

Welcome back, **Valentin Albillo**. You last visited: Today, 02:03 ([User CP](#) — [Log Out](#))
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HP Forums / HP Calculators (and very old HP Computers) / General Forum ▼ / Valentin's website update thread - comments and appreciation

[NEW REPLY](#)

Valentin's website update thread - comments and appreciation

Threaded Mode | Linear Mode

17th September, 2021, 11:24 (This post was last modified: 23rd January, 2022 09:39 by EdS2.)

Post: #1

EdS2

Senior Member

Posts: 525

Joined: Apr 2014

Valentin's website update thread - comments and appreciation

As Valentin continues to update [his site](#) and announce updates on [this updates-only thread](#), I thought it might be useful to have a thread dedicated to comments on and appreciations of [his website](#). It's always nice to have some visibility of how one's work is received.

I for one do appreciate the effort which goes into producing and maintaining all the materials. And it's handy to know when something new has appeared - otherwise it might be some time before I happen to visit again.

My own favourites are I think the ones which highlight what can be done in programming HP calculators, and particularly mathematical explorations, whether trigonometry, fractals, primes, or something else.

Large, clear, and well-lit photographs are very nice to have of course, and perhaps a little easy to overlook, in case one is already familiar with a machine.

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[QUOTE](#) [REPORT](#)

18th September, 2021, 14:45

Post: #2



David Hayden

Senior Member

Posts: 424

Joined: Dec 2013

RE: Valentin's website update thread - comments and appreciation

Wow! What an update. I just spent a couple of hours scanning through most of the files in the most recent update.

I was particularly happy to a scan of the Spanish 34C Advanced Math book, since Valentin had mentioned that in the past. I haven't had a chance to look through the programs yet, but I was really impressed with the detailed instructions. Most of all, I appreciate the program listings with **comments** on how the program works. One of my pet peeves in the calculator world is that we have so many great programs but most seem to be completely uncommented, leaving the curious reader to figure out how they work. Even though I don't speak or read Spanish, it will be worth it to study this book. I'll just have to get Scottie to translate for me. 😊

I also enjoyed the article on the sudoku-like domino game (sorry, I can't find that now).

If I'm even thrown in solitary confinement with just one website to read, it will be Valentin's.

[EMAIL](#) [PM](#) [FIND](#)

[QUOTE](#) [REPORT](#)

18th September, 2021, 15:33

Post: #3

Fernando del Rey

Junior Member

Posts: 20

Joined: Dec 2013

RE: Valentin's website update thread - comments and appreciation

I've been a close friend of Valentin for many, many years, and I feel privileged for that friendship. The memories brought back by these "HAM" materials are amazing!

I still owe a fully working 34C, so you can be sure, Valentin, that I am going to rerun some of those programs in the 34C Matemática Avanzada book.

Please keep your publishing effort going! I'm sure it is immensely appreciated by the community of HP calc fans, even though many of us don't usually take the effort to post a short message to express it.

Stay healthy, Valentín, and let's try to see each other soon!

[EMAIL](#) [PM](#) [FIND](#)

[QUOTE](#) [REPORT](#)

20th September, 2021, 13:46

Post: #4

BillBee 

Member

Posts: 204

Joined: Feb 2020

RE: Valentín's website update thread - comments and appreciation

The "Long Live" articles have always been my favorite and are a good read (& re-read too). The letter to the PPC Melbourne was just fantastic and a great example of the community spirit seen in the community (I had to order the PPC USB drive after reading that).

Sharing one's life work like Valentin has is truly a gracious act.

-Bill

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[QUOTE](#) [REPORT](#)

13th October, 2021, 21:57

Post: #5



ijabbott 

Senior Member

Posts: 1,243

Joined: Jul 2015

RE: Valentín's website update thread - comments and appreciation

Valentin Albillo Wrote: (13th October, 2021 19:58)

Ok. From now on, I'll announce all *Updates* to [my site in this one post](#), which I'll edit as needed to reflect the most recent update. This way, this post will appear just *once* at the top of the posts in this Forum, thus not bothering uninterested people. Conversely, those actually interested should revisit this post and/or [my site](#) regularly to be aware of each new update.

Are you sure that merely editing an existing post moves its thread back to the top of the forum?

[EMAIL](#) [PM](#) [FIND](#)

[QUOTE](#) [REPORT](#)

13th October, 2021, 22:23

Post: #6

rprosperi 

Super Moderator

Posts: 5,748

Joined: Dec 2013

RE: Valentín's website update thread - comments and appreciation

ijabbott Wrote: (13th October, 2021 21:57)

Valentin Albillo Wrote: (13th October, 2021 19:58)

Ok. From now on, I'll announce all *Updates* to [my site in this one post](#), which I'll edit as needed to reflect the most recent update. This way, this post will appear just *once* at the top of the posts in this Forum, thus not bothering uninterested people. Conversely, those actually interested should revisit this post and/or [my site](#) regularly to be aware of each new update.

