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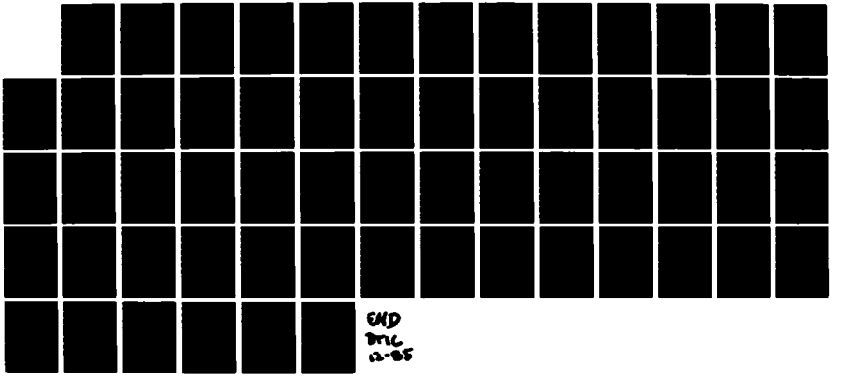

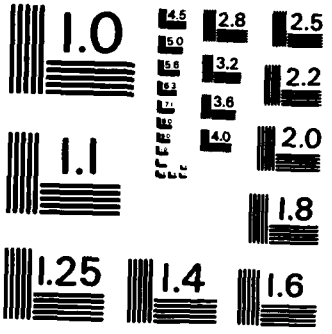

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CMLD-85-12

DAVID W. TAYLOR NAVAL SHIP RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Bethesda, Maryland 20084

AD-A160 603

A SURVEY CF PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE FOR MICROCOMPUTERS

by

Betty L. Harvey

APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE: DISTRIBUTION UNLIMITED

Computation, Mathematics and Logistics Department
Departmental Report

August 1985

CMLD-85-12

A SURVEY OF PURLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE FOR MICROCOMPUTERS

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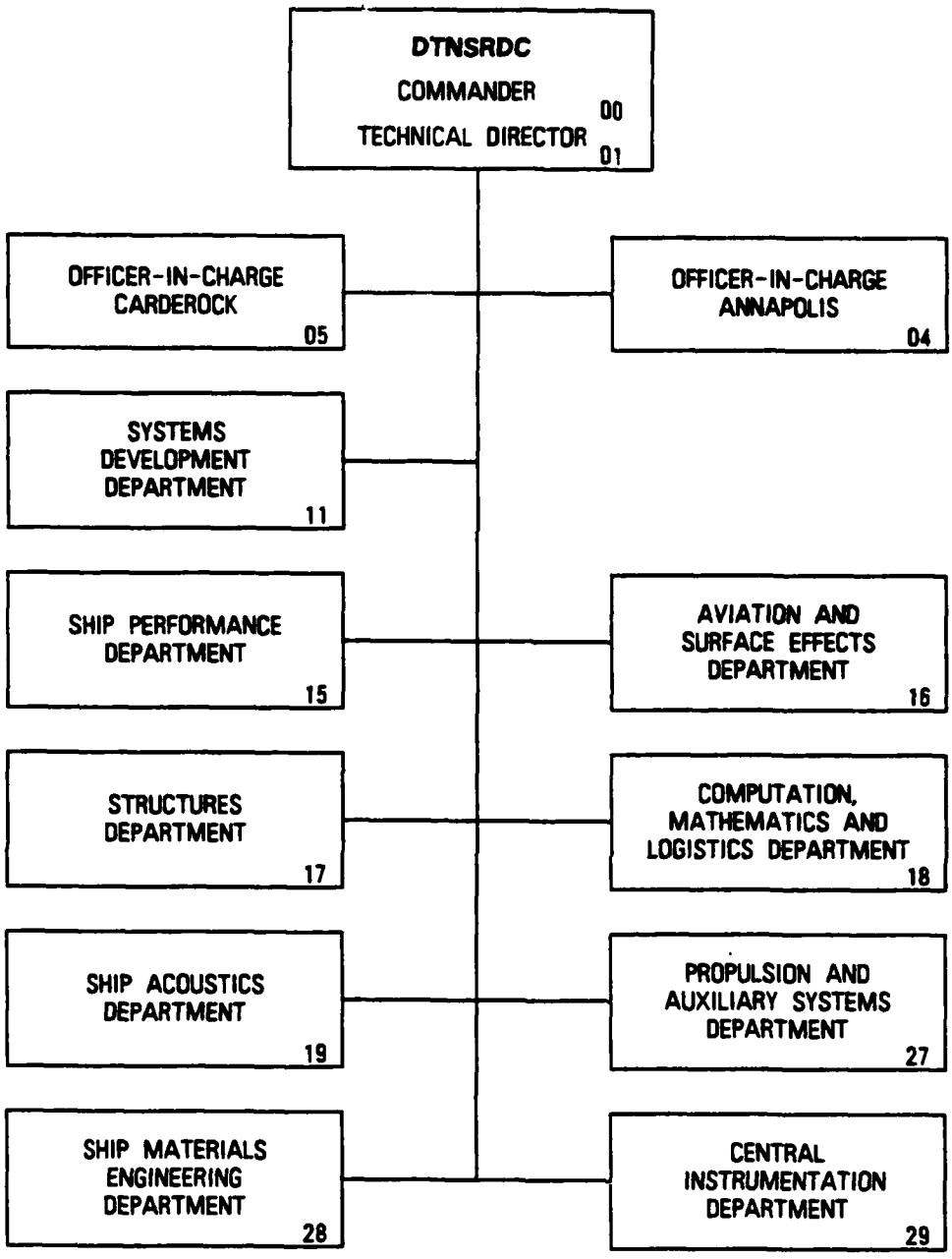

