Welcome

BBC BASIC:
An Introduction to Programming for the 21st Century Classroom

Presented by: Tom Williamson
Ident Computer / North Staffs Pi Jam Group
Introduction

BBC BASIC
Introduction

BBC BASIC – Also Know As:

Acorn BASIC

ARM BASIC

Not to be confused with other versions or Microsoft’s Visual Basic or Q Basic
BBC BASIC

Self-contained ‘English based’ interpreter programming language developed by Acorn and the BBC for use with the 1980’s Computer Literacy Programme.

Originally Designed to run on the MOS / ARM Processor
Introduction

Acorn BBC Microcomputer Model B
32k of RAM 2Mhz MOS Processor
Introduction

Acorn BBC Microcomputer Model B
32k of RAM 2Mhz MOS Processor

Can be updated to work with HD monitors and USB/SD devices to share data with modern PC’s / MAC’s

No more Tapes or Discs!
BBC BASIC in the classroom

Do I need to run a classroom of 35+ year old BBC Micros or buy new computers or boards such as Raspberry Pi?
BBC BASIC in the classroom

NO!

BBC Basic can run on Windows, Mac OS, Linux, RISC OS and Online ‘in browser’ versions*

*(which will work on most tablets and smart phones)
Uses in Teaching

BBC BASIC

Ideal first programming language

Used as a ‘bridge’ between Scratch and Python

* Syntax of Basic & Python very similar
Uses in Teaching

BBC BASIC

Still supported today

Fast results, very easy for a student to understand. Even key stage 2 could use it!

A number of pay and free options available to use the platform
Software

JSBeeb: Free web based emulator
(All platforms)

BeebEM: Free software based emulator
(Windows, Mac OS, Linux)

BBC BASIC for Windows: Pay environment
(Windows Only)

RISC OS (Raspberry Pi Only)
Free Online BBC Micro Emulator:
http://bbc.godbolt.org/
BeebEm

Free Download for PC, Mac & Linux
http://www.mkw.me.uk/beebem/
RISC OS

Free Download (Raspberry Pi Only)
https://www.riscosopen.org/content/downloads/
Uses in Teaching

BBC BASIC:

THE SYNTAX
Counting Script

**BBC Basic**

10 X = 0
20 X = X + 1
30 PRINT X
40 GOTO 20

**Python**

x = 0
while True:
    x = x + 1
    print x
Introduction

What is RISC OS?
Introduction

What is RISC OS?

Reduced Instruction Set Computer

Operating System
Introduction

What is RISC OS?

Released under the code name “Arthur” in 1987 by Acorn Computers

A GUI OS for Acorn’s (then) new 24-bit ‘ARM’ processors

Built on the BBC Micro System
Introduction

What is RISC OS?

Large UK & International Following

Is the native OS for Raspberry Pi and it’s ARM Processor.

Raspberry Pi made by Element 14 (Formally Acorn Computers)
Introduction

What is RISC OS?

Updated for 32-bit processing

Internet Browsing & App Store

Runs faster than Raspbian OS on a 700Mhz Raspberry Pi

BBC BASIC Installed
RISC OS 5 free to download for Raspberry Pi & other ARM based computers from:

https://www.riscosopen.org/content/downloads/
Contact: Tom Williamson

Teaching and classroom sessions available. BBC Micros or Ident 1’s available to rent / repair, upgrade or/and purchase.

New book coming out soon!

Based in the West Midlands

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Thank You for your time…

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