Are you sure that merely editing an existing post moves its thread back to the top of the forum?

I'm fairly sure it does *not* do that.

Also Valentin, each post is of some certain maximum number of characters (idk size?), which will likely mean that you would eventually have to trim older update messages to make room for the new ones. I hope there is way to retain all the update notes, as I find your comments about the new items quite helpful to select items to read (and sometimes just download for later...).

[EMAIL](#) [PM](#) [FIND](#)

[QUOTE](#) [REPORT](#)

13th October, 2021, 23:10

Post: #7



Valentín Albillo 

Senior Member

Posts: 970

Joined: Feb 2015

Warning Level: 0%

RE: Valentín's website update thread - comments and appreciation

ijabbott Wrote: (13th October, 2021 21:57)

Valentin Albillo [...] Wrote: (13th October, 2021 19:58)

I'll announce all Updates to my site in this one post, which I'll edit as needed to reflect the most recent update. This way, this post will appear just once at the top of the posts[...]

Are you sure that merely editing an existing post moves its thread back to the top of the forum?

Of course not, read the part I've bolded in your quotation of what I said, in fact I say exactly the opposite, to wit: editing a post will not make its thread appear at the top, which is exactly what I intended.

V.



13th October, 2021, 23:38

Post: #8



ijabbott Senior Member

Posts: 1,243
Joined: Jul 2015

RE: Valentín's website update thread - comments and appreciation

Valentin Albillo Wrote: (13th October, 2021 23:10)

ijabbott Wrote: (13th October, 2021 21:57)

Are you sure that merely editing an existing post moves its thread back to the top of the forum?

Of course not, read the part I've bolded in your quotation of what I said, in fact I say exactly the opposite, to wit: editing a post will not make its thread appear at the top, which is exactly what I intended.

V.

Sorry Valentin, I misread.

Personally, I don't see what is wrong with posting each update in its own thread and allowing people to comment on it. If they want the full update history, they can follow the link to your site.



13th October, 2021, 23:40

Post: #9



Valentin Albillo Senior Member

Posts: 970
Joined: Feb 2015
Warning Level: 0%

RE: Valentín's website update thread - comments and appreciation

rproseri Wrote: (13th October, 2021 22:23)

Also Valentin, each post is of some certain maximum number of characters (idk size?), which will likely mean that you would eventually have to trim older update messages to make room for the new ones.

The maximum number of characters per post must be enormous, just consider my posted original solutions to my latest S&S Math Challenge or even my recent post for the previous Update, i.e., Update #28.

As every Update from now on will take just one or two lines of added text at most, it would be possible to add hundreds of updates in the one post before the limit (if any) is reached, and well before that I'd have stopped posting in the MoHPC fora.

Quote:

I hope there is way to retain all the update notes, as I find your comments about the new items quite helpful to select items to read (and sometimes just download for later...).

I don't understand. The previous posts in the Updates thread for Updates #1 to #28 will not be edited ever (at least by me), so they'll remain intact indefinitely. And the one post for all Updates #29, #30, ..., will not include comments about the new items, other than a brief 1- or 2-line indication of the Updates' content.

Judging by [ijabbott](#)'s reply and yours, it seems my (allegedly) simple and clear [post](#) has been thoroughly misunderstood, can't figure why.

Best regards.

V.

PM WWW FIND

EDIT X QUOTE REPORT

13th October, 2021, 23:52

Post: #10



Valentin Albillo

Senior Member

Posts: 970

Joined: Feb 2015

Warning Level: 0%

RE: Valentin's website update thread - comments and appreciation

ijabbott Wrote:

(13th October, 2021 23:38)

Sorry Valentin, I misread.

No problem.

Quote:

Personally, I don't see what is wrong with posting each update in its own thread and allowing people to comment on it.

It's not a question of right or wrong, it's just a personal preference of mine. I've never done that, since *Update #1*, all following *Updates* have been posted to the one *Updates thread*, politely asking people to not post comments to it but to do it in some other thread(s) instead.

People can comment as much as they want in any other thread, either existing or newly created for the purpose, such as this one. The problem is, they don't want to comment in other threads or for that matter, simply to comment, period.

Regards.

V.