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20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number)

This document briefly discusses the function and operating requirements of some public domain software packages which are known to the author and have been tested by her.

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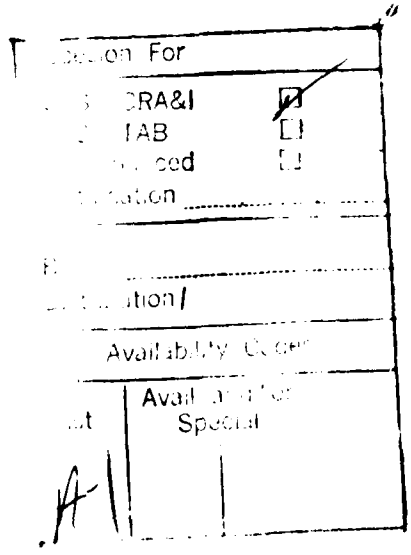
CONTENTS



1 INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

This document was written to help microcomputer users become aware of the types and the vast amount of public-domain software currently available. It does not include all the software available and inclusion is not meant to be a certification of merit. All software included in this document, however, has been tested by Users Services.

Many useful microcomputer programs are available through the public domain. These programs are distributed to users free of charge. Some authors, however, do solicit donations for their programs.

Many of the public-domain programs parallel or surpass commercially marketed software. It is sometimes difficult for the user to distinquish between a software package that will suit his or her needs or one that will never be used. This is true of both commercial products and public-domain products. The use of public-domain software can eliminate some of the expense of purchasing programs that may not be suitable for your needs.

Many public-domain programs are the stepping stones for commercially marketed products. Small enhancements are sometimes made and the package is marketed as a brand new product when, in fact, it had been in the public domain before it was a marketable product. Throughout this document, UNIX is a trademark of Bell Laboratories and Apple II is a trademark of Apple, Inc.

Appendix A contains certain definitions of phrases and/or acronyms used in this document that may not be familiar to the novice or first-time microcomputer user.

CHAPTER 1

COMMUNICATIONS SOFTWARE

Many of the communication programs in the public domain are comparable to (or better than) numerous communication packages currently on the commercial market. For instance PC-TALK, which came into the public domain several years ago, has become the standard by which communication packages (both marketable and public-domain) were compared.

The communication package that will work best for users depends upon their individual needs. For instance, if a user needs a communication package that is VT-100 compatible, PC-TALK will not be satisfactory.

For some applications it might be necessary to use more than one communication package. For instance, if a user is transferring files from a microcomputer to a mainframe, you might need a different communication package for terminal emulation and another for file transfer protocol.

1.1 CDCXMDEM

NAME: CDCXMDEM

AUTHOR: Andrew Fleugelman (modified by Vincent Castelli, DTNSRDC)

CATEGORY: Communications

DATE: 1983

OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS, MS-DOS

REQUIRED HARDWARE: 64K, Serial Port, Modem

SIMILAR PROGRAMS: PC-TALK III

COMMENTS

This program is a version of PC-TALK III modified for communicating with CDC CYBERs. It works exactly the same as PC-TALK. File transfers with the CYBER 176 and CYBER 750 can be accomplished using the XMODEM file transfer protocol.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

See PC-TALK.

1.2 COMSH

NAME: COMSH

See COMSH under UNIX-like Utilities.

1.3 ETERM

NAME: ETERM (ver. 2.1)

AUTHOR: Tom Hanlin III

CATEGORY: Communications

DATE: 3/29/81

OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS, MS-DOS

REQUIRED HARDWARE: 128K, Serial Port, Hayes or Compatible Modem

SIMILAR PROGRAMS: QMODEM, PC-TALK III

COMMENTS

ETERM is a communications program similar to QMODEM and PC-TALK. Some of the unique features are (1) an on-line calculator, (2) the ability to change monitor color (in order to use this feature, however, you will need an installed color graphics board), and (3) automatic log-on capability once connected to the host computer.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

If this program is aborted or discontinued without manually hanging up the modem from the terminal ([ALT] 0), the modem will not be reset and cannot be used until it is reset.

NOTE

Automatic log-ons may be in violation of DTNSRDC security regulations.

