

The Dex Drive is set to revolutionise the N64

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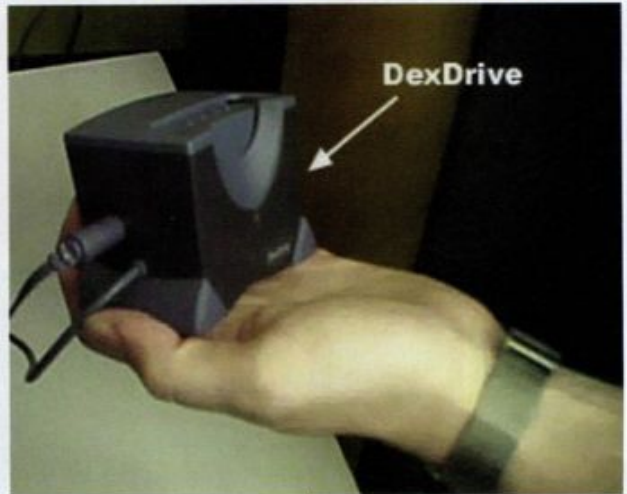
THE DEX DRIVE IS SET TO REVOLUTIONISE THE N64



HAVE YOU TRIED for weeks to get the invincibility cheat in Goldeneye, only to fail miserably and hope desperately that there was some way you could get it without having to do all the hard work? Well, now slackers of the world can rejoice because the Dex Drive is here and it's going to make all your dreams come true. In a nutshell, what the device does is allow you to transfer the save files contained in memory cards and cartridges onto your PC.

The Dex Drive is a small box about the size of a tennis ball that

comes with the equipment to hook it up to any IBM PC. You can plug memory paks into the top of it and then save the information on them. It comes with all the necessary software on a couple of floppy disks and installing it immediately creates the 'Dexplore' program that allows you to access all the information from the memory paks. The benefits of this are almost unlimited. Firstly, you now have unlimited memory for your save games because whenever your memory pak is filling up you can just transfer the contents to your com-

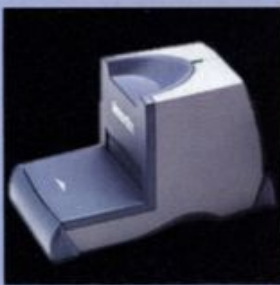


puter and start from fresh. You no longer have to worry about deciding what to delete when you don't have room to save the next level of Turok 2. Once the files are on your computer you can then put them on a floppy disk and give them to your friends or send them over the internet via email. There will even be dedicated web sites where you can download save files. The computer interface also makes it a lot easier to keep track of which save files are which because you can add notes to each file. If your friend asks you for the save for level 7 of Turok, you can just look through the notes on your computer and send them the file. You don't have to worry about your friends who don't have the Dex Drive themselves because if they

bring their memory card over, you can just plug it in and load the information onto it. Interact have attempted to make their accessory compatible with as many memory cards as possible. However, there are always a few problem cards, so if you experience any difficulties with the Dex Drive, your best bet would be to just buy one of the original Nintendo memory cards which have been fully tested.

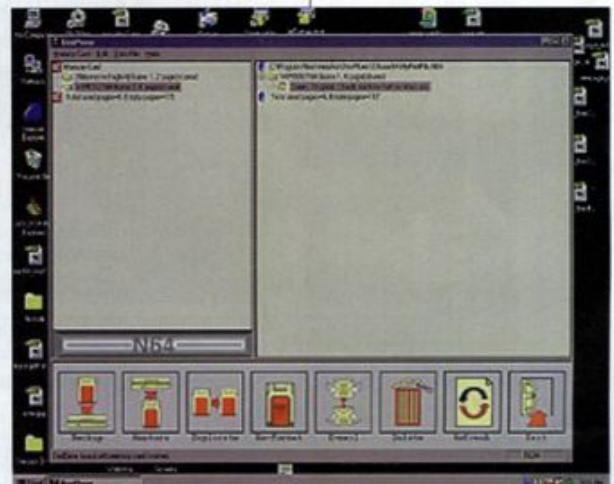
Although the Dex Drive is primarily designed for memory pak management, you can also use it to manage the information on cartridges with battery back-up save games. Games like Banjo-Kazooie and Goldeneye can have their save games downloaded into the Dex Drive. The only problem is that you

