

Script

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The LocoScript
Newsletter

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in Volume 1 of *Script*

This issue completes the first volume of *Script*. (We apologise for sending it out later than usual.) November's issue will be the first of Volume 2.

We finish the year with news of two new products we launched at the Personal Computer Show in September – LocoFile and the 24 Pin Printer Drivers Disc.

LocoFile is a pop-up database for LocoScript. It lets you store information, sort it in the order you want and have it instantly available when you need it. In future issues of *Script* we'll have regular articles on LocoFile.

The 24 Pin Printer Drivers Disc lets you print the entire LocoScript Character Set on a 24 pin printer. Until now, printing all LocoScript's characters has only been possible on the built-in printer for the 8000 machines. 24 pin printers give good quality output and are typically faster than the built-in printer. You'll also be able to print in different typestyles in much the same way as you can on the built-in matrix printer.

This issue also looks at two very common problems – getting LocoScript's page numbering to work for you and sorting out what's wrong when your alternative printer fails to print. We investigate the problems and go through the steps to take to track down the possible causes.

In the LocoMail article we look at using data files from CP/M programs. LocoMail can use CP/M data files directly so you don't always have to create your data files in LocoScript. All you need to add is a record pattern. The article explains how to create a suitable record pattern for a CP/M data file. We also show you how a bit of cunning lets you use data files with a different structure to the one LocoMail expects to find.

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We hope you find *Script* useful. To continue receiving *Script*, complete the enclosed renewal notice and return it to us at Locomotive. So that we can keep *Script* useful and relevant, we'd also like to know which sections you've found interesting and which parts you haven't liked! The more comments and suggestions we receive, the better we can make the next volume of *Script*.

News

LocoFile – a pop-up database for LocoScript 2

This month we announce the release of a major new product – LocoFile, Locomotive's pop-up database for LocoScript 2.

LocoFile works like an automatic card-index, allowing you to keep the information you want, sorted in the order you want. The information might be names and addresses, thesis notes or details of your record collection.

You use LocoFile with LocoScript 2, literally asking it to pop up with the information you want whenever you want. If you're editing a document and need to look up, say, a name and address, there's no need to stop what you're doing. Simply call up LocoFile, find the record with the information you need and return to your document at the point where you left it. Information can be copied between LocoFile records and LocoScript documents using blocks or phrases. Indeed if you expect to use the same items frequently, LocoFile will copy them into a block for you with just a couple of keystrokes.

LocoFile data files are organised so that information is easy to find, using indexes that you choose yourself. You can choose up to eight indexes for any LocoFile data file, adding or removing them as you wish. Each index offers you a different 'view' of the file's records, automatically sorted into alphabetic or numeric order as required.

For example, in a library's book catalogue file, you could look up the details of a book you particularly liked using the Title index. When you found out who wrote it, you could instantly switch to the Author index and find all the other books written by that author.

As well as indexing a file on a single item, such as Author, you can create indexes which sort a data file on two separate items. For example, in a name and address file you're likely to have records for more than one 'Smith', so you'd create an index to sort the file on surname and where these match on first name.

LocoFile is ideal for LocoMail users. You can simply move your LocoMail data files into LocoFile and let LocoFile reorganise the records into the order you want. The LocoFile data files you've created like this can be used directly with LocoMail. You don't need to modify your existing master documents in any way.

LocoFile comes with a set of ready made data files. These files cover a range of applications, from a simple name and address file to an appointments file for a doctors' surgery. You can use the example data files as they are, adapt them to suit your own needs or create entirely new files from scratch.

A comprehensive User Guide accompanies the program. It's divided into two main parts. The first part takes you through the basic features of LocoFile, using one of the sample data files. The second part explains how to use LocoFile in more detail, showing you how to change the information in records, move information in and out of LocoFile and create and modify files. Appendices provide additional information, including quick reference and troubleshooting summaries.

LocoFile costs £29.95, with versions available from November this year for both the PCW8256/8512 and the PCW9512. You can order LocoFile now – see the order form enclosed.

SCA Printer Interface

When LocoScript 2 came out we warned people against using certain interfaces to attach printers to PCWs and in particular the SCA Interface, produced by SCA Systems Ltd. The interface we recommend is the Amstrad CPS8256 interface. Other interfaces can be used but unless they're 100% compatible with the CPS8256, you may not be able to print documents correctly.

Now SCA Systems Ltd have produced a Mark 2 version of their interface which we believe is compatible with the CPS8256 interface. If you were unlucky enough to have bought a Mark 1 version, SCA Systems will upgrade it to the Mark 2 for just £14.95. If you don't have a Mark 1 version to upgrade, the interface costs £59.95. For more information contact SCA Systems Ltd on 0903 700288.

Note: The Amstrad CPS8256 interface is available direct from Locomotive for £49.95. Contact us for more details.

Amstrad Computer Show

We are having a stand at the next Amstrad Computer Show which takes place in Manchester between October 21 and 23. To encourage you to attend, we've included a voucher offering £1 off the admission price in this issue.

As usual we'll be demonstrating a full range of our products, including the new database program LocoFile (see this page for more details). Our technical staff will also be there to answer your queries.

24 Pin Printer Drivers Disc

As you may have noticed from previous news items in *Script*, our support for external printers has steadily increased over the past year. We now support well over 250 different printers.

However, using a different printer has restricted the range of LocoScript's characters you can print to those available in your printer's Character Set. Even the most sophisticated dot matrix printers rarely have even half the number of characters that LocoScript supports. You've also been limited to the typestyles available on your printer.

With the release of the 24 Pin Printer Drivers Disc, owners of 24 pin dot matrix printers can now print all the LocoScript characters, including the Greek and Cyrillic characters, the mathematical symbols and any of the LocoScript 2 accents on any character. If you're a PCW9512 owner, you now have access to the full LocoScript Character set for the first time.

There are advantages for owners of 8000 machines as well. With a 24 pin printer and the 24 Pin Printers Drivers Disc, you will now be able to replace the built-in printer when it becomes worn out and still print all of LocoScript's characters. The better 24 pin printers will also print your documents much faster in High Quality than the built-in matrix printer.

The other advantage of the 24 Pin Printer Drivers Disc is that it opens the door to further typestyles. Previously, different typestyles have only been available on the built-in printer for the PCW8256/8512 (on the LocoFont and LocoFont 2 discs). With the 24 Pin Printer Drivers Disc, you will automatically get a choice of using a Standard or a

Sans serif typestyle, and more styles will become available soon. We plan to produce a series of new discs which will hold collections of different character styles similar to those already supplied on LocoFont and LocoFont 2 for the built-in dot matrix printer. We'll have more news of this in the next issue of *Script*.

The 24 Pin Printer Drivers Disc has a special Printer Driver (LQ24.DRV) and Printer files for a range of 24 pin printers. An extra Character Set file is included to let you print Sans serif characters.

The Printer files support the full range of Character pitches and Print Styles (italic, bold etc) available in LocoScript.

These files are, however, only meant to be used in High Quality. If you need to use Draft Quality, for example to produce draft copies of a document quickly, we recommend that you install the standard Printer file for this printer along with the 24 Pin Printer file. Then you can simply switch to using the standard file when you need to print in Draft Quality, although you won't get the full range of characters or any of the special typestyles.

These Printer files take up more space than previous Printer files. For example, a 24 pin Printer file and a Sans serif Character Set file will use up approximately 40k of Drive M. If your machine has only 256k of memory and you use one of the add-on programs such as LocoSpell, you'll need to set up two Start-of-day discs: one for your 24 pin printer and one for LocoSpell. Alternatively, you could fit a memory upgrade and increase the memory to 512k.

The disc currently provides support for the following 24 pin printers:

- the Amstrad LQ3500 and LQ5000 printers
- the Epson range of LQ printers (LQ500-LQ2550) plus the SQ-2000 and SQ-2500
- the NEC P2200, P6 and P6+, P7 and P7+
- the Seikosha SL-80AI
- the Star NB24-10, NB24-15 and the LC24-10

This list is growing all the time. If your 24 pin printer isn't mentioned here, contact us to find out if we can support it.

