Script
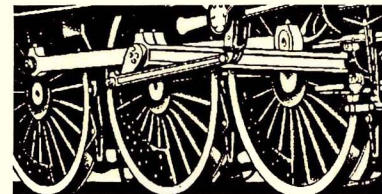
THE LOCOSCRIPT NEWSLETTER

This issue of *Script* is mainly devoted to the very latest version of LocoScript 2. The new version includes a number of features as a direct result of your requests – including some special features for disabled users. All the new facilities are outlined in the News pages, and we've included follow-up articles explaining how to use some of them.

You've always been able to use a sheet feeder with LocoScript, but now we've provided better support for sheet feeders. We explain the special options to handle sheet feeders on page 4.

In the LocoSpell article that follows, we look at some new options we've introduced for maintaining user dictionaries. There are a number of uses to which you can put these new features and we've added our own suggestions.

Up to now, Ancient Greek scholars have had to improvise to produce the breathing marks which are so much a part of classical Greek. With the release of the latest version, LocoScript can support Greek breathing marks, along with some extra characters. The article on the new characters explains what they are and how to type them.

The final article in this issue continues our series on LocoFile. This month we look at how to combine two LocoFile datafiles – even if they're different. Although the article looks in detail at combining name and address files, we give the pointers you'll need to adapt the instructions to your own files. Like many of the more "mechanical" things you can do to a LocoFile datafile, this procedure also involves the use of LocoMail.

The Letters pages include some feedback on our series of articles for writers. We were to have concluded this series this month but we decided to hold over the last article until the next issue to give us space to announce the new LocoScript features.

As it's nearly the end of the *Script* year, the cover sheet with your mailing label is a resubscription form. How to resubscribe is explained in *PostScript*.

Contents

News

New LocoScript Features

The latest version of LocoScript includes a number of new features – in fact, more new features than in any version since the release of LocoScript 2 itself! As with all recent releases of LocoScript 2, the version you need depends on which model of PCW you have – version 2.28 is for the PCW8256 and 8512 and version 2.29 is for the PCW9512.

• *Single finger typing and large characters*

For some time now we've been receiving requests to make typing easier for disabled LocoScript users who find it difficult to press more than one key at a time – for example pressing ALT together with a function key to change to a different "supershift". We've also heard from other users who find the PCW's screen difficult to read.

With the new version, we've introduced options to LocoScript which go some way to solving these problems – "Sticky shift keys" and "Large edit characters". These have been added to the Disc Manager's f8 Options menu.

If you select the Sticky shift keys option, then whenever you press SHIFT, EXTRA or ALT LocoScript will wait for your next keystroke and then pretend that you pressed the two keys together. Of course if the next thing you press is another of these keys, LocoScript waits for the next keystroke as well and treats them all as pressed together.

So, for example, if you want to go to the beginning of a document (ALT + SHIFT + DOC), press ALT then SHIFT then DOC.

The keen-witted among you will notice that in order to select sticky shift keys you first have to press two keys at once to bring up the Options menu – SHIFT and f7 – which is just the sort of action for which you need sticky shift keys! So we've provided an alternative way of selecting Sticky shift keys: simply hold down the Shift key whilst LocoScript 2 is loading and it will start up with this feature selected.

Selecting Large edit characters causes LocoScript documents to be displayed with characters twice as high and twice as wide as normal (see below).

Unfortunately, it has not proved practical to blow up the menus, information lines or LocoFile cards in the same way.

• *Full support for ancient Greek . . .*

We have received many letters from academics, theologians, and other Greek scholars who find LocoScript 2's support of Greek vastly superior to other word processors – but still not good enough for their studies.

What was missing was breathing marks and a number of archaic characters, such as the sampi, the lunate sigma and iota subscript.

Well, now we've catered for these users too! With LocoScript 2.28 you can now print these ancient Greek characters on the PCW8256/8512 built-in printer.
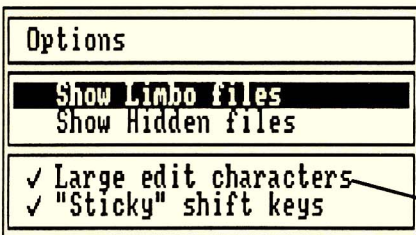
Of course, LocoScript 2.29 provides the new characters for PCW9512s too. However, since Amstrad doesn't make an ancient Greek print wheel, 9512 owners won't be able to print the new characters unless they have a 24 pin printer and the latest version of our 24 Pin Printer Drivers Disc (or one of the new LocoFont 24 discs).

• . . . *and modern Greek*

There's also an advantage for users who write in modern Greek. Previously we've supported only the Monotoniko Systima script for modern Greek, which only retained a single accent. Now

---

```
B: group 0/LARGE     .        Editing text.                    Printer idle. Using   B:M:
Layout      1 PiPS  LS1   CR+0  LP6                                 Page     1 line  1/48
f1=Actions      f2=Layout      f3=Style      f4=Size     f5=Page    f7=Spell   f8=Options  EXIT
0|.....|.....|.....1.....|.....|.....2.....|.....|.....3.....|.....|.....4.....|.....
```

Dear Sir,↵
↵
(+UL)Re: Account Number 77649923(-UL)↵
↵
It may have been brought to your attention
overdrawn on a few occasions in the past mo
electricity bill to pay, I fear that this u
again.↵

```
┌─────────────────────────────────────┐
│ Options                             │
├─────────────────────────────────────┤
│ Show Limbo files                    │
│ Show Hidden files                   │
├─────────────────────────────────────┤
│ ✓ Large edit characters             │
│ ✓ "Sticky" shift keys               │
└─────────────────────────────────────┘
```

modern Greek can be printed with breathing marks too.

There's an article on page 8 giving all the details of the new characters, accents and breathings – and the changes adding these makes to the keyboard layouts.

• Using a sheet feeder with LocoScript

There are new features for controlling sheet feeders too. Version 2.28 introduces special support for sheet feeders on third party printers attached to a PCW8256 or 8512. Version 2.29 extends this support to include the 9512's daisywheel printer – for which Amstrad have just launched a sheet feeder.

Previously you had to lie to LocoScript about the paper type you were using with a sheet feeder – in particular, you had to pretend it was continuous stationery. Now there are special options in LocoScript's printer menus to handle sheet feeders.

There's an article on page 4 which gives more details, both of the support we give sheet feeders and of the Amstrad sheet feeder.

New LocoSpell

Along with the new version of LocoScript we've enhanced LocoSpell. We will gradually be introducing this as the standard version of LocoSpell and if you buy any product that comes with the 2.28 version of the Installation Program for PCW8256/8512s, this will update an existing LocoSpell to have the new features. (For the 9512, the new LocoSpell is supplied on any master disc that includes LocoScript 2.29.)

The new features are designed to make it easy to keep your user dictionaries up to date – you can convert a list of words into a user dictionary or convert a user dictionary into a LocoScript document. With the new facilities it's easy to combine user dictionaries, edit them, or even print them out.

As well as the functions we intended the new features to be used for, there are other ways that they can be applied.

You can, for example, now spell check an entire document, putting all unknown words straight into a user dictionary. This is handy if you know that there will be many specialist words, or if you want to the spelling checker simply to count the words in the document.

There's an article on page 6 which explains how the new facilities work and how to use them to best effect – including some ingenious applications which have nothing to do with spell checking!

LocoChar

In the last issue of *Script* we mentioned we had produced an improved version of the LocoChar character design program for PCW8256s and 8512s. What we failed to do was make it clear how to get hold of the new program.

We should have said that the new LocoChar is supplied on all discs containing version 2.28 (and later versions) of the LocoScript Installation Program. So if you want to get the new go-faster program, ask for the 2.28 Upgrade Disc (at £14.95).

LocoSpell, LocoMail, LocoFile, LocoFont (sets 1 and 2), the Printer Drivers Disc, the 24 Pin Printer Drivers Disc and the Keyboards Disc all come with an Installation Program. So if you

buy version 2.28 or later of one of these products you'll get the new LocoChar automatically.

At the time of writing all products supplied by Locomotive are the new versions, but if you're buying through a dealer, it's advisable to check that you will be supplied with the latest version.

LocoFont 24: the Display Set

By the time this issue of *Script* is printed, the second set of LocoFont 24 typestyles for 24 pin printers should be in production. (In fact not that long after the first set, because of some delays in printing the documentation.)

The Display Set of LocoFont 24 typestyles gives high quality versions of the more ornate LocoFont typestyles: Script, Old English, Penman, Deco and Copper Plate. Like the other LocoFont 24 typestyles, to use these fonts you'll also need a suitable 24 pin printer plus the 24 Pin Printer Drivers Disc.

