



PCW - FILE



VOLUME 2

MARCH 1988

ISSUE 2

By DAVID AXFORD

JUST over one year ago since the first issue of PCW FILE came into being. Because of this landmark let me on behalf of all our members congratulate Chris Bryant, who as you know is the editor of our magazine.

It is because of his ideas, time and energy that we have the magazine that you see today. From the first issue Chris had help from Steve Cholerton, Stuart Williams and David Moore who wrote the first helpful articles, and this theme of self-help from our readers has continued throughout 1987 making a total of 5 magazines. I am sure you will agree that this is quite some achievement considering Chris does not have the backing or the back-up like the big glossy magazines. The original aim of



generous discount. Please tell them when you order anything that you are a

member of PCW FILE, not only will you get the discount but this then gives the advertisers some feedback on the value of their advertisements.

PCW FILE has been maintained - that is the experiences, problems and answers, helpful tips with a smattering of reviews which have all contributed in making life easier on our PCW's. A vote of thanks is also due to Bob Ellis (who is in the process of compiling guides for the Public Domain Software), David Loveridge, John Cookshaw and Colin Miller who distribute the free Public Domain Software.

Our advertisers have also contributed by giving us all the opportunity of generous discounts from their quality merchandise. We all need ribbons for our PCW's, whether new or re-inked, so any discount is always welcome! The extra add-ons, though not essential in the running of our machines, certainly make life easier, and if we support our advertisers then we should continue in getting a

We now have members from America, Iceland, West Germany and New Zealand to name just a few countries overseas, which means PCW FILE travels very well! To see PCW FILE go international most of been beyond even Chris's dreams 13 months ago. Our membership is still increasing and with the 'carrot' of a free disc plus software to members who recruit new members, included as enticement, most surely further increase the size of our membership. The more members, means that we shall get more value for our money. If every member sat down and gave a contribution, whether it be an article, helpful tip, a review or letter with some helpful comments, then the future of your magazine is assured.

Here is a toast to each and everyone of you! May we all have a prosperous 1988 with our PCW's.



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BACK ISSUES

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OUR MANY READERS AND CONTRIBUTORS.
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PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE
EDITOR SHOULD ENCLOSE A SELF ADDRESSED
STAMPED ENVELOPE, OTHERWISE PCW FILE
CANNOT GUARANTEE A REPLY'.

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EDITORIAL

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WELCOME. Our membership numbers on the envelopes did not go down too well as some of you decided to throw away the envelopes before reading PCW File. I have thought of a new idea: If you all look at the back inside cover you will see that a label is printed with your membership number and address, so there should be no problems.

Contributions gratefully received

Two new ideas from this issue to get you to contribute to the magazine. First, David Axford and I will select the best article from each issue which we find is the most interesting and helpful piece. It should be about 1000-1500 words and sent on disc, possibly as a LocoScript file. We will give you £25.00 - fair enough we can't offer what the commercial glossy magazines give but it is a little bonus for your contribution. This will start from next issue so get typing. If a contribution does not meet our standard then we will cancel the £25.00 for that particular months issue. This does not mean that your piece is not interesting to read, but it is only fair that you should earn the £25.00!

Reward for services rendered

The second idea is to ask **YOU** what you think is the best article in the issue. What you do is simple, just select up to three of your favourite articles giving them a total of 10 points. You might only like one article; so give the 10 points to that one. Send your entry on a postcard (or back of an envelope) to the editorial address (don't forget your own membership number and address), also write the relevant month and issue number which is on the front cover. The person who wins will receive £10.00 and everyone who takes part will be entered into a draw for £10.00! The winners and details will be announced in two issues time. So even though people who tell me that they cannot take part in PCW File, can tell us what article they liked the best.

Friendly enticement

Remember it's '**RECRUIT A FRIEND**' during February and March. It is your chance to get your friends to join PCW File at £18 for twelve issues. Don't forget that for every member you introduce we will be giving you a FREE disc with some PD of your choice. So send your friends name and address and more importantly his cheque and tell us what disc you want from the PD library. Closing date is the 31st March 1988 so we hope you will support PCW File, as the more members we can get the better value PCW File will become.

Directory enquiries

Where has the PD gone I hear you say? Don't worry we haven't got rid of it, but an 8 page insert was put in last issues File. We will probably put in the full listing every 2-3 months as the total of PD discs expand. Details of any new discs will appear in that issue. If you haven't got a copy and want the insert, either order the back issue or send me an SAE and I will send you the full listing.

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EDITORIAL

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The financial times

In the next issue I am hoping to have a report on the financial status of the group as one or two of you have commented about the new subscription rate. I can tell you now that I still maintain that the group is **NON PROFIT MAKING** but when it costs a lot to advertise, I must make it all balance. There are of course a lot of expenses involved, (more than some people obviously believe), but more details next issue.

A new jacket

How do you all like the front cover? Good isn't it! David Axford will be designing our covers from now on with the help from his desk top publishing software. I like your comments and lets hope people take notice. Many thanks David. Anyone wanting to help in any way please get in touch.

It pays to advertise

As it is four months since we last put an advert in a glossy magazine, it was decided that it was about time we had another go, this time with **Amstrad PCW Magazine**. This is one magazine we have not tried, so lets hope it is successful in recruiting enough members to pay for itself. The advert is below - please tell me what you think? Yes there is a slight error, the FORTRAN 86 bit should have been Forth 83. We apologise for this as I must have been having one of my funny moments!

Next issue date

Thats it for another issue, looking at my PCW File Schedule the next PCW File should roll off the printers somewhere around 31st March. Remember it is Easter time so the issue might not arrive until April 5th,6th etc. Good bye and I leave you to enjoy the issue.

PCW FILE
OVER 1000 READERS AND ITS NOW MONTHLY!

The aim of PCW File is to allow users to communicate with each other, helping with problems, and for the reader to send in any hints, tips and articles. You can also take advantage of our FREE Public Domain service. All you have to do is send a SAE and discs to our PD Helpers. We have many programs including DBQ Database, Colossal Cave Adventure, Assemblers, Small C, FORTRAN 86, JRT-PASCAL plus many others.

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FEEDBACK

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I HAVE BEEN READING the article in 8000+ on setkeys and it contains some misleading statements (the limit on expansion tokens is about 80 bytes, not 1K as they state) and omits some wheezes. If you want to use an expansion token like E #81, but still want f1 to deliver <ALT>+Z define

```
E #81 "Your Key Sequence"
Ø2 NS "|" '26'" this sets the f1 key directly to <ALT>+Z
Ø2 A "|" '#80'" this sets <ALT>+f1 to deliver the token "Your Key Sequence".
```

You can use decimal or hex as you wish (hex is preceded by #). You can also add a comment after each definition as above. The setkeys program will ignore it. Finally setkeys is usually used in a submit routine. If this is the case add some comment lines to the submit routine to explain the key settings. A comment line in a submit routine must start with a semi colon. It will be displayed on the screen and ignored. Here for instance is the submit file I use to start Basic (I keep Basic files on User number 1).

```
Ø:
pip
<M:=B:basic.com [or]
<M:=B:bs.sub[r]
<M:=B:bas.key[r]
<
setkeys M:bas.key
;
;<ALT>+
;GRID "esc$$=CHR$$ (27):cls$$=esc$$=esc$$+"E"+esc$$+"H"
;f1 "REM " f2 "PRINT " f7 "POKE 64432,Ø:SYSTEM"
;
i:
basic $1
```

This tells me that I have set four keys to deliver special tokens <ALT>+GRID sets esc\$ and cls\$. The reason for the \$\$ is that \$ tells SUBMIT to expect a parameter. \$\$ prints as \$ on the screen. <ALT>+f1 and <ALT>+f2 are self explanatory, <ALT>+f7 sets the user number back to Ø and returns to the system.