The 24 Pin Printer Driver disc costs £24.95 and will be available from November for both the PCW8256/8512 and the PCW9512. We also hope to sell a range of 24 pin printers complete with the new software. We'll give more details in the next issue.

Further Printer Support

Since the last issue of *Script*, we've added a range of new Printer files to our Printer Drivers Disc.

With the NECP6X.PRI file, we can now support Proportional Spacing on the NEC Pxx range of printers. We've also included Character Set files for the built-in Helvetica and Times Roman font for the NEC P6 and P6+ and the NEC P7 and P7+.

Other printers now supported include Oki's Microline 82A, 84A and 190 series of printers.

We've also included some extra Character Set files to enhance our support for the LX-800 printer. These files let you use the built-in Roman font and Sans serif font.

For more information about the printers we support, contact us at Locomotive.

Using other data files

The LocoMail data files we've looked at in previous issues of *Script* have been LocoScript documents. However, you're not restricted to using LocoScript to create your data files. LocoMail can also work with ASCII data files, created by CP/M programs like Cardbox or by a Mallard BASIC program. There's no need to convert these ASCII files to a LocoScript format before using them with LocoMail. LocoMail can use the file directly, provided it knows how the data is laid out. This article shows you how to provide LocoMail with this information.

Whatever the program, all data files use the same basic scheme for holding information – a series of records, each holding the same type of information. Each record is divided into different pieces, or items, of information which are separated from one another by special markers. The items appear in the same order in every record. Of course, the markers may vary from program to program but the way of organising the information is basically the same.

LocoMail works with data files by reading a record pattern which describes the way the information in the records is divided up into items. The record pattern gives a name to each item of information and specifies the characters that separate the items in the record. LocoMail can then pick out individual items because it knows where one item ends and another starts.

All that LocoMail needs to use another program's data file is a record pattern that describes how this file is split up into records and items. In practice, this is no different from creating one for a LocoScript data file. It's a matter of sorting out how the information is divided up in the existing file and then building a record pattern to match the layout of the records.

To show you how this is done, we'll first create a record pattern for a data file generated by a Mallard BASIC program which used the command `WRITE item, item, item...` to write each record in the file.

We begin by looking at the structure of the record. LocoMail expects each item of information to be separated from the next one by a single non-alphanumeric character such as a comma, a slash or a semi-colon. This character is known as the separator. In other words, what we're looking for is:

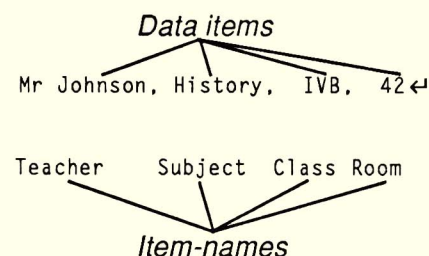
item separator item separator item separator ...

Our example data file is a school timetable and a record looks like this:

```
Mr Johnson,History,IVB,42 ←
```

This record has exactly the structure that LocoMail wants. (This is not always the case as we shall see!) So all we need now is a record pattern which matches the data file.

The first thing we need is a name for each item in the record. If you already have master documents that you intend to merge with this data, then the names you use must be the names you use in these masters. Any other items of information must be given suitably meaningful item-names. For example:



Now you need to put these names into your record pattern and separate them by the characters that separate the corresponding items in the actual data file. In this case, the Mallard BASIC program has inserted a comma between each item so our record pattern looks like this:

```
Teacher,Subject,Class,Room
```

Now we need to tell LocoMail how to recognise the end of each record. Normally we use a special character such as ↵ or (UniT) to mark both the end of the records and the end of the record pattern. However, in our example, Mallard BASIC is dictating how the records are separated. The final ← acts

both as an item separator and as a record separator. We need to express this in the record pattern so we need a ← after the last item name. But we also need a way of telling LocoMail that this is the end of the record pattern. We do this by immediately following ← by a Record pattern terminator, which can be ↵, (UniT) or /←. We've chosen /← simply because we can't get Mallard to insert a (UniT) code and files containing ↵'s are inconvenient to print or type on the screen.

This is the complete record pattern:

```
Teacher,Subject,Class,Room ← /←
```

Inconvenient data files!

The Mallard BASIC example we've just described is particularly easy for LocoMail to handle because it has just a comma between each data item. Not all data files are so convenient. In particular, it is quite common to find more than one character separating data items in a record.

LocoMail requires you to have a single character separator, so you may think it's impossible to use such a data file without deleting the redundant separators. It requires a little bit of trickery but in fact you don't really have to do anything more complicated than create a record pattern in much the same way as we did for the Mallard BASIC data file. The trick is to design your record pattern in such a way that LocoMail sees a single character separator after each data item.

To show you how it's done, we'll create a record pattern for a data file generated by Cardbox. Cardbox can produce data files in a number of different formats. One of the options produces records where each item is enclosed in quote marks and separated from the next item

by a comma. For example, a record from a league table might look like this:

```
"Reading Racers","0","27" ←
```

As with the Mallard BASIC data file, we start by assigning suitable item names to each item of information in the records and once again, we note that the records are on separate lines so we will have to put ← as the final separator in the record pattern as well.

The problem comes when you notice that putting quote marks round each item

of information means that there are actually three characters separating each item – "," – and so the structure is effectively:

```
...item separator-1 separator-2  
separator-3 item separator-1...
```

In order to use this data file, we need a way of making LocoMail see the structure of the record as *item separator item separator* ...

In fact, the problem is easily solved. We pretend that the middle separator in each

group of three is itself an item of information. This is done by creating a record pattern where item-names are assigned to the useful pieces of information and dummy item-names are given to each occurrence of the middle separator character.

By introducing the dummy item, we absorb two of the three separators in at one stroke. The first separator continues to mark the end of the real item, but the second separator is absorbed as the dummy data item. The third separator becomes a separator between the dummy data item and the next real data item. In other words, *...item separator-1 separator-2 separator-3 item separator-1...* becomes *...item separator-1 dummy-item separator-3 item separator-1...*

This provides most of the filtering we need but not quite all, because we have still to deal with the " that precedes the first item and the " between the last item and the ← at the end of each record. Again, we need dummy item-names to solve the problem, but this time the dummy items they refer to are blank.

A record pattern has to start with an item name. So we tell LocoMail that the first " follows a data item which we give a dummy item-name: in fact, this data item will be blank in every record but that doesn't worry LocoMail in the slightest.

Similarly, we tell LocoMail that there is a data item between the last " and ← which, once again, will just happen to be blank in every record!

This gives us a final record pattern looking like this:

```
dummy1"Team"dummy2"Won"dummy3"Lost"dummy4 ←  
/ ←
```

The dummy data item trick can be used wherever there's more than one character separating the real items of information. Where the data items are separated by two characters, the dummy data item will simply be blank. Where the data items are separated by three or more characters, the dummy item will hold one or more characters.

LocoMail also works directly with data files produced from LocoFile, our new database program (see the News pages for more details). In future, there'll be no excuse for you to leave LocoScript to create your data files! The techniques we've described here will help you convert data files for use with LocoFile too.

Where to keep the record pattern

When your data is in an ASCII file there are two places you can keep the record pattern. You can either make it the first record in the data file or you can keep it as a separate LocoScript document.

To make the record pattern part of the data file, you would need to get your CP/M program to generate the record pattern as well as the data records. If the data is being generated by a Mallard BASIC program and you're an experienced BASIC programmer, you could probably arrange for this to happen quite easily. The only difficulty would be in putting the terminator at the end of the record pattern and this is in fact easier than it might at first appear. LocoMail recognises three record pattern terminators – ↓, the (UniT) code and /←. True, you can't insert a (UniT) code from BASIC but you can insert either of the other two terminators: ↓ is the FF character

(CHR\$(12)) and /← is "/" followed by the CR character (CHR\$(13)).

If you are using something like Cardbox to generate the data file or you aren't an experienced programmer, creating the record pattern from the Mallard program won't be quite so straightforward a task. We would instead recommend you to set the record pattern up as a separate LocoScript document. In fact, in this case, you don't actually need to include a record pattern terminator at all as the record pattern is already separated from the data records.