Just as for the PCW8256/8512's built-in printer, the new typestyles give the full range of LocoScript 2 characters in a matching style – except for Old English, where the Greek and Cyrillic characters are not available.

New LocoFile User Guide

We've expanded the LocoFile User Guide, in particular, to include more information about using LocoMail with LocoFile. If you already have the LocoFile User Guide, you can purchase the new one at a special price – see the box on page 12 for more details.

New support for sheet feeders

Up to now, anyone using a sheet feeder to feed paper into their printer had to pretend to LocoScript that they were using continuous stationery. They also had to set special Top and Bottom Gaps to adjust for the difference between the actual position of the paper when loaded and where LocoScript expected the paper to be.

Such manoeuvres are no longer necessary because the new version of LocoScript 2 includes specific support for sheet feeders.

Paper fed into a printer from a sheet feeder needs special handling because it is in a sense both single sheet and continuous. The paper itself is supplied as single sheets but, like continuous stationery, there is no need to wait for a fresh sheet of paper to be loaded at the end of each page because the sheet feeder automatically loads this for you.

In the past, we told you to think of paper fed from a sheet feeder as continuous. The advantage of doing this was that you wouldn't have to clear 'Waiting for paper' before starting each new page.

But this strategy wasn't ideal for two reasons. Firstly, it meant you had to set up a special Paper Type describing your paper as continuous, purely for use when the paper was fed in from the sheet feeder. Secondly, the Top and Bottom Gaps in this Paper Type had to be fiddled to adjust for the difference in the way real continuous stationery and single sheet stationery are fed into a printer.

```
Options for D630

Printer width    132
Top of form line   7
✓ Sheet feeder

Interface options
✓ CPS 8256 Parallel
  CPS 8256 Serial
```

The new version of LocoScript 'understands' sheet feeders. With this version of LocoScript, you don't need any special Paper Type and you certainly don't need to fiddle the Top and Bottom Gaps.

You simply use the standard Paper Type for the type of paper you will be using and tell LocoScript that you will be using a sheet feeder to load this paper by selecting some new printer options.

This article describes how the new system works.

New printer options

The key to using a sheet feeder with the new version of LocoScript are a couple of new 'Printer options' – Sheet feeder and Top of form line – which have been added both to the f8 Printer Options in Printer Control State and to the Printer Options section of the f6 Settings menu.

The Sheet feeder option lets you specify whether you will be using a sheet feeder or not. When this option is ticked, LocoScript expects single sheet stationery, fed in via a sheet feeder. When it is not ticked, LocoScript expects the paper either to be continuous stationery or to be single sheets fed in by hand.

Top of form line records where the printer will be ready to print immediately after a piece of single sheet paper has been loaded, whether by hand or from a sheet feeder. Whenever single sheet paper is loaded, part of the paper is automatically fed through past the printhead. So instead of the printer being ready to print right at the top of the page, the printer is left ready to print a short distance down the page – typically about an inch (though in some printers the distance is less than this).

Like all measurements down the page, LocoScript looks at this distance in terms of counting 6-pitch lines down the page, starting with Line 1 right at the very top. So leaving the printer about an inch down the page is recorded as leaving the printer ready to print on Line 7.

In general, all you will need to do is to ensure that Sheet feeder is ticked when you want to use paper from the sheet feeder and cleared when you don't. LocoScript automatically sets the Top of Form line to Line 7, which is right for many printers, and so you will only have to change this if you find after printing a couple of sheets that your text is placed either too high or too low on the page.

(There is a standard procedure to follow when you need to find out what the Top of Form line setting should be: this is given in the box on the next page.)

New procedure

The most efficient way of using the sheet feeder under the new system depends on whether the sheet feeder will be permanently attached to your printer or whether you will be chopping and changing between using the feeder and feeding paper through the printer in other ways. This is indeed why the new printer options appear in two different menus.

A sheet feeder for the 9512

Amstrad has just brought out a sheet feeder for the PCW9512's built-in daisy-wheel printer. This is supplied with both LocoScript v2.29 (so that it can be used from LocoScript) and with a new version of CP/M which also handles this sheet feeder. New versions of the CP/M utilities that work with the built-in printer – DAISY, MATRIX and PAPER – are also supplied.

The ASF9512 package is understood to be £99 + VAT, but you may be able to get it cheaper than that by shopping around.

Full details of the ASF9512 sheet feeder can be obtained by contacting Amstrad Customer Services at Fleet House, River Way, Harlow, Essex (tel: 0279 454555).

Please note that the ASF9512 is purely for the PCW9512's built-in printer. There are not, as far as we know, any plans to bring out a version for the PCW8256/8512's printer.

... *if the feeder is always used*

If the sheet feeder is permanently attached to a printer, using the sheet feeder becomes very easy.

What you do in this case is record the fact that you use a sheet feeder with this printer in your Settings file. You do this by selecting Sheet feeder (and setting any special Top of Form setting you need) in the new extended Printer options menu in f6 Settings.

With the sheet feeder recorded in the Settings file, simply selecting the printer also selects the Sheet feeder option and sets the correct Top of Form line. This removes the need for you to check that the Sheet feeder option is selected, which in turn means there are no longer any extra steps to take when you want to use this printer: simply select the printer and print.
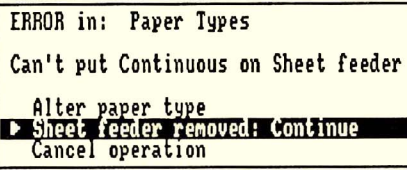
... *when chopping and changing*

If you expect to use the sheet feeder only some of the time, then it is basically up to you to ensure that the Sheet feeder option is selected when you need it and cleared when you don't – though LocoScript does help.

So before you print anything using the sheet feeder, you need to pop into Printer Control State and check that the second Information line is showing the name of the correct printer and that Sheet feeder is also displayed on this line. If necessary, use the f5 Printer menu to select the correct printer; then use the f8 Options menu and the ⊞ key to select the Sheet feeder option. (You should also set any special Top of Form setting you use in this menu.)

Similarly, when you want to use the printer without the sheet feeder, you should pop into Printer Control State again – this time to ensure that the Sheet feeder setting in the f8 Options menu is cleared.

One way LocoScript helps is by making it unnecessary to go into Printer Control State to clear the Sheet feeder option unless the next thing you want to do is to feed single sheet stationery through the printer. If you want to print a document on continuous stationery, all you actually need to do is to select the new type of paper. LocoScript 'knows' that you cannot use continuous stationery in a sheet feeder and so responds with an Alert message saying that you're trying to use continuous stationery in your sheet feeder.

Simply take the option that says that the sheet feeder has been removed and continue. Depending on your printer, you might not have to remove the sheet feeder!

```
ERROR in: Paper Types
Can't put Continuous on Sheet feeder
  Alter paper type
▶ Sheet feeder removed: Continue
  Cancel operation
```

Another thing that may save you time, particularly if you expect to use the sheet feeder whenever you want to print on single sheet stationery, is to record the sheet feeder in the Settings file (as if you were attaching the feeder permanently). The advantage of doing this is that the simple action of selecting this printer automatically selects the sheet feeder and the correct Top of Form setting.

The possible drawback is that you will have to remember that LocoScript initially expects to use the sheet feeder. If the first thing you want to do is print on continuous, all will be well because you will get the 'Can't use continuous' message but there's no such protection if you want to print on hand-fed headed notepaper. However, the worst that can happen is that, instead of waiting for you to loadthis paper, LocoScript goes ahead and prints on whatever stationery happens to be loaded in the printer.

By the way, the new Alert message we've shown you here also pops up in other places, for example to warn you that you have selected the sheet feeder on your current printer but the current paper is continuous stationery. In this case, take the option to Alter paper type. This puts you straight into a Paper Type menu, so that you can set a new current Paper Type: there's no need to go to a different menu to set this separately.

Document settings

It is when you come to thinking about the paper type details that you will need in your documents that the new support for sheet feeders really scores, because there is no longer any need to set up documents specially for the sheet feeder. Exactly the same settings are needed in the document whether you want to print on A4 paper fed in by hand or on A4 paper fed in from your sheet feeder.

The only difference that the sheet feeder makes is that the Paper Type you select must describe single sheet stationery (though in some cases, you may be limited in your choice of single sheet stationery by what the sheet feeder itself can handle).

If you have been using your sheet feeder under the old system, transferring to the new system will of course mean changing the paper details in some of your documents. At least, we assume you will want to throw away the pseudo-continuous Paper Type that you have been using to describe the paper in your sheet feeder – and replace it by a perfectly normal single sheet Paper Type!

Determining the correct Top of Form line

Any single sheet stationery fed into a printer is left with the printer ready to print a short distance down the page. This distance is recorded as the Top of Form line.