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EDIT X QUOTE REPORT

14th October, 2021, 01:19

Post: #11

Dave Britten

Senior Member

Posts: 2,233

Joined: Dec 2013

RE: Valentin's website update thread - comments and appreciation

I am eagerly - and *somewhat* patiently - awaiting the arrival of more PC-1211 materials. 😊

PM WWW FIND

QUOTE REPORT

14th October, 2021, 03:08

Post: #12



Valentin Albillo

Senior Member

Posts: 970

Joined: Feb 2015

Warning Level: 0%

RE: Valentin's website update thread - comments and appreciation

Dave Britten Wrote:

(14th October, 2021 01:19)

I am eagerly - and *somewhat* patiently - awaiting the arrival of more **PC-1211** materials. 😊

Then you're all set for a nice surprise, I'm now processing all my vintage (ca. 1980) **SHARP PC-1211 aka TRS-80 PC-1** materials for uploading in a next *Update* (perhaps #33) as part of my *Project HAM*. This includes *several dozen programs* for it. 😊

Thanks for your interest, and regards.

V.

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EDIT X QUOTE REPORT

14th October, 2021, 03:24

Post: #13

rprosperi

Super Moderator

Posts: 5,748

Joined: Dec 2013

RE: Valentin's website update thread - comments and appreciation

Valentin Albillo Wrote:

(13th October, 2021 23:40)

The maximum number of characters per post must be *enormous*, just consider [my posted original solutions](#) to my latest *S&S Math Challenge* or even my recent post for the previous *Update*, i.e., [Update #28](#).

As every *Update* from now on will take just one or two lines of added text at most, it would be possible to add *hundreds* of updates in the one post before the limit (if any) is reached, and well before that I'd have stopped posting in the *MoHPC* fora.

I am not sure of the limit, but I know when Sylvain was creating his epic posting of his HP-71B Compendium, he was forced to break it into 4 separate posts as a single post could not hold it all (though it was truly enormous...).

Since new updates will be limited to just a few lines, I agree this approach makes good sense. I thought future updates would be for many items, similar to past updates.

Valentin Albillo Wrote:

(13th October, 2021 23:40)

I don't understand. The previous posts in the *Updates* thread for *Updates #1 to #28* will not be edited ever (at least by me), so they'll remain intact indefinitely. And the one post for all *Updates #29, #30, ...*, will *not* include comments about the new items, other than a brief 1- or 2-line indication of the *Updates'* content.

Sorry, my intention was to say that if new updates were large, and were to eventually exceed the single-post limit, you would have to cut some of the earlier content *in that new post*. But ignore this, based on incorrect assumptions.

Valentin Albillo Wrote:

(13th October, 2021 23:40)

Judging by *ijabbott's* reply and yours, it seems my (allegedly) simple and clear [post](#) has been thoroughly misunderstood, can't figure why.

I did indeed misread your post, and like *ijabbott*, thought your intention was to have a message indeed be at the top; a slower reading clarifies your point.

However, I'll add here that I truly prefer new posts (including updates) actually be at the top, to get my attention that there is something new to explore. Updating a post whose original posting may be weeks or months old means that it is down, well below the fold, and thus out of sight. It will only be seen by folks that think to bookmark the post and then go check it to see if there has been an update.

One easy way to achieve both is to copy/paste the prior posting into a new one, add the new content for the update and then post it. Once done, the prior post can be easily deleted, since all that content is now in the new one.

[EMAIL](#) [PM](#) [FIND](#)

[QUOTE](#) [REPORT](#)

14th October, 2021, 09:17

Post: #14



ijabbott
Senior Member

Posts: 1,243
Joined: Jul 2015

RE: Valentin's website update thread - comments and appreciation

rprospere Wrote:

(14th October, 2021 03:24)

Valentin Albillo Wrote:

(13th October, 2021 23:40)

Judging by *ijabbott's* reply and yours, it seems my (allegedly) simple and clear [post](#) has been thoroughly misunderstood, can't figure why.

I did indeed misread your post, and like *ijabbott*, thought your intention was to have a message indeed be at the top; a slower reading clarifies your point.

However, I'll add here that I truly prefer new posts (including updates) actually be at the top, to get my attention that there is something new to explore. Updating a post whose original posting may be weeks or months old means that it is down, well below the fold, and thus out of sight. It will only be seen by folks that think to bookmark the post and then go check it to see if there has been an update.

One easy way to achieve both is to copy/paste the prior posting into a new one, add the new content for the update and then post it. Once done, the prior post can be easily deleted, since all that content is now in the new one.

Another option would be for Valentin to update the top post of the thread and post a reply when he has updated the top post. The same thread can be used for replies from other people. This is similar to how the "summation based

benchmarks" thread works. I don't think the model of having replies in a separate thread has been working that well in the past for Valentin's previous updates, at least until the recent big update.



14th October, 2021, 10:55 (This post was last modified: 14th October, 2021 10:55 by EdS2.)