When you want to use a data file for which the data file is held separately, you start by merging the master with the document holding the record pattern. LocoMail recognises that the document only holds the pattern and prompts you for the file holding the data records. We show you the steps involved below.

Merging with a separate record pattern

- With the file cursor over the master document, press "M" for merge. LocoScript prompts you for the data document, but instead of selecting the document holding the data records, move your cursor to the document holding the record pattern and press **ENTER**.
- The usual menu displaying the merge documents you've selected appears. Press **ENTER** and LocoScript prompts you again for the document holding the data records.

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Merge documents | |
| Data: | PATTERN.DOC |
| Group: | group 0 |
| Drive: | M |
| Name: | MASTER .1 |
| Group: | group 0 |
| Drive: | M |
| ✓ High quality Draft quality Number of copies: 1 | |
| ▶ Manual Automatic | |

- Move your cursor over the data file and press **ENTER**. The menu displayed allows you to confirm the document you've just picked out. Press **ENTER** to merge the data file with your master document.

Merge documents:

select merge data document
then press ENTER
or CAN to abandon

Troubleshooting printers

Installing a different printer is an easy task – you simply attach the printer to your PCW, copy some extra files to your Start-of-day disc and update the Settings file. If you follow all the instructions, you should have no problem printing documents immediately on your new printer.

However, after going through the steps to install a printer some people find they still can't use their printer. If this happens, there's no need to be alarmed. There's usually a straightforward explanation. Sometimes it's as simple as forgetting to plug in and switch on your printer!

In this article we look at what happens when your printer doesn't work in the way you expect. We explain the possible causes of trouble and show you what you can do to cure the problem.

Problems with printers tend to fall into one of three categories:

- you can't select the printer you want to use.
- you apparently succeed in sending a document to the printer, but the printer doesn't respond.
- you can print a document but the results aren't what you expect. Some characters are misprinted or, in extreme cases, the text is incomprehensible.

These problems tell you that some aspect of your system is not set up correctly. This article describes how to track down the actual trouble in your case.

We've assumed that you've already attached the printer to your PCW and set up LocoScript to use the printer. If you haven't, we describe how to do this on the opposite page.

What to do first

Whenever you have a problem with a printer, your initial action should always be to press **[PTR]**. This puts LocoScript into its Printer Control State. When LocoScript is in this state, you can see from the information lines at the top of the screen, which printer LocoScript is currently set up for and its status – whether it's printing, suspended, waiting for paper or not there at all!

The first priority at this stage is to ensure that LocoScript is not waiting to finish printing another document – one that you started printing a while

ago but have since forgotten about. Previous documents have to be completed (or abandoned) before you can either start another document printing or change the printer you are using in any way.

Typically, the message you will see in this case will either be *Suspended* or *Waiting for paper*. If appropriate, feed in another sheet of paper, and then press **[R]** to resume printing. Alternatively, you can stop printing the document by pressing **[77]**. This menu gives you details of the document you're printing, such as the number of pages already printed, and allows you to abandon printing.

Selecting the right printer

Once you are certain that LocoScript does not have any unfinished business to complete, check the name of the printer that is currently selected. This should be shown at the start of the second Information line in Printer Control State (or you could find out by pressing **[75]** to

display the Printer menu). If this isn't the printer you want, change the current printer to the one you want. You can ignore the Status message that follows the incorrect printer name: the message refers to the current printer and so isn't really relevant until you have selected the correct printer.

To change the printer, press **[75]** to bring the Printer menu onto the screen, move the Menu cursor to the Printer line and press **[ENTER]**. The menu that appears lists all the printers that LocoScript can currently use. If your printer is listed, simply select it (by moving the Menu cursor to it and pressing **[R]**) and then use **[ENTER]** and **[EXIT]** **[ENTER]** to leave the menus – pausing to check the Character Set and Character Style details on the way.

Often this is the end of your troubles. LocoScript immediately tries accessing your printer and if all is well, the Status message soon changes to *Ready*. You can now print your document on this printer.

continued on page 8

Printer Control State

The Current Printer
: the printer selected in the f5 Printer menu

The Current Paper Type
: the Paper Type selected in the f3 Paper menu

Ready Top of form Disc management. Idle Printer idle. Using none. Portrait
f1=Actions f2=Paper f5=Printer f6=Left Offset f7=Document f8=Options EXIT

The Printer Status

: whether the printer is ready, waiting for paper, suspended, resetting, busy, idle, the position of the paper etc.

Installing a different printer

Using a different printer is a matter of attaching the printer to your PCW (via an interface and cable) and setting up LocoScript for the printer. The latter is done by copying some extra files onto your Start-of-day disc – INSTALL.DRV and the appropriate Printer files for your printer – and updating the Settings file. (INSTALL.DRV is a special file which holds the program that lets you use a different printer.)

There are two types of Printer file – Printer Driver files and Character Set files. Printer Driver files hold information about the facilities available on a particular printer and how to invoke them. Each file also contains details of a Character Set that is used on the printer. Printer Driver files have a filetype of .PRI. For example, the Printer Driver file for an FX80 printer is FX80.PRI.

Character Set files hold details of an alternative Character Set to the one in the .PRI file. Character Set files share the same filename as the .PRI file but have a filetype of #xx. For example, FX80.#IB lets you use the IBM set of characters on the FX80 printer in place of the Epson Character Set in the FX80.PRI file.

You find out which Printer files to use for your printer by looking at the document PRINTER.LST which is on Side 1 of the Master LocoScript disc. The Printer Driver files which support the most common types of printer are on Side 2 of the Master disc, along with INSTALL.DRV. Other Printer Driver files on this disc provide basic support for almost any printer.

To get the best results from your printer, you may need the Printer Drivers Disc (for the PCW8256/8512) or the Printer

Drivers and Character Sets Disc (for the PCW9512). These discs contain Printer Driver files for the 250 or more printers we support as well as alternative Character Sets for some of the printers.

If you do use a Printer file from either of the Printer Drivers discs, you must use version 2.12 (or later) of LocoScript. Where necessary, a free upgrade can be supplied. (The latest version of LocoScript is automatically supplied with the PCW9512 Printer Drivers and Character Sets Disc.) You should also use the INSTALL.DRV file supplied on these discs.

Below we describe the steps you need to take to install a different printer on your system. In the example, we're setting up LocoScript for an FX80 printer but similar steps are used to install any printer.

Setting up LocoScript 2 for an FX80 printer

These instructions don't include the complete keystroking or information on how to attach the interface. For full details, you will need to refer to other documentation, as follows:

PCW8256/8512 users should refer to:

- Session 20 of the LocoScript 2 User Guide
- the Additional Information booklet (supplied if you upgraded your LocoScript disc)

PCW9512 users should read:

- Session 23 of the PCW9512 User Instructions
- the Additional Information booklet supplied with the PCW9512 Printer Drivers and Character Sets Disc

- Load LocoScript 2 from your Start-of-day disc.
- Copy (using the f3 File menu) INSTALL.DRV, FX80.PRI and FX80.#IB to group 0 on Drive M from group 7 on Side 2 of your master disc. (These files must be copied to Drive M for later steps to work.)
- Re-insert your Start-of-day disc in Drive A (Side 1 to the left) and press [F7].
- Copy INSTALL.DRV, FX80.PRI and FX80.#IB to group 0 on Drive A. If necessary, make room on your disc by erasing the files you don't need such as READ.ME.
- Press [F6] to bring the Settings menu onto the screen.
- Move the cursor to 'Printer Defaults' and press [ENTER]. Move the cursor over 'Defaults for printer' and press [ENTER].

With the cursor over 'FX80', press [F4]. Press [ENTER] to return to the Printer Defaults menu.

- With the cursor over 'Printer Options', press [ENTER]. Set the maximum width of the printer – in this case to 80 – so that LocoScript doesn't try to print past the right hand edge of the printer. Select the interface option to match the port on your machine that the printer is attached to.

If you have to select Serial, you'll have some extra settings to make. See the Additional Information booklet or Appendix IVA of the LocoScript 2 User Guide (versions dated Nov 87 or later).