In most cases, the Top of Form line that LocoScript automatically sets will give you the right results. But if you find that your text is being printed either too high up or too low down on the page, then you may need to set a different Top of Form line. (There are, of course, other reasons why the text should be higher or lower on the page than you expect – in particular, you may simply have forgotten how large a Top Gap you set or you may have set up a header that overflows your Header Zone, pushing the rest of the text down the page.)

You can find out the line to set as follows:

➤ With LocoScript set up to use the sheet feeder and the stationery you use in this printer, press PTR to go into Printer Control State.

➤ Use the f3 Paper menu to change the Current Paper Type so that it has a Top Gap of 0 (see 'Setting up the printer for a chosen Paper Type' in the session of the LocoScript Tutorial that looks at using different types of paper).

➤ Then, still within Printer Control State, display the f1 Actions menu and select Feed to top of form and press ENTER. LocoScript then loads a fresh sheet of paper from the sheet feeder.

➤ Exit from this menu, Exit from Printer Control State and then use Direct Printing to print a line of underlines.

➤ Take the paper out, measure from the top of the paper to the line of underlines (in inches), multiply by 6 and round to the nearest whole number. This will tell you the Top of Form setting you need.

➤ Set this figure in the f8 Options menu in Printer Control State (and as a default printer option in the f6 Settings menu).

New spelling checker features

With the release of LocoScript v2.28 (see News pages) we've also brought out an improved version of LocoSpell with some new features that will allow you to maintain your user dictionaries more easily – including combining and even printing them.

In this article we give some idea of how to put the new facilities to good use.

The new version of LocoSpell contains two new features – one that lets you automatically add the 'unknown' words in a document to your User dictionary, and another that lets you insert user dictionaries into documents.

Used on their own, these are pretty powerful features allowing you to create user dictionaries from specialised word lists or to print out all the words in a user dictionary. Used together, these two features can, for example, combine user dictionaries, update user dictionaries when you change over to a different system dictionary or 'tidy up' (and therefore speed up) system dictionaries to which you have added a number of User dictionaries.

This article looks at a range of possible applications for the new features, but first a closer look at the features themselves.

Automatic addition

The first feature we shall look at is called Automatic addition. This automatically adds to your user dictionary any words that aren't already in either the system dictionary or the user dictionary itself.

The chief reason for introducing this option was to give you an easy way to pull all the words from specialised word lists into a user dictionary. Up to now, the only way of doing this was to patiently spell check the whole document, selecting Add to user dictionary each time LocoSpell stopped at a word it didn't recognise. This certainly gave you the results you wanted but, as any of you who tried would know, it was extremely tedious to do.

The new option is available in the f7 Spell menu and to use it you just have to edit the document containing the words you want, press f7 to display the Spell menu, select Automatic addition and press ENTER. LocoSpell then checks through the whole document and any words it doesn't recognise get automatically picked out to add to the user dictionary.

```
All of document
Just forwards from here
Single word

User dictionary upkeep
▶ Automatic addition
```

At the end of the document, the usual summary appears telling you how many words were checked and how many have been added to the user dictionary.

Insert dictionary

The new option to insert a dictionary is really just an extension of an existing feature – the Insert text option in the f1 Actions menu. With LocoScript/LocoSpell 2.28 you can now use Insert text to insert a user dictionary into a LocoScript document, giving you an alphabetical list of all the words in the user dictionary – one on each line of the document.

```
A: group 0/TOWNS       . Editing text.
Layout      1 Pi12  LS1  CR+0  LP6
f1=Actions    f2=Layout    f3=Style    f4=
0........1.........2.........3.........4
        aylesbury
        doncaster
        durham
        edinburgh
        manchester
        salford
        salisbury
        taunton
        yeovil
```

The steps are simply the usual ones for Inserting text – edit the document, position the cursor, press f1 to display the Actions menu, select Insert text, press ENTER etc. etc.. The only difference is that instead of picking out a document when the Disc Manager screen is displayed, you pick out a user dictionary.

The user dictionaries that you can insert in this way aren't just the ones that you have as separate USERSPEL.DCT files on your disc. You can also insert user dictionaries that you have appended to system dictionaries. To put the contents of these dictionaries into your document, just carry out the same steps as before but instead of picking out a USERSPEL.DCT file, pick out the relevant system dictionary instead. You won't get all 80,000 words or whatever of this dictionary inserted into your document but you will get the contents of any user dictionaries that have been appended to it, each as a separate alphabetical list.

Applications

These two new LocoSpell features have a range of uses, from simply producing lists of the words in your user dictionaries to combining dictionaries and generating glossaries. The following are just a selection of the possible applications for the new features.

❶ Dictionaries from word lists

Automatic addition makes creating a user dictionary direct from a list of words supplied by someone else very easy. Indeed, this is precisely the application that we had in mind in developing this option.

All you need is the list of words as a LocoScript document. (If it is currently in some other form, simply get the person whose word list it is to convert it to an ASCII file, then insert this ASCII file into a LocoScript document.) Once you have the appropriate LocoScript document, just select Automatic addition from the Spell menu. LocoSpell then picks out all the words it doesn't recognise and adds them to your user dictionary.

However, before you rush ahead and do this, we recommend checking that the words will get added to the right user dictionary – particularly if you want the words to be put in a new dictionary. LocoSpell goes to some lengths to find a user dictionary to use if none is immediately to hand. So before you start adding the words, it is worth using the User dictionary upkeep option in the f7 Spell menu to see what words the

current user dictionary contains or whether it is just an 'empty dictionary'.

You should also note that any user dictionaries you create in this way will not be used as efficiently as a system dictionary. We have compressed and indexed the system dictionaries supplied with LocoSpell so they take up a relatively small amount of disc space and are fast to look up. User dictionaries aren't compressed and indexed – so if, for example, you use the new features to create an Esperanto dictionary, don't expect it to be fast or small!

❷ *Printing user dictionaries*

Printing a user dictionary is the obvious application for the new Insert dictionary feature.

All you do is create a new blank document, select `Insert text` from the Actions menu, select the user dictionary you want to print, then save and print the resulting document.

The result is that you get is a printed list of the words in the dictionary, in perfect alphabetical order – each word starting on a new line.

❸ *Updating user dictionaries*

If you started creating a user dictionary while you were using one of smaller system dictionaries, this dictionary could well contain a number of words that are in the 80,000-word dictionary you are now using. Such duplicates are a complete waste of space and the new features allow you to clear them out.

What you do is a combination of the actions described above. You start by using the Insert dictionary procedure to put all the words in the current version of the user dictionary into a new blank document. You then make sure that LocoSpell is looking at an 'empty' user dictionary, before using Automatic addition to pull the unknown words from this list into a new user dictionary.

The result is a new user dictionary free of any duplicates between it and the system dictionary that you now use.

❹ *Combining user dictionaries*

A similar procedure can be used to combine user dictionaries – but instead of just inserting one user dictionary into your blank document, insert all the dictionaries that you want to combine into this document. Alternatively, insert each user dictionary into its own document and spell check each in turn using the Automatic addition option. Either way, the result is the same – a single user dictionary containing the words from each of the individual user dictionaries.

Combining dictionaries in this way has a definite advantage over the other way they can be combined which is by appending them in turn to the system dictionary. The new technique only adds each word to the combined dictionary once, so any duplicates between the various dictionaries are automatically cleared out. When you add separate user dictionaries to a system dictionary, any duplicates remain.

❺ *Unattended word count*

Whilst LocoSpell provides a word count facility for LocoScript, some people would prefer it if they didn't have to stop at each misspelt word when all they wanted was to count the words. Now you don't.

Simply select `Automatic addition` from the f7 Spell menu and LocoSpell will work through the whole document without stopping. When it has finished, it will give the number of words in the document in the usual summary LocoSpell displays at the end of any spell check.

```
LocoSpell finishing

Words checked:                     592
Words added to user dictionary:     11

▶ OK
```
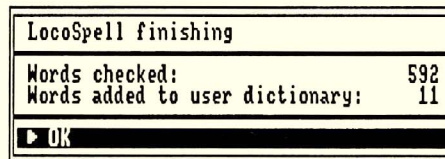
One thing to note about using this procedure is that it is good idea to make sure that you don't have a current User Dictionary before you start as any misspelt words will be added automatically. Not a good idea!

❻ *Tidying up system dictionaries*

Adding user dictionaries to your system dictionary allows you to use a number of different specialised dictionaries at the same time but, unfortunately, the process of checking words gets slower the more dictionaries you add. LocoSpell is faster when there's only a single appended user dictionary.

The new LocoSpell features help here too, by allowing you to create one single dictionary out of all these separate dictionaries.