Post: #15

EdS2

Senior Member

Posts: 525

Joined: Apr 2014

RE: Valentin's website update thread - comments and appreciation

As a possible compromise, Valentin (or anyone else) could comment on this thread when the update thread's head post has been revised, to let people know. (Because this thread points back to that one.)

(Personally I would also prefer to see a new post to the update thread to bring it to the top, but it is Valentin's thread to use as he sees fit.)

(I hope I've understood the intention correctly.)



14th October, 2021, 19:02

Post: #16

BillBee

Member

Posts: 204

Joined: Feb 2020

RE: Valentin's website update thread - comments and appreciation

Make the thread a "sticky" and it will always be at the top.

For me, I use the "View New" and am always rewarded.

-B



14th October, 2021, 19:49

Post: #17



Valentin Albillo

Senior Member

Posts: 970

Joined: Feb 2015

Warning Level: 0%

RE: Valentin's website update thread - comments and appreciation

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Hi, all:

***Important note:** all the many "you" that follow are **generic "you"**, not referring to you as the particular reader of this, so don't take issue.*

It seems I've failed to make myself clear. I thought people would get what I was implying in my post but it seems not, so I'll try again and this time I'll be utterly *explicit*.

I assumed people would've read (and taken notice) of what I said at the very end of the previous [Update #28](#), under **Last but not least**. Seems it was also a wrong assumption.

There I stated that creating and posting those long and elaborated announcements took me considerable effort, in addition to scanning and making available the materials proper, and if I got no *feedback* at all then I wouldn't be able to distinguish between "*People like them even if they don't provide any feedback, so my effort is worth it*" and "*People ignore them and that's why no one provides any feedback, so my effort is useless*", so let's look at the evidence to see which is the case.

I posted three messages in separate threads and after several weeks elapsed, I found the following:

- My recent [announcement of Project HAM](#) got just 540 views in a *whole month* and only *two* people posted some brief comment on it. That number of views (and much more) is obtained by any casual post in a day or two, but it took me long to write the announcement telling people that I'd share *2,000 pages* (now *4,000*) of *vintage* (even *historic*) materials. Alas, the users of the *Museum of HP Calcs* didn't care at all. *This alone was devastating*.
- Then, the same happened to [my post announcing mega-Update 28](#), which consisted of 25 files totalling *400 pages* of contents. People can't (shouldn't) post there but it got less than 300 views in three weeks. It took me *hours* to create and post it, with all 25 descriptions and links for every file. And for less than 300 views ... in three weeks !
- I then announced the [2nd Anniversary of my site](#). Last year's announcement got 17 comments and 3,651 views. This year it got *two* comments and 275 views. *'Nuff said*.

Also, a kind forum member, **EdS2**, created this very "Comments and appreciation" thread about my updates. Well, after more than two weeks it got only 340 views and only 4 people took the trouble to post anything, and that includes **EdS2** himself and my friend *FdR*, clearly demonstrating that most people don't care to comment or show appreciation for my updates.

So much for evidence. The conclusion is crystal-clear to me, so I've done exactly what I said I'd do in "Last but not least": *no more wasting my time on lengthy and detailed announcements which most people don't care about*, and no more announcements taking the top position in the Forum.

What now ? Well, people not interested in my materials won't have to see my occasional update announcements at the top, while the four or five people actually interested (you know who you are) will have to make the minimal effort of bookmarking my one *Updates* post and/or my site's main page, and checking for updates regularly, say once a week.

I know, I know, it's a **tremendous** effort having to click a bookmark once a week to check if there's something new, and you'd rather have the materials' availability and detailed descriptions spoon-fed to you but there you are ! The good news is that now you aren't expected to provide any feedback ... which you weren't doing, anyway ... !

It's also quite revealing that now that this "Comments ..." thread *does* get some *comments*, none of them are about the *materials* but about the *post* announcing them.

Reminds me of the old proverb: "Cuando el dedo apunta al cielo, el tonto mira el dedo". 😊

Thanks for your comments about anything, and regards.

V.

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EDIT X QUOTE REPORT

15th October, 2021, 01:59

Post: #18



ijabott
Senior Member

Posts: 1,243
Joined: Jul 2015

RE: Valentín's website update thread - comments and appreciation

Hi Valentin,

Have you noticed the correlation between the number of replies on a thread and the number of views?

EMAIL PM FIND

QUOTE REPORT

15th October, 2021, 11:38

Post: #19

cdmackay
Senior Member

Posts: 692
Joined: Sep 2018

RE: Valentín's website update thread - comments and appreciation

hi Valentin,

I value your articles, posts, and collection. I never comment, because I feel i've nothing to say worthy of contribution in comparison, I just gaze in awe.