Could you ask Amstrad whether they would permit the club to make CPMKEYS.COM available to those members who have 8000 machines?

I have developed some user characters for the 8000 that allow you to print large brackets.

Would members be interested in having a library of user-defined characters? LocoChar is dreadfully slow and tedious to use and having a collection of Matrix.#nn files would be much easier. I would suggest that in the library the files are called "Brackets.#01" or suchlike to remind the user of their content. Before installing one, he or she would have to rename it.

Oliver Prezel
270 Haggerston Rd, London E8 4EP

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HINTS AND TIPS

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A POOR MAN'S MAIL-MERGE

THERE IS NO NEED to throw money away buying a mail merge program when LocoScript provides a ready answer for those whose needs are not too demanding. The answer lies in the fact that LocoScript allows you to apportion your page as you wish between header zone, text zone and footer zone.

The layout

Say you want to send out a form letter to fifty people, under the smart letterheading you have dreamed up for yourself. The letterhead, date and text will be the same in each letter. What alters in each case is the addressee, his address, and the salutation, "Dear Bill", "Dear Mrs Smithers", etc. You can do this easily, by typing the heading and date in the header zone, the text in the footer zone, and have a file of "paged" addresses and salutations printing individually in the text zone.

The details

1. Make a file of the names, addresses and salutations, as you wish them to appear in each letter. Make sure that each address and salutation will be a separate page, by pressing ALT and RETURN together after each one. Keep this file loaded.

2. Now calculate your "page size" options. Assume you are using A4 continuous paper (page length 70 lines). The normal header zone is 9 lines, and if you are printing your address and the date there, you will probably need at least that. Say another 9 for the addressee, salutation, and one space. That leaves 51 lines of footer, starting at position 19.

3. Press [f7], select "edit header", press ENTER, press [f7] twice for "page size" options, and alter the figures according to your calculations. When satisfied, press ENTER to confirm, then [f8] for "pagination". Select "all pages same", press ENTER and then EXIT. This will bring up an invitation to confirm the options chosen; do so by pressing ENTER. Now you are back with the headers and footers, so first type in what you want in the header space, and then the text of your form letter as a footer. When finished, press EXIT and ENTER.

4. Your file of addresses will now come back on the screen. Press EXIT, select "save and print", press ENTER, and go make a cup of tea while the printer turns out your individualised letters.

Practice makes perfect

Experiment a little with the layout, to make sure it is just what you want, before you start printing in quantity.

T.E.Hutchinson
45 Diamond Drive, Blackmans Bay, Tasmania, Australia 7052

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HINTS AND TIPS

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SOME POKE AND OUT COMMANDS

POKE &HA00A,0 ===> Drive is A:
POKE &HA00A,1 ===> Drive is B:
POKE &HA00A,12 ===> Drive is M:

POKE 18527,90 ===> in Basic programs, all Print commands
 will be rerouted to the printer.

POKE 18527,100 ===> reset to the normal

POKE 24348,x ===> the space will be filled up with the
 ASCII -character of x. For instance:
 10 POKE 24348,42
 20 PRINT "f";TAB(10);"100.00"
 will appear on screen as f *****
 100.00

POKE 3233,234 ===> makes the keyboard-input invisible

POKE 3233,205 ===> reset to the normal

OUT 248,11 ===> produces a continuous tone from the
 bell.

OUT 248,12 ===> reset to the normal

OUT 247,240 ===> looks like a flash

OUT 241,0 ===> restarts BASIC

**Uwe Stig,
2000 Hamburg 13, Gustav- Falke - Str 2, West Germany**

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MEMORY CONTENTS DUMPER USER INSTRUCTIONS

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Arnor Baldvinsson

IN THE DECEMBER issue of PCW File, Mr A.K. Borland was speculating about where the keyboard tables and other things are placed in the PCW brain. Unfortunately I know nothing about that, but this question made my brain start working. Although a bit rusty to start with it finally produced an idea: Why not write a Basic program which could dump the entire memory content of the PCW to the screen?

Thanks for the memory

So I began writing the program you have here. Unfortunately it can only reach the addresses accessible by BASIC; from 0 to 65535. But there you can find many interesting things. All you have to do is type in the program and save it by typing **SAVE "ADDRESS"**. Then type **RUN** and the PCW asks you where to start and how many addresses to dump. **REMEMBER:** You can always press the **[EXIT]** key to stop. When the contents of the addresses has been dumped you can start again by pressing **[Y]** or you can abort the program by pressing **[N]**. If you start again then you can start at a new address number or just press **[ENTER]** / **[RETURN]** to continue from the last used address. Please note: This program listing was printed out from LocoScript. Before it was done I ran it from BASIC and it worked perfectly. If some errors occur you have probably mistyped a letter or so. The bold lines are just the 'leftover' from the linenumber above. Make sure you type these lines without pressing **[RETURN]**. **The best way is to type the program in Locoscript EXACTLY** as it is here and then create an ASCII file and run it from BASIC. When you have the program running you can try to change it or modify it as you want it to be. Have fun!

Arnor Baldvinsson,
Graenulid, 730 - Reydarfirdi, Iceland.

MEMORY CONTENTS DUMPER

```
10 GOSUB 380
20 PRINT cls$;TAB(33);"MEMORY CONTENTS DUMPER"
30 h=HIMEM:PRINT FNat$(2,0);"Highest address used by Basic is : ";
USING form$;h
40 PRINT FNat$(4,0);: INPUT "Begin at decimal address number ? ",
address: IF address=0 AND address1>0 THEN address=address1:
address1=0: PRINT FNat$(4,33);address;" ";esc$+"K";
50 PRINT FNat$(6,0);: INPUT "How many addresses do you want to dump ?
",nu
60 PRINT FNat$(9,0);esc$+"J"; FNat$(8,4);"ADDRESS"; FNat$(9,1);"HEX";
FNat$(9,9);"DEC"; FNat$(9,16);"HEX numbers"; FNat$(9,72);"Symbols"
70 Col%=16:co%=72:ln%=11:tala%=0:f=0:lina%=11
80 i$=INKEY$
90 WHILE i$ <> CHR$(27) and f<=nu
100 i$=INKEY$
110 x=PEEK(address):if fig%=0 THEN GOTO 120 ELSE GOTO 130
120 PRINT FNat$(ln%,0);HEX$(address,4);FNat$(ln%,6);USING
form$;address;
130 PRINT FNat$(ln%,col%);HEX$(x,2);
140 symb$=CHR$(x): IF x<=32 THEN symb$="."
150 PRINT FNat$(ln%,co%);symb$
160 fig%=fig%+1
170 IF fig%=16 THEN ln%=ln%+1:c%=0:col%=16:co%=72:fig%=0:GOTO 190
180 col%=col%+3:co%=co%+1
```

```

190 IF ln%=28 THEN GOSUB 320:ln%=11
200 address=address+1:f=f+1
210 WEND
220 PRINT:PRINT "AGAIN? Y/N ";
230 is$=INKEY$:WHILE is$="":is$=INKEY$:WEND
240 IF UPPER$(is$)="Y" THEN GOTO 280
250 IF UPPER$(is$)="N" THEN address=0:address1=0:f=0:nu=0:PRINT
cls$:END
260 GOTO 230
270 END
280 PRINT FNat$(11,0);clear$;
290 address1=address-1:PRINT FNat$(4,39);"Last address : ";
address1;:address=0
300 PRINT FNat$(4,60);"Press RETURN to use the last adr."
310 GOTO 30
320 PRINT:PRINT "Press RETURN to continue, or EXIT to stop";
330 in$=INKEY$:WHILE in$="":in$=INKEY$:WEND
340 IF in$=CHR$(13) THEN PRINT FNat$(lina%,0);esc$+"J";:GOTO 370
350 IF in$=CHR$(27) THEN RUN
360 GOTO 330
370 RETURN
380 esc$=CHR$(27):cls$=esc$+"E"+esc$+"H":clear$=esc$+"J"
390 DE FNat$ (line%,column%) =esc$+"Y"+CHR$(line%+32)+CHR$(column%+32)
400 form$="##,###"
410 WIDTH 255
420 RETURN