1.4 KERMIT

NAME: KERMIT (ver. 2.26)

AUTHOR: Daphne Tzoar and Jeff Damens, Columbia University

DATE: July, 1984

CATEGORY: Communications

OPERATING SYSTEMS: MS-DOS, PC-DOS, Z-DOS, POS*

REQUIRED HARDWARE: 128K, Serial Communications Port, Modem

NOTE

KERMIT for the MSDOS Operating System is called MSKERMIT and KERMIT for the Professional Operating System (PRO/350) is called POSMIT.

COMMENTS

KERMIT is a communications utility that allows the transfer of data using the KERMIT file transfer protocol. This protocol was developed at the Columbia University Computing Center to transfer files over ordinary serial communication lines. Reciprocal KERMIT programs must reside on the host computer.

KERMIT programs currently reside on the DTNSRDC Scientific and Engineering VAXcluster and TOFACS.

There is a KERMIT program available for almost every type of microcomputer manufactured. The best place to obtain a copy of KERMIT for your microcomputer if it is not an IBM P.C. or compatible or a DEC PRO/350 is through a local users group for your particular microcomputer.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

The help facility is not well defined in some versions of KERMIT.

* In order to run KERMIT on the PRO/350, PRO-Communications software must be installed.

1.5 PC-TALK III

NAME: PC-TALK III

AUTHOR: FREEWARE

CATEGORY: Communications

DATE: 1983

OPERATING SYSTEMS: PC-DOS, MS-DOS

REQUIRED HARDWARE: 128K, Serial Port, Modem

SIMILAR PROGRAMS: ETERM, QMODEM

COMMENTS

PC-TALK is a communication package that allows XMODEM file transfers. This program has a dialing directory and redialing capabilities and is very easy to use.

PC-TALK was one of the first communication packages in the public domain and is the basis for other communication packages.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

It does not have VT-100 capabilities. It cannot execute DOS commands from within the program.

1.6 POSMIT

NAME: POSMIT

See KERMIT for the PRO/350

1.7 QMODEM

NAME: QMODEM (ver 1.04)

AUTHOR: John Friel III, The Forbin Project

CATEGORY: Communications

DATE: April 4, 1985

OPERATING SYSTEMS: MS-DOS, PC-DOS

REQUIRED HARDWARE: 192K, Graphics Card (Monochrome or Color), Serial Port, Modem

SIMILAR PROGRAMS: PC-TALK III, ETERM

COMMENTS

QMODEM is a very nice communications program. You have the option of transferring files using ASCII, XMODEM, or XMODEM-CRC protocols. QMODEM has a screen buffer of 250 lines. It has a dialing directory and automatic dialing capabilities. One of the nicest features of QMODEM is the ability to execute DOS commands from inside the program. QMODEM uses a windowing feature for displaying different menus. You can place the windows wherever you desire on the screen.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

QMODEM could have problems running with background programs.

CHAPTER 2

LANGUAGES AND COMPILERS

A compiler is a program that translates a program written in a high-level language into code which the computer will understand called machine language code. There are compilers in the public domain for languages such as FORTH, LISP, C, FACILIS (which is a somewhat modified version of PASCAL which was written by the combined effort of microcomputer users) and other more obscure languages.

2.1 FORTH

NAME: FORTH

AUTHOR: Glen B. Hayden

CATEGORY: Languages and Compilers

DATE: 10/15/83

OPERATING SYSTEMS: PC-DOS, MS-DOS

COMMENTS

FORTH is a self-contained programming system that is popular for scientific applications requiring interactive control and data acquisition. This program is an implementation of the standard FORTH-79 language. It contains a compiler, an editor and a 8088 assembler.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

There is no documentation supplied with this program. Therefore, other documentation or reference material will have to be used. Most commerically published books relating to the FORTH language should be adequate. Also, if you are interested in the FORTH language, there is a FORTH Interest Group.

2.2 LADYBUG

NAME: LADYBUG

LADYBUG is a graphics programming language. For a complete explanation of LADYBUG, see chapter 4, Graphics Software.

2.3 SMALL C

NAME: SMALL C

AUTHOR: Ron Cain

CATEGORY: Languages and Compilers

DATE: June 1982

OPERATING SYSTEMS: PC-DOS, MS-DOS

REQUIRED HARDWARE: 64K

REQUIRED SOFTWARE: ASM.EXE, LINK.EXE

SIMILAR PROGRAMS: UNIX C

COMMENTS

This program will compile programs which are written in the C programming language. It is a modified version based on the UNIX C compiler and does not support all UNIX C commands.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

This is a modified C compiler and determining the commands that can and cannot be used could be difficult.

CHAPTER 3

WORD PROCESSING AND EDITORS

This chapter deals with public-domain word processors, editors and text formatters. The differences between the three types of text processors are subtle, but important. Basically editors will enable the user to input text into a file and modify it. A word processor will allow the text to be formatted as it is being entered.