But perhaps a few more thank-yous would be in order, so... thank you for all your efforts!

PM FIND

QUOTE REPORT

15th October, 2021, 12:26

Post: #20

Siegfried
Member

Posts: 128
Joined: Jan 2014

RE: Valentín's website update thread - comments and appreciation

cdmackay Wrote: (15th October, 2021 11:38)

I value your articles, posts, and collection. I never comment, because I feel i've nothing to say worthy of contribution in comparison, I just gaze in awe.

I share that sentiment. As I mainly and probably blasphemously collect calculators for nostalgia's sake and technical fascination most of your, Valentin's articles are far beyond my mathematical grasp. From time to time I resolve to improve my maths to be able to appreciate their finer points (and enjoy my HPs more) but life with a job and a family tend to get in the way. So I am still looking for a good book to revive my long-forgotten highschool maths and show a path beyond it.

I also like your "long live" articles and can't praise Isaac Newton's peek into 20th century technology enough. I am not a regular visitor even here, so I won't see every update, but please be assured that your articles are welcome and appreciated very much. Thank you and my apologies for not expressing that sooner!



21st January, 2022, 11:10 (This post was last modified: 22nd January, 2022 10:33 by J-F Garnier.)

Post: #21



J-F Garnier
Senior Member

Posts: 820
Joined: Dec 2013

RE: Valentín's website update thread - comments and appreciation

If you are regularly monitoring the publication of Valentín's archives, you may have noticed the mention of "Easter eggs" in the updates.

And if you are keeping track of the file updates, you surely noticed that the "Easter eggs" files are not part of the "Latest Additions" list.

I don't know what Valentín exactly means by "Easter eggs" (maybe is it a challenge to find them :-)
but some basic arithmetic may help here:

The update #36 says "There's now 1,042 files available ..."

but HP Calculators (460 files)

+ HP Computers (18 files)

+ Sharp Pocket Computers (112 files)

+ Other Brands (67 files)

+ Assorted Miscellaneous (215 files)

make 872 files.

Obviously, there is more than we can see (if we trust arithmetic of course :-)

I was able to locate a few extra links, some are not part of my main interests but others are nice reminiscences of the time when I started programming on a PC.

There is something in the latest update that I (as a HP-71B addict) can see as a true Easter egg:

in the section HP Book Covers, the file [HP-71B Manual del Usuario](#) has been updated and now includes a HP sheet (in english) about the bug of version 2CCCC.

The bug itself is already known and described in the same terms on my [HP-71B bug page](#) (from a HPX publication), but it's the first time I see the official HP sheet.

So Easter eggs or not, it's worth the effort to explore Valentín's huge material !

J-F

[Edit: removed the now pointless PS].



21st January, 2022, 14:10 (This post was last modified: 21st January, 2022 14:12 by Ángel Martin.)

Post: #22



Ángel Martin
Senior Member

Posts: 1,393
Joined: Dec 2013

RE: Valentín's website update thread - comments and appreciation

I'm probably missing the point completely but the ARTICLES Forum could have been a better place; the postings there seem to have the desired attributes: can't be replied to, yet they can be updated by the original author - to include those site updates announcements... no?

ÁM



22nd January, 2022, 09:54

Post: #23



EdS2
Senior Member

Posts: 525
Joined: Apr 2014

RE: Valentín's website update thread - comments and appreciation

Ángel Martin Wrote: (21st January, 2022 14:10)

... the ARTICLES Forum could have been a better place; the postings there seem to have the desired attributes: can't be replied to, yet they can be updated by the original author - to include those site updates announcements... no?

Interesting thought. I think it solves half the problem - the wish to publish without the clutter of various conversations following. But it doesn't solve the other half - the wish to get positive feedback about the post and the work behind it.

It feels to me that if you want a conversation, you need to allow for, and facilitate, and encourage a conversation.



22nd January, 2022, 09:57

Post: #24

EdS2

Senior Member

Posts: 525

Joined: Apr 2014

RE: Valentin's website update thread - comments and appreciation

J-F Garnier Wrote:

(21st January, 2022 11:10)

If you are regularly monitoring the publication of Valentin's archives, you may have noticed the mention of "Easter eggs" in the updates.

Interesting notes... one way to look at this, perhaps, is that the Easter egg is a puzzle, a challenge to the reader. And like all puzzles, it will need to be easy enough to be solved, but difficult enough to be rewarding. One solution to that balance, which we see in these forums a lot, is to follow the puzzle, after some time, with a hint or two, and then after that, perhaps a more direct pointer to the solution.

In this way, the audience is trained on the style of puzzle being presented, and over time more people might tackle and solve the puzzles.



