



Level 9 Computing



EVERY YEAR A LEVEL HIGHER

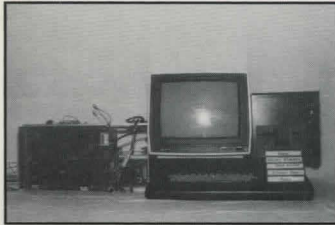


A unique opportunity to witness Level 9's 5th birthday & take a look over 5 years of progress in computer gaming.



1981

Level 9 progressed from a hobby for the Austin brothers, Pete, Nick & Mike, to a registered company with assets of £40 & a Nascom 16K kit computer. Nowadays Level 9 is known as the leading UK adventure house. Few people realise that their first products were arcade games & utilities such as "Space Invasion" & "Extension Basic"; they were individually recorded & sent out mail order to satisfy demand generated by classified ads in "Computing Today".



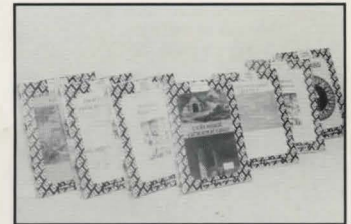
1982

The product range widened with new arcade games & utilities together with the arrival of the first 3 adventures: "Colossal Adventure", "Adventure Quest" & "Dungeon Adventure". These were available for the BBC micro as well as the Nascom & were launched via ¼ page adverts. Level 9 pioneered the idea of a clue service. They felt that even the best adventure players can get stuck, and it is only fair to help people get value from the games they buy. Their very first adventures came with a booklet and a stamped addressed envelope, to return for an individually written hint.



1983

A boom year during which Level 9 games became available in shops throughout Britain. New adventures were "Snowball" & "Lords of Time". The computer base widened to encompass 8 home micros; new on the scene were games for the Spectrum 48K, Atari 400/800, CBM 64, Lynx, RML 380Z & Oric. They took on a far more distinctive packaging & were launched with full page black & white adverts.



The distributor, Microdealer, ordered thousands at Christmas and Level 9 had to recruit family and friends to help with the packaging.

1984

Increasing sales meant a company reorganisation & the recruitment of new staff. The vinyl box with attractive artwork appeared with the first adventures to feature graphics on selected machines: "Return to Eden" & "Erik the Viking". The latter game began links with Mosaic Publishing in several products. Level 9 now catered for disk owners (CBM & BBC) as well as 2 new micros, the Amstrad & Memotech.



Pete was being swamped by 100 clue requests a day and had no time to design games, so comprehensive clue sheets were produced to speed up replies.

1985

Level 9 rewrote their adventure system, improving speed and compression and adding multi-tasking and a radically new parser. "Emerald Isle" was written on the existing system, "Red Moon" (voted 'Adventure Of



The Year') had some of the new features and the full set were available in "Worm In Paradise". All existing adventures were converted for the MSX and Enterprise. A smaller version of Level 9's packaging was introduced with all the printing (documentation, catalogue etc.) on a fold-out cover. Mosaic



Publishing released "The Secret Diary Of Adrian Mole", an interactive fiction game produced by Level 9. To date it has sold an amazing 165,000 copies.

1986

"The Price of Magik", follow-up to "Red Moon", has been released amidst rave reviews & full colour advertising. The Middle Earth adventures have been enhanced and re-released as a trilogy, "Jewels of Darkness".



Versions are available for the Amstrad CPCs/PCW, Atari XL/XE/ST, CBM64/Amiga, MSX and Spectrum. Versions are coming soon for the Apple II/Mac, IBM PC and QL. Future adventures will cover a similar range. Two more games will be published by Rainbird this year, "Silicon Dreams" and "Knight



Orc". More interactive fiction is due on the scene from Mosaic with "The Growing Pains of Adrian Mole" & "The Archers", due this Autumn.



A LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Rainbird expect to release "Jewels Of Darkness" in the States during 1987. Their professional marketing combined with Level 9's programming skills will ensure that this is a tremendous success.



For the UK, Level 9 have designed a multi-user game, codenamed "Avalon", and will be programming it this Winter. It will be played by 'phone and run on networked Amigas. And, of course, Level 9 will keep producing adventures.



Level 9's current catalogue is available from:

Level 9 Computing, P.O. Box 39,
Weston-super-Mare, Avon BS24 9UR (Please enclose a SAE)

