

## PET Software and hardware product compatability with the VIC-20

### Software

The VIC-20 has the Commodore BASIC version 2.0 interpreter (sometimes referred to as 3.0) inbuilt, in the same way as the PET. Therefore, programs written on the PET utilising those functions only, without utilising any dependent features in the PET such as machine language subroutines from the operating system, operating system memory locations, and/or screen memory addressing to implement animated graphics, will run on the VIC-20 without any modification. However those programs that do use any, some or all of the above machine dependent features which were designed by Commodore for use by the computers' operating system and not the programmer, and were not promoted as features of the machine, will probably need modifications varying from reformatting text or graphics on the screen (since the VIC-20 has a 22 column screen and the PET having 40 or 80 columns), to changing references to operating system memory addresses.

If we look at the large amount of public domain software, then a good deal of this will either not require modification, or just small text formatting adjustments to run on the VIC-20.

It should be noted however, that software can be written that can, without hardly any effort, configure itself to run on any Commodore computer. I personally have done this, after following Jim Butterfield's example (who I am sure you will all have heard about since he is the world's most famous PET user). I will be producing a document in the near future that will show your programming staff how to implement programs that configure themselves automatically for any Commodore computer.

Also, memory maps for the VIC-20 will be available, which if looked at alongside a PET memory map, will make operating system dependent program conversion fairly simple.

### Hardware

The VIC-20 communicates with its peripherals such as a single floppy disk unit or matrix printer, through an inbuilt serial port which is not present in any PET. The VIC-20 does not have an IEEE bus (as on the PET) and thus cannot talk directly to PET peripherals such as 4040, 8050 dual drive floppy disk units, or the 4022 matrix printer. However, there will be an interface available for the VIC-20 that plugs into the serial port, and has an IEEE connector and supporting hardware allowing the VIC-20 to talk to all of the PET compatible IEEE peripherals. The data format on the VIC single drive floppy disk unit will be the same as the 4040 dual drive floppy disk unit, and so diskettes created on a 4040 may be used in the VIC drive.

I hope that this explains the compatability between VIC-20 and PET. If you have any questions please call me at Commodore.

Regards,

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