22nd January, 2022, 18:41

Post: #25

Eddie W. Shore

Senior Member

Posts: 1,461

Joined: Dec 2013

RE: Valentin's website update thread - comments and appreciation

Always grateful for Valentin's website.



23rd January, 2022, 02:12

Post: #26



Valentin Albillo

Senior Member

Posts: 970

Joined: Feb 2015

Warning Level: 0%

RE: Valentin's website update thread - comments and appreciation

Hi, all,

J-F Garnier Wrote:

I don't know what Valentin exactly means by "Easter eggs" (**maybe is it a challenge to find them :-)**)

That's the idea. *Easter eggs* usually feature items (always documents or images, *never* anything executable) which would be somehow out of place relative to the regular content of my site, so only a non-descript link to them is given for each somewhere, no thumbnail, title, description or data of any sort, just the unassuming link.

The idea is to have a little fun locating them if interested, *Pokémon*-style: " *Gotta Catch 'Em All !* "

J-F Garnier Wrote:

I was able to locate a few extra links, some are not part of my main interests but others are nice reminiscences of the time when I started programming on a PC.

Hehe, I sure can guess which are the former and which are the latter.

J-F Garnier Wrote:

There is something in the latest update that I (as a HP-71B addict) can see as a true Easter egg: in the section HP Book Covers, the file HP-71B Manual del Usuario has been updated and now includes a HP sheet (in english) about the bug of version 2CCCC. [...] **it's the first time I see the official HP sheet.**

I'm glad that you found it interesting for you though that's not an *Easter egg*, as it's clearly mentioned in the description for that item, "**HP Book Covers - HP-71 Manual del Usuario**".

J-F Garnier Wrote:

So Easter eggs or not, **it's worth the effort to explore Valentin's huge material !**

Thank you very much, **J-F**, I'll buy you dinner next time we meet. Perhaps it's hard to believe but **J-F**'s the very *first* post that comments on some item on my site, at long last after many months and *1,046* available files.

J-F Garnier Wrote:

Edit: **removed** the now pointless PS

Thank you very much as well for pointing that *error*. It sure surprised me, because I thoroughly check every new update to make sure all's Ok but that one slipped by. *Corrected now*, of course.

Ángel Martín Wrote:

I'm probably missing the point completely but **the ARTICLES Forum could have been a better place**; the postings there seem to have the desired attributes: can't be replied to, yet they can be updated by the original author - to include those site updates announcements... no?

The **Articles** forum is wholly inadequate for my materials for a number of reasons, but the main one is that it doesn't allow for *PDF* documents, which are essential for the correct formatting and the inclusion of in-document images (among other elements) that most of my articles feature.

In the very distant past I asked Mr. Hicks to allow *PDFs*, several times, but to no avail so I discarded that possibility for good, which actually was for the better. Much better.

EdS2 Wrote:

But **it doesn't solve the other half - the wish to get positive feedback** about the post and the work behind it.

Actually, **nothing** solves that. And for the record, it's not just *positive* feedback but *any* kind thereof.

EdS2 Wrote:

It feels to me that if you want a conversation, you need to allow for, and facilitate, and encourage a conversation.

My bad, then. Just as the wifey's often says ! 😊 ... It doesn't work, **EdS2**, no matter what I do I wouldn't succeed: "*The times, they're a'changing*".

And there's *this* very thread (which I explicitly mention and link to in my site's Main page,) where everyone could post, comment and engage in conversation should they want to but nearly none do. Actually, until **J-F**'s post above, it was just "*none*".

EdS2 Wrote:

one way to look at this, perhaps, is that the Easter egg is a **puzzle**, a challenge to the reader. And like all puzzles, it will need to be easy enough to be **solved**, but difficult enough to be rewarding. One solution to that balance, which we see in these forums a lot, is to follow the puzzle, after some time, with a hint or two, and then after that, perhaps a more direct pointer to the **solution**. In this way, the audience is trained on the style of puzzle being presented, and over time more people might tackle and solve the puzzles.

An *Easter egg* is not a "*puzzle*" and so it doesn't have a "*solution*". It's simply some item not having a thumbnail, title or description, which you have to find, if interested, the "reward" being the item itself. And unlike real chocolate *Easter eggs*, your finding it doesn't preclude others doing as well.

Eddie W. Shore Wrote:

Always grateful for Valentin's website.

Thanks a lot for you continued interest and always kind words, **Eddie**, much appreciated !

Regards.

V.



24th January, 2022, 01:06

Post: #27

Garry Lancaster

Junior Member

Posts: 25

Joined: Jan 2022

RE: Valentin's website update thread - comments and appreciation

As a new forum member, I'd like to add my appreciation for the great resource provided by your site, Valentin.

