

Atari notes
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14/9/26

Way out of time.

What is success measured in?

Money? House? Flashy Car? Trophy Wife?

Or is it just being able to enjoy what you have loved for years?

Its a quarter of the way through the 21st century and I am still using an Atari 8bit computer. Granted, this one is supercharged with a fujinet, but I still use a 410 with my 600xl.

In the gaming news right now the biggest noise is about the demise of physical media, and the fact that you dont own your digital media. Sony announced it a while ago and the whole community seemed to go nuts. Its odd because Steam announced something similar before Sony, and there was barely a whimper.

Weird.

Im more excited that the 40 year old computer that I am writing this on is still working and capable, in this time of noise and distraction, to give me a bit of breathing room to write and reflect on the insanity that is 2026.

I dont have much physical media for my 600 or 800xls, the fragility and the cost of disk drives and the unreliability of floppy disks means that using the digital backups in my fujinet is all I can really do. I do have some carts, but the prices are pushing into the mad side of greed as 'retro gaming' and 'retro computing' (I hate those terms) become more and more popular and less and less nerdy.

Emulation has come a long way and there is pretty much an emulator for all occasions. Even a PDF11 can (and is!) run on a raspberry pi, which is, if you really think about it, astounding as the pi is less than \$50 these days where a PDF11 WITH rsts/e would set you back tens of millions!

Even productive software like Atariwriter is now saved, archived and available to use at the speed of a modem so the actual need for physical is even less.

And yet we kind of need it, at least I do. Im trying to get a copy of Atariwriter on cart so its 'mine' as using this

online copy feels like cheating. It has to be an age thing.

Nyx

