

GEX FOR PSXI









NUMBER

YOUR GUIDE TO: Super NES · Genesis 32x · Sega CD · 3DO Saturn · PlayStation Jaguar · CDi · Neo-Geo Game Boy · Game Gear



FIRST LOOK ON THE PLAYSTATION

## INSIDER INFO! ULTRA 64

DECEMBER, 1995 \$4.99/\$6.50 Canada

MK3 TRICKS!

ULTIMATE KOMBAT KODE AND MORE FOR ALL HOME SYSTEMS!

TRIOGY
NOW SWARMING ON

## How games are sent through cable TV:

1. All the game data is placed on CD-ROM. The data stream is looped and sent out. Because the data takes up little bandwidth, cable companies can provide Sega Channel without channels.

2. The data inal is sent out via antenna to a Hughes Galaxy ounces the sig-

nal back to loca cable con that offer Sega Channel.

3. The local ets and sends the signal to subscribers.

4. A special adapter rented out to subscribers decodes the sig-

nal. A game can be downloaded in one to two

### By the numbers:

Average subscriber age: 19.2 Gender: 83% male, 17% female Percent rating games from good to excellent: 74%

Avg. games tried/month: 31.2

July 1995 statistics from Sega Channel

## Sega Channel puts new spin on gamers' habits

hy buy when you can try? That's what Sega's been saying about the Sega Channel, and gamers have been listening.

Since its national debut in December of 1994, the video game channel has gained mass appeal. While Sega won't release exact subscriber numbers until the end of this month, the service has set up shop in major cities, such as Denver, Pittsburgh, St. Louis. Philadelphia, Houston and Washington, D.C., just to name a few. The New Yorkbased Sega Channel has the potential to reach more than 12 million homes.

In addition, a survey in Sports Illustrated for Kids showed kids are five times more likely to buy into the Sega Channel than buy a new console. Sega officials said.

"There's been an overwhelming response to the Sega Channel," spokesperson Jennifer Moffie said. "It's been very successful."

In a nutshell, Sega Channel lets gamers download and play video games for the Sega Genesis. Up to 50 games are offered, and the

titles change monthly. The monthly service ranges from \$12-20 per month, with a onetime additional charge for an adapter that hooks up to the Genesis.

According to gamers, the interactive service has changed their playing and buying habits. Most notable is that Sega Channel subscribers are renting less from video game stores.

"You don't have to go anywhere to get the game through Sega Channel," said Jason Brown, 18, of Las Vegas. "You don't have to worry about returning the game, or paving a late fee." In addition, players don't have to worry about games that don't work because of dirty connectors.

Gamers say the "Test Drive" section-the video game equivalent of an all-you-caneat buffet—actually prompts them to buy more. Once they get a taste of the game. they're hungry for more. More importantly, the Sega Channel eliminates fear of a "letdown" because gamers can immediately find out if a particular game is suited to their tastes. Added to that are special events that tie into hot new

games. Recent promotions have included demos of Primal Rage and Mortal Kombat 3, as well as a special Earthworm Jim contest.

"Before, I never played with my Sega-it was all dusty." said Gino Guzzardo, 14, of Mundelein, III. "I had games that after I beat them, I didn't play anymore. But [now that I get] Sega Channel, I play a lot [because so many more games are offeredl."

The channel's future looks bright, as Sega strengthens its ranks of subscribers through market growth. In September. Sega announced new partners that will help market the cable service in Canada.

The logical next step for Sega is putting Saturn games on the channel; however, no specific timeline has been announced yet. "Our product development team is researching the compatibility [of the Saturn]," said Moffie, who added that a new adapter will need to be developed to accommodate Saturn games.

More info on Sega and Sega Channel can be found at the company's World Wide Web site: http://www.segaoa.com.

of its embattled 32-Bit Virtual Boy ing more gamers to buy into the system.

Officially, Nintendo officials cited an improved yen/dollar ratio as the reason behind the price cuts. However, it seems more like an attempt to bolster flagging

sales. Support for this way of thinking comes from Japan, where some retailers have slashed the Virtual Boy price to a nearly rock-bottom \$99

The price cuts coincide with the release of five new titles from Nintendo earlier this vear: Mario Clash, Wario Land, Golf, Vertical Force and Panic Bomber.