A text formatter, however, will only format the data and will not allow any input of text into the file. Text is formatted by imbedding special commands into the file which the text formatter understands.

Included in this document is software from each of the three categories; (1) word processing, (2) editors, and (3) text formatters. Each category has it's own strengths and weaknesses depending on each individual application or personal preference.

3.1 FRED

NAME: FRED

AUTHOR: -unknown-

OPERATING SYSTEMS: PC-DOS, MS-DOS

COMMENTS

FRED is a simple line editor.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

FRED does not have full-screen editing capabilities. Line editing can be more difficult to use than full-screen editing.

3.2 NROFF

NAME: NROFF

See NROFF under UNIX-like Utilities

3.3 PC/PAD

NAME: PC/PAD (ver 1.3)

AUTHOR: P. Fraundorf

CATEGORY: Word Processing/Editors

DATE: 1983

OPERATING SYSTEM: MS-DOS, PC-DOS

REQUIRED HARDWARE: 64K, Epson Printer

REQUIRED SOFTWARE: BASIC Interpreter

COMMENTS

PC/PAD is a word processing/spreadsheet program. It has text editing, simple spreadsheeting and printing capabilities.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

This is an uncompiled basic program. Therefore, it is very slow. If you have a BASIC compiler available, you could compile this program and enhance its speed.

3.4 SUPER GRAPH 3

NAME: Super Graph 3 (SG3)

AUTHOR: Cyrus Patel and Brian Werle

CATEGORY: Word Processing/Editor

DATE: 1985

OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS, MS-DOS

COMMENTS

Super Graph 3 is a simple word processor that allows the user the ability to enter any of the 256 ASCII characters available on the IBM-PC or compatible. This means that graphics and text can be entered concurrently using a full-screen editor mode. For those who have used the DOS EDLIN line editor (DOS EDLIN is the editor supplied with the MS-DOS and PC-DOS Operating Systems) for incorporating both text and ASCII graphics, the benefits of this program are not hard to visualize.

The 10 function keys have been pre-programmed with the 10 most used graphic characters. These function keys make menu building and the creation of charts very easy. The user has the power of reprogramming the function keys.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

The documentation is very poor.

CHAPTER 4

GRAPHICS SOFTWARE

Graphics software in the public domain comes in diversified packages. Large interest in graphics applications has been occurring recently. As a result of this interest, public-domain graphics programs should be even more plentiful.

Some packages are sophisticated enough to do a variety of tasks while others are geared toward just one function. you must decide exactly what you want to accomplish with graphics. For instance, creating viewgraphs is very simple with the PCPG graphics program. Whereas, if graphs and bar charts are desired a program such as QUIKGRAF might be needed.

4.1 LADYBUG

NAME: LADYBUG

AUTHOR: David N. Smith

CATEGORY: Graphics

DATE: 9/26/83

OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS

REQUIRED HARDWARE: 128K, Color Graphics Board

SIMILAR PROGRAMS: LOGO Turtle Graphics

COMMENTS

LADYBUG is a graphics language based on the Apple II LOGO Turtle Graphics. It contains most of the graphics commands contained in LOGO. You can create procedures and control commands similar to the LOGO program.

Some features of Ladybug are; (1) a large library of procedures, (2) painting of specific areas, (3) clipping of drawings, (4) a full-screen editor, and (5) sounds.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

This program may not work on IBM compatibles or with graphics boards other than the IBM Color Graphics Board.

4.2 PCPG

NAME: PCPG

AUTHOR: Eugene Ying

CATEGORY: Graphics

OPERATING SYSTEMS: PC-DOS, MS-DOS

REQUIRED HARDWARE: Color Graphics Board, Graphics Printer

REQUIRED SOFTWARE: Graftrax recommended

COMMENTS

This program is a powerful graphics program! This program is an exceptional program if you have a color graphics board. It allows text and graphics input. It has five different text fonts and sizes and over 200 pre-programmed icons. PCPG also has the ability to create slide shows and is, therefore, useful if you need graphic demonstrations on a PC. This is an example of a program in the public domain that has been commercially marketed.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

The PRINT functions does not always seem to work correctly. However, screen images can be printed with the GRAFTRAX program used with the Epson or compatible printer.

4.3 QUICKGRAPH

NAME: QUICKGRAPH

AUTHOR: B. J. Reckman

CATEGORY: Graphics

OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS, MS-DOS

REQUIRED HARDWARE: Epson or Compatible Printer, Color Graphics Board

REQUIRED SOFTWARE: GRAFTRAX

COMMENTS

This program will produce four types of graphs: simple bargraphs, stacked bargraphs, scattergraphs and linegraphs. They can be printed using the GRAFTRAX program commands for the Epson or compatible printer.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

This program does not have the ability to use data from a file. All data used must be entered manually.

4.4 SUPER GRAPH 3

NAME: SUPER GRAPH 3

See Super Graph 3 under Editors.