Again, the technique is just like one used to update a user dictionary, only this time what you insert into the new blank document is the system dictionary with all the appended user dictionaries. This gives you the contents of all the appended user dictionaries, each as a separate alphabetical list. (If you want to remove any of the words, we suggest you do this now by deleting them from this document.)

When you use Automatic addition on this document, what you get is a single user dictionary containing all the words from the individual dictionaries, but cleared of any duplicates. Append this to a fresh copy of the original unadulterated system dictionary (as supplied on your Master disc) and you get a new special system dictionary with all the same words but much leaner and fitter than the old one!
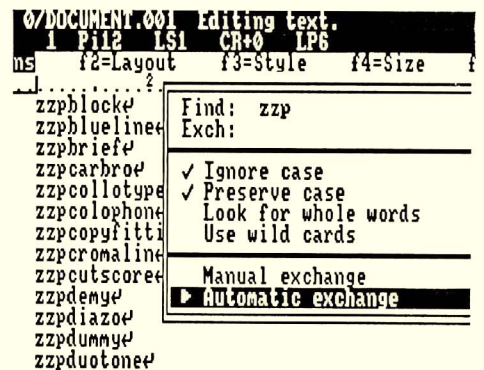
❼ *Generating a Glossary*

The new features (plus a little lateral thinking) give you a way of producing a glossary of the words used in a document, automatically sorted into alphabetical order for you.

When you have the final version of the document, take a copy of it. Then edit the document and put a prefix on all words you want to add to the glossary. Choose a prefix such that the fully prefixed words created are gibberish – zzp for example.

Now run Automatic addition from the Spell menu and LocoSpell will create in your user dictionary an alphabetic list of these nonsense words. It's the nonsense prefix that ensures they aren't in the dictionary!

Then create a new document and use Insert text from the f1 menu to insert the user dictionary. You'll immediately notice if there are any real misspellings as they'll be at the front (unless you misspelled a word after zzp in the alphabet!): use `CUT` to get rid of these lines. Finally, use Exchange again to get rid of all the zzp prefixes.

```
07/DOCUMENT.001  Editing text.
  1  Pi12  LS1     CR+0    LP6
ns      f2=Layout    f3=Style    f4=Size  f
...:....?..
  zzpblocke      ┌Find:  zzp
  zzpblueline     Exch:
  zzpbriefe
  zzpcarbro      ✓ Ignore case
  zzpcollotype   ✓ Preserve case
  zzpcolophon      Look for whole words
  zzpcopyfitti     Use wild cards
  zzpcromaline
  zzpcutscore      Manual exchange
  zzpdemye      ▶ Automatic exchange
  zzpdiazoe
  zzpdummye
  zzpduotonee
```

You will then have a list of the selected words in your document, sorted into alphabetical order.

New Characters

Ever since we brought out LocoScript 2 with characters to support almost every European language, we have been under pressure to provide more. In particular, we have often been asked to provide Greek breathing marks.

With the new version of LocoScript, we have responded to these requests and have added not only breathing marks but a wide range of exotic characters such as the ancient Greek sampi, alternative forms of d hacek and t hacek, and the dot below accent used in transcriptions of Hebrew, Syriac and other non-Latin scripts.

This article introduces the new characters and explains what you need to do in order to use them.

When we designed LocoScript 2, we wanted to make it a multi-national product and so we put in the characters to support as many of the languages used in Europe as possible. The trouble, as far as linguists and other academics were concerned, was that this went a long way towards them being able to type texts in historical languages but not quite far enough. In particular, any attempt to reproduce traditional or ancient Greek text was foiled by being unable to type any breathing marks. So they wrote to us.

The new characters we've added in LocoScript v2.28 are basically for linguists and academics. To enable them to type traditional Greek and ancient Greek, we have added breathing marks, an alternative form of the greek circumflex, vowels with iota subscripts and a range of specialised characters used in ancient times to write numbers. To help transliterate Hebrew, Syriac and other non-Latin scripts, we have added a 'dot below' accent, while for Czechs and Slovaks, we have added the alternative forms of d hacek and t hacek.

A full list of the new characters is shown at the top of the next page.

The new characters are an integral part of LocoScript and can automatically be displayed on the screen, but typing them and printing them requires new versions of some of the support files. In particular, in order to type the new characters you need a new set of keyboard layouts with the new characters added to the keyboard and various other changes made in order to accommodate the new characters. The new keyboard layouts are automatically supplied with the new version of LocoScript. However, you only have to use these layouts if you update to the new version from versions of LocoScript before v2.12: if you have v2.12 or later and you aren't interested in typing any of the new characters, you can keep your current keyboard layouts and ignore the new characters. How this is arranged is described below. But first, some more about the new characters themselves.

Breathing marks

Breathing marks indicate whether vowels need to be aspirated or not. There are two forms of these marks: a rough breathing mark and a smooth breathing mark.

Breathing marks are written above the vowels they affect in the same way as accents, so it seemed sensible to handle breathing marks as accents. However, breathing marks aren't just used on their own: they can be also used with acute, grave and circumflex accents, creating a sort of double accent – something that LocoScript is not built to handle.

So what we have done is to add a total of 10 new accents specifically to cater for breathing marks – the rough and smooth breathing marks on their own, and in combination with each of the accents they might be used with. These new accents have been added alongside the existing range of accents on the Extra keyboard (that is, the range of characters typed when EXTRA is held down as the keys are pressed) and they are used just like any LocoScript accent. To put a breathing mark (or a breathing mark plus an accent) on a character, you just need to press the key combination for the breathing mark and then type the character.

One thing to note about the breathing marks is that they have been designed to be placed on lower case vowels only. Since the breathing marks on capital letters are placed before the letter this is not a serious restriction. But if you were to place the breathing marks on other characters, they might touch the character and look unattractive.

Ancient Greek

LocoScript 2 previously made no attempt to cater for ancient Greek, but having added breathing marks, we were half way there. So we have also added nine special 'ancient Greek' characters to the Greek Super Shift, together with a 'dot below' accent which can be used to mark unclear letters in reproductions of ancient texts.

Some of these special characters – Digamma, Qoppa (or Koppa) and Lunate Sigma – were used as letters of the alphabet (W, Q and S respectively) and so both upper and lower case versions have been added. But the majority of the extra characters we've supplied were used for writing numbers.

Ancient Greek numbers were basically written using the letters of the alphabet, with an acute mark on the right shoulder of the letter to show that it was representing a number. (Either an acute accent or the minutes character is suitable for this purpose). For example, β´ would be used to represent 2. However, there were insufficient letters in the standard alphabet to write all the numbers so other characters were co-opted: the Digamma and Qoppa mentioned above stood for 6 and 90, while a special character called Sampi was used to represent 900. Sampi is another of the characters we have added, along with the Stigma character which could be used in place of Digamma.

For numbers greater than 999, a special 'thousands mark' – looking like an acute accent written below the line – was placed before the letter. For example, β represented 2000. This mark has also been added to the Greek Super Shift.

Other additions

The other characters that have been added simply fill in gaps which have been pointed out to us.

For instance, we learnt that d' and t' are sometimes preferred to d hacek and t hacek when writing Czech and Slovak, so these have been added to the Alt keyboard (along with their upper case forms, which in fact use the standard hacek accent!). Similarly, the dot below accent which we've added to help students of ancient Greek will also be useful to

The new characters

Character	Keystroking	Character	Keystroking
For modern Greek:			
ᾳ Alpha with iota subscript	SHIFT 3	ῃ Eta with iota subscript	SHIFT 4
ῳ Omega with iota subscript	SHIFT 5	῀ Greek circumflex	EXTRA J
῾ Rough breathing	EXTRA L	᾿ Smooth breathing	EXTRA K
῞ Rough breathing with acute	EXTRA X	῎ Smooth breathing with acute	EXTRA Z
῝ Rough breathing with grave	EXTRA V	῍ Smooth breathing with grave	EXTRA C
῟ Rough breathing with circumflex	EXTRA N	῏ Smooth breathing with circumflex	EXTRA B
῾ Rough breathing with tilde	EXTRA ,	῏ Smooth breathing with tilde	EXTRA M
For ancient Greek:			
Ϝ Upper case digamma	SHIFT -	ϝ Lower case digamma	-
Ϙ Upper case qoppa (koppa)	SHIFT =	ϙ Lower case qoppa	=
Ϲ Upper case lunate sigma	SHIFT Q	ϲ Lower case lunate sigma	Q
Ϛ Stigma or numerical digamma	SHIFT 8	ϡ Sampi	SHIFT 7
͵ Thousands mark	SHIFT 6	. Dot below	EXTRA H
For other languages:			
Ď D hacek	ALT SHIFT E	ď Alternative form of d hacek	ALT E
Ť T hacek	ALT SHIFT Y	ť Alternative form of t hacek	ALT Y
. Dot below	EXTRA H		

people transcribing Hebrew, Syriac and other non-Latin scripts.

