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Apparat's NEWDOS/80 Version 2.0

This article is not a review, but is only a discussion of some of the anticipated differences between NEWDOS/80 Version 1.0 (V1) and Version 2.0 (V2). I said anticipated because, as of this writing, V2 has not yet been shipped, but is expected shortly. The description is based upon preliminary information which may not be 100 percent accurate. Unless otherwise indicated, all information is the same for the Model-I and Model-III implementations.

System Differences

V2 supports any combination of 5-1/4" floppy disks containing 35, 40, 77, or 80 tracks, single or double sided, and recorded in single or double density. A 35 or 40 track diskette may be read on an 80 track drive. V2 will not automatically change density as did DBLZAP-II, but the manual change does not require a "boot" and may be performed under MINI-DOS. In general, diskettes may be freely exchanged between Mod-I and Mod-III V2 systems (see the WRDIRP command), but Mod-III TRSDOS diskettes may not be read or written by user programs (see the COPY command).

On the Model-I: double density requires the Percom DOUBLER (tm) or equivalent, and any double sided drives limit you to a total of three drives. Limited 8" drive support is available (as in V1), but now 17 sectors may be written on a track (was 15).

The system now contains a built-in blinking cursor and L/C driver (no high memory driver is required). The keys also repeat if held down. Date and time are saved across "reset" and the operator is prompted for the current date / time at power-up. If the verify fails after a successful write, the system will now retry the write / verify sequence. Each of the above features is optional using the SYSTEM command. New attributes for files indicate whether the file has been "recently" updated, whether the file may be extended if it needs more space, and whether unused "grans" should be released at CLOSE time.

CHAIN files may now be created by SCRIPSIT (tm) or by a simple BASIC program since a "/./#" sequence may be used instead of the hex 8# used in V1. DOS-CALL is now legal under chaining, including CMD"....." from BASIC. The "DOS READY" message is now suppressed during chaining.

Command Differences

The COPY command (including CBF) will now copy Mod-III TRSDOS files to or from single or double density V2 (or Mod-I TRSDOS) diskettes. Copy by file (CBF) will now correctly copy an entire "system" diskette. CBF no longer requires a "system" diskette to be resident in drive-0 and, therefore, will work on a single drive configuration (by exchanging diskettes). CBF also has an option to copy only "updated" files, only files having a specified "extension", or only files which are not "invisible". Another option uses a list of file names in an ASCII file. The "list" may either define which files to copy or which files to not copy.

The DIR command now has the option to display file names which have been "updated" or which have a specified "extension". DIR without the "A" operand will now list names 4-across. DIR with the "A" operand lists one name on a line, but with much more information than did V1.

The ATTRIB command will now set or reset the three new attributes which were described previously.

The new CHNON command allows chaining to be temporarily suspended so that input may be received from the operator.

The new CLEAR command cancels device routing and exit routines and, optionally, sets free memory to zeros.

The new CREATE command pre-allocates a file with a specified number of records of a specified length. It will also, optionally, set the attributes to not extend or to not contract the file.

The DEBUG function is now activated only by 1-2-3 (not by BREAK) and there is now a "Q" option which will purge the current program and return you to DOS READY.

The new DO command is identical to the CHAIN command.

The DUMP command has a new operand to specify a relocation address.

The LIST and PRINT commands now allow the specification of a "line count" in addition to the starting line number. Control characters will now be translated to periods and the "graphics" bit will be ignored. What this means is that EDTASM source files may now be listed (tabs are not expanded but line numbers are readable) and /CMD files may be listed without garbaging up the video display.

The PDRIVE command now has several more operands, and up to 10 specifications, although there is still a maximum of 4 real drives. The others may be preset to desired configurations and used as "models" to quickly change the definitions of the real drives. The command always updates the disk resident table, but now has the option to also update the memory resident table, causing the changes to take effect without a "boot".

The PROT command will now optionally reset the "updated" flags for all files on

the diskette.

The PURGE command now has the option to process only those files having a specified "extension" or those which are not "invisible".

The new ROUTE command supports limited device routing, including output suppression and "in memory" devices. However, no editing is performed on the data to remove device dependent control characters (eg., if the VIdео is routed to the PRinter, the "cursor off" control character will start underlining on my Centronics 737).

The new WRDIRP (WRite DIRectory Protection) command fixes directory protection problems in single density due to the differences in disk controller chips between the Mod-I and the Mod-III. There is an equivalent option in the DIRCHECK utility.

The new FORMS and SETCOM commands are available only on the Mod-III and are very similar to those in Mod-III TRSDOS.

The new CLS, ERROR, PAUSE and STMT commands are used to display messages from within a CHAIN file.

The HIMEM, DATE and TIME commands will, if no operand is specified, display the current value.

The new LCDVR (Mod-I only), LC and BLINK commands control the state of the blinking cursor keyboard routines.

Utility Differences

DIRCHECK now has the option to zero unused entries in the directory and to fix single density diskette directories exchanged between the Mod-I and the Mod-III (see the WRDIRP command).

DISASSEM now has the option to write the output into a disk file so that it may be re-assembled.

LMOFFSET now has the ability to convert a load module to a "system" tape or to copy "system" tapes.

SUPERZAP will now encode passwords and HIT values to fix broken directories (in conjunction with DIRCHECK). A file (or the entire diskette) may be searched to find up to four hex bytes. A load module may also be searched for up to four hex bytes, but imbedded loader information will be ignored. It also has the option to zero part (or all) of the current sector.

BASIC differences

Forward and backward full page scrolling is now supported using the "@" and ";" keys respectively. The screen will scroll up to 14 lines per command, but lines will never be broken between screens. The REF command now has two new options to

allow searching the program for "reserved" words or for "text" (as in PRINT or REM statements).

New options of the CMD"F=,...." allow you to (1) change the string area size without CLEARing all variables; (2) CLEAR a list of variables, leaving the rest intact; (3) CLEAR all except a list of variables; (4) DELETE a range of line numbers.

The MERGE command may now appear as a program statement to include another BASIC program (ASCII or compressed) within the current program and then continue with the statement following the MERGE with all variables intact.

The RENUM command will now allow, as an option, undefined line numbers outside the range of lines to be renumbered. This change, in conjunction with those in the two preceding paragraphs, become NEWDOS/80's BASIC overlay structure.

BASIC now supports the TRSDOS syntax for variable length "random" files (in addition to the V1 extensions to BASIC). CMD"C" will compress the spaces and REMarks from the current program. CMD"J" will convert between Julian (-YY/DDD) and calendar (MM/DD/YY) date formats.

CMD"O" is an in-memory BASIC array sort which will sort arrays of any variable type, ascending or descending, and combinations of up to 9 arrays into the same sequence. String arrays may use a "MID\$" type of notation to specify that only part of each element will be compared during the sort. A second option ("indirect") will sort up to 8 arrays, producing an "index" vector, but leaving the other arrays unchanged.

CMD"F=SWAP" will exchange the contents of two variables. CMD"F=SS" turns on "single stepping" in the BASIC program; the next line number appears at the top of the screen and waits for ENTER or BREAK.

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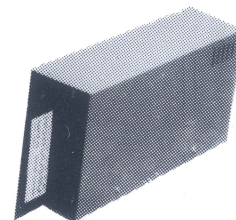
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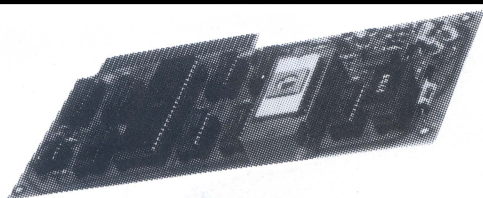
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