CHAPTER 5

REMOTE BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEMS

This chapter deals with software in the public-domain for remote bulletin board systems (RBBS). RBBS's enable your computer to be accessed from another computer or terminal via a modem. These systems have proven to be very powerful tools in the transmission of data and information from one location to another.

If microcomputer users are located in the same physical location and are using compatible microcomputers, the exchange of information is accomplished easily. They exchange diskettes. However, if users are scattered throughout different locations or are using noncompatible microcomputers, exchange of data cannot be accomplished except by rekeying the data. However, RBBS software allows files of information to be transferred from one computer to another over normal telephone lines.

For instance, if a user in California has information in a microcomputer file that was needed at a DTNSRDC facility they can transmit the file through a modem over normal telephone lines to a microcomputer located at DTNSRDC that has a RBBS installed. Instead of days or possibly weeks, the data is available at the receiving office in a matter of minutes.

These software packages, if utilized correctly, have the ability to improve office productivity dramatically. Analysts, who in the past had only hours or days to analyze data and make decisions based on this data, now have several extra days in which to do their analysis.

5.1 FIDO

NAME: FIDO

AUTHOR: T. Jennings

CATEGORY: RBBS

DATE: 11/1/84

OPERATING SYSTEM: MS-DOS 2.0

REQUIRED HARDWARE: Modem, Serial Port

COMMENTS

This program is a very popular RBBS. It allows customizing of message and file sections of topics appropriate for the individual system. This RBBS uses the tree directory ability of DOS 2.0 to create different message and file environments. It allows file transfers using the following protocols: XMODEM, XMODEM CRC, Modem 7, KERMIT, and ASCII. This program can be used with a wide variety of modems.

FIDO also has a networking ability named FIDONET. There are approximately 300 nodes currently on FIDONET.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

FIDO can be difficult to set-up and maintain for the novice microcomputer user.

5.2 RBBS (VER. CPC 12.2)

NAME: RBBS (ver. CPC 12.2)

AUTHOR: D. Thomas Mack and Jon Martin

CATEGORY: RBBS

DATE: 4/8/84

OPERATING SYSTEMS: PC-DOS, MS-DOS 2.0

REQUIRED HARDWARE: Hayes Smartmodem, Color Graphics Board

REQUIRED SOFTWARE: BASIC Interpreter

COMMENTS

RBBS was written by members of the Capital PC Users Group (CPCUG). This software has both message and file transfer sections. It allows file transfer using ASCII and XMODEM file transfer protocols. This program is very easy to set-up and maintain, allowing the use of both text and graphics in system messages. It is very easy for callers to become familiar with the program's commands and command syntax.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

It does not allow different category areas for messages. This can be a nuisance if the system is used heavily for electronic mail. It only allows XMODEM and ASCII file transfer protocols.

CHAPTER 6

UNIX-LIKE UTILITIES

UNIX* is a very popular operating system that was developed by the Computing Science Research Group at Bell Laboratories in New Jersey. However, the cost of obtaining a UNIX operating system for microcomputers is great. Several programs have been developed in the public domain to imitate popular UNIX commands and features.

If you are familiar with UNIX and enjoy its unique qualities, you might find some of the utilities in this chapter useful.

* UNIX is a trademark of Bell Laboratories

6.1 COMSH

NAME: COMSH

AUTHOR: Charles McGuinness

DATE: 5/7/84

CATEGORY: UNIX

OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS, MS-DOS 2.0

COMMENTS

COMSH is a program that integrates communications software with UNIX Utilities. This program has both a command mode and a communications mode. Many UNIX commands are available through this program while in command mode. UNIX commands can be filtered one at a time from the communications mode. Some of the UNIX commands available through this program are:

1. append
2. cp
3. mv
4. more
5. cat
6. pwd
7. cd

This is a good program if you are familiar and comfortable with UNIX. However, if you are not familiar with UNIX, it could be difficult to use.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

Text can be captured into a buffer while in this program. However, if you leave the program before saving the captured data into a file, it will be lost.

6.2 FGREP

NAME: FGREP

AUTHOR: -unknown-

CATEGORY: UNIX

OPERATING SYSTEM: MS-DOS 2.0

SIMILAR PROGRAM: UNIX-fgrep

COMMENTS

FGREP searches text files for particular specified patterns. It works the same as FGREP under the UNIX operating system.

6.3 MV

NAME: MV

AUTHOR: -unknown-

CATEGORY: UNIX

OPERATING SYSTEM: MS-DOS 2.0 or higher

SIMILAR PROGRAMS: UNIX-MV

COMMENTS

This program copies a file, deleting the original. This works differently from the DOS command COPY, which does not delete the original file.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

You cannot use wildcards with this command. It will only execute the first file when using wildcards.

6.4 NROFF

NAME: NROFF

AUTHOR: -unknown-

CATEGORY: UNIX

OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS, MS-DOS

COMMENTS

NROFF is a text formatting program similar to the UNIX version of NROFF. NROFF takes a text file which was prepared using an editor and by using special NROFF commands imbedded in the file creates a formatted document. This document was prepared using a text formatter similar to NROFF on a mini-computer.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

You cannot see what the file actually looks like until it has been passed through the NROFF program. This can make editing extremely time consuming.