```

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33 DONALAN AVENUE, SHEFFIELD S17 4PG

In answer to George Firth's letter Issue 3,

Dear George,

You might like to know that you are not the only new owner of a PCW 8256 who has had a struggle to understand the instructions for LocoScript. Reading your letter brought back memories of my own trouble progressing beyond pages 33-34 of the manual and trying to copy discs. Unfortunately there was no clue in the manual (nor on earlier discs) that the process was done in two halves, making it almost impossibly difficult for a beginner to understand.

I have figured out most of what I know the hard way, it may not be the right way but it works, and so I thought you might like a few notes on one of your LocoScript problems written with as little gobbledygook as possible.

About your problem of where and how to file your letters:-

It makes life easier George, if you can devote one disc, or one side of a disc to one subject ie:- Club business, Household, Best Selling Novel etc. As it says in the book, think of your disc as a filing cabinet, but try to think of one filing cabinet per subject. This filing cabinet has eight drawers, because on each side of your disc there are eight separate storage spaces available and they are called groups. You will see them listed as 0-7 at about 10 o'clock on the Disc Management screen and these refer to the filing columns labelled LETTERS, SAMPLES etc. as shown on the display which appears when you have loaded the LocoScript disc.

You should sort your documents into the different drawers according to the layout of the document, ie: on the 'Club business disc' you could file all the letters together in one drawer, group 0 for instance; all the agendas together in another drawer, group 1; all the minutes together in another drawer, group 2; all the reports together in group 3 and so on for accounts, fixture lists etc. etc.

You should use another filing cabinet ie: the other side of the disc (or preferably a different disc) to hold a different subject, your 'Household affairs' for example, and it's drawers or groups could be for Letters, Accounts, Inventories, Christmas card list and so on.

The reason for keeping documents of different layouts apart is because you can set up your own template for that particular type of layout to your own specifications ie; a letter template already headed with your address with a layout to match your usual size of note-paper. Once you have done all the hard work for this and got it the way you want it, you should save it and making sure that it is in the right group, rename it TEMPLATE STD. Then every time you want to create a new document in that group and press C (to create) and ENTER, the machine will give you your own template on the screen and off you go.

It's perhaps easiest to start with a newly formatted disc. So let's assume that you have loaded your LocoScript disc and changed it for a newly formatted disc using fl.

O.K. so far George?

Just as you would put labels on the drawers of your filing cabinet you can relabel the groups. At present they are listed as groups 0-7 and are in the top left section of the screen. You can call the groups anything you like using a maximum of eight letters or numbers, They are waiting to be renamed and the cursor should be waiting on one of the groups for you. (If it isn't, shove it over using SHIFT and the appropriate CURSOR [ARROW] keys pressed down together.)

Remembering that you should keep the same types of documents together in the same group ie:- Letters, Agendas, Minutes, Reports, Accounts etc. decide on the names which suit you and following the instructions below you should have no difficulty setting up your own filing system in the way that suits you best.

To rename the filing groups:

With the cursor on the one you want to rename,
 Press f5,
 Select 'rename Group' and ENTER,
 Type in name (no more than 8 letters or numbers) ie; LETTERS press
 ENTER
 And the chosen name will appear instead of Group 0.

To rename other Groups in turn:

Use SHIFT and CURSOR keys to move cursor to selected group
 Press f5 and proceed as above.
 Your new group names will not appear as titles at the head of the main
 filing columns until there is something to be filed there.

Try it for yourself:

Positioning the cursor over an empty group you have just renamed
 (using SHIFT and CURSOR keys if necessary),
 Press C and ENTER to create a new document (You will be given a letter
 template because the machine has nothing else to give you at the
 moment)
 Type something, Mary had a little lamb, or just
 Press EXIT,
 Select 'Finish editing' (because we need the document saved),
 Press ENTER,

The Disc Management screen will reappear, now showing your newly named
 group containing your experimental DOCUMENT 000.

You should rename DOCUMENT 000 before you forget what it is,
 PRESS f5 and select 'rename document' followed by ENTER.
 Rename as before, ie: MARY 001.

Creating and filing your documents under the correct heading, LETTERS
 etc, and giving them their own identification names or codes by using
 f5 makes retrieval of your information very simple eg:- to find the
 letter to Mary:-

Choose the correct disc or side of disc,
 Go straight to the column headed LETTERS, MINUTES, REPORTS etc.,
 Position the cursor on the required document's name, ie: MARY 001,
 Press E followed by ENTER to Edit or
 Press P followed by ENTER to print.
 Easy isn't it George!

Kindest regards,
 Brenda Davies

WHY DO YOU need an editor?

BASIC contains a simple editor for writing programs. It allows you to enter and correct program lines, but it does not allow you to move around the program while editing or move and modify sections of program text easily. If you wish to write long programs in BASIC or use another language such as PASCAL you will need an editor. The two criteria to use in discussing an editor are its power and ease of use. Editors fall into two classes, screen editors and line editors and the PCW comes with one of each. ED is a reasonably good line editor, but unfortunately line editors are awkward and tricky to use. RPED is, I am sad to say, a very poor screen editor.

RPED.

This lacks many of the features one would expect in a screen editor. You cannot search for and replace strings. You cannot go to particular line numbers. You cannot move, copy or delete blocks of text and you cannot insert text from a disc file. A minor irritation is that RPED requires BASIC in memory to work and indeed the calling file RPED.SUB contains the single statement BASIC RPED. If you need disc space you can delete RPED.SUB from your disc and call RPED by typing BASIC RPED directly.

Given its limitations RPED is quite usable for writing small programs such as SUBMIT files. For large programs it is impossible to use RPED because it will only allow 200 lines of program (not 20K as stated in the manual). If you load a longer file you will lose all lines after the 200th. This can cost you many hours of work, as RPED does not back up a file if you exit normally.

ED.