The remaining new characters are, once again, for students of Greek. The new round Greek circumflex is an alternative to the tilde-shaped version of this accent. (We initially expected people needing a Greek circumflex to simply to use the tilde accent we provided on EXTRA P.) The other new characters are a range of lower case vowels written with an iota subscript that are used to mark where an iota has been lost from the pronounciation of a word. No upper case versions of these characters are needed because they are written as the vowel followed by an iota.

To type the characters

To type the new characters, you not only need the latest version of LocoScript but also a set of keyboard layouts that include the new characters. This means putting a new KEYBOARD.JOY file on your Start-of-day disc.

A suitable KEYBOARD.JOY file is supplied with the new version of LocoScript but, as we mentioned earlier, you only have to use the new keyboard layouts if you upgrade from versions of LocoScript before v2.12. If you upgrade from v2.12 or later, you can choose whether to add the new KEYBOARD.JOY file or not. The advantage of adding the new KEYBOARD.JOY file is that it enables you to type the new characters; the disadvantage is that some of the existing characters have been moved to new positions on the keyboard.

The keyboard changes have been confined to just the Alt, Extra and Greek keyboards and only really affect how you type symbols like ± and ÷ that up to now have been on the Extra keyboard. (Full details of the new keyboard layouts are given in the Update Information booklet supplied with the new LocoScript.) But if you're not interested in using the new characters, it may be better to keep your current KEYBOARD.JOY file. How this works depends on which type of PCW you have.

If you have a PCW8256 or 8512, the natural action of the Installation program is to preserve your KEYBOARD.JOY file. So if you are *not* interested in using any of the new characters, you don't need to do anything special – just upgrade to the latest version in the usual way. However, if you *do* want to use the new characters, there are extra steps to take. These steps are given in detail in the Update

Information booklet that is supplied with the new version of LocoScript (in the section that describes the updates to the User Instructions for LocoScript) and so won't be repeated here.

If you have a PCW9512, then following the standard steps will give you both the characters to type and a new set of keyboard layouts. But if you don't want the new characters, all you need to do to keep your current set of keyboard layouts is copy the KEYBOARD.JOY file from your 'old' Start-of-day disc to group 0 of your new Start-of-day disc, replacing the KEYBOARD.JOY file that installing the new version has placed there.

To print the characters

The new characters may be printed either on the PCW8256/8512's built-in matrix printer or on a 24 pin printer that is being used with our 24 Pin Printer Driver software. However, before you can print these characters, you will need up-to-date versions of the font files for these printers.

All new font files that we supply for these printers automatically include the new characters. In particular, if you buy either of the new LocoFont 24 sets, you will be able to print these characters on a 24 pin printer in all the fonts on this disc (except Old English) – provided, of course, that your printer is being used with a printer driver from the 24 Pin Printer Drivers disc. However, if you already have the 24 Pin Printer Drivers Disc, you will probably need new versions of the Standard and Sans Serif typestyles provided for this printer.

If you have a PCW8256/8512, you will need new versions of the MATRIX.# files before you can print the new characters on the built-in printer. The procedure that gives you the new KEYBOARD.JOY will also give you a new MATRIX.#ST file but, in general, you'll need to send for the appropriate upgrade before you can print these characters in any other typestyle. (See the panel below for more details.)

Getting the new characters

LocoScript 1 users on the PCW8256/8512 who have not yet converted to LocoScript 2 need to buy a copy of LocoScript 2 (version 2.28 or later). This costs £24.95.

Existing **LocoScript 2** users on the PCW8256/8512 and all PCW9512 users can get the new characters by buying a copy of the LocoScript 2 Upgrade disc for £14.95. The PCW8256/8512 version of this disc contains new versions of both the Standard and the Sans Serif fonts.

LocoFont users who want to print the new characters on the PCW8256/8512's built-in matrix printer in fonts other than Standard or San Serif need to upgrade their LocoFont master discs.

24-Pin Printer Driver users who want to print the new characters need to upgrade their 24-pin printer drivers disc. Note, however, that all versions of **LocoFont 24** include the new characters. **LocoKey** users who want to reposition the new characters on their keyboard will have to upgrade their LocoKey/Keyboards disc.

To upgrade any of these discs to the latest versions, send the appropriate master discs back to Locomotive Software along with £9.95 *per disc*. Note: The replacement discs will contain a copy of the latest version of LocoScript: there is no need to buy the Upgrade disc as well.

Combining LocoFile datafiles

One thing we're frequently asked is how to combine two LocoFile datafiles together. You may want to merge these datafiles to make it easier to look up information. Alternatively, you may want to make better use of disc space by combining two datafiles with a similar set of details, such as a contacts datafile and a name and address datafile. This article shows you how this is done.

To combine datafiles, you need to be able to insert the records from one datafile into the other. It's not possible to do this directly in LocoFile because it would mean opening two datafiles at the same time, whereas LocoFile can only open one datafile at once. However, this doesn't mean you can't combine your datafiles. This is yet another area in which using LocoMail with LocoFile supplies the answer.

The basic principle

The trick is to convert one of the LocoFile datafiles into a LocoMail datafile because in this form it can be inserted into a LocoFile datafile. (A LocoMail datafile is essentially a LocoScript document which holds information in a consistent order – for example, a series of records with items of information laid out in the same way in each record.)

The way to convert the datafile is to use LocoMail's ability to extract information

from a LocoFile datafile and insert it into a LocoScript document. In other words, what you do is create a LocoMail master document containing the instructions needed to extract information from a LocoFile datafile. Merge the master document with the LocoFile datafile and save the result as a document on disc.

Once the records have been saved in this way, all that's left to do is use the Insert data option to pull them into the other LocoFile datafile. Below we show you how to combine two datafiles with a worked example.

The steps

We can break down the job of combining two datafiles into 3 steps:

❶ setting up the LocoMail master document

❷ merging the LocoMail master with the first LocoFile datafile and saving the resulting LocoMail datafile to disc

❸ inserting the saved LocoMail datafile into the second LocoFile datafile

For the purposes of this article, we're referring to the two datafiles we're combining as the **Extract** datafile and the **Target** datafile. The Extract datafile is the datafile we are extracting the information **from**. This information will be saved as a LocoMail datafile. The Target datafile is the datafile we're inserting the LocoMail datafile **into**.

It doesn't matter if the two datafiles you want to combine have different items. For example, the Extract datafile may have more or less items than the Target datafile and they may use different item-names. You can choose which items to extract, but what you need to ensure is that the items you decide to extract from the Extract datafile have an item that you can slot the information into in the Target datafile.

In the example we're looking at here, we want to combine two name and address datafiles which have a different structure, as you can see in the box on the next page.

We want to extract the name, address and work phone no from the Extract datafile and insert them into the Target datafile as contact, address and phone_number. We'll look first at the instructions to extract these items from the Extract datafile.

❶ The Master document

The first thing to do is to create a document and type the LocoMail instructions. Extracting all the records is essentially a repetitive action which is best handled by using a program unit. We've covered program units in previous issues of *Script* and if you want more information about how they work, you can refer either to *Script* or to Chapter 9 of the LocoMail User Guide. The program unit that we need looks like this:

```
(+Mail)sep="§":eor="(UniT)
" ↵
extract=" ↵
name:sep:address:sep:work_phone_no:eor ↵
$+ ↵
" ↵
%extract@name ↵
(-Mail)
```

You'll notice that there are underscores between the words in the LocoMail item for the work phone number. LocoFile lets you have spaces between the words, but LocoMail has to work with single words. LocoFile automatically recognises the underscore character in a LocoMail item-name as being equivalent to space in a LocoFile name. So work_phone_no matches up with the LocoFile item work phone no.

sep is simply a LocoMail item holding the character § which is used to separate

one item of information from another. § is generally a good separator to use because this character is unlikely to occur in the information you're extracting from the datafile. If your data does includes this character you'll need to use an alternative character as a separator. Chapter 2 of the LocoMail User Guide discusses the range of characters you can use. (On a PCW8256/8512 § appears on the keyboard. PCW9512 owners have to press EXTRA and l to produce this character.) The item eor contains the (UniT) code used to divide the records.

All that's needed to complete the instructions is a command to repeat the program unit until the end of the LocoFile datafile. In this case, the command is %extract@name. (You should note that this only works if the item name either isn't empty or isn't zero in any of the records. You will need to substitute an item in your own datafile which you know will never be empty or zero.)