I have found much to enjoy there, even as a relatively recent convert to the wonders of HP RPN calculators - having initially found my way in via the SwissMicros DM16L recreation of the HP-16C - a calculator I never knew existed but always wanted 😊

PM FIND

QUOTE REPORT

7th March, 2022, 01:22

Post: #28

Fernando del Rey 

Junior Member

Posts: 20

Joined: Dec 2013

RE: Valentin's website update thread - comments and appreciation

Valentin has recently issued Update #38 to his website, bringing his "Project HAM" to near-90% completion.

This update features a new bunch of Vintage Letters that are a joy to read and bring back the fondest memories from the heyday of programmable calculators. Highly recommended!

There is also a quite interesting article titled "Once Upon a Pocket: Programmable Calculators from the Late 1970s and Early 1980s and the Social Networks Around Them" that many members of this forum will surely enjoy reading.

I must personally thank Valentin for scanning and publishing some of the programs I wrote for the HP-55 and HP-67, considering how minuscule they are compared to his own monumental work.

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QUOTE REPORT

7th March, 2022, 09:28

Post: #29



Ángel Martín 

Senior Member

Posts: 1,393

Joined: Dec 2013

RE: Valentin's website update thread - comments and appreciation

here's the link to the article mentioned above:

<https://albillo.hpcalc.org/scans/HP%20Ra...Pocket.pdf>

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QUOTE REPORT

7th March, 2022, 14:24

Post: #30

EdS2 

Senior Member

Posts: 525

Joined: Apr 2014

RE: Valentin's website update thread - comments and appreciation

Thanks, both - this is a good thread to use for this purpose!

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QUOTE REPORT

11th October, 2022, 10:21

Post: #31

EdS2 

Senior Member

Posts: 525

Joined: Apr 2014

RE: Valentin's website update thread - comments and appreciation

Just to note that Valentin has (as he said he would) continued to post updates and to note them in this last post of his announcement thread:

[\[VA\] New updates available in my HP site](#)

(But I for one have not made a habit or set up a mechanism for checking... perhaps we can note those updates here, when we notice them. Right now, Update 39 is the most recent.)

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QUOTE REPORT

18th March, 2023, 01:06 (This post was last modified: 18th March, 2023 01:11 by pier4r.)

Post: #32

pier4r 

Senior Member

Posts: 2,230

Joined: Nov 2014

RE: Valentin's website update thread - comments and appreciation

Interesting the chess section with tests against the chess engines of the time (with the hw of the time too)

<https://albillo.hpcalc.org/files/misc/chestests>

It reminds me of the modern suits for current engines (that are much more monstrous but do not yet solve everything quickly): see <https://www.chessprogramming.org/Test-Positions> . Further related to that, the program Mater, mentioned in the chess page was also programmed for the 71B (although in a more compact way): <https://albillo.hpcalc.org/articles/HP%2...0Mater.pdf>



22nd April, 2023, 17:36

Post: #33



Valentin Albillo
Senior Member

Posts: 970
Joined: Feb 2015
Warning Level: 0%

RE: Valentin's website update thread - comments and appreciation

Hi, **pier4r** and all of you chess lovers,

pier4r Wrote:

(18th March, 2023 01:06)

Interesting the chess section with tests again the chess engines of the time (with the hw of the time too)
<https://albillo.hpcalc.org/files/misc/chestests>

Thanks for your appreciation, **pier4r**, here are some highlights from [my site's Chess Tests Section](#):

Among the *Basic Suite* test positions, *Position 38.- A. Herbstmann, 1954, White to play and win: 1. Ka3-b2 !!*, was most difficult at the time (ca. 1998,) taking **Crafty 12.9** running on a *Pentium 100* some **34 hours** to find (and *50 hours* to evaluate) this unique winning move.

Out of curiosity, I did try this position using more modern hardware/software (namely **Stockfish** running on a 12-year-old *iPad 2*) and it found the correct move **Kb2** at 24 plies in **32 seconds** (i.e. *3,800x* faster,) evaluating it as *+11.9*, i.e. clearly seeing it as a winning move. By the time 28 plies are reached the evaluation improves to *+19.5*.

Other remarkable *Sections* and exciting *particular* test positions include:

Bizarre positions

Bizarre Positions is an amazing *Suite Extension* where you'll find only absolutely weird positions nowhere else to be found ! For us *Computer Chess* fans, you'll see that some of these positions stress the chess engines to their limits, and even can help discover latent bugs.

74.- "Melee", proposed by Valentin Albillo, 1997, *White to play and mate in 8: h7xg8=N !!*

75.- "The Ring", proposed by Valentin Albillo, 1998, *White to play and mate in 12: 1. f7-f8=Q*

Heiner Marxen tried this position on his own special mate-searcher, **CHEST**, and was able to solve it, demonstrating that it is a *mate in 12* (and no less) in some *31 hours*.