This is a good line editor, but line editors were developed when the standard computer terminal was a teletypewriter. Thus they show no cursor and have no cursor keys. They also cannot overwrite a line on the screen as you correct it and display only the minimum necessary information. So you keep having to look up things like whether "IK" will delete the line you just had printed out by a print command or the next one. Aligning text is particularly difficult. On the other hand ED can work with files as large as your disc and has all the text manipulating commands I mentioned above, and more.

If you cannot get hold of a good screen editor you can get by with ED and RPED as follows. If the file already exists cut it up into c. 150 line chunks. You can do this with the PD utility FILECHOP.COM or by typing ED MYFILE and then at the :* prompt

150A<RETURN>, 150X CHUNK1<RETURN>, W<RETURN>.

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Text Editors for the PCW

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These commands load 150 lines, write them to CHUNK1 and then return them to the original file. Repeat the commands with CHUNK2 etc. until MYFILE is exhausted. You then leave ED by typing Q<RETURN>. You can edit CHUNK1, CHUNK2 and so on with RPED (taking care not to add more than 50 lines to any chunk). Finally you stick the CHUNKS together with the command PIP MYFILE=CHUNK1,CHUNK2,... This will not allow you to move text from one chunk to another. But if you are clever you can do that by rearranging the CHUNKS in the PIP command.

Using LocoScript

If you wish to edit or type in a large program, and do not want the inconvenience of ED, you can use LocoScript. You should only use the ASCII characters (up to CHR\$(255)) and finish each line with a <RETURN>. When you have finished, save your text. Then use LocoScript's "Make ASCII File" utility. Choose the "Simple text file" option. The resulting file can be read by BASIC. The main disadvantage of this approach is that you keep having to switch from LocoScript to CP/M and back. And you never get a long program right first time.

A Commercial Screen Editor

There are many editors both commercial and in the public domain (PD). (Chris, why don't we try and get one for our PD Library?). I own and use ED80 from Hisoft and will compare it with ED and RPED. The price of ED80 varies from free to £30 depending on what else you buy from Hisoft. I bought Propascal and with that it costs £10 and is well worth it. It will deal with files up to 50K length and it offers search and replace, goto line, block copy, delete and move. You can insert text from a file and print out all or part of your text from the editor (but if you don't have a spooler, you have to wait for the printer to finish before you can continue the edit). If you are used to the "speed" of LocoScript you will be amazed how fast ED80 is. At the end of an edit, you can keep a back-up copy of your original file or overwrite it.

ED80 comes with a good manual and a straightforward interactive installer that allows you to set the screen size and set your favourite keystrokes for each command. (I expect this is where commercial editors score over PD ones). Setting up a consistent set of keystrokes is not all that simple (WordStar never managed to do so), so I would advise you to use the editor in its standard form for a while, and keep a standard version of it as a back-up. If you have bought ED80 and would like my installed version, that takes advantage of the PCW's keys, send me the original Hisoft disc and I will copy my version onto it as an additional file.

=====

PUBLIC DOMAIN LIBRARY

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Our latest disc is number 16 and was sent in by Paul Spicker. Here are details of the disc.

COMPARE.COM: This compares two files to see whether they match, and marks out the first line where they differ.

Command: compare filename.ext filename2.ext

PRINT.COM: This programme puts files to the printer. It was initially written for an Epson printer but seems to work well enough on the PCW.

Command: print filename1.ext/switch 1/switch 2 ... filename2.ext/
switch 1/switch 2 ...

Each filename may be unique or ambiguous. The switches, unlike 'options' remain on until the switch command is repeated.

- /p print filename and page at the top of each page
- /i ignore embedded form feeds in file
- /a inhibit automatic page feeds (every 64 lines)
- /e select bold print
- /d select double strike print
- /c select condensed print (17 cpi)
- /r reset print
- /f inhibit printing a form feed at the end of a file

MFT.COM: MFT stands for multiple file transfer. This programme was initially called "MFT1", the 1 standing for single drive. It is most useful for people with only one drive available.

Command: mft file.ext file2.ext file3.ext ...

Filenames can include wildcards. MFT is much faster than PIP and will carry on until the memory is full. After the files in memory are unloaded onto the destination disk, the programme invites you to insert the first disk again and carries on.

There is a bug. MFT does not verify files (unlike PIP). The file being read at the time when MFT runs out of memory will not be transferred properly: Check! The advantage of MFT, though, is that it is much, much faster than PIP and easier to use.

VERIFY.COM This program verifies individual files (unlike DISCKIT, which verifies whole disk).

Command: verify filename.ext

The filename can include wildcards. If you miss off the filename you will get a confusing error message which can safely be ignored.

DISK.COM: This is a simple directory program.

Command: disk
disk m:

=====

PUBLIC DOMAIN LIBRARY Page 2

=====

It is quicker than DIR [full], puts files in alphabetical order, states size, shows the number of files and the space left on the disc, and occupies only 1K of memory.

WORDS.COM: This counts the number of words in a file.

Command: words filename.ext

To count words in a LocoScript file, it's necessary to create an ASCII file from LocoScript in the first group on a disc, and then exit to CP/M so that the file can be counted. A Locoscript file can't be counted as is. This process is tedious but not as tedious as counting words by hand.

COL2.COM, COL3.COM, COL4.COM: These are programs to relay text into columns. Using them is very hard work, but I've included them in the event someone will find them useful.

To begin, create a LocoScript file which is 52 lines to a page and only as wide as you intend the columns to be on the page. Then create an ASCII file [filename.asc].

Go into CPM. You need COL2 for two columns, COL3 for three, and COL4 for four. To make a two column file, enter

COL2 filename.asc

This will create a new file. You can print this out directly from CPM, or read it back into LocoScript using 'Insert text', with tab stops set in the appropriate places.

PROFILE.SUB; KEYS.CPM; DISCKIT.SUB: These are my own start-of-day programs when I use CPM. What they do is transfer essential programs into drive M, so that they can be drawn on quickly and easily, and customize certain keys so that they reproduce commonly used commands. KEYS.CPM contains instructions to SETKEYS.COM as follows:

hatched key	disk (gives an instant directory)
SHIFT + hatched key	disk M
CUT	delete the line
CANCEL	ignore this line
PASTE	pip m:=a: (type filename to transfer from drive a: to drive m:)
COPY	pip a:=m: (type filename to transfer from drive m: to drive a:)
EXTRA + ENTER	loads and runs rped (the editor)

If you use DISCKIT to copy discs, filling drive M: can be inconvenient. Using DISCKIT.SUB with this PROFILE gets round the problem; it will wipe out the files from drive M: before the program runs.

ZDIS.COM: This is a disassembler. It comes with its own documentation, under ZDIS.DOC. I think it is okay but it doesn't reveal text strings.

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PUBLIC DOMAIN LIBRARY Page 3

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DIMS

This is a cardbox program which runs under Basic. Documentation is included in DIMS.DOC.

=====

PD FEEDBACK

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DOCUMENTATION FOR PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE

It has been my general experience that much of the documentation accompany P.D. software generally ranges from that which goes into too much technical detail, obscuring user instructions, some that is totally unintelligible, or some which is so brief that it is utterly useless, and misses out many features, which if known about, would make many programs excellent utilities. Another problem often encountered, is there are often different versions of programs of the same name, and sometimes the same name but entirely different programs. Finally one particular problem with most P.D. documentation which never fails to annoy me, is the tendency to fill up standard size paper without any margins, a practice that makes life difficult for those of us who like to keep hard copy in ring back folders. In attempting to correct some of these problems, it is necessary to properly identify the versions this documentation refers to. To this end, each set of documentation will identify programs by their filenames, and their CRC "Bit Sum" Number, arrived at by using CRCK44.COM.

