why struggle! »

SJ
RESEARCH

NEXUS

>> ... the solution >>

NEXUS - A SHARED HARD DISC FOR ARCHIMEDES SYSTEMS

Nexus is a new solution to the storage of applications for Archimedes systems. It provides fast access to applications, leaving the network or floppy discs free for storing children's work.

SPEED

Nexus is very fast, delivering applications at a rate comparable to that of a local hard disc, and much faster than Econet or local floppy disc. The high speed of Nexus continues to be important when using applications which access shared resources such as fonts, or which make use of temporary data files. Nexus will also provide fast and easy print serving facilities.

SIMPLICITY

Nexus is easy to use. For the pupil, Nexus is like a local hard disc so there is nothing difficult or new to learn. It appears on the desktop as two disc icons. Drive 4 is the large, shared, read-

only portion of the disc, visible to all the attached Archimedes. Drive 5 is a small read/write area which can be used for temporary data files. There is a separate Drive 5 for each machine. The system manager can determine the size of these partitions.

Nexus is easy to manage. The system manager turns the keyswitch to the admin manager turns the keyswitch back to the secure position. The contents of the disc are then available for all the Archimedes connected to Nexus. This allows pupils to access applications without being able to alter them.

SECURITY

A keyswitch protects the data on Nexus from accidental or deliberate damage. With the switch in the secure position nobody can write to the shared portion of the disc. Nexus can be locked away in a cupboard and is therefore much less vulnerable to physical damage than a hard disc on a desk.

NEXUS AND ECONET

Nexus complements and enhances Econet. Because Archimedes applications are very much larger than BBC programs, they take a very long time to load from Econet. As more Archimedes are added to the network, loading times increase proportionally. Not only do users of the Archimedes have a long

time to wait, but the increased traffic on the network means that any existing BBC machines are slowed down as well, so everyone is affected.

Nexus takes the strain of loading Archimedes applications off the network leaving it free for any BBCs and for storing pupils' work.

NEXUS IS FLEXIBLE

Nexus is being used in a variety of schools, colleges and universities with different layouts, needs and ways of working.

Bryanston School in Dorset, a large public school, was one of the first schools to put in a Nexus system. The staff had found that their eight Archimedes put an intolerable strain on the Econet network so they installed an eight port Nexus system in their new technology block.

The Nexus server sits in an office where it is readily accessible to the system manager and is connected, via cabling in trunking, to the

eight machines in the computer room next door. The Nexus disc is organised so that it holds all the applications, but Econet is still used for saving pupils' work.

Pontarddulais Comprehensive School in West Glamorgan has three Nexus systems. Two are in the computer room where they are used to help teachers deliver I.T. across the curriculum. The Nexus discs hold the major cross-

curricular applications such as databases, spreadsheets, word processors and graphics packages.

Pontarddulais has also installed a Nexus in the school library where it is attached to six machines, one of which is portable within ten metres. This arrangement allows one

machine to be used either by pupils, in different resource areas in the library, or by the librarian in his office, for administrative purposes.
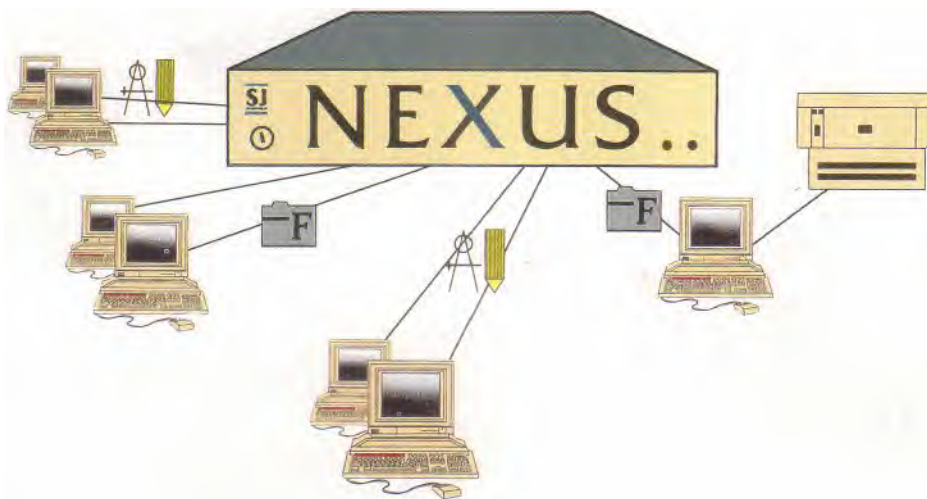
The Dolphin School in Berkshire is an independent primary school with an eight port Nexus system. At the moment this is being used mainly for storing word

processing applications. The staff are finding that Nexus is easy to use and also that it removes the need for vulnerable piles of floppy discs containing applications. The children are using the read/write area allocated to each machine for saving work during a lesson. At the end of a session they copy their work on to their own, personal floppy discs.
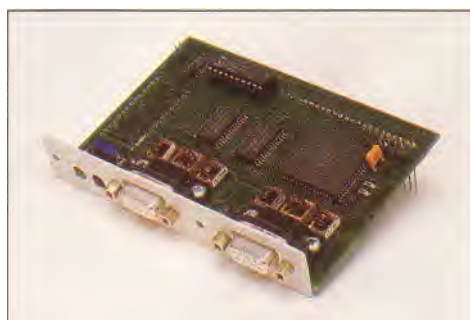

>> *Giving you the time to teach!*

WHAT YOU NEED

The system consists of a four port server containing a 40 or 70 Mb hard disc. Plus 2 expander boards are available to bring the system up to 6 or 8 ports. Each Archimedes machine needs an interface card to enable it to communicate with Nexus. The cards are available for A3000 and A300/400 series computers and fit neatly into the standard internal expansion slot inside the machines. Each computer will also need a cable to link it to Nexus. Cables are made in various different sizes to meet your needs.

NEXUS INSTALLATION

Nexus is easy to install. The cards are simple to fit inside the Archimedes and the cables are easily connected between the server and the computers.

Interface Cards

Expander Boards

Designed by Chameleon UK Ltd, Manchester