CHAPTER 7

UTILITIES

Utilities are programs designed to help in the over-all management of computers. Some programs are designed as enhancements to the operating system, while others help in the management of files, diskettes and printer functions.

Some utilities are designed to work as background applications and reside in memory after they are initiated. These programs will take up allotted memory space and it is wise to be aware of the amount of the memory allocation. Occasionally utility programs that remain in memory could cause problems with other applications. It is important that you are aware that unexpected problems might arise from background programs.

7.1 BACKSCROLL

NAME: BACKSCROLL (ver. 6.4)

AUTHOR: Karlton Kendrick Kam, The Kampro Group

CATEGORY: Utility

DATE: 1983

OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS,MS-DOS

COMMENTS

BACKSCROLL is a bi-directional scrolling utility. It resides in the background and allows users to recall previous screens and data that has been scrolled off the screen.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

Screen data must be placed into a buffer before it can be recalled. Therefore, you have to save the screen before it can be recalled.

7.2 COVER

NAME: COVER

AUTHOR: -Unknown-

CATEGORY: Utility

OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS, MS-DOS

HAREWARE REQUIREMENTS: Epson Printer or Compatible

COMMENTS

COVER is a program that prints sorted directory listings in such a fashion that allows the listing to be cut and placed in the diskette cover along with the diskette. The directory listing is visable above the diskette cover for easy reading. This utility is very helpful in the management and cataloging of diskettes.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

As received, this program only works with an Epson or compatible printer. However, User Services has modified the program to work with an Okidata 82A or Okidata 92A printer.

7.3 DI

NAME: DI

AUTHOR: W. C. Bodycomb

CATEGORY: Utility

DATE: -unknown-

OPERATING SYSTEMS: PC-DOS, MS-DOS 2.0, or higher

SIMILAR PROGRAMS: DOS DIR, SDIR

COMMENTS

DI is a program that will list a sorted directory. It allows parameters to be selected to list sub-directories.

7.4 FREECOPY

NAME: FREECOPY

AUTHOR: Donald L. Buresh, C.D.P., Squire Buresh Associates, Inc.

CATEGORY: Utility

DATE: 1984

CATEGORY: PC-DOS

SIMILAR PROGRAMS: IBM DISKCOPY

COMMENTS

FREECOPY copies the source diskette on a track-by-track basis to the target diskette. It formats the diskette and then writes the information.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

FREECOPY will not break copy-protection codes and, therefore, cannot copy copy-protected software.

7.5 LIBRARY RUN

NAME: LIBRARY RUN (LRUN)

AUTHOR: Skip Gilbrech

CATEGORY: Utility

DATE: 1984

OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS, MS-DOS 2.0

COMMENTS

LRUN loads and runs an executable member of a library file.

7.6 LU

NAME: LU

AUTHOR: T. Jennings

CATEGORY: Utility

DATE: 1/15/84

OPERATING SYSTEM: MS-DOS,CP/M

COMMENTS

LU is a utility to manipulate library files. You can list, add, delete, and extract files in a library using this program.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

This program rounds off the file size to the nearest 128K. This can occasionally cause problems. Files without file extentions should be entered without the dot.

7.7 LU210

NAME: LU210

AUTHOR: -unknown-

CATEGORY: Utility

OPERATING SYSTEMS: PC-DOS, MS-DOS

SIMILAR PROGRAMS: LU

COMMENTS

This utility will extract all files out of a library file. This program will sometimes work on library files that other library utilities will not recognize.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

You cannot do any manipulation of the library files.

7.8 MICROLIN

NAME: MICROLIN

AUTHOR: Harvey G. Lord

CATEGORY: Utility

DATE: 2/4/84

OPERATING SYSTEM: MS-DOS 2.0

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: Okidata Microline 82A or 83A printer

COMMENTS

MICROLIN sends control characters to an Okidata Microline 82A or 83A printer connected to the computers serial port. This allows the changing of print sizes, linespacing and other printer parameters outside an application program.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

If the printer is not plugged in or connected properly, the program freezes the computer, making it necessary to reboot the computer.

7.9 PRINT SPOOLER

NAME: PRINT SPOOLER (PRTSPL)

AUTHOR: Craig Derouen

CATEGORY: Utility

DATE: 3/5/85

OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS 2.0, MS-DOS 2.0

COMMENTS

This utility is a valuable program which allows printing to become a background process, thereby letting the user continue working while the printer is printing. If you do a large amount of printing, this program could greatly enhance your productivity.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

This program uses 64K as a print buffer.