**Maurice K. Williams
Nuneaton**

=====

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS, HINTS, TIPS ON HOW TO USE PD SOFTWARE TO ITS BEST ADVANTAGE. PLEASE SEND ANYTHING OF INTEREST TO THE USUAL ADDRESS.

=====

=====

PCW FILE ANNOUNCEMENT

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=====

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=====

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=====

Text Editors for the PCW

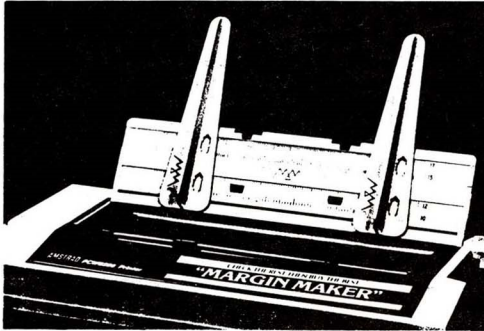
=====

Line Numbers

No editor that I know of will auto insert line numbers. You can get around this by writing the program initially without line numbers. When you have finished your edit, save the program as, say "MYPROG.BAS". Then type PIP MYPROG.BAS[N].

This will produce a version with line numbers incremented by 1's. Only the numbers will be followed by colons. You can now use the search and replace feature of your editor, or the PD utility SANDR.COM to remove the colons. Would there be an interest in a program that did this automatically and calculated line numbers for GOTO's and GOSUB's? If so I could write one.

Oliver Pretzel
27Ø Haggerston Rd, London E8 4EP



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=====

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

=====

94 Coombe Lane
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Telecom Gold Mailbox: 72: Mag35812
Telephone (0272) 682321

"Y" DOES IT DO IT?

In answer to James Coleman's query in Vol 2 Issue 1,

Why does `PRINT CHR$(27)+"Y"+CHR$(30+32);"Hi"` print i in row 30,col 40, whereas `PRINT CHR$(27)+"Y"+CHR$(30+32);" Hi"` print Hi in row 30, col 1?

The answer is that the sequence `PRINT CHR$(27)+"Y"` sets the system looking for the next two characters of input to the PRINT statement to set the row and column numbers. If they are not given in the form described in the manual, the system will find them from the next input to the PRINT statement.

In the first example, the first character following `PRINT CHR$(27)+"Y"` is `CHR$(30+32)` which will correctly identify row 30, but the next character will be H (since the sequence `;` defines a continuation of the PRINT statement). Since H is represented by 72 (ie `CHR$(72)` is H), then the system will assume the column number is 40. The system merely subtracts 32 from the character value and calculates $72-32=40$. Now having received its two characters following `PRINT CHR$(27)+"Y"` it can revert to PRINTing the next character, which is i.

In the second example, the second character following the `PRINT CHR$(27)+"Y"` is the blank preceding the Hi. Since a blank is represented by 32 (ie `CHR$(32)` is a blank), then the system will assume the column number is 0 (ie $32-32$). It can then print Hi as requested.

Remember the description given in the manual that says `CHR$(r+32)` and `CHR$(c+32)` is intended as a guide. You could always use `" "` instead to mean row (or column) 0, `"!"` for 1, `"0"` for 16, and so on using any table of CP/M codes, such as the one on pages 113-118 (Appendix I.4) of the User guide (CP/M section).

If James or anyone else would like further information, please get in touch with me at the above address.

GET.COM UTILITY

Malcolm Sparrow of Wolverhampton asked One problem which I am currently trying to find the answer to is how do you make a Profile Sub file erase all the contents of the M drive, prior to loading new programs into it, without having to enter Y when the Erase All prompt comes up.

John Cadman, of Wolverhampton says this involves the use of the GET.COM utility on Side 3 of the System Discs supplied. Make sure that GET.COM is copied onto the disc with the .SUB file on it and include the following (or similar) line in the .SUB file:

=====

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

=====

GET FILE SCRUB.MEM[SYSTEM ECHO]

Now create a file called SCRUB.MEM along these lines:

ERA M:*.*

Y

It may not be elegant - but it works!

John Cadman
69 Wombourne Park, Wombourne, Wolverhampton, WV5 0LX

=====

PCW FILE HELPLINE

=====

I write my various consumer articles for publication on my PCW8512. My son and our Plymouth Consumer Group printing firm have Atari computers. It will save money, time and effort if I can convert my articles into an ASCII file and transfer it direct to the Atari, put it onto a 3½ inch disc and then send this to the printing firm.

So far I have discovered that I probably need a serial 232 interface and connecting leads for the Atari. At the suggestion of a computer component firm I telephoned an "expert" who said it should work; he had thought about it but not yet had time to try it with his own Amstrad and Atari.

I also have Mini Office Professional which has a communications section to its program should this be required. Unfortunately all the articles I can find deal with communication via a modem and Microlink or other telephone system. I can place the two computers side by side without this distant link.

Can anyone help please?

Stuart Coverley,
20 Culme Road, Mannamead, Plymouth. PL3 5BJ

The ASCII values (in language/CPM) of Non-ASCII characters in Locoscript 2. e.g. "v" ([ALT+f3]+'n') (Locoscript 2)="f" (CPM). This would be of use when using Locoscript to prepare an ASCII file for manipulation.

ie.	CPM	L/SCRIPT
	£	v
	#	£

Trevor James
12 Deacon Court, Copmanthorpe, York YO2 3TR

=====

PCW FILE- VOLUME ONE COMPLETE COLLECTION

=====

If you have just joined the group you will have already missed 120 pages - the first volume. PCW File offers you the chance to buy issues 1-5 inclusive for £4.75 inc postage. Buy them separately see page 1.

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=====

COMPANY WATCH

=====

Mike Gerrard
117 Murchison Road
London
E10 6LY

I have two comments for your Company Watch section, which I think is a valuable inclusion in the magazine. It's the kind of thing the glossy magazines are loath to do for fear of offending potential advertisers, but it's essential information for consumers. In fact one of my comments for Company Watch relates to the behaviour of one of the glossy magazines, and I wanted to warn other readers as to how you're likely to be treated by 8000 Plus if you take out a subscription and things go wrong.

I subscribed to the magazine for a year and everything was fine, then last September I renewed my subscription for another year and the cheque was cashed. The first issue under the new subscription, November's, failed to arrive so I bought it in the shops and wrote to the magazine saying something might be wrong with my new subscription, though of course it was always possible that one issue may have got lost in the post. I received no reply, but I didn't really expect one. Then the December issue failed to arrive, so I wrote again and said something had definitely gone wrong with my subscription so I would be grateful if they would investigate and arrange to extend it by two copies as I'd now had to buy two copies in the shops. No reply. The January issue failed to arrive, so I wrote again, this time sending a copy to the magazines publisher Chris Anderson, as well as to the subscription person Carrie-Ann Porter, but got no reply from either. The February issue failed to arrive, making four in a row, and four letters that had been ignored, so last week I wrote yet again to both Carrie-Ann Porter and Chris Anderson asking them to refund my money as they obviously don't care at all about how they treated their regular readers. No doubt it will take me some time yet to get a refund out of them, but other readers be warned.

