

**Yeah, it looks nice...  
but why are you doing this?**

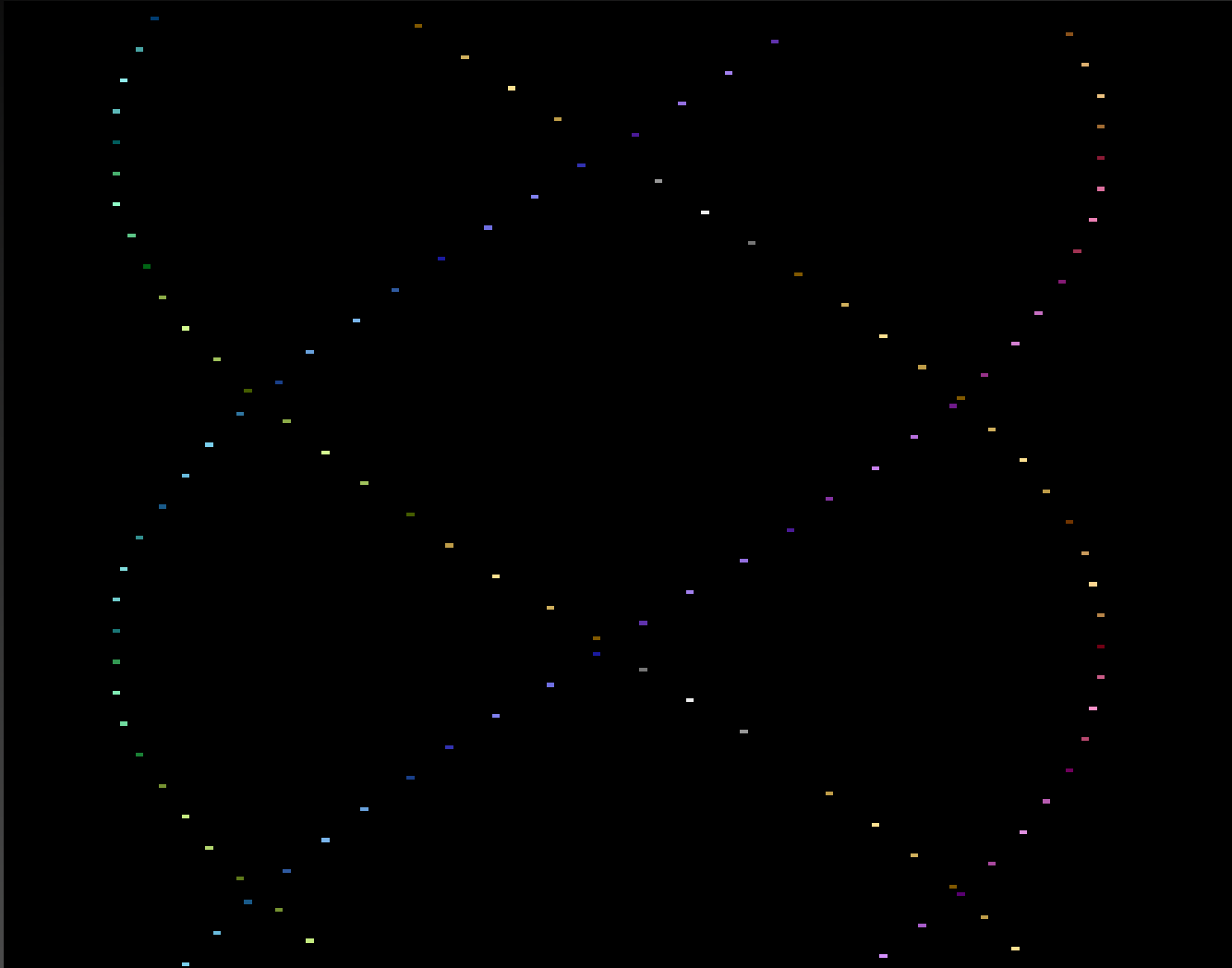
**Why demo coding?**

**Trying to find three answers  
to this question in five minutes**

**by Sven Oliver ('SvOlli') Moll**

**30c3 - 2013-xx-xx - xx:xx - Saal G**

**It started showing  
something like this**



# Background

The system the code runs on is an Atari 2600 VCS

Released in 1977

4k of addressable ROM

(using more was possible later using bankswitching)

128 bytes of RAM (for data AND stack)

(coding a twitter-ui would not be possible: 140 characters)

104 colors (PAL), very limited video hardware

# The Question

"Yeah, it looks nice... but why are you doing this?"

To me really is two questions:

"Why are you doing this in general?"

"Why are you doing this on such a limited platform?"

# Trying Answer 1: Coding Is Fun

Lets try it from the most obvious point of view:

"To me it is fun."

Demos in general:

Some people like garden work, I don't.

Coding in general is fun, at least to me it is.

# Trying Answer 1: Coding Is Fun

Lets try it from the most obvious angle:

"To me it is fun."

Demos on retro hardware:

Coding on the 2600 is fun not despite, but because of the tight restrictions.

# Trying Answer 2: This Is Art

Let's try a more general point of view:

"This is digital art, maybe best compared to graffiti."

Demos in general:

As art a demo has no purpose but itself. To enjoy the viewer, or maybe getting a message across.

# Trying Answer 2: This Is Art

Let's try a more general point of view:

"This is digital art, maybe best compared to graffiti."

Demos on retro hardware:

Think of it as a graffiti done with colored nail polish. Than imagine you did an image that really looks good. Wouldn't you be satisfied? Proud if someone asks: "Is this really done just with nail polish?"



# Trying Answer 3: Others Play Sudoku

From the big fun point of view:

"To me it's like playing a game."

Demos in general:

In fact a lot of demos are done by people working in the video game industry.

Some people have fun in solving sudokus or crossword puzzles, other people in creating them.

# Trying Answer 3: Others Play Sudoku

From the big fun point of view:  
"To me it's like playing a game."

Demos on retro hardware:

Just like a tower-defense like game. You've got these limited resources. Now make the best of it!



# And There Also Is: The Party!

The Demoscene has a very nice community.

Most demos are released at big parties.

Even if you're not a coder you can participate.

"Just" as a guest or submit some self-made music, photos, there are a lot of competitions to enter.

A very interesting 90 minute documentary about the demo scene is available at:

<http://molemanfilm.com/moleman-2-download/>

# Conclusion

"Why are you doing this?"

"Because I can!"

Thank you for your attention!

Questions, like to chat?

Meet me at Aussenstelle511