7.10 UTIL (VER. 1.62)

NAME: UTIL (ver. 1.62)

Author: Mutant Software

Category: Utilities

DATE: 1984

OPERATING SYSTEMS: PC-DOS, MS-DOS 2.0 or higher

REQUIRED HARDWARE: 128K

COMMENTS

UTIL is a multi-utility program, that is, several utility programs have been combined into one program. The user has the option of invoking the utilities directly from a command line or through a menu. The utilities supported are:

1. Sorted directory listings
2. Screen listing of a text file
3. Keyboard redefinition
4. A crude data base routine
5. Send top-of-form to printer
6. Type directly to the printer
7. Switch to monochrome display
8. Switch to color display
9. Copy current screen to another screen

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

This program resides in memory and will take approximately 64K of RAM. Because of the large program size, this program is better suited for use with a hard disk.

7.11 VFILER

NAME: VFILER (ver. 2.8)

CATEGORY: Utility

OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS, MS-DOS

COMMENTS

VFILER is a program that performs several DOS file manipulation functions. This program allows the user to copy, delete, rename, print and view files that are selected by the user. It also allows these functions to be performed with numerous files. This program is a good program to use with a hard disk.

7.12 WASH

NAME: WASH

AUTHOR: Michael J. Karas, Micro Resources

CATEGORY: Utility

DATE: 9/20/81

OPERATING SYSTEM: MS-DOS, CP/M

SIMILAR PROGRAMS: CLEAN

COMMENTS

This program is a disk directory maintenance utility.

CHAPTER 8

OTHER SOFTWARE

The software contained in this chapter is a miscellaneous collection of software which does not meet criteria for inclusion in other chapters. Many of the programs are nice programs that will help users organize their work more efficiently or effectively.

Some of the programs work in conjunction with other software packages to enhance their performance. A few of these programs will enhance the performance of specific hardware devices, i.e. printers, expansion boards, etc.

8.1 BANNER

NAME: BANNER

AUTHOR: Barry Roth

CATEGORY: Other

DATE: 8/8/83

OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS, MS-DOS, Z-DOS

REQUIRED HARDWARE: Printer

REQUIRED SOFTWARE: BASIC Interpreter

COMMENTS

BANNER is a BASIC program that will create "sideways" banners of any length. Size and composition of the banner is controlled by the user. This program is similar to the utility program BANNER on the CYBER's and VAX Cluster.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

You must enter letters one at a time and wait for the printer to respond. This can make a large banner a very long and tedious process.

8.2 FOGFIND

NAME: FOGFIND (ver. 1.0)

AUTHOR: Wash 'n Ware Products

CATEGORY: Other

OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS, MS-DOS

COMMENTS

This program rates text files according to "The Gunning Fog Index" for ease of reading and complexity of sentence structure. The program will count the number of sentences and words contained in a document. This information is usually desired by all writers.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

Whether this program is useful is strictly a matter of personal preference.

8.3 PC-YEARBOOK

NAME: PC-YEARBOOK

AUTHOR: Ulderic F. Racine

CATEGORY: Other

OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS, MS-DOS

REQUIRED HARDWARE: 128K, Color Graphics Board

COMMENTS

PC-YEARBOOK is a calendar, appointment scheduling program. Appointments can be scheduled in half-hour increments. A notepad feature is also included.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

You cannot schedule appointments at odd times; schedules must be maintained on the half hour.

8.4 PC-TOUCH

NAME: PC-TOUCH

AUTHOR: Dean Hannotte

CATEGORY: Other

DATE: 1983

OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS, MS-DOS

COMMENTS

PC-TOUCH is a program designed to help you practice touch typing. It monitors the number of keystrokes and the accuracy of keystrokes.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

This program is not a touch-typing tutorial and will not enable the user to improve his/her typing technique.

8.5 SYSLOG

NAME: SYSLOG (ver. 1.1)

AUTHOR: R. W. Cobb

CATEGORY: Other

DATE: 1984

OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS, MS-DOS, or higher

REQUIRED HARDWARE: 128K

COMMENTS

SYSLOG is a utility program which will semi-automatically log computer usage. Information that is logged includes login date and time, operator, project name, and logout date and time. The SYSLOG program can be added to your DOS disk or referenced within your AUTOEXEC.BAT for execution each time the computer is turned on.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

Each entry into the log uses 48 bytes of disk storage space. There is a possibility of running out of disk space if using diskettes instead of a hard disk.

8.6 TYPERITE

NAME: TYPERITE (ver. 1.3)

AUTHOR: Christopher Wiley

CATEGORY: Other

DATE: 1985

OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS, MS-DOS

REQUIRED HARDWARE: Epson Printer or Compatible

COMMENTS

TYPERITE emulates a correcting electric typewriter allowing the user to write short memos, letters, labels and text without the time and hassle of using a word processor or editor. This program will allow setting of special features of the printer, i.e. tab set, bold on/off, emphasized print on/off, double-striked printing on/off, compressed print on/off, enlarged print on/off, superscript and subscript on/off, and underlining on/off.