If you Merge this master document with the Extract datafile you'll end up with all the records in a LocoMail datafile. But before you can insert the data into the Target datafile, LocoFile needs to know how all the items of information are organised. For example, it needs to know where one item ends and another begins and similarly when one record ends and the next one starts. LocoFile understands datafiles in the same way as LocoMail – by looking at a record pattern. A record pattern is a special record which tells LocoFile the structure of the records. Given the structure, LocoFile can insert each item of information correctly. So what we need to do is put a record pattern at the top of the document.
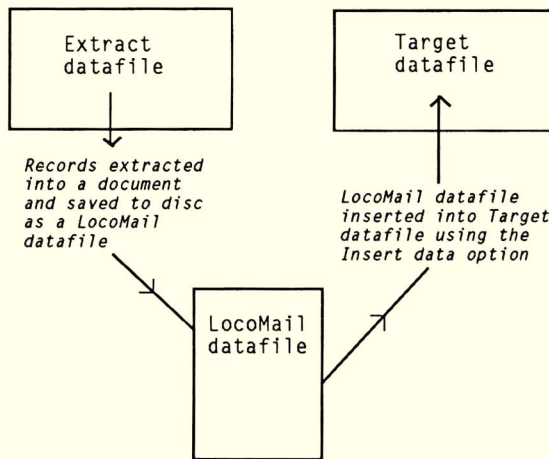
The record pattern

The record pattern gives a name to each item of information in a record and identifies the character used to separate each item. Whereas you have a choice about the **items** you extract from the Extract file, you don't have a choice about the **item-names** in the record pattern. The names used to describe each item of information **must** match the names of the items in the **Target** datafile. It's this match which allows LocoFile to insert the items into their correct slot in the Target datafile.
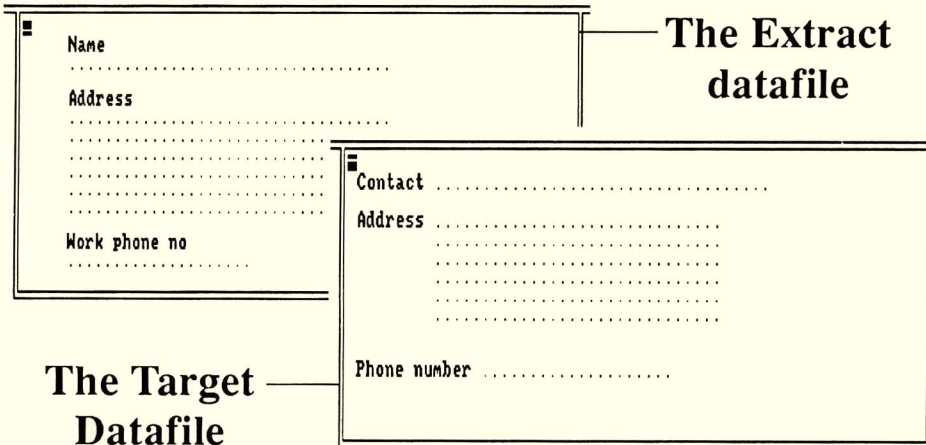
As the record pattern is the first thing LocoFile looks for, you simply have to add it at the top of the LocoMail master document, remembering to separate each item-name with the same character used to separate the items in the records themselves.

```
contact§address§phone_number(UniT)
```

You'll notice that the record pattern ends with a (UniT) code to match up with the (UniT) code we've used to divide the records. We could have used either (UniT) or ↲ to mark both the end of the record and the end of the record pattern, but the trouble with using ↲ is that you end up with a multi-page document with each name, address and phone number on its own page. Unless you want to use the document for some other purpose where dividing each record with a ↲ would be helpful, we recommend that you use the (UniT) code to divide the records. This is because you'll end up with a smaller document to save to disc at the end of the Merge.

The complete master document is given in the adjacent column.

The Principle

Extract datafile

Target datafile

Records extracted into a document and saved to disc as a LocoMail datafile

LocoMail datafile inserted into Target datafile using the Insert data option

LocoMail datafile

The Extract datafile

Name
....
Address
....
....
....
....
....
Work phone no
....

Contact ....
Address ....
....
....
....
....
....

Phone number ....

The Target Datafile

The LocoMail Master document

```
contact§address§phone_number(UniT)
(+Mail)sep="§":eor="UniT
"↲
extract="↲
name:sep:address:sep:work_phone_no:eor ↲
$+↲
"↲
%extract@name↲
(-Mail)
```

❷ Merging and Saving

Once the master document is complete, it's simply a matter of merging it with the Extract datafile. The record pattern is slotted in at the top of the document and then LocoMail carries out the instructions to pull all the records into the document. The records are extracted in record number order. If you want to change the order in which the records are pulled into the document you can add a $= command at the start of the document to select a different index. However, as the records will end up in another datafile with its own indexes, there's little to be gained by selecting a different index at this stage.

When LocoMail has worked through to the end of the datafile, the Exit menu is displayed giving a number of options. You need to select Save result and follow the instructions on screen to save the document to disc. For those who are unfamiliar with using this option, a step by step guide to saving the result of a merge is given in Chapter 5 of the LocoMail User Guide.

❸ Inserting into LocoFile

The final stage is to insert the records into the Target LocoFile datafile. We recommend that you work with a copy of the Target datafile, as a safeguard against any errors in your record pattern. This is because you cannot easily undo any changes once the information is inserted. If you work on a copy you always have the original to fall back on in case of disaster.

Inserting the LocoMail datafile simply means running LocoFile on the copy of the Target datafile and then selecting the Insert data option on the f1 Actions menu. LocoFile prompts you to pick out the datafile to insert. After pressing [ENTER] to confirm the choice of the file, the records are slotted one after the other into the datafile.

If you want more detailed instructions for inserting data, we recommend you look at Chapter 8 of the LocoFile User Guide.

Splitting datafiles

The same principle of extracting records into a LocoMail datafile and inserting them into another LocoFile datafile can be used in other ways, for example, to split datafiles. Whereas combining datafiles involves extracting *all* the records from one datafile and inserting them into another, splitting datafiles takes *some* of the records and inserts them into a new datafile. However, the steps are very much the same as we've described here.

Suppose you want to split up a datafile holding details of a record collection into 3 different datafiles – one for tapes, one for records and for compact discs. First, you'd need to pick out all the 'tape' records and slot them into one datafile. Then you would want to repeat the operation twice more – once to extract all the 'compact disc' records and the next time to extract all the remaining records. In the next issue of *Script*, we'll be looking at this in more detail.

Combining datafiles with unmatched items

In our example, the items in the Extract datafile each matched and item in the Target datafile but it's possible to combine datafiles even when two datafiles don't have matching items. For example, the Extract datafile may have work phone no and home phone no whereas the Target LocoFile datafile may only have an item for phone number.

If you want to combine these two datafiles, all you need to do is set up a new item for the second phone number in the Datafile Setup of the Target datafile. If you forget to set up a matching item, it's not a disaster. LocoFile spots that there is an unmatched item and displays the following alert message.

```
LocoMail item:    HOME_PHONE_NO
has no LocoFile equivalent

▶ Ignore item
  Cancel operation
```
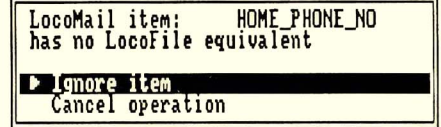
The options allow you to decide whether or not you want the item to be included in the LocoFile datafile. If you do, you can cancel the operation, change the Target LocoFile Datafile Setup to include the item and then re-insert the data. (If it's simply the case that the names of the items are different, then a quicker solution may be to alter the item-name in the record pattern to match the datafile.) If, on the other hand, you're happy to exclude the item, you can accept the option to Ignore item and carry on inserting the information.

The other possibility is that there are some items in the Target LocoFile datafile which don't have an equivalent in the LocoMail datafile you're inserting. For example, a Target datafile may have an item such as Fax number which doesn't appear in the Extract datafile. In this case, no messages are displayed and LocoFile simply omits the Fax number item from new records in the Target datafile.

The only thing you must ensure is that there are matching items in the datafile for the information you want to add!

Item names in LocoFile & LocoMail

LocoFile is more flexible about the characters it allows you to use in item names than LocoMail. For example, whereas LocoMail names have to be single words, LocoFile allows you to put spaces between words in an item name.

There wouldn't be much to gain from this flexibility if you had to alter your datafile just to fit in with LocoMail, so LocoFile has a scheme for picking out equivalent LocoMail names. The commonest example is matching an underscore in a LocoMail item-name for a space in a LocoFile name. In our example, LocoFile matches up the LocoMail item name phone_number with the LocoFile item phone number.