The Never Concept

The Never Concept refers to a situation or action that a human chess player can *perfectly see* and understand that *it will never happen*, yet a computer chess program is absolutely *unaware* of this and can easily *misevaluate* the position completely, thus committing serious and even fatal errors, even if searching to extreme depths.

82.- V. Chekhover, 1952, White to play and draw

Unsolved positions

91.- "Mate the Royal Couple" - Proposed by V. Albillo, *White to play and mate in 12*

I thought (but couldn't prove) it was a *mate in 12* but as you'll see in the **Addendum 2020**, chess fan **Vincent Lejeune** used **ChessMaster 9000** in 2003 to try and solve this position and found that e4 is a *mate in 11 !*

92.- "Surrounded" - Proposed by V. Albillo, *White to play and mate in 12 (?)*

Still unsolved, *AFAIK*.

Chess Book Reviews

Over the decades I've built quite a decent *library* of chess books and more than 20 years ago I did review some of the best, with an emphasis in (but not limited to) *Computer Chess*, uploading the reviews to a chess-related website of mine ("*Chess Tests*"). **Each review includes a position taken from the particular book** and tackled with the programs of that time period, with comments.

Acknowledgements

Here's a sample from the *Acknowledgements Section*:

"**Robert Hyatt**, renowned author of world-class chess programs **Cray Blitz** and freeware **Crafty**, whose versions 12.6, 12.7, 12.8, 12.9 and 13.3 are extensively tested on this site, sent me kind e-mails, pointing several interesting things about some of my test positions, as well as listings with **Crafty 13.3** analysis for some of them.

You can see them in the *Addenda* at *Test 01, 05, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 22, 29, 30, 33* and *B03*. Also, all the results he submitted are identified in the tables with this marker **[HYATT]**. Many thanks, Robert."

pier4r Wrote:

Further related to that, the program **Mater**, mentioned in the chess page was also programmed **for the 71B** (although in a more compact way): <https://albillo.hpcalc.org/articles/HP%2...0Mater.pdf>

Yes, these are the highlights of the full **MATER** program, as featured in my chess site:

MATER - A simple Mate Searching Program

MATER is a simple mate searching program, implemented as an *MS-DOS* command. Given a legal position in *FEN* notation, the side to move, and the maximum number of moves to give mate, it will search and output either a move which gives mate in that number of moves or less, or the fact that there's no such move.

Main features:

- Full legal move generation, including full legal castling, en passant pawn captures and underpromotions.
- Can find mates in *any* number of moves, *up to 64*, subject to available memory and time.
- Can find *general mates* or mates in which the mating side *only gives checks*. This is useful for finding much quicker long sequences of checks that end in mate.
- Accepts positions in *FEN* notation, and checks them for legality and syntax.
- Searches for mates *recursively*, and thus always finds the *shortest possible* mate.
- The search can be halted immediately at any moment, simply pressing any key.
- Outputs the first move that gives the required mate, or the fact that one doesn't exist.
- Shows progress for each iteration, including time taken.
- Outputs final *total time*, as well as *nodes examined*.

Documentation and 8 awesome examples

[Turbo Pascal source code](#), fully commented, includes a move generator which allows for castling, en passant pawn captures and underpromotions.

A sample of the *Turbo Pascal* source code:

```
PROCEDURE GenerateMoves
(*
generates moves for a given side. Options permit generation of all moves or a single move, full legal moves or pseudo-legal
(own king may be left under check), etc.

All chess rules are implemented, including all five rules for legal castling, promotions, underpromotions, and en passant
captures
*)
```

Note to readers: Please post any comments to any of this in a [separate thread](#). Thank you.

Enough. Thanks for your appreciation, **pier4r**, and for posting about this *Section*.

Best regards.

V.



22nd April, 2023, 21:28

Post: #34

pier4r
Senior Member

Posts: 2,230
Joined: Nov 2014

RE: Valentín's website update thread - comments and appreciation

Thank you for the overview!

Valentin Albillo Wrote:

(22nd April, 2023 17:36)

[Unsolved positions](#)

91.- "Mate the Royal Couple" - Proposed by V. Albillo, *White to play and mate in 12*

I thought (but couldn't prove) it was a *mate in 12* but as you'll see in the **Addendum 2020**, chess fan **Vincent Lejeune** used **ChessMaster 9000** in 2003 to try and solve this position and found that *e4* is a *mate in 11* !

92.- "Surrounded" - Proposed by V. Albillo, *White to play and mate in 12 (?)*

Still unsolved, *AFAIK*.

Neat problems there!



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