POSSIBLE PROBLEMS

This program can be used with any printer, however, the special functions cannot be used except with an Epson or compatible printer. Trying to use the special functions with a non-Epson compatible printer may cause unanticipated printer reactions.

APPENDIX A

GLOSSARY

ASCII

American Standard Code for Information Interchange is the set of binary numbers used to store characters within a computer and to transmit them from terminal to computer and from computer to terminal. To transmit straight ASCII files, no special protocol is needed, however, error-checking will not take place.

Auto-dial

A setting on a modem that allows it to automatically dial (via software) a telephone number from a microcomputer or terminal.

AUTOEXEC.BAT

This is a file used in an IBM PC or compatible which contains commands that are automatically executed when the computer is turned on or rebooted.

BASIC

Beginners All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code. BASIC is a high-level computer language that is available on most microcomputers.

Batch Processing

An operation where large amounts of data are processed through the computer with little to no operator intervention. Batch processing files in an IBM PC or compatible environment should have a file extention of .BAT.

Baud Rate

The rate which information is transferred over normal communication lines, expressed in number of bits per second.

Binary

A binary number is a number containing digits 0 or 1. Each digit is called a bit. An executable program must be translated into binary numbers in order for the computer to understand the instructions the program is giving.

Bit

A single digit of a binary number.

Boot

The act of initializing or loading the computer with an operating system.

Bug

A term used to describe problems within a computer program.

Byte

The number of bits used to represent a character. In most PC's, a byte is 8 bits.

Compiler

A compiler translates a written program into code which the computer will understand.

CPU

Central Processing Unit. The CPU is the brain of the computer. It is the part of the computer that actually processes the information and controls the storage and manipulation of data.

DOS

Disk Operating System. A program that provides basic operation and control of a disk-based computer.

Editor

A program that allows input and manipulations (editing) of data in a file.

File

A collection of related information that is treated as a single unit. A file may contain data or contain executable program.

Full-Screen Editor

A full-screen editor allows movement throughout the file using the full-screen capabilities of your terminal. This type of editor is more acceptable for entering text or editing a file.

Hexadecimal

Hexadecimal is a numbering system containing sixteen digits (0-9 and A-F). Hexamdecimal numbers in a computer environment have a direct relationship to binary numbers.

Kilobyte

Roughly a thousand bytes (actually 1024). This term is usually abbreviated Kb. A 5 1/4" double-sided, double-density diskette will store approximately 320Kb of data.

Light Pen

A hand-held light-sensing device that is used with the video monitor in some graphics applications.

Line Editor

An editor where only a single line can be edited at a given time. You must move around the file using pointers and commands. Editing must also be done by means of commands.

Main frame

A term used to describe the largest type of computer.

Megabyte

A term meaning 1,024,000 bytes. This term is usually abbreviated Mb.

Memory

The part of the computer that is used to store either data or programs.

Metacharacters

Special Characters that represent other characters. These special characters are also called "wildcards", and like a joker in a card deck can represent any character. These characters are used to match filenames or parts of filenames. The asterisk (*) is the most commonly used wildcard.

Microcomputer

A term that describes the smallest computer. Usually refers to desk-top computers.

Mini-computer

A term describing a computer which is larger than a microcomputer and smaller than a mainframe. The largest of these are often called super-minis.

Modem

A hardware device that allows communication between computers over regular telephone lines.

Mouse

A mouse is a device that will move the cursor around the screen without keyboard input.

Networking

The interconnection of a number of computers by means of communication devices.

Parallel Port

This is a device that allows peripherals (usually printers) to communicate with a PC. This port transmits 16 bits at a time. (See serial port)

Program

A set of computer instructions which will result in the solution to a problem or completion of a task.

Protocol

Protocol referred to in this document means the parameters necessary in order that two computers communicate with each other or to have two computers exchange files and/or information with each other.

RAM

Random Access Memory. RAM is the memory of the computer that you can write into and store programs for use while using the computer. When the microcomputer is turned off, RAM is erased.

RBBS

Remote Bulletin Board System. This is a term used for software that controls an electronic message center and file transfer capabilities.

Resident Memory

(See RAM).

Serial Port

This is a device that allows peripherals (usually modems and some printers) to communicate with a PC. (See parallel port)

Software

A term used to describe any computer program.

SYSOP

System Operator. This is the term used in RBBS's to describe the person responsible for operating and maintaining the RBBS.

Text Formatter

A program that takes text which has been put into a file via an editor and formats the text. The text is formatted through special text formatting commands that are imbedded into the file.

Utility
: A program that accomplishes a specific task.

VT-100
: A VT-100 is a Digitial Equipment Corporation terminal that allows complete communication with DEC's line of mini- and mainframe computers. Many other manufactures make VT-100-compatible terminals.

Wildcards
: (See Metacharacters)

Word Processor
: A program that allows both text inputting and text formatting.

XMODEM
: Xmodem is a file transfer protocol developed by Ward Christenson. It is a "hand-shaking" and error-checking protocol that ensures accurate transmission and receipt of data.

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