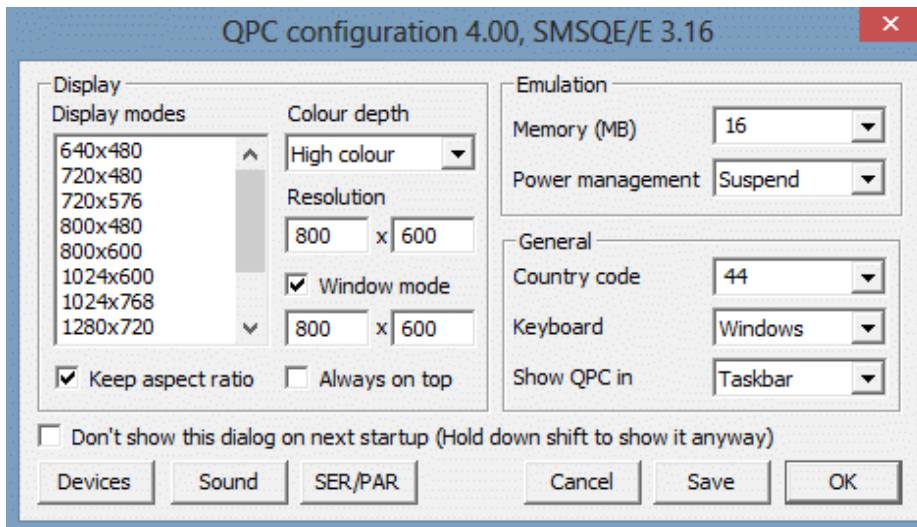


THE QPC STORY



QPC was the first and has become the most popular QL emulator. In the final issue of QL Today, author Marcel Kilgus describes its progress.

In 1993, at the age of 13, Marcel, who had grown up with the QL, became the owner of a 486 PC. Realising that there was still life left in the QL and against all advice he started work on a project he originally called "QLPC", but later changed to "QPC". He first went public at a show in Germany and was surprised at the interest it created.

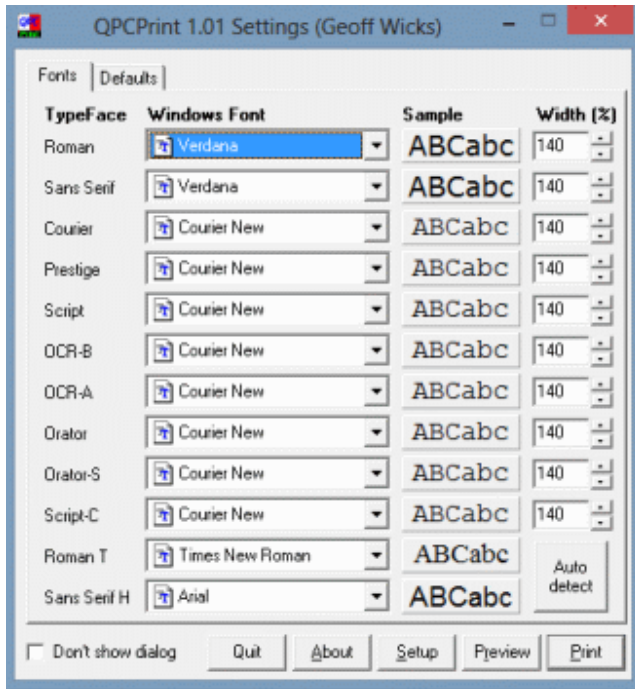
Originally QPC used the standard QL ROMs, but intervention by two QL traders persuaded Tony Tebby to release some of the SMSQ/E source code to allow further development of the project. Marcel was also lent some hardware that enabled him to continue development until in 1996 he had a commercial product.

The first version, QPC1, had its shortcomings. In particular it was a DOS based program that took over the host PC meaning that at any one time the computer had to be used as either a PC or a QL.

At the time Windows was replacing DOS as the PC operating system and, following demands from users, Marcel produced a Windows version, QPC2, in 1999. It still had a shortcoming that it took over the whole PC although, unlike QPC1, it was possible to switch to other Windows programs.

Eventually a full Windows version was developed with the additional bonus of GD2 colours. Other developments included improved sound and 68020 emulation.

Another problem that affected all QL systems was that printers were rapidly becoming only usable with Windows machines. In 2005 Marcel released QPC print which allowed QPC2 to become compatible with Windows only printers. QPC print could also be used with other, non-Windows, operating systems.



After 17 years as a commercial product a new version of QPC2 - version 4 - is now freeware.

It is amusing to note that until April 2012 any mention of QPC anywhere in Quanta was technically off topic. Quanta had failed to keep its constitution up to date with QL developments and officially only recognised two QL systems, the original black box and the Thor.