Press [ENTER] [EXIT] and then [ENTER] to return to the Settings menu.

- Move the cursor to 'Standard Printer' and press [ENTER]. With the cursor over 'FX80', press [F4]. Selecting the printer on this menu means that LocoScript will be ready to use the printer whenever you start up. Press [ENTER] to return to the main Settings menu.
- Save the new Settings to your Start-of-day disc by selecting 'Exit' on the Settings menu and pressing [ENTER]. When the option to write SETTINGS.STD on the disc in Drive A appears, press [ENTER].
- With your Start-of-day disc in Drive A, reload LocoScript by pressing [SHIFT] [EXTRA] and [EXIT].

These steps have set up LocoScript to use the FX80 printer. You won't need to go through the steps again except to install another printer.

Setting up a document for an FX80 printer

Printing documents set up for a printer other than the one you're using may give imperfect spacing between the words and a ragged right hand edge in justified text. To set up documents for the printer you intend to print on, follow the steps given below:

- Start by editing the document.
- Press [F1] to display the Actions menu; select 'Document setup' and press [ENTER].
- When the Pagination Screen and the new set of menus appear, press [F6] to bring the Printer Selection menu onto the screen. Change the printer selected to 'FX80'. To use the IBM Character Set in the FX80.#IB file, select 'FX-80 IBM' in the Character Set menu. Press [EXIT] and [ENTER] to leave the Printer Selection menu.
- Leave Document Set-up by pressing [EXIT] and then [ENTER]. Then save your document to disc by selecting 'Finish edit' from the Exit menu.

You are now ready to print the document on your chosen printer.

Problems requiring further investigation

If your printer is not on the list of printers or your printer is selected but the Status message is 'No printer' or 'Resetting printer', further investigation will be required. We'll now look at what might be wrong in each case.

❶ *The printer isn't listed in the f5 menu*

If your printer doesn't appear in the Printer menu, then there are three possibilities: LocoScript has no knowledge of the printer, the Printer files are not available for LocoScript to use or you have a hardware problem. We'll look at each of these possibilities in turn.

LocoScript keeps a list of the printers it knows about in the Settings file. To use the printer, it also needs to have the Printer files available in Drive M. Typically, it's the absence of the Printer files from group 0 on Drive M that is the problem.

The way to find out what is going on is to see what is displayed in the Settings menu. So return to the Disc Manager, press **[F6]**, then move down to the **FOR PRINTER** line and press **[ENTER]**. If your printer isn't listed here, then the problem is that you haven't installed the printer properly – possibly because you have four other printers recorded in your Settings file. You can't have more than four printers on your system at a time.

When your printer's name is in this list, the thing to check is whether there is a question mark beside its name. If there is, this tells you that the problem is indeed that the Printer files are missing from Drive M. If there is no question mark, but the printer was definitely missing from the menu in Printer Control State, then you probably have a faulty interface. We discuss ways of checking for hardware faults later: here we concentrate on finding out why the Printer files might be missing.

When Printer files are missing, it's likely that they simply weren't copied to Drive M when you started up. If this is the case, check the discs you use to load LocoScript and make sure that the Printer files are in group 0.

If the files are in group 0, the next thing to check is that there was enough room in Drive M for the files. You may have filled up all the room with other files – for example, the

complete set of fonts for the built-in printer. To allow the Printer files to be copied to Drive M, you may have to move extra features such as LocoSpell to a separate Start-of-day disc.

If these actions don't explain the problem, then the only other possibility is that you're using Printer files which are incompatible with the version of LocoScript you're using.

On version 2.12 we changed the Printer files to increase the number of printers we supported. As a result, version 2.12 or later won't recognise Printer files from earlier versions. Similarly earlier versions, such as 2.06 and 2.11, won't recognise Printer files from version 2.12 and later. The best way of checking that you're using an appropriate Printer file is by looking at its Identity text. You can do this using the Inspect option in the f5 Document menu on the Disc Manager screen. If the Printer file isn't suitable for the version of LocoScript you're using, you'll see **Incompatible LocoScript file** at the top of the description. (If you're still using a pre-2.12 version of LocoScript, we recommend that you upgrade to the latest version so that you can use the improved printer drivers. You'll find information on how to upgrade your disc on the enclosed order form.)

Once you have found the problem and changed the Printer files, always reset your PCW before trying to print again. This allows LocoScript to start with a clean slate.

❷ *'Resetting printer'*

When you use a printer for the first time after starting up, LocoScript sends a sequence of codes to reset the printer. The resetting sequence sets up the printer in such a way that the features available on the printer can be controlled by LocoScript. The Printer Status message **Resetting printer** tells you that LocoScript is sending the sequence of codes to reset the printer but the printer isn't responding.

The first place to look for the source of the problem is the printer itself. Is the printer simply switched off or off-line (ie not ready to use)? Most printers have a push button on the front panel of the printer to set the printer on or off line. Failing that, is the printer properly attached to the computer? Check that the cable is plugged in and, if you're using an interface, that it's screwed on firmly to the back of the PCW.

You may also need to check the option switches on your printer. Some printers have a switch which controls the way information is sent to the printer. For example, the Amstrad range of dot matrix printers have a SLCT switch: if this switch is set to off, LocoScript can't send the resetting sequence to the printer. (There's further advice on setting option switches in the 'Hints and Tips' opposite.)

If you think you may have solved the problem, use the Reset printer option in the f1 Actions menu to send a fresh resetting sequence to the printer. The original resetting sequence is now unlikely to succeed as parts of it may well have been 'swallowed' as you changed the switch settings on the printer.

If you're satisfied that the hardware is properly set up and the switches are set correctly, the next thing to check is that you're using the right Printer file for your printer. Check the Printer file against the list given in the document **PRINTER.LST** on your Master LocoScript disc. Your printer is unlikely to respond to a resetting sequence intended for a different printer.

When none of these prove to be the cause of the problem, check the Printer options for your printer in the Settings menu and see which interface option is selected. It could be that the parallel port of the CPS8256 interface is selected when you actually have your printer attached to the serial port.

LocoScript sends the information to the port recorded in the Settings file. So if you've attached your printer to the serial port of the interface but LocoScript thinks you're using the parallel port, you'll get the message **Resetting printer** as LocoScript tries to send information to a printer which isn't there. If you've selected the serial option but attached the printer on the parallel port, your document will appear to print but in fact the information will simply be lost into the air at the serial port.

Note for PCW9512 owners

The PCW9512 has a built-in parallel port so you may not need to attach an interface to use an alternative printer. You'll only need an interface if you want to install more than one alternative printer or you need to connect your printer to a serial port.

⑤ 'No printer'

When the Printer Status message is 'No printer', then LocoScript has tried and failed to select a printer for some reason.

There are two main ways this may have happened. The first is that you haven't copied the INSTALL.DRV file to Drive M alongside the other Printer files. Indeed, you probably saw an Alert message telling you that this file was missing after you selected this printer in the f5 Printer menu. The solution is simply to copy the appropriate INSTALL.DRV file to group 0 and then try selecting the printer again. If necessary copy the file to group 0 of your Start-of-day disc so that it's automatically copied to Drive M when you start up.

The other problem that leads to the 'No printer' message is not having your 'Standard' printer connected when you load LocoScript. In fact, the chances are that this only affects the built-in printer – MATRIX or PCW9512 – and that you detached this printer when you fitted your new printer. Amstrad advise against disconnecting the 9512's printer (so if you have done this, switch off, reconnect the printer and then reload LocoScript) but you can, if you wish, switch off and disconnect the 8256/8512's matrix printer.

The 'No printer' message will clear if you use the f5 Printer menu to make another printer the current printer. This cures the problem – but only temporarily: to avoid LocoScript always going into this 'No printer' state, you should either switch off and reconnect the Standard printer or use the f6 Settings menu to change the Standard printer recorded in the Settings file.

Hints and tips

- Where possible, attach your printer on the parallel port of the interface – there's much less room for error!

- If your printer only has a serial interface, be careful to ensure that the Baud rate, the Protocol and the Parity you select in the Settings menu match the options selected on your printer.