On the subject of Silicon Systems, I too have had a lengthy battle with them. A friend gave me an unwanted 5.25" double-drive, which I wanted to connect up to my PCW as its second drive, so I rang round to ask about the fitting of interfaces. To my great regret, one or two companies' phones were engaged and it was Silicon Systems I got through to first. They said they were very anxious to get hold of the casing for my drive for one of their customers, and offered to fit their interface free of charge to one of the drives provided they could keep the other drive and its casing. I agreed to this and sent my drive off. It then took me about four months to get any response from the company, other than excuses like "We're moving office next week and everything's chaotic" and "Our PCW's not working at the moment." It seemed to me that a company advertising in PCW magazines and selling PCW interfaces should have more than one PCW at their disposal, or at least present a bit of urgency about getting a replacement. After a few months of this, I was told the disc drive was all ready to come back but they had been unable to contact me by phone to check whether my address was correct or not. As I have an Answerphone that is switched on permanently, and no-one else ever tells me they have any difficulty contacting me, this seemed a bit unlikely, as did the need to check the address as by that time their office ought to have been knee-deep in letters of complaint from me.

=====

COMPANY WATCH

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Anyway, the next stage contained the two classic excuses. First came "Your disc drive is sitting on my desk right now, right in front of me, and I'll post it today". Nothing arrived, so I rang about two weeks later and was told "Now when did I speak to you last? It was last week, and I posted it after talking to you." I pointed out that it was two weeks ago, not one week, and therefore it ought to have arrived, and I was told "Well it's definitely in the post, so I'll check with the post office." Another groan from me, but the disc drive eventually turned up, and there are no prizes for guessing when it was postmarked - after my last conversation when it was allegedly already in the post.

This isn't the end of it, of course, as when it arrived (without instructions) the interface did not connect up to the drive connections inside my PCW, so I was unable to make use of it. I've since written two letters to Silicon Systems asking for their advice, but these have naturally been ignored. I also heard from someone else who was having difficulty with the company, and she had to report them to the Trading Standards Office in Manchester as she had sent them a cheque for a drive plus interface, and after several months had received nothing in return. The company even had the gall to lie to a Trading Standards Officer who called on them, saying that a cheque was (you guessed it) "in the post" to the complainant. The cheque did eventually arrive, but some two weeks later, when the only recourse remaining was legal action. Apart from the irritation of all this, and being deprived of money and/or equipment for several months, it seems bizarre that a company should be advertising stuff that it is obviously unable to supply. Naturally I wrote to the magazine where I saw the Silicon Systems advert to complain, but as this was 8000 Plus I never got any response from them.

Anyway, as I write to you now my disc drive really is sitting on my desk, but unfortunately I can't use it as the connections don't connect. The problem is that the ribbon on the drive ends in an interface which is like PCW's printer cable, having two rows of 17 slots, but inside my PCW (a very early model, bought the first week they were out) are two separate drive connections, and as my technical knowledge is nil I have no idea whether the drive in its present state can be connected up to the PCW at all. Can any readers help, or perhaps suggest a company that likes to help its potential customers rather than annoy them or ignore them?

Just to show that my life isn't all spent moaning about bad service, I'd like to recommend a company called Microsnips in Wallasey who sell discs, monitors, printers, micros etc, and whose service has been brilliant. They are very helpful on the phone, and goods have always arrived by return of post.

=====

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COMPANY WATCH

=====

**40 West Road
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Great Yarmouth
Norfolk
NR30 5BD**

Not all company faults are so obvious or certain as some you report, but they can be just as infuriating. Let me tell you about Comet.

In October I decided to buy an 8512, just after the price reduction. Not surprisingly, I had difficulty locating one, but after a week or so I found by phone that Comet had one at Norwich, 20 miles away. I went up on the following morning, a Saturday; the assistant, who knew nothing of computers, pointed out that the box was open and the printer had been used. In other circumstances, I would have hesitated but, pleased with finding one at last, I took it home. I assembled a D-I-Y table and, very late at night, tested the PCW - to find that the screen did not illuminate, though the drive lights did marvellous tricks (with no disc inserted).

On Monday morning I phoned Norwich service and was told I would have to bring it in to be returned to Amstrad for repair. I protested about the two round trips of 40 miles each for a machine I had not used, so was referred to the Yarmouth shop, two miles up the road. There an obliging assistant loaned me an old monitor to help out. On returning home, I found that the working monitor now revealed a non-working printer! I informed Comet and left it at that, knowing that they were to look for a sealed box.

I knew there were no 8512s about, so did not press until just before Christmas, when a phone call from me revealed that two boxes had been sent from other branches, though both were open. I agreed to wait till after the Christmas rush, and accordingly went along on Boxing Day. The shop was full - sales had started - but the assistant indicated that the cardboard insert was still in one drive, which encouraged me to make a swap. When I got home this time, my suspicions were aroused on finding a BASIC manual in the box - a long time since Amstrad included those! Sure enough, though the screen lit this time, the computer would not load. There followed another phone call and another trip to the shop (all this time foregoing a Christmas drink!) On Comet's premises we tested the remaining PCW; this one did not illuminate - it might even have been my first one coming round again. I took home the original loaned monitor, but this time with a working printer. Progress after two months!

It is now February 10th and I have heard no more. I still do not have the Amstrad I "bought" last October. What is worse I do not know who is to blame. Comet may be breaking their backs searching for one, but they haven't told me. On the other hand, they may have sat back and done nothing (though not the assistant at Yarmouth, the only contact I have had). It is very tempting to believe that all those three deficient models were known to be broken at some stage, but were just passed on to the other branches regardless. It is certainly true that Comet's head office should have bothered to tell me the situation. Nevertheless, I want an 8512, not a substitute 8256 or a refund of money. It seems I can do nothing but wait.

Brian Haylett

=====

COMPANY WATCH

=====

70 Argyle Road
London
W13 8EL

PCW MEMORY GUARD

I ordered the above item from Nabitchi Computing on December 19th last and my cheque was cleared on December 23rd.

Following non-delivery, I wrote to Nabitchi on January 13 and again on January 22. I have yet to receive the Memory Guard or even an acknowledgement of the order or either of my two letters.

Arnold Becker

=====

COMPANY WATCH UPDATE

=====

7 Harbour Street
Whitstable
Kent
CT5 1AG

I went to the Amstrad show and found that Silicon Systems are still trading, but they seem to have adopted PC type computers in preference to PCW products, as these were the only items at their stand.

However, they were able to offer me a single drive Uniface and the disk of software which I had ordered. Unfortunately, neither of these were in stock, and would have to be sent on after the show.

As the single drive Uniface is unsuitable, I declined that and obtained a cheque as a refund for that item. The disk of software I have left to them to send on.

It is possible that I will be more fortunate this time as the problems which I had were, apparently, the fault of some female who was said not to be with them any more.

Perhaps I gave up too soon, and should have sent Silicon systems a fourth, even a fifth, letter during December and January? Then I could, perhaps, have got one in after this female had left Silicon Systems.

J. Vickers

Editor: We never received anything from Rugby Micro Spares International. One member said he has used them and found them reliable so RMSI should have shown no fear and wrote back giving there story.

