

RETRO DIRECTORY

EVERY MONTH, RETRO GAMER WILL BE LISTING ITS FAVOURITE WEBSITES AND INTERVIEWING SOME OF THEIR KEY MEMBERS. THIS ISSUE WE SPEAK TO DARREN CALVERT, CO-FOUNDER OF THE RATHER ESSENTIAL VC REVIEWS WEBSITE

THE RETRO GAMER DIRECTORY

ATARI AGE

www.atariage.com
Excellent resource site dedicated to all aspects of Atari gaming.

ATARI ORG

www.atari.org
Another superb Atari site with every machine from the 2600 to arcade classics.

AUSSIE ARCADE

www.aussiearcade.com.au
A fantastic arcade forum that caters for an Australian audience.

CPC ZONE

www.cpczone.net
Excellent site for the Amstrad range of computers with all the latest news and reviews.

C64 GAME ENDINGS

www.c64endings.co.uk/
Great site that has over 260 endings for classic and not so classic Commodore 64 games.

LEMON64

www.lemon64.com
Superb Commodore 64 site filled with insightful reviews and a friendly forum.

LEMON AMIGA

www.lemonamiga.com
This great Amiga website is run by Kim Lemon, owner of the excellent Lemon 64.

MAC RETRO

www.macretro.tk
Getting emulators up and running on the Mac, this is a brilliant site.

NEO-GEO.COM

www.neo-geo.com
Dedicated to SNK's systems, but with lots of other stuff to enjoy.

SYSTEM16

www.system16.com
Sega focused, but also dedicated to covering as many arcade games as possible.

NTSC-UK

<http://ntsc-uk.domino.org/>
This site is devoted to imports, but there's a retro section with useful advice on rare imports.

OLD-COMPUTERS.COM

<http://old-computers.com>
If you thought the Atari 2600 was ancient, you may want to visit this fascinating site.



When did you set up VC Reviews?

Darren Calvert: We set up VC Reviews in November 2006 to coincide with the American launch of the Wii. We'd heard about the Virtual Console service and anticipated that it would be a huge success based on its exciting launch line-up, so we were pretty sure a website dedicated to the service would be popular.

Why did you decide to just cover the VC and not Live Arcade or Sony's PSN?

DC: I think the attraction was as hardened retro gamers ourselves, we were already so familiar with the sorts of games that come on to the Virtual Console that it felt more natural to review those games. We have, however, gone on to launch a new site dedicated to WiiWare, called WiiWare World (www.wiiware-world.com), which has proved to be incredibly popular in the short time the WiiWare service has been running.

What gives the VC Reviews website the edge over similar sites?

DC: We've seen many other Virtual Console-themed sites popping up and then fading away over the past year. I would say the main thing that gives us the edge is that we have reviews for *all* of the games. We haven't shied away from reviewing some of the more tricky titles. In addition to that we are also very quick off the mark having often prepared the reviews in the background beforehand.

What's the most popular part of the site?

DC: I would like to say our reviews, but at the moment more than ever I would say the comments section of all our news and game pages. There is a large critical mass of retro gamers across Europe, North America and Australia who visit the site regularly to give their two pence on the latest news or games. Sometimes news stories can have more than 100 comments in less than a day, which is frankly overwhelming!

How can our readers contribute?

DC: The easiest way for **Retro Gamer** readers to

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contribute is by participating on our comments boards. Our reviews are one source of help for someone considering downloading a VC title, but there is always a plethora of varying opinions depending on how rose tinted your retro goggles happen to be. Check out the comments on our *Zelda II* (NES) review to see what I mean!

What's your favourite game on the VC and why?

DC: My personal favourite game on the Virtual Console has to be *Super Mario World*. A predictably boring choice, but what can I say? After all these years it is still as much fun to play and I never tire of completing all 96 exits every now and then when I have the spare time. I am currently really enjoying *Star Parodier*, which is an import PC-Engine game, however, I didn't get the chance to play this at the time, so I am enjoying it all the more now. That's one of the great things about the VC, every now and then it throws up a forgotten gem such as this.

DEEPER LOOK – WEBSITE OF THE MONTH

VC Reviews

www.vc-reviews.com

Although it's been available for less than two years there's already a huge amount of content available on the Virtual Console download service. But how do you separate the wheat from the chaff and know what's worth buying?

Step forward VC Reviews, possibly the best online site dedicated to Nintendo's online service. It has entertaining reviews up within hours of games being available, artwork by ex-*Mean Machines* artist Gary Harrod and a sense of style and fun that perfectly mimics *Mean Machines*.

Actual features are thin on the ground, but there's lots of news, a great forum and recently added WiiWare reviews, too. If you own a Wii then you need this site in your life.



THE RETRO GAMER DIRECTORY

RACKET BOY

<http://racketboy.com/>
There's a definite Sega slant to Racket Boy, but it's a lot of fun.

RADIO SEGA

www.radiosega.net
If you're a fan of Sega music you'll love Radio Sega.

SEGA-16.COM

www.sega-16.com
Mega Drive site with some incredibly in-depth interviews.

RETRO101

www.retro101.co.uk
It's fairly new, but Retro101 has some informative articles.

RETRO GAMING RADIO

www.monroeworld.com
Superb monthly podcast that looks at the US game market.

RLLMUK FORUM

www.rllmukforum.com/index.php
All the latest games and a retro section with helpful members.

THE RUBBER BEERMAT

<http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/themanor33/TRBv2/>
Excellent Spectrum site that champions a lot of rare games.

SHOOT THE CORE

www.shootthecore.moonpod.com
This excellent site loves shmups of all descriptions.

SHMUPS

www.shmups.com
Absolutely amazing website dedicated to the best gaming genre of all time.

VIDEOGAME MUSEUM

www.vgmuseum.com
Screenshots, game endings, cover scans, and reviews.

THE VIRTUAL CONSOLE ARCHIVE

www.vc-reviews.com
Your one-stop shop for everything VC-related.

WORLD OF SPECTRUM

www.worldofspectrum.org
Superb Spectrum site that offers a friendly forum.

If you want to add your website to our expanding directory, please contact Darran at darran.jones@imagine-publishing.co.uk.