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INTRODUCTION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document is intended to provide the application programmer the necessary information and reference material to write application programs for the NABU personal computer. Complete programming information on the internal operating software (IOS) as well as programming information of the Video display processor and the programmable sound generator are included.

One of the aims of this manual was to collect all the information that was previously found in several documents into just one. Although this has yielded a document of some 200 pages, each section discusses a single concept related to the programming environment at NABU. Therefore the programmer need only investigate the portions of interest and not have to read the entire manual.

In order to put the IOS into perspective, we include here a section from the IOS Specification which spells out the general functional requirements of IOS. This will enable you to judge what to expect from the Internal Operating System.

DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

Overview

This design specification defines the Internal Operating Software (IOS) for the NABU Personal Computer (NPC), a low-cost, expandable personal computer. It is unique because it is capable of communicating on one-way, hybrid and two-way cable systems and telephone networks, as well as operating in a stand-alone mode, depending on which options are selected. When used in association with a CATV network the NABU P.C.'s prime function is to run software downline loaded from the cable head-end.

A versatile set of internal operating system and device handling software is required for the NABU P.C. to run applications software under control of a user. For definition and development purposes this software, collectively referred to as the Internal Operating Software (IOS) consists of:

- o Applications program interfaces to IOS facilities
- o All physical device control and I/O handlers
- o Basic task controlling and interrupt handling software
- o Communications Software

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