All of the companies who have been in this issue of 'Company Watch' will receive PCW File to enable them to have their say. The Memory Guard problem may be solved by the time you read it as I intend to get in touch with Nabitchi as soon as I can. If you have had any problems with companies please drop us a line so that we can try to help.

MANY OF YOU will now have realised that your PCW is more than just a word processor and you will probably have tried programming in Basic or maybe Logo. You may be surprised how many other languages there are available for the PCW. Many of these are in the public domain and can be obtained FREE. Most of these public domain compilers have the disadvantage that they are only subsets of the complete language, but they do at least let you try it so that you can buy a more complete implementation of the language if you find it useful.

The small C

I want to introduce one such compiler, the Small C compiler which is obtainable via the PD page of PCW FILE. C is a language much used for systems and applications programming on most computers, even PCWs although as a language for home computer enthusiasts it is less well known. It has the big advantage over BASIC in as much that programs run faster, though this is at the expense of ease of program entry and debugging.

Word counter

The best way to start is to go through a simple program line by line. Here is a program to count the number of words in an ASCII file.

```
#include crun2.lib
#include conio2.lib
#include file2.lib
#include numio2.lib
#define SPACE 0x20 /* Space */
#define CR 0x0d /* Carriage return */
#define LF 0x0a /* Line feed */
main()

char fname[20],a;
int fp,count,crlf,ch,space;

puts("Enter file name"); /* Prompt for filename */
gets(fname);
if (fp=fopen(fname,"r")==0) /* Open text file for reading */
    puts(" nFile opening error"); exit();
crlf=0; space=0; ch=0; count=0;
while (eof()==0)
    a=getc(fp); /* Read a character from the file */
    if (a==CR) if (getc(fp)==LF) crlf++;
    else if (a==SPACE) space++;
    else ch++; crlf=space=0;
    if (ch>0) if (crlf>0) count++; ch=0;
                else if (space>0) count++; ch=0;

putdec(count);
fclose(fp);
```

How it works

The program first prompts for file name, then opens the file for reading. It then initialises five character variables to zero. The next section is a loop which continues until end-of-file is reached. This loop takes a character from the input file, tests to see if it is a carriage return or a space. If it is neither, the variable `ch` is incremented. If it is a space, the variable `space` is incremented; if it is a carriage return, the program tests that the next character is a linefeed. If it is then the variable `crlf` is incremented. Every time a character is read which is not a space or a carriage return (ie the program is currently inside a word), the program tests to see if `space` or `crlf` are greater than zero (ie, if an end-of-word has been encountered). If it has, the word-count variable `count` is incremented.

And now the syntax

I will now go through the program to illustrate the syntax. The first 4 lines are to link the function libraries with the source file. `#include crun2.lib` adds the file containing the source of the library `crun2.lib` to the start of your program source. Libraries are collections of functions which perform commonly used operations. The library `crun2.lib` must be included in any small C program even if none of its functions are used. The other libraries are included when needed. `#define` is used to define constants which do not change throughout the program. By convention these are written in capitals. Incidentally, C is case sensitive, that is `sPace` is a different name from `space`. So `#define SPACE 0x20` defines `SPACE` to have the value hexadecimal `20`.

The line `main()` marks the start of the main program. C is a language based on functions, and the compiler thinks of the main program as a function hence the parentheses. Immediately after this is a left brace which is a delimiter showing the start of a program segment; at the end of the main program we have `.` Braces are a common feature of C programs and are used to delimit any segment of code. Comments (equivalent to Basic REMs) are written thus; `/* This is a comment */` and can appear anywhere in a program.

Next we have variable declarations. All variables must be declared in a C program. In small C they can be integer (`int`), character (`char`) or pointer. I will return to pointers in a later article. The floating point type is unfortunately not implemented in small C. In this program a character variable called `fname` is declared as an array with `20` elements: `(char fname [20])`. Note that all C statements, except function declarations and others which will become clear later, must end with a semi-colon.

The next 2 lines make use of functions in the supplied libraries; `puts()` writes a string (enclosed in `"`) to the screen, `gets()` takes a string from the keyboard. The second call of `puts()` a few lines down contains `n`, this simply inserts a linefeed, ie it prints the message on a new line. You enter the character `by` by pressing EXTRA and `½` together.

Next we have the familiar if statement but in a slightly different form from Basic. It takes the form: if (expression) If expression is true, the statements between the braces are executed, if not, control passes to the next statement. Note that the braces are not needed if only one statement is to be executed. If is one of those statements which is not followed by a semi-colon. If there are a number of alternatives to test, you can use the if...else construction;

```

if (expression1) ...
else if (expression2) ...
else ...

```

The first if expression in this program uses the function fopen() to open a file for reading. It assigns to variable fp, the return value of the function. It then tests whether this is equal to 0 using the operator ==. (This is to test whether the file has successfully opened). It is very important to distinguish between the assignment operator = and the equality operator ==, which is used to test for equality. One way to think of it is that = is an order whereas == is a question.

One form of loop is the while loop; while (expression) ... The loop is repeated until expression is not true. If expression is 1, the loop is repeated forever, if it is 0 it is never executed. There are ways of breaking out of loops which I will mention later. The expression used here is the return value from the function eof(), which returns 0 until the end of file is reached. Look at the program and see where the closing brace is for the statements within this loop. It is well worth while using a comment to mark the ends of complicated loops otherwise you can easily lose braces.

Note the use of constants defined in the preprocessor. Note also that preprocessor statements do not end with semi-colons. Apart from == you can also use < and > as testing operators. There are two other unusual operators which are unique to C and these are the increment ++ and decrement -- operators, thus count++ is equivalent to count=count+1 and count-- is equivalent to count=count-1, both of which are legal in C. This is a useful shorthand and is made more powerful by the fact there there is a difference between count++ and ++count. The first uses the current value of count and then increments it; the second increments first before using the value.

Using the program

Try typing in, compiling, assembling and running this program. To enter it, use the screen editor RPED which runs under Basic. You will find this on one of your CP/M discs. Call the program source file wc.c. Copy wc.c onto M: then compile (zsc m:wc), making sure that the library files are on the same disc side as zsc. This produces an assembler source file called wc.zsm. If there are no errors, insert the disk with the assembler (ZSM.COM) and type zsm m:wc. This will give a file called wc.hex. Copy this back to drive a: and run hexcom wc (hexcom is also on one of your CP/M system discs). This will give your executable file, wc.com. You can also create some text files to test the program using RPED.

SOFTWARE REVIEWS

Title : Hotshot
Type : Add-on utility program
S/W House : Not revealed! *(£34.95)
Reviewed by : Stuart Coverley

This program is designed to be added on to LocoScript 1.20 and cannot be used with LocoSpell or other versions. It takes up the top four lines of the screen and provides an address book, a diary, and a notebook. But is there any advantage in having these on disc rather than in book form?

Writers who make notes before committing pen to paper (or rather keyboard to disc!) can access these notes freely without having to exit from one LocoScript file to another. The diary gives maximum space per page and can be updated and printed out for the month or week ahead; you only have the choice of one page or all but can stop the printer at the appropriate moment.