MADCATZ JOINS THE FUN

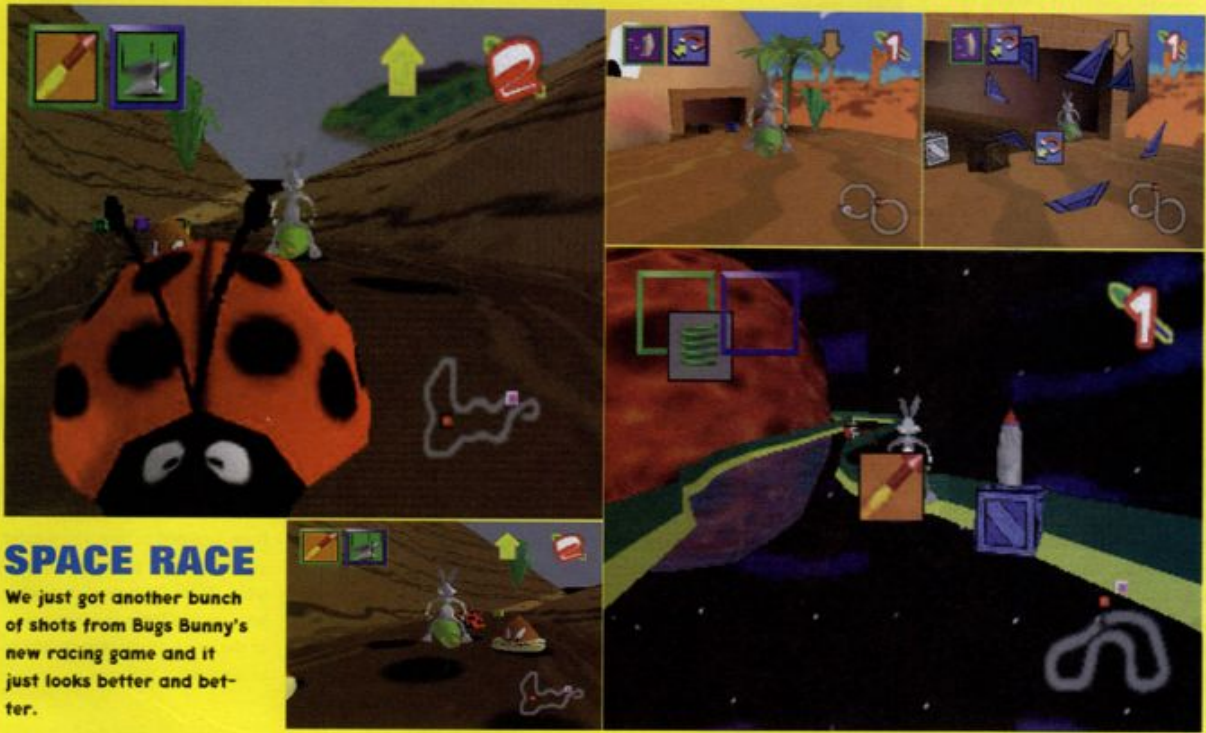


BEFORE THE DEX DRIVE is even released, MadCatz have announced that they are also working on a similar data management device for the N64. MadCatz's accessory is called the Data Deck but they haven't released much information on the device yet. It accesses the

information on N64 memory paks and allows them to be backed up to your PC so that you can definitely use all the same basic features as the Dex Drive. MadCatz have also announced that their device will be 100% compatible with information from the Dex Drive. What isn't known yet is if it will be able to access battery back-up save games like Goldeneye. Although this hasn't been confirmed yet, it looks like the Data Deck may allow for the option for two memory cards to be plugged in simultaneously for faster transfer between cards. Look for more information in the coming months.



SHORT 'N' SWEET



SPACE RACE

We just got another bunch of shots from Bugs Bunny's new racing game and it just looks better and better.

have to buy one of Interact's Gameshark cartridges to be able to access the files on the cartridge. This is a bit of a pain but finally being able to transfer things like your time cheats in Goldeneye is something that makes it a must have accessory for slackers. You will now be able to go to specific web sites and explore through masses of save files that have been posted by hard working gamers all over the world. If you go to <http://www.dexchange.net> you will not only be able to download files but you can win prizes as well. Skillful gamers can post their save games on the site and prizes will be awarded for records like the fastest times.

The Dex Drive opens up a whole new side to gaming on your N64. You now have the ability to compete on an international level. Imagine sending in your ghost data for Mario Kart and discovering you've got an unbeatable time. Character creation options in games are now more interesting because after you've designed the perfect

wrestler or baseball player, you can gain the recognition you deserve for your creation. Of course another benefit is that the lazy gamers can now select the perfect sportsman for their teams. Top Gear Rally fans will also be able to swap their favourite car designs over the net.

The possibilities are already staggering, but future games designed with the Dex Drive in

mind are the most exciting aspect. It would be a simple matter for games companies to give you the option to create Deathmatch levels in the next Turok game or to design your own tracks in racing games. The games companies could even have additional features that could be downloaded and included in your game. Games that you had mastered could be

given new life by downloading new weapons or characters from the net. Companies like Midway and Acclaim have already expressed interest in designing games for the device so it's only a matter of time before the N64 steps into a new era of interactive gaming. The Dex Drive is expected to have a price tag of \$90 and arrive in the stores sometime between April and May.