In version 2.28 of LocoFile the range of matching characters has been extended to include punctuation marks and other characters. When LocoMail comes across these characters it simply ignores them and treats the accepted characters as the name of the item.

If you're using a version of LocoFile before 2.28, we recommend that you avoid using characters in LocoFile item-names, such as : or &, which LocoMail doesn't recognise. If you want to take advantage of the changes in the way item names are handled, you can upgrade to the latest version of LocoFile for £9.95 and the return of your old LocoFile master disc. We've also expanded the LocoFile User Guide to describe this change in detail. If you want the latest version of the LocoFile User Guide (dated May 1989 on the back cover) you can upgrade it by sending us £5.95 along with the back cover of your old User Guide as proof of purchase.

Letters to the Editor

Missing printers

My problem is that the Matrix printer sometimes vanishes from the PTR f5 menu. It must have been there because I had often been using it previously, so there is no possibility that I had not installed it properly. I always use the same start of day disc anyway but only install extra printers, with an ET.AL file, if I think I am going to need them. Sometimes I have to manually install them later.

The problem is that after using an external printer, I want to go back to the Matrix again but sometimes I cannot until I copy MATRIX.PRI onto drive M: again. If there was a hang up in the printer itself, ie out of paper or off-line, then copying this file would surely not cure the problem.
Mr NM, Shepperton

The option to select the Matrix printer doesn't appear in the f5 Printer menu if the file MATRIX.PRI is not available in Drive M. The Printer file for the printer you want to select must always appear in group 0 on Drive M.

If LocoScript thinks you only want to use one printer, it won't offer you any options to change to another. When you start up, information about the printer is loaded into the 'working space' reserved for the 'current' printer in memory. To avoid duplication of the same information and to give you more space, the Printer file is then deleted from Drive M. For example,

if the only .PRI file loaded is MATRIX.PRI then this file won't appear in Drive M and if only one Character Set file such as MATRIX.#ST is loaded, this is similarly removed from Drive M.

You can make another printer available by copying extra Printer files to Drive M yourself. But when you change to this other printer, the information about the Matrix printer in memory is replaced with the details of the new printer. You can't swap back to MATRIX because the file MATRIX.PRI is not available on Drive M.

A temporary solution to this problem is the one you've used. Copying MATRIX.PRI and a MATRIX.#xx file to Drive M by hand restores the option for MATRIX to the f5 Printer menu and allows you to swap between printers again.

The best solution to the problem is to load the Printer files for both the matrix printer and your alternative printer at start-up. If LocoScript thinks you want to use more than one printer, it doesn't erase any Printer files. Instead it keeps all the Printer files available on Drive M so that you can swap between them. For more information about the way LocoScript handles Printer files you can read the article 'Introducing LocoScript 2.20' in Issue 8 of Script.

PCW9512 printer

How can we run the Amstrad PCW9512 with an HP Laserjet II printer without having the built-in printer connected to it?
Mr BJ, St Albans

Amstrad who supply the PCW 9512 and built-in printer recommend that you keep this printer attached when using an alternative printer. This is because they designed the hardware in such a way that the built-in printer had to be attached for the built-in Centronics port to work correctly.

In practice it is now possible to detach the built-in printer. On version 2.21 of LocoScript we changed the software so that on most PCW9512s you can use an alternative printer without having the printer supplied with the machine attached.

However, as we can't change the hardware, we can't guarantee that this will work on all machines. Using the Centronics port without the built-in printer attached doesn't cause any damage, so if you find it doesn't work, you can simply switch off the PCW, re-attach the built-in printer, switch the PCW back on but continue to use your alternative printer for all your printing.

Avoiding 'disc full' problems

I have had a disconcerting experience with my LocoScript software which I would be most grateful if you could help me with. I am nearly at the end of a book and, wishing to check on something in one of the finished chapters, I was astonished to read the following message on my screen:
```
WARNING: document may not fit
Send result to drive M
Cancel operation
Continue anyway
```
I stood to lose five chapters as some of these documents are now effectively inaccessible and I cannot trust the rest not to go the same way. Could you tell me what's happened so that I can prevent it occurring again.
Mrs EM, Abingdon

This message doesn't mean you've lost your documents – in fact, it's there to prevent you losing documents! The

message tells you that the disc you're working on is getting full and gives you a chance to prevent any potential loss by re-organising your discs.

When you edit a document, LocoScript creates a back up copy on the disc so that the original is still available if you want to abandon any changes made. If the space left is so small that there isn't enough room to add text to the new version of the document, LocoScript puts up this alert message and gives you a choice of action.

The option to choose depends on how much space is free and how much editing you want to do. In general, we wouldn't recommend taking the option to Continue anyway *unless the room left on the disc is within 1k of the size of the document you want to edit and you only want to make a few minor changes.*

If you intend to add a substantial amount of text, we recommend that you Cancel operation. *You should then re-organise your discs to give you enough space to edit the document without further ado. You can do this simply by moving some documents to another disc. An alternative solution is to format a blank disc and copy the document you want to edit onto this disc.*

The option to Send result to drive M *is a way of postponing the job of re-organising your discs until you've finished your edit. When you save the document, it will be saved on Drive M so you need to remember to copy it back to a disc. Of course, there has to be enough free space on Drive M to do this. If there isn't, the same message may reappear only this time with just the* Cancel operation *and* Continue anyway *options available.*

Letters to the Editor

Tips for authors

I read with interest your article on setting up templates for drama scripts. May I add a further tip?

Set up a special Phrases file with a letter to represent each character of the play. This can be loaded from your play text disc before starting work. In addition, if you add an Indent Tab to the end of each character saved as a phrase, then the cursor will be in the correct position to start typing in the dialogue.
Mr AC, Sittingbourne

While interesting, your tips-to-authors article hardly did justice to LocoScript's versatility. The Phrases file can also be used to copy codes: thus, in a screenplay, where stage directions are typed across the page as in this letter, dialogue has to be centre-paged: pasting in a character dialogue header can thus automatically take you into centre layout, reproduce the underlined character name, and space down to where you wish to start writing dialogue:

<p align="center"><u>SCRIPTWRITER</u></p>

<p align="center">... You're not still using Wordstar, are you?</p>

In addition, a LocoMail master document, using the Fill option, can be created to automate the creation of Phrases files: layout and underlining are standardised, so you merely type in the character name/s, copy and save to the Phrases file, then abandon LocoMail when complete.

Personally, I find LocoFile very useful as a notebook, because once called up from within a script textfile, the same datafile will automatically be returned to if 'run LocoFile' is selected again.

Therefore it is possible to use the datafile for mused lines of dialogue (which can subsequently be read into the textfile if/when required), miscellaneous jottings, reminders, character notes, etc.. Much better than scribbled notes on scraps of paper unreadable by virtue of coffee stains! I'm certain you devised LocoScript for the use of us authors!
Mr JF, Charminster

Thank you both for your tips for authors using LocoScript. We are continually surprised at the uses people find for LocoScript's features and particularly the number of different LocoFile applications. We would be interested to hear further hints and tips that readers can offer.

Printing LocoFile cards

The User Guide states that all the pitches are available for printing text in LocoScript documents are also available for printing LocoFile datafiles, but I cannot seem to be able to print a datafile in Character Pitch PS, although there is no problem with extracts inserted in LocoScript documents. There is no PS pitch shown on the card menu of Datafile Set-up, does this mean that the User Guide is wrong and that it is not possible to print record cards in PS?
Mr SC, Peterborough

You can only print from LocoFile in a fixed pitch. The Print options in LocoFile are designed to produce a printed version of exactly what you see on the screen. In PS the widths of the characters differ but these differences can't be represented on screen. Unfortunately there is an error in the LocoFile User Guide which suggests that you can print in PS. We shall correct this when the User Guide is next reprinted.

However, this doesn't mean that you have to use a fixed pitch wheel in order to print your datafile on a daisywheel printer. If you usually use a PS wheel on your printer, you can still print your datafile (though the spacing of the chracters may not look very good). But, you must ensure

that the Character Set and Character Style used when you print are the ones for your PS wheel, otherwise your datafile won't be printed correctly. In particular, if you have a PCW9512 and you're using a Thesis PS wheel, you must ensure that the Character Style is for a PS wheel otherwise you'll print complete rubbish.

To ensure that you use the correct Character Set and Character Style you can set these details in the f6 Printing menu in Datafile Setup and select the 'Use intended' when you come to print. Alternatively, set them in the f5 Printer menu in Printer Control State before printing and then select 'Use current' when the Alert message is displayed.