From the address book it is possible to copy straight into a letter. For sticky labels I have set up an address file on each LocoScript disc that is used for typing letters and this is then copied to the M drive. The process is simple once you have worked it out (the manual itself is unhelpful) though the computer goes through a number of convoluted routines before the words appear. You leave the cursor in the LocoScript document where you require the insert, press two keys to gain access to Hotshot, find your place with the excellent rapid FIND feature and then just press COPY.

The built-in calculator is able to set formulae to give rapid repeat calculations. This is well explained in the manual. The calendar gives days and dates from 1592, when the Gregorian calendar was introduced, up to the year 9999. There is also a facility to encode and decode LocoScript documents using your own password of up to 32 characters in length. This could be helpful if the information you are storing comes under the Data Protection Act.

A simple word counter is also included, one of the features missing from LocoScript itself. If you wish to use the address book or diary for special purposes you can keep separate versions on different discs but you must remember to save any new material before finally exiting from the program.

I find this a very useful program, especially the clock and alarm feature which I use when I get deep into word processing and lose track of time. My only quibble is with the price and the presentation. The program comes on an ordinary Amstrad disc with HOTSHOT written in with a black felt tip pen. The manual is computer produced and photocopied on twelve pages that occasionally are lacking in explanation.

Range of Features	5/5	Obtained from 8000 Plus magazine
Ease of use	5/5	The Old Barn, Somerton TA11 7PY
Performance	5/5	
Documentation	3/5	* Price quoted £34.95
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YES Chancellor!

a **business simulation**
by Tom Tuite

Have you ever thought you could run things better than the Government? Why do they/don't they control inflation, cut taxes, keep interest rates low, spend more on social services, get tough with strikers, meet reasonable wage claims, and so on? YES, CHANCELLOR gives you the chance to try your hand at tackling these problems...

Based on a simplified but in principle correct model of the problem of raising and using money - your money - YES CHANCELLOR is a game about the management of that money - and about politics in a democratic society. Governments have to be elected. So the object of the game is to stay in power by winning an election every five years. Will you follow Labour, Alliance or Conservative policies? Regular public opinion polls help you see how you are doing - and you are bound to get some criticism from the Treasury and the Press!

Random numbers are used to reflect the uncertainties of the real world, but these are kept within the boundaries of probability so that all program developments follow general economic laws and are logically tied to your decisions. Success is only possible if you make the kind of responsible decisions necessary in real life. The program offers four levels of difficulty. Author TOM TUITE recommends that you start on Level 1 so that you can find out how the program works before you are thrown out of office!

Which Office? Why, the Chancellor's, of course. The key to Number 11 Downing Street is yours!

Included with the pack is a 12-page booklet designed to take you through the program step by step, each 'step' being either a decision that you have to make, or feedback in the form of numerical statistics and/or histograms. The booklet is carefully organised to follow these steps, and includes notes on terminology, discussions of factors that you should take into account when considering decisions, and of the many and varied statistics presented. It concludes with a brief discussion of more complex aspects of the program.

YES CHANCELLOR was originally published by Chalksoft Ltd, and has been a great success in British secondary schools and universities. TOM TUITE is an economics graduate of London University. As a former senior official of the Inland Revenue, he has had wide experience of both the nitty-gritty and policy sides of taxation, being awarded the CBE in 1977. He has written a book and occasional articles on technical aspects of taxation, and does regular selection interviewing for the tax inspectorate.

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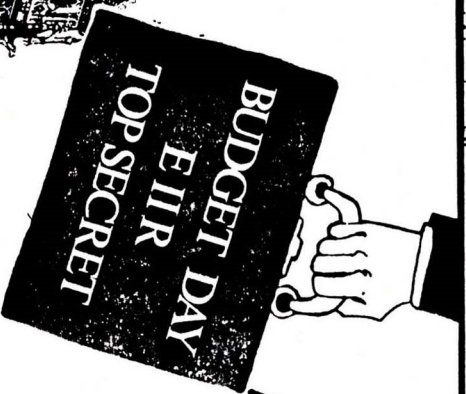
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MASTER SOFTWARE

Chiefs: Micro Supplies have announced the case of six programs for the new

Basic Principles of Microeconomics: Demand and Supply and Competition
By Mike Baresby
BBC disc £19.50 + VAT
AVP Computing, Com 5/6, Hocker Hill House, Chesham, Great.

Yes Chancellor
By Tom Tuttle
£17.50 BBC disc



Can you run the country as well as the man in No. 11?

Basic principles

David Whitehead on economics

Designed to be used either by individual students or by groups, these programs will complement the standard teacher or textbook exposition. While not going beyond orthodox treatment, they at least encourage students to think creatively.

Yes Chancellor is billed as an amusing and realistic management simulation game for ages 11 and over. The description which is given in the program is "a game from 'Maggie' to the Chancellor, and from him/her accompanied by the clatter of typing in the background: no wordprocessor at Number 10? Then Big Ben chimes. Despite these clichés, the program is quite amusing, and does have some economics pay-offs.

The variables in the economic model are linked by a set of equations and random numbers which, according to the author, reflect economic principles combined with the unpredictable events of the real world. Tom Tuttle, a former civil servant in the Inland Revenue, covers himself by suggesting to teachers that there is much, or more, to be learned from picking holes in the program as from playing the game witticrally.

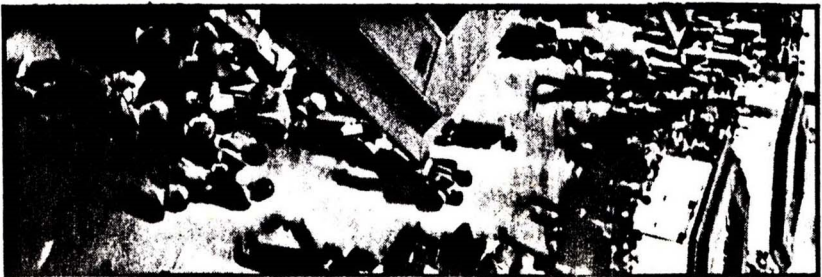
One decision involves deciding whether to grant workers their desired pay increase or to hold out in order to reduce inflation. I experimented with a six per cent pay offer, which resulted in a strike for some eight decision rounds. However, eventually the strike collapsed and I won 300 votes! Nevertheless, my economy collapsed with stagflation after four years and my govern-

ment had to resign. Participants also have to decide on the level of taxation, what to borrow and details of the annual budget. The level of interest rates has to be manipulated, and the government must decide what aid to give the industry.

The teacher's notes provide some useful hints on how students might be encouraged to pursue a particular strategy consistently. In order to investigate its long term effects. Alternatively, they might implement unpopular decisions at the start and then be more generous as an election approaches. Intensive class use of this simulation would enable teachers to capitalise on its merits.

I studied *Stock Market Speculator* with a microcomputer expert, who agreed with me that it was unclear how to operate it. Perhaps confirmed Sinclair Spectrum buffs would know what keys to press without being told, but I would have been lost without my specialist guide. My first task was to "select initial persona" - rather inappropriate language for the "absolute beginner" at whom the program is aimed. The user has to buy and sell shares, and respond to financial news and trends, involving 48 companies from which a portfolio may be developed.

I found the program very frustrating, and not nearly as much fun as the non-computerized Stock Exchange Game played with a committee of pupil speculators in the 1960s. Neither of course taught much economics: just an empathetic appreciation of what it must be like to make money in a world where mistakes cost nothing.



REVIEW

