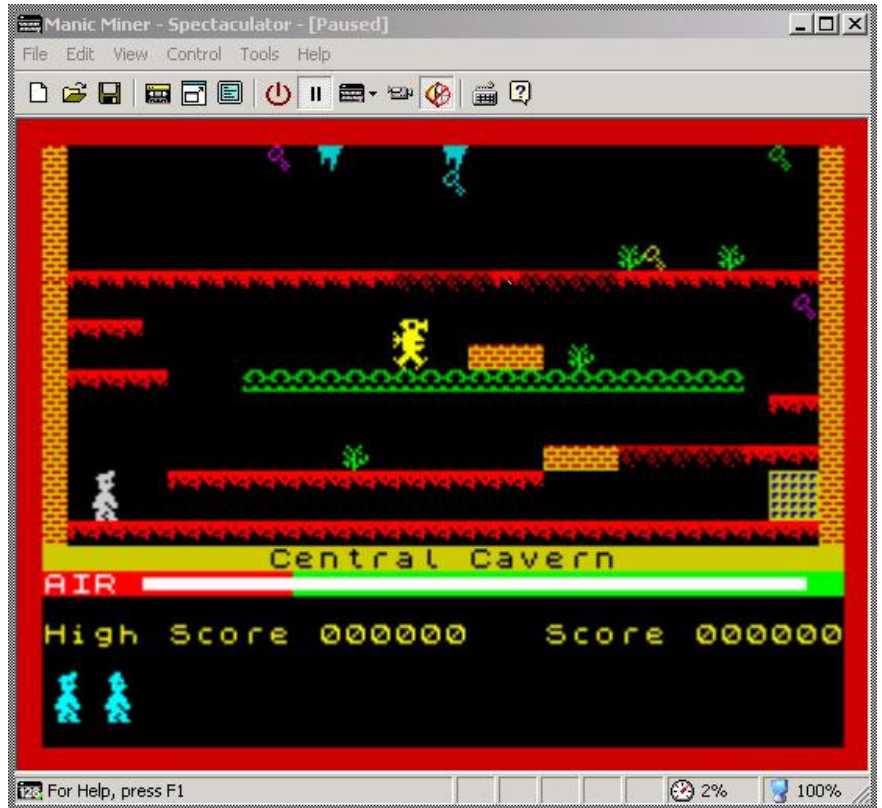


# Emulation & Retro Gaming

If you are the sort who digs bell-bottoms, bad haircuts and music from the 70's, you will probably understand what retro gaming is. In a nutshell, retro gaming is about bringing back old forgotten games from the mists of time and keeping them alive and available for the gaming community. If you are thinking, "That's serious nerd territory!" well you are only partly right.

What retro gaming is also doing is to keep alive a culture and legacy that will forever be entwined with gaming technology in general and gaming history in specific. It allows people to acquire and play games that have become obsolete and relive the "good ol' days" (as they remember it).

I believe some of the mobile gaming companies are even cashing in on this nostalgia trip by bringing back some of the games to the phones!



Games like Super Mario Bros. (Nintendo), Sonic the Hedgehog (Sega), Uridium (C64), Manic Miner (ZX Spectrum), et al are all examples of retro games because they aren't available anymore, they were made in the 80's, and the platforms for which they were made for don't exist now. "Great! So how the hell do I play them then?" I hear you say.

This is where emulation comes in. Emulation is a technique to mimic the capabilities of one system on another system. Emulation is what allows Mac users to use Windows programs, and PC machines to run Mac applications. In fact the PC has emulators for hundreds of platforms including the ones mentioned above. So, to play these games you simply download the emulator for that platform (for eg, download a Spectrum emulator to play Spectrum games on the PC), then download the game file and then run it on the emulator! Easy!

However, be forewarned that emulation isn't legal for some platforms like the Playstation and Nintendo64. Check before you download emulator and games for them! [www.zophar.net](http://www.zophar.net) is an excellent resource for emulators for all kinds of platforms.

Oh, and if anyone has any model of Spectrum, C64, Amstrad CPC, etc that they would like to get rid off, drop me a line will you? ;)

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