**Viacom New** Media has acquired the rights to publish a game based on Neal Stephenson's Snow Crash (above), a science-fiction cyberspace thriller about a hunt for a computer virus maker.

Nintendo plans to introduce a new controller/cable for the Virtual Boy, according to a company spokesperson. With the hook-up, two Virtual Boy players will be able to compete head to head. A release is scheduled for early 1996.

Looking for an analog steering wheel for the PlayStation? Mad Catz is developing one that is expected to be released sometime in 1996.

Arcade heavyweights Sega and SNK have agreed to crosslicense games for the Saturn and Neo•Geo CD, respectively. Specific titles have not vet been announced.



## A miniature virtual-reality system for \$30?

hat's red and black, has a controller and cartridges and provides a gameplay experience most people have never seen before in their life?

Virtual Boy? Sure, but now there are two answers to that question.

Enter the R-Zone from Tiger Electronics. At first glance, the R-Zone appears to be a full-fledged system: The screen and speaker are housed in a small box that you strap on your head. Connected to the box is a multibutton controller.

The R-Zone actually uses cartridges that plug into the box. The game screen is projected onto clear plastic, making the image appear to float in air. It takes a little while for your eyes to adjust to the view.

While the red-shaded displays aren't even in the same league as the Virtual Boy's immersive experience, the R-Zone is less

bulky and less expensive. That makes it an ideal travel accessory for those who enjoy LCD-type games. (However, be prepared for lots of curious onlookers once you strap this puppy on.)

The system sells with one game for \$29.99 and runs on four AAA batteries. Additional cartridges are sold separately, including Batman Forever. Judge Dredd, VR Troopers, Virtual Fighter, Mortal Kombat 3 and Daytona USA.



## T\*HQ, I-Motion to intro PlayStation titles

'HQ's push into 32-Bit games has received a boost from I-Motion Interactive, with which it has inked a publishing deal. The

first game in the works is Alone in the Dark: One-Eyed Jack's Revenge. This sequel is due out in the first quarter of 1996 for the Sony PlayStation

is Chaos Control, a 3-D flight sim.







and shortly afterward for the Sega Saturn. Another title due

out in 1996 for both platforms

The first glimpses (above) of the sequel to Alone in the Dark for the PlayStation boast richly detailed scenes.



## Finally, baseball with





Cool 3D Graphics

Abbbb, yes. The boys of summer. Leaning in. Taking their cuts. And blasting you out of the park with those long, foul floaters they get from stadium food. Phew-ee. Good thing there's Virtual League Baseball<sup>M</sup>— with big



league pitching, slugging and fielding in bigger-than-life 3D. You can choose from 18

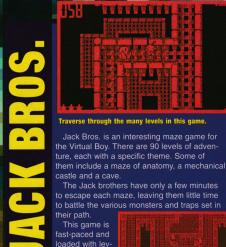


# out the chili dog farts.

world-class teams. Set your own pitching rotation. Pick your DH. And play Single Game, All Star or Pennant Race modes. Catch this, too: It's the only ball game good enough to play in the Virtual Boy ball park. So don't just sit there waiting to burl. Slide into the store, and give it a crack.



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els to explore



Next Wave

lets you do just that.

Cyberdillo is a firstperson action game that arms you with plungers instead of guns. The enemies are cute-looking creatures that follow you

through the rooms. Cyberdillo looks rather weak visually, with large pixels and few colors. However, you might enjoy its zany theme.

Think of it as a game along the lines of a nonhopping Jumping Flash.



Have you ever wanted the chance to become an armadillo? Well, Cyberdillo

### RELEASE DATE PUBLISHER SYSTEM

Panasonic	
THEME	PLAYERS
	4

December % COMPLETE CD-ROM

RELEASE DATE

50%

Atlus Now PLAYERS % COMPLETE **Puzzle** 



heavy conflict

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MARIO

THE 10 BEST IDEAS WIN

Nintendo