If you want to print in PS, the trick is to extract the record into a LocoScript document. This can be done either by hand or automatically. The f7 Extract menu lets you copy the contents of a single record into a block. You can then paste the block into a LocoScript document set up with a pitch of PS and print the document. If you want to print more than one record, a better solution is to extract the records automatically by using LocoMail. The article 'Printing lists the LocoMail way' in Issue 9 showed you how to do this.

Working files you can load at Start-up

Onto the reverse side of our Drive A Start-of-day disc we have copied a LocoFile datafile plus some LocoScript files. It's funny... the LocoFile datafile does transfer across to Drive M when we load the software but the LocoScript files don't, although all the files show on Drive A. Can you say what we are doing wrong?
Mr AW, Germany

Your system is working perfectly OK. The problem is that what you are trying to achieve is not possible in LocoScript 2. The files that LocoScript automatically copies into Drive M at Start-up don't include ordinary LocoScript documents. There are two types of 'working' files you can arrange to have copied – LocoFile datafiles with a filetype of .DAT and LocoScript templates. A template is a LocoScript document with the name TEMPLATE.STD. You can have up to

eight templates on any one disc and each template is copied to its corresponding group in Drive M.

We recommend that you keep LocoScript documents on data discs and not on your Start-of-day discs. LocoFile datafiles, on the other hand, can be kept on your Start-of-day disc as then they will be automatically copied to Drive M where working with the datafile will be quicker than on a floppy disc.

Some people report the opposite problem of finding too many datafiles in Drive M after starting up. This usually applies to PCW9512 owners who forget to erase the sample LocoFile .DAT files from the Start-of-day disc they created from the master LocoFile disc. The solution here is simply to erase the sample files you don't want to use from Start-of-day disc as we explained in the Letters pages in Issue 8 of Script.

Letters to the Editor

Writing a thesis with LocoScript 2

I have a few initial queries about planning my thesis which I would be grateful if you could help me with.

The main body of the thesis will consist of three chapters of, say, 30000 words each as well as a very detailed bibliography and several appendices. Would I be well advised to store each chapter, on separate discs, given the length involved?

I'm worried that Drive M only shows 94k free after loading the software. Does this mean that I can only edit documents half the size of the space available on Drive M? Or, if I am working with Drive B discs, do I simply have to ensure that when editing I have at least double the amount of space of the document on Drive B on the actual Drive B disc?

Finally, do you know of a book which gives detailed advice on producing an academic thesis on such a scale? If not can you include my name in a forthcoming issue of *Script*, saying that I would be glad to benefit from the wisdom of others who have already had this experience?
Mr SB, Gosforth

We recommend that you limit documents to about 25-30k, simply because documents any larger than this are more cumbersome to edit. In your case, we recommend that you split up your

chapters into sub-chapters of about 25-30k. As long as you keep documents to this size, there will be no problems keeping several sub-chapters on one disc.

With the amount of space left in Drive M on your system, the largest document you could edit would be about 80k. How much space you have in Drive M doesn't matter when scrolling forwards through a document. It's only when you move backwards through a document that the space matters. This is because LocoScript puts a copy of the document in Drive M. If you do run out of space, you can always temporarily delete other files in Drive M such as the LocoSpell dictionary.

Before editing a document, you should make sure that there is enough room on the disc for the back up copy that LocoScript creates. If you intend adding a lot of text, you should ensure that there is enough space for between one and two times the size of the document.

I'm afraid we know of no books which would give you further advice about producing a thesis with LocoScript 2. Perhaps some other readers know better or can give you some hints and tips of their own. (Write to: Simon Barker, 30 Moor Crescent, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 4AP.)

Changing key values

I wonder if you could explain the legend which appeared on LocoFile: 'Key item has been changed' and then a choice between step from old value and new value. I think I understand what it means but why the word 'step'?
Mr JL, Coventry

Changing a value in an indexed item can change the position of the record in sorted order. For example, if you set up an index for surname and then change a surname from, say, Smith to Jones, the record is now sorted under the Js instead of the Ss. All changes are immediately recorded by LocoFile so if you press PAGE *to move onto the next record, it realises that the record now appears in a different position in the index.*

The message displayed gives you a choice about which record to move on to. Step from old value means that LocoFile looks for the record which comes after Smith. In other words, it uses the name before you changed it as the starting point. Step from new value takes the new name – Jones – as its starting point and moves to the record after that. We chose the word 'step' but 'move on from' equally describes the action. (This message is described on page 56 of the LocoFile User Guide.)

How to transfer files from a PCW to a PC

We have an Amstrad PCW8256 with LocoScript files which we want to transfer to an IBM PC. I understand that a serial/parallel interface from Amstrad is needed, and using this LocoScript files can be transferred by ASCII files. Can your company supply a means of doing this simply or do you market another product which will facilitate easy file transfer between the PCW and the IBM.
Mr MW, Chelmsford

When transferring files between a PCW and a PC, there are two things to consider. Firstly, how to convert the files into a format you can use on a PC and, secondly, how to transfer the files from a 3" disc to a 5¼" (or a 3½") disc.

Most programs can work with ASCII files so to solve the problem of the format of the files, all you need to do is convert your LocoScript 2 documents to an ASCII

format. This is done by using about the 'Make ASCII' feature.

There are two ways of transferring information between machines. You can attach a 5¼" disc to your PCW (or, conversely, attach a 3" disc drive to your PC). Alternatively, you can use a serial link to connect the two machines directly. If you use this method, you need suitable software to send and receive your files.

Which method you use depends on two things – how much information you want to transfer and how much you're prepared to spend on it. If transferring files is something you intend to do on a regular basis, you may be better off purchasing a suitable disc drive and attaching it to one of the machines. If it's a one-off transfer, using a serial link is probably the better option. This will be considerably cheaper than purchasing a disc drive but you may

find that it takes a bit longer to transfer the information.

We have no package which will let you transfer files from a PCW to a PC. However, we know of two companies – Cambase and Paperback Software – who both offer a package for transferring information using a serial link. They supply the cable to link the two machines and the software to send information in a suitable format and similarly receive it.

Cambase have produced a package called Intercom. Their address is: Unit 2, Maenofferen, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd, Wales. The phone number is 0766 831878.

Paperback Software's package is called Cstam. The address to contact is: The Widford Old Rectory, London Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 8TE. Their phone number is: 0245 265017.

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PostScript

London Language Show

Recently Locomotive attended the London Language Show, a specialist exhibition devoted to all things linguistic and held in the claustrophobic Barbican Exhibition Hall. One thing that came across more than any other was the very high proportion of language professionals who use LocoScript. Another exhibitor, representing the Institute of Translators and Interpreters, reckoned that just about half the Institute's membership used LocoScript!

Indeed we were asked many questions about how to use foreign languages on the PCW, and were able to introduce many users to the power of LocoKey! So much was the interest that we'll be running an article soon on word processing in different languages. If you've got anything to say on this subject, do drop us a line.

Personal Computer Show

The next event in Locomotive's diary is the Personal Computer Show – to be held at Earl's Court, London from the 27th September to the 1st October.

We have taken rather more space than we did last year so that we can make it easier to see our products – at peak times you couldn't actually get onto last year's stand! The second reason for the extra space is that we're going to be making a major product announcement. We are keeping the details under wraps until the show. So if you'd like to find out about the new products, or just to ask us detailed questions about the current products, come along.

We won't actually be selling any of our products at the show, but we have arranged with another exhibitor to make the full range of products available for sale. So, if you're thinking about buying some more of our software, come along to our stand for a demonstration and then we'll point you in the right direction to buy it.

If any other people you know are thinking of buying a word processor, bring them along too. Rex Last, an independent computer journalist, is putting together a booklet for us specially to give away at the show. This booklet outlines the options you have when buying a word processing system and gives advice about the products which are best suited to people's word processing needs.

It normally costs £3.50 to get into the PC Show, but if you're over 18 you can use the enclosed admission ticket to get in free of charge. Moreover, everyone who visits our stand can enter our "Passport to WP" prize draw, which gives you the chance to win an exciting trip on the Orient Express.

Next Year's Script

We're glad to see that the number of people subscribing to *Script* continues to rise. This is the last but one issue in the current subscription year, so now's a good time to renew your subscription for next year. All you need to do is check the address on the enclosed renewal form, make any corrections and then return it to us with your payment – either enclose a cheque or fill out your Access or Visa number and sign the authorisation.

We've pegged the price of *Script* at £9.95 (£14.95 abroad) for the third year. To help us keep our costs down, do please use the re-subscription form with the printed address label.

In Future Issues

In the LocoFile article in the next issue, we'll look at how to split large datafiles into several smaller ones. We'll also give details of some products based on LocoScript, LocoFile and LocoMail which other people have developed. And we'll give the final instalment of our series on LocoScript for authors.