- Turn OFF any special features that your printer offers such as proportional spacing, NLQ and Auto CRLF – but turn ON Auto bi-directional printing if this is offered.

These special features are usually available via option switches which are

usually to be found at the back of the printer, although on more modern printers the features are controlled by push buttons on a front panel. LocoScript's Printer files are set up assuming that these options are not selected because this allows each file to be used on a range of compatible printers: otherwise, you would have to use a different Printer file depending on the range of options available on your printer.

Setting the switches to off at the printer doesn't mean you can't use the features they offer in your documents. Instead, LocoScript sends special codes to the printer which select the features you need in your document for you.

- Leave all the other settings as they came from the factory.

Checking for hardware faults

If the remedies we've suggested don't solve the problem with your printer, it's likely that the hardware is at fault. This could be the interface, the cable or the printer itself.

There is a simple way of checking whether the interface is the problem. When you start up LocoScript asks the computer for information about the hardware the machine is using, such as the disc drives. It also checks to see if an interface is attached. If the interface is properly connected, the computer signals the information to LocoScript and the message (with parallel/serial interface) is displayed on the second line of the introductory screen.

If this message doesn't appear as you're loading LocoScript, check that the interface is firmly attached and then restart the system. If it still doesn't appear, or only appears intermittently, then the interface is faulty. In this case, the advice is to consult your dealer.

The way of testing whether the printer and cable is at fault is to try printing text in CP/M. If you're unable to use the printer with CP/M, it suggests that there may be a fault with either the printer or the cable. This is also a job for your dealer!

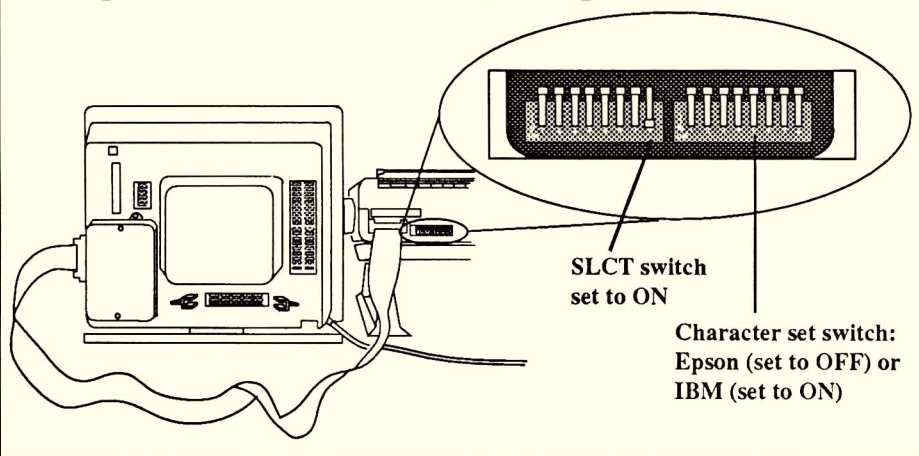
Printing rubbish

The other type of problem you may need to resolve is if you can print a document but the result is flawed. Either the wrong characters are printed or the layout of the text is distorted. Once again there are a number of possible reasons.

Using the wrong Printer file is the most likely cause of the problem, but simply using the wrong Character Set can also mean you print a document incorrectly. Other items to check are the switch settings on your printer and the settings selected if you're using the serial port of the interface.

In the November issue of *Script* we'll look at the problem of printing rubbish.

The option switches on an LQ3500 printer



Page Numbering

Whether it's a book, a report, or simply a letter to a friend, numbering the pages is both useful and improves the way your document looks.

With LocoScript, there's no need to put the page numbers in by hand. Instead, you can get LocoScript to number the pages for you – and in a range of styles. All you have to do is mark the spot where you want the page number to be printed with a special code and some particular characters, and LocoScript will insert the correct page number when the document is printed.

Where you have a large document, we recommend that you split it up into a number of smaller documents so that editing the text is easier. In such cases, you'll want the page numbers to follow on from one another as if you were printing a single document. LocoScript 2 provides you with a feature that lets you do this automatically. In this article, we show you both how to give your documents page numbers and how to number several documents consecutively.

Putting a page number into a document involves putting a special Page number code and some particular characters at the point in your document that you want the page number to appear. The Page number code tells LocoScript that you want it to insert the page number; the characters reserve the space in the document that will be used for the page number.

Each character reserves space for one digit of the page number, so you always need at least as many characters as there are digits in the largest page number you have. So if, for example, you have page numbers going up to 100, that's a maximum of three digits and so you need at least three characters to reserve enough space.

Codes and characters

LocoScript actually has two different Page number codes and three different characters to mark the place where the page number is printed.

The two Page number codes are (PageNo) and (LPageNo). These correspond to the two different page numbers that you might want to insert in your document – the number of the current page (ie. the number of the page the code is on) and the number of the last page in the document. The number of the last page is needed, for example, when you want to use the Page *n* of *m* style of page numbering.

The three different characters correspond to the three different ways in which you might want to position the page number in the space you reserve for it – to the left of the space, to the right of the space or centred. The

characters that are used are <, > and =. They were chosen because they each suggest the type of positioning they are used to indicate. For example, < can be thought of as pointing to the left and this is the character to use when you want the numbers to be over to the left of the reserved space; similarly > points to the right and it's used to reserve the space when you want the numbers to be over to the right. When you want them centred, you use =. Of course, you need to use the same character for each space you want to reserve: a mixture of characters doesn't make any sense and won't work!

The characters are always positioned immediately after the Page number code they refer to. There cannot be even a space between the code and the characters. Indeed, if all you have got so far out of your attempts to put in page numbers has been == or << where you wanted a page number, you have probably been putting a space between the code and the characters.

Putting in the codes

The special Page number codes are 'word-processing' codes, just like the familiar styling codes like (+Bold) and (+Italic) or the positioning codes (CEntre) and (RAlign). The only difference is that you can't insert them from a menu like Style or Layout; you can only insert them from the Set menu.

The two Page number codes are (PageNo) and (LPageNo). As you know, the quick way of entering a code is by pressing **⌘** (the key you have to press to bring the Set menu onto the screen, anyway), followed by the letters of the code that are in capitals. So the quick way of entering a (PageNo) code is to type **⌘**PN, while the quick way to

enter a (LPageNo) code is to type **⌘**LPN.

To show you how the Page number codes and characters are used, let's suppose that you wanted LocoScript to print the current page number like this:

Page 1, Page 22 etc.

ie. starting with the word Page and followed by a space and then a number that could have up to two digits.

Before starting, a useful tip is to make sure the both codes and spaces are visible on the screen, by using the f8 Options menu. This is important because without these showing, you might inadvertently insert spaces in the wrong place. Or you might accidentally delete a special code you've inserted by over-zealous use of the **⌘**DEL and DEL**⌘** keys.

The word Page and the space that follows it are simply text and so are typed in the normal way. Immediately after the space, you need the Page number code. The page number here is the current page number and so the code you want is (PageNo). To put in the code, you type **⌘**PN. This gives you:

Page⌘(PageNo)

For the number itself, you need to reserve two spaces (so that it can handle two-digit numbers like 22) and you want the number positioned to the left. This means that you need to follow the (PageNo) code by two of the < 'left' markers, giving you:

Page⌘(PageNo)<<

And that's all you need. Remember, though, to check that you don't have a space between the code and the characters.

Different styles

Page 1 is not the only style of page numbering you can have. With LocoScript you're free to adopt the style which suits you, using any combination of text, the current page number and the last page number. For example, you might want the page number to be printed like this:

-1-

Or you might want to include the total pages as well:

Page 1 of 4

The $-n-$ style of page number is simply the current page number centred between two hyphens. Given that you would like to handle both one and two-digit numbers, what you need in your document is just $-(PageNo)=-$.

The Page n of m style is the Page n style we described above, with of followed by the last page number tacked on the end. So all you require in the document is:

Page*(PageNo) <<of*(LPageNo) <<

Where to put page numbers

You can set up page numbers anywhere you like in your document, but the best place to put them is in your Header or Footer text – that is, the special text that you can put at the top or the bottom of each page.

There are several reasons for putting the page number code in Header or Footer text. For a start, it means that you only have to set up the page number codes once to print the correct page number on each page. When LocoScript adds your Header or Footer text to a page, it knows the number of the page it is adding this text to and so it will insert the correct page number for you. The other advantage of putting page numbers in Header or Footer text is that the page number will appear in the right place on each page regardless of how much you change your document. Headers always appear at the top of the page; Footers always appear at the bottom.

The Header and Footer text is set up on the Pagination Screen in Document Set-up and you can control the pages on which the Headers and Footers (and hence your page numbers) are printed through the Header/Footer Options menu. It's even possible to print the page number in different positions on odd- and even-numbered pages to give you the effect of right and left hand pages, as we show you overleaf.

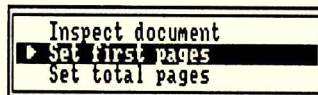
Numbering a complete book

The best way of handling any long piece of text is to split it into a number of separate documents. Authors, for example, might keep the chapters of a book in separate documents. However, in such cases you have two requirements. You want the page numbers in the different documents to match and you want the page numbers to run on from one document to another. After all, there aren't many books where every chapter starts at page 1!

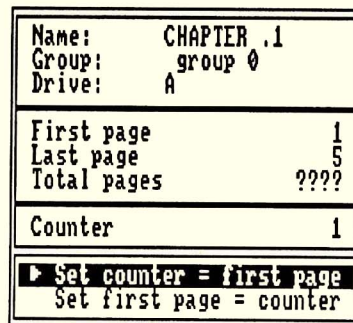
These requirements are readily met by LocoScript 2. The problem of matching the style of page numbers across a number of documents is solved by setting up a template with the style of page numbering you require in its Header and Footer text, and then creating all the documents from this template. (We described setting up and using templates in Issue 1 of *Script*.)

To help you get the page numbers to run on, LocoScript 2 has a special `Set first pages` option in the `f5 Document` menu on the Disc Manager screen. Another option in this menu enables you to set the same Total Pages number in every document. The key to this operation is a counter which LocoScript automatically sets to one more than the final page number in each document you pick out. We show you how this works below.

The first step in setting up consecutive page numbers is to return to the Disc Manager Screen and pick out the first document in the series with the File cursor. When the cursor is in place, select `Set first pages` from the `f5 Document` menu:



and the following menu appears:



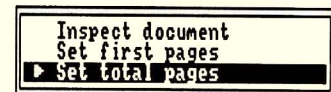
This menu tells you the current page numbers in this document and the current setting of the counter, and gives you the choice of setting the counter to match the first page or to change the first page to match the counter.

Normally, for the very first document, the option you want is `Set counter=first page`, because at this stage the counter is set to the last value it had – which won't necessarily be 1. The first page of the document, however, probably will be 1. The counter retains its old value so that you can number documents on different discs (you'll have to leave the `f5 Document` menu when you change the discs in the drives) and so that you don't have to start all over again if you accidentally pick out the wrong document at any point in the sequence.

LocoScript then prompts you for the next document in the series. Pick out this document with the File cursor, press `ENTER` and the menu will appear again with the counter now set to one more than the last page in the first document and just the one option `Set first page=counter`. Simply press `ENTER` and follow the on-screen instructions until you've set up the first pages of all the documents in the series.

If you're using the style of page numbering `Page n of m`, you'll want each document to have the same last page number. You can set this up by giving each document in the series the same Total Pages number. Do this immediately after you've set up the last first page number so that the counter has the right value. This time you can pick out the documents in any order – though you'll probably find it easiest to work through the documents either first to last as before or in the reverse order.

Again, you start with the File cursor over the first document you want to set but this time, you select the `Set total pages` from the `f5 Document` menu.



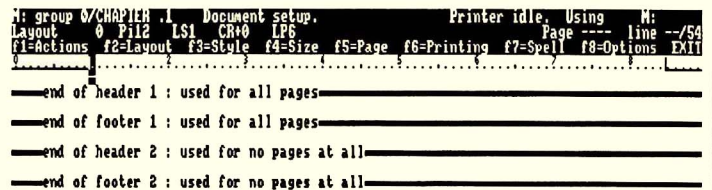
LocoScript automatically calculates the total pages number and displays a menu very much as before but with one option `Set total pages=counter`. You simply have to work your way through the documents so that each document has the same total pages number.

This procedure is intended to be carried out just before you print the final version of each document. There's no point in setting up the page numbers until you've finished editing all your documents. Further editing can upset the page numbering scheme and means you'll have to go through the steps again before printing the documents.

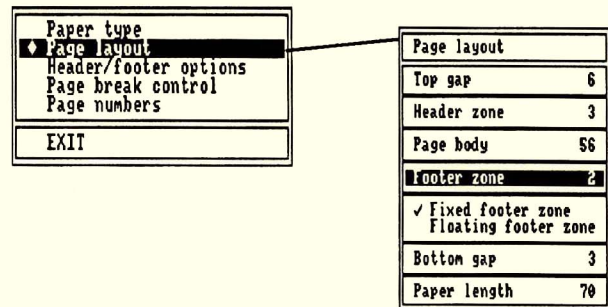
Numbering left and right hand pages

The following steps set up a document to print the page number at the bottom left of the page on left hand pages, and at the bottom right on right hand pages – a popular page numbering scheme for authors. This example shows you just one of the ways in which you can use Headers and Footers to print page numbers. In fact, you can set up Header and Footer text to print page numbers in a range of different ways. For example, you can print them on all pages except the first or the last or both. To find out more about the options for printing Headers and Footers, see the article on Page Layout in Issue 4 of *Script*.

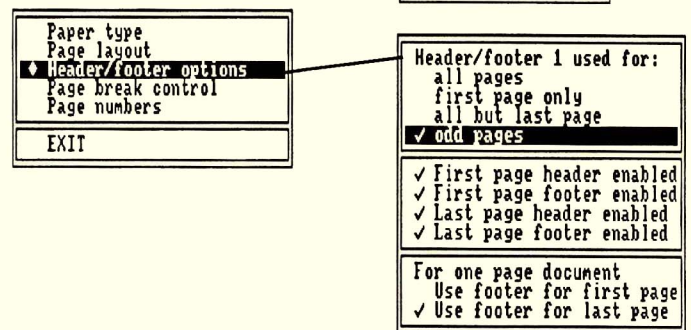
① Edit the document, then select Document setup from the f1 Actions menu and press **[ENTER]**. This displays the Pagination screen and the various menus that you can use to change the Document Set-up.



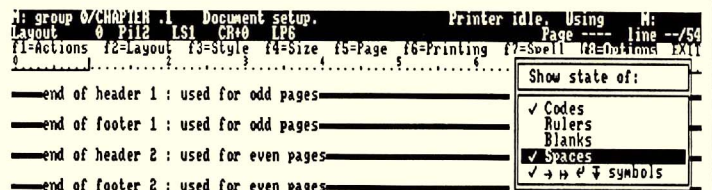
② Press **[F5]** to display the Page menu, then select the Page layout option and press **[ENTER]**. This displays the Page layout menu. Check the size of the Footer zone: this is given as a number of lines and it needs to be at least 2 so that we can put the page number in with a blank line above it. If necessary, move the cursor to the Footer zone line and type 2 **[ENTER]** to set a big enough zone. Then check that the Fixed footer zone option has a tick beside it. If necessary, move the cursor to this option and press **[F]**.



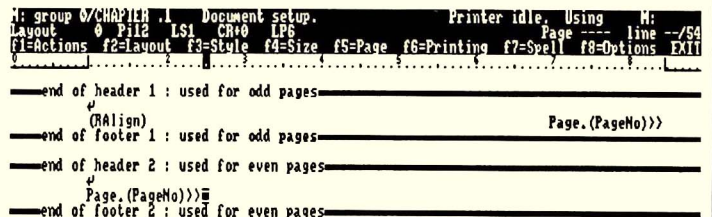
③ Press **[ENTER]** to return to the Page menu, then select Header/footer options and press **[ENTER]** to display the Header/Footer options menu. Move the cursor to Odd pages in the top part of menu and press **[F]** to select this option: selecting this option means that the first set of Pagination text will be used for odd-numbered pages (that is, right hand pages) and the second set will be used for even-numbered pages (ie. left hand pages). Then check that both First page footer enabled and Last page footer enabled are both ticked, so that the page numbers will also be printed on the first and last pages of the document. If necessary, move to each of these options in turn and press **[F]**.



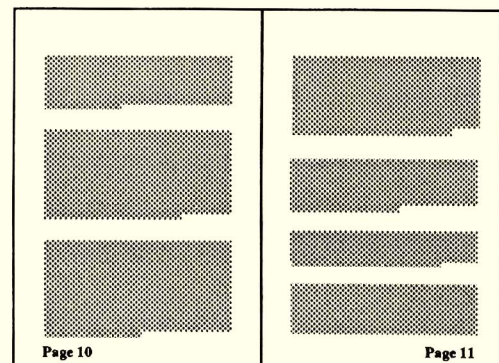
④ Press **[ENTER]** to return to the Page menu and then **[EXIT]** **[ENTER]** to return to the Pagination screen. The document is now correctly set up to print different headers and footers on right and left hand pages. Press **[F8]** to bring down the Options menu and, if necessary, place a tick by the options for Codes and Spaces.



⑤ Move the Text cursor down to the second section of this screen, just above end of footer 1... This is the part of the screen in which to set up the Footer text for use on right hand pages. We want a blank line between the text and the page number, so the first thing to do is press **[RETURN]**. Then we want the page number to appear at the right hand side of the page so the first thing on the next line needs to be a (RAlign) code. The quick way of inserting this is to press **[F]RA**. The cursor jumps to the end of the line ready for you to type in text. Type in the word Page, followed by a space. Now enter the special (PageNo) Page Number code by typing **[F]PN** followed by >> (so that the number is over to the right in the area reserved for it).



This is the result:



⑥ Move the Text cursor to the last of the four sections, just above end of footer 2... This section is used for the Footer text for left hand pages. Again we want to start with a blank line, so press **[RETURN]**. Then we simply want the word Page, a space and the (PageNo) code followed by >>. No (RAlign) code is needed this time because you want the page number on left of the page. Press **[EXIT]** and **[ENTER]** to leave Document Set-up. Finally save the document on disc in the usual way.

Letters

I appreciate the improvements you've made to LocoScript. I use seven different types of paper and was always having trouble with LocoScript 1. Incidentally, there is a problem you might be able to help with here. Using Filofax paper I get 40.5 and 22.5 'lines' when multiplied by 6. Do I round up, or round down, when setting the paper descriptions?

Mr MH, Birmingham

For continuous stationery, it's essential to calculate the Height accurately because LocoScript feeds the paper very precisely so that you always start at the same position on each page. If you round the Height up or down for continuous paper, you'll find that after printing a couple of pages your text may start to move up or down the page and will eventually print over the perforations.

With single sheet paper, LocoScript feeds out each sheet. The Height you give simply affects the distance that LocoScript will feed out the paper so you can round either way. But if the Height is greater than the length of the paper, make sure the excess is absorbed in the Bottom Gap and not in an area of the paper you can use for text.

Recovering from my disappointment in learning that LocoScript 2 could not match LocoScript 1 in providing the user with an opportunity to increase the tab settings to a maximum of 99 per layout, I was further floored to learn that the maximum tab settings available in a layout is 15.

Being a person who enjoys a challenge I managed to create a layout using a maximum of 30 tab settings. My faith in LocoScript restored I felt no time should be lost in writing to you so that you too might share in my delight.

Ms CE, Gillingham

We are indeed delighted, although not surprised, that you've been able to set up 30 tab stops in your layout. The restriction on 15 tab settings applies only when you set up Stock Layouts. Along with other details, information about the Stock Layouts is held at the beginning of a document. The amount of space

I use LocoScript 2.12 and have set it up to write the narrative for my PH.D thesis. I have a text layout PiPS LS1½ CR+1 LP6 and justified (although this does not show on the screen). Once or twice on each page I change layout for inset quotes – PiPS LS1 CR+½ LP6 and Justify. The problem is that when I press the Exit key the gap on the move from text to quotes and quotes to text again is excessively large. Using the delete key to bring it back to say one return usually changes what should be a quote to text style and vice versa. What is the answer?


Mr RL, Otford

We suspect that you are changing the layout by using the 'New layout' option. You get a larger gap than you expect between your text and quotes because each Layout code that you introduce with the 'New Layout' option is followed by a carriage return. LocoScript adds this carriage return so that you get the full effect of the layout immediately – some details such as the margin settings only take effect on the next line. In using the delete key to reduce the gap it sounds as though you're accidentally deleting the Layout code as well.

available in this part of the document is limited and so we've had to restrict the number of tab stops you can set up.

However the same restrictions don't apply to layouts in the body of your document. When you create a new layout in your document, all the information is held in the file at the point where your cursor is positioned and so the space available for this information isn't so limited. So you can pull a copy of a Stock Layout into your document and then use 'Change layout' to increase the number of tabs to 30.

You should note that changing the layout at the top of your document or in the Pagination Screen won't allow you to increase the number of tabs you can use. Altering the details here also changes the information stored in Stock Layout 1 and Stock Layout 0 so the limit of 15 tabs applies.

You can solve the problem by setting up the layout details for your quotes and text as Stock Layouts. Copying a Stock Layout into your document doesn't introduce an extra carriage return. You simply need to position your cursor on the line before the start of the text or the quotes and then pull in a copy of the appropriate Stock Layout by pressing  followed by LT and the number of the Stock Layout you want to use.

Whilst editing a document, a message suddenly appeared on the screen telling me that the disc was full and giving me the option to run the Disc Manager or cancel the operation. When I accepted the former option, I found a copy of the file I was editing but this document had a suffix of .\$\$\$.

When I tried to erase it, another error message appeared: 'File is already in use'. I erased some other documents to make space for the file, managed to finish the edit and returned to the Disc Manager Screen, whereupon the file had disappeared. Can you explain the appearance of this phantom file?

Mrs EF, Kingston-upon-Hull

The phantom file you refer to is the working copy of the document you're editing. When you edit a document LocoScript creates a new version of the document. The old version is kept as a back up in case you want to abandon the edit. If you run out of space whilst editing a document and you run the Disc Manager, the new document appears on the Disc Manager Screen with the filetype of .\$\$\$.

You can free space to finish the edit by moving documents onto another disc or erasing them. But LocoScript won't let you erase a document you're still editing – hence the error message when you try to delete the .\$\$\$ file. When you finish editing the document LocoScript replaces the old version of the file with the new version (leaving the old version as a limbo file in case you need to recover it), and so when you return to the Disc Manager Screen the document appears with its original filetype.

Letters

Whilst I was editing a document, LocoScript told me the disc was full and gave me two options – Run disc manager or Cancel the operation. I went to the Disc Manager and erased all the files I didn't need which should have left me plenty of space to finish editing the document. But when I returned to the document and tried to finish the edit, LocoScript came up with the same message. I was forced to lose all my editing, even though there appeared to be plenty of space on my disc. Is there a hiccup in the program?

Mr SA, Aylesbury

There was no need for you to lose all your editing! Your problem arose because you didn't notice which Drive LocoScript told you was full and so you removed documents from the disc in Drive A when, in fact, you had run out of space in Drive M.

If you get the Disc Full message, remember to note which drive is affected. Then accept the option to Run Disc Manager and make space on that Drive, either by moving the documents onto a different disc or by erasing them. If Drive M is full, the best files to remove are extra Printer files or the LocoSpell dictionaries as you can always copy these back to Drive M when you need them.

I could not get the LocoScript 2 master copied. First of all the message that appeared indicated it was write-protected. I closed the write protect hole. However the copying would not continue after track 14. After several goes I inserted the writing disc, but this produced the message that this disc could not be read. When I re-inserted the master, the machine beeped and acted as if the disc was dead. Can you advise me?

Mr PL, Anfield

I'm afraid you have damaged your LocoScript 2 Master disc. The mistake you made was to insert the Master disc (or to leave this disc in the drive) when LocoScript displayed the 'Waiting for Destination disc' message. What you should have done was to insert your new blank disc.

When you told LocoScript that the Destination disc was in the drive, it tried to write on this disc. That was when it

I recently purchased "LocoFont" and am very pleased with the great choice of fonts which I now have available. I would ask one question, however, in the hope that a small problem can be solved.

When I am using the Direct Printing facility with LocoScript, is there any way in which I can specify which font I would like to use? It seems that I have to use the last font which was in use for printing a document. This letter is printed in the Copper Plate font, but if I had wished to print the label for the envelope by Direct Printing in the Modern font, then it appears that I cannot change the settings for this printing. Is this in fact correct, or am I missing something?

Mr TBS, Menstrie

*You can use any font you choose in Direct Printing. The Direct Printing facility uses the printer and Character Set that the printer is currently set up for. To find out which Character Set is currently in use, press **[PTR]** and then **[TS]** to display the Printer menu.*

To use a different font, simply change the Character Set selected on the Printer menu prior to invoking Direct Printing from the Disc Manager Screen. You will then print in your chosen font.

discovered that the disc was write-protected. When you closed the write-protect hole and re-inserted the now unprotected disc, LocoScript went ahead and wrote on the Master disc.

The copying couldn't continue after you had done this because LocoScript no longer recognised your Master disc as the Source disc: to LocoScript, this disc was now the Destination disc. LocoScript 'labels' the discs differently to allow it to spot if you try to use two different destination discs or mix up the source and destination disc. Unfortunately, this system can only work after it has seen both discs – it can't help you if you get them muddled at the first swap.

If you copied a complete part of the disc before abandoning the copying process, it may be possible to retrieve the information on the disc. Mr David Smith, the 'disc doctor' (see opposite), may be able to salvage the data for you.

I have a problem! I am a Translator and Interpreter and have my own small translation bureau. My own language is Italian and I quite often have to translate from English to Italian, either technical, legal, or ordinary documents.

The problem arises when I have to create an ASCII file from a LocoScript one. Any accents above or below a letter can throw up all kinds of different symbols on the screen after conversion to ASCII. As a subscriber to *Script* I am aware that you have now produced LocoScript in Italian. But have you been able to do anything about the ASCII conversion for the Italian? I don't really need LocoScript in Italian as all the accents I require are available with the GB version. But if you have been able to get over this problem, then you have a customer for the Italian version of LocoScript.

Mr TS, Cheadle Hulme

Your problem will indeed be solved by the Italian version of LocoScript. There are different national versions of ASCII so the characters that can be represented in ASCII vary from language to language. We've allowed for this variation in the Make ASCII feature. For example, Make ASCII in the English version of LocoScript converts accurately those characters which are most commonly used by other English software. But in the Italian version, Make ASCII correctly translates the characters other Italian programs use.

Not all the characters that LocoScript supports can be represented in ASCII. This is hardly surprising when you consider that, with accents, there are about 7000 characters in LocoScript 2. Only 94 of these have standard ASCII representations and the particular characters translated vary between the different national versions of ASCII.

Whilst characters such as the letters a to z and the numbers 0 to 9 are converted correctly in all versions of LocoScript 2, the remaining characters are converted as sensibly as possible for the language version you're using. For example, the Italian version will correctly translate é and other characters such as à, ù, è, ì and ° into Italian ASCII. In the English version, we correctly translate [,], {, }, / and \ instead.

Letters

Do you know if there is any likelihood of the daisywheel printer for the PCW9512 being made available as an item separate from the 9512? And if so, would it be compatible with the 8512? It's not so much daisywheel quality I'm after as the extra-wide platen able to take A4 paper sideways – very useful for tables etc.

Mr TN, Southport

It isn't possible to use the PCW9512's printer with a PCW8512. The PCW9512 printer is literally built into the PCW. You can't attach it to another PCW as the operation of the printer is dependent on the electronics inside the PCW9512.

As you're only concerned about making use of the extra-wide platen, you might consider using an external printer which has a suitably wide platen. LocoScript supports a range of such printers. We suggest you contact your dealer for more information.

I recently purchased from you "LocoFont" for my PCW8512 and note your suggestion to install the fonts on the dictionary disc – which I have done. However as you can see from the enclosed screen dump, this only leaves 16k of space on the M drive which can cause problems even when editing quite small documents! Accordingly I would be grateful for your comments on this.

Dr RG, Falkirk

We've now created more add-on programs and support files than can be accommodated even on a PCW with 512k of memory. In particular, the large dictionary supplied with LocoSpell and the LocoFont Character Set files use up a lot of the space in Drive M.

When you don't have enough space on Drive M for every file you might need, you have to make a decision about how you use the add-on programs. You can limit the number of fonts in Drive M to just those you actually need. Alternatively, you can set up two Start-of-day discs – one for fonts and one for LocoSpell.

For more advice, see the article on Start Up in Issue 5 of Script.

I have recently purchased the hard-disk version of LocoScript 2 with LocoSpell to use on my PCW8512 with Timatic hard disk. My hard disk is partitioned as 4 drives of 5Mb each; I use one for LocoScript exclusively, and the others for program development. Each of the other drives has in excess of 400 files. As a result of this, in order to use drive M, I have to scroll past over a thousand files very slowly on the screen each time, a process which takes many minutes. It would be much, much easier if you could provide a menu from where one or more drives can be temporarily 'Hidden' so that they don't appear on the screen, and scrolling past them was not necessary.

Mr PE, Poole

*There is a way to getting to Drive M without scrolling the Disc Manager screen past all your files. Press C to create a document and on the menu displayed for you to type the name of the new document, move the cursor down to the Drive section and type M. Press **ENTER** to create the document but then immediately select 'Abandon edit' from the Exit menu. This will leave your file cursor in Drive M.*

It's not a perfect solution but it's certainly faster than moving the cursor past a thousand files.

We have heard a lot recently about bugs and viruses in computers, so it might be a pleasant change to hear of a virus which is, to say the least, benign if slightly frightening.

I was running a chapter of a novel through the version of LocoSpell which I bought from you, and was dutifully adhering to the various commands to replace, edit, store, consult and so forth, when the spell cursor stopped momentarily on the word 'counvtry'. And – so help me – this is the gospel truth: I have my wife as witness to the fact that, before I could even lift a finger to touch the edit option, the checker changed the misspelled word to 'country', leaving us staring at each other in disbelief.

Needless to say, my wife left my den at once and has not been back since. Is

I've been using documents on a data disc for some time and I've suddenly come across a problem. When I edit a document, LocoScript tells me it's Not a LocoScript document. Can you help?

Mr RE, Hastings

The message 'Not a LocoScript document' means that the information at the start of the file you've selected doesn't fit the pattern expected for a LocoScript document. For example, if you try and edit an ASCII file without converting it into a LocoScript format, LocoScript can't find the information it expects and so gives you this message.

If this message appears when you edit a document you've previously used without difficulty, it suggests that the document has become damaged and LocoScript can no longer read the information in the top part of the file. This sort of damage can be caused if you remove a disc from the drive before you've finished editing the document.

You may be able to retrieve some of the information in the document by sending it to David Smith. He runs a data salvage service for damaged discs and donates the money he receives to charity. You can contact Mr Smith at 41 Tutsham Way, Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6UA.

there a ready explanation for this? Has it happened before?

Mr AK, Newtownards

*We don't think your disc is suffering from the intrusion of a strange virus, even if it is such a helpful one! We think it's much more likely that you pressed **ENTER** once too often prior to LocoSpell finding the misspelt word.*

*LocoScript saves up any keystrokes that it doesn't use immediately: this allows you to type ahead. If you pressed **ENTER** twice after starting LocoSpell or after correcting a mistake, LocoSpell has an **ENTER** to use up when it finds the next mistake. 'Use suggested replacement' is the option automatically highlighted by LocoSpell when it finds a mistake so, because there was an **ENTER** waiting to be used, it assumed that you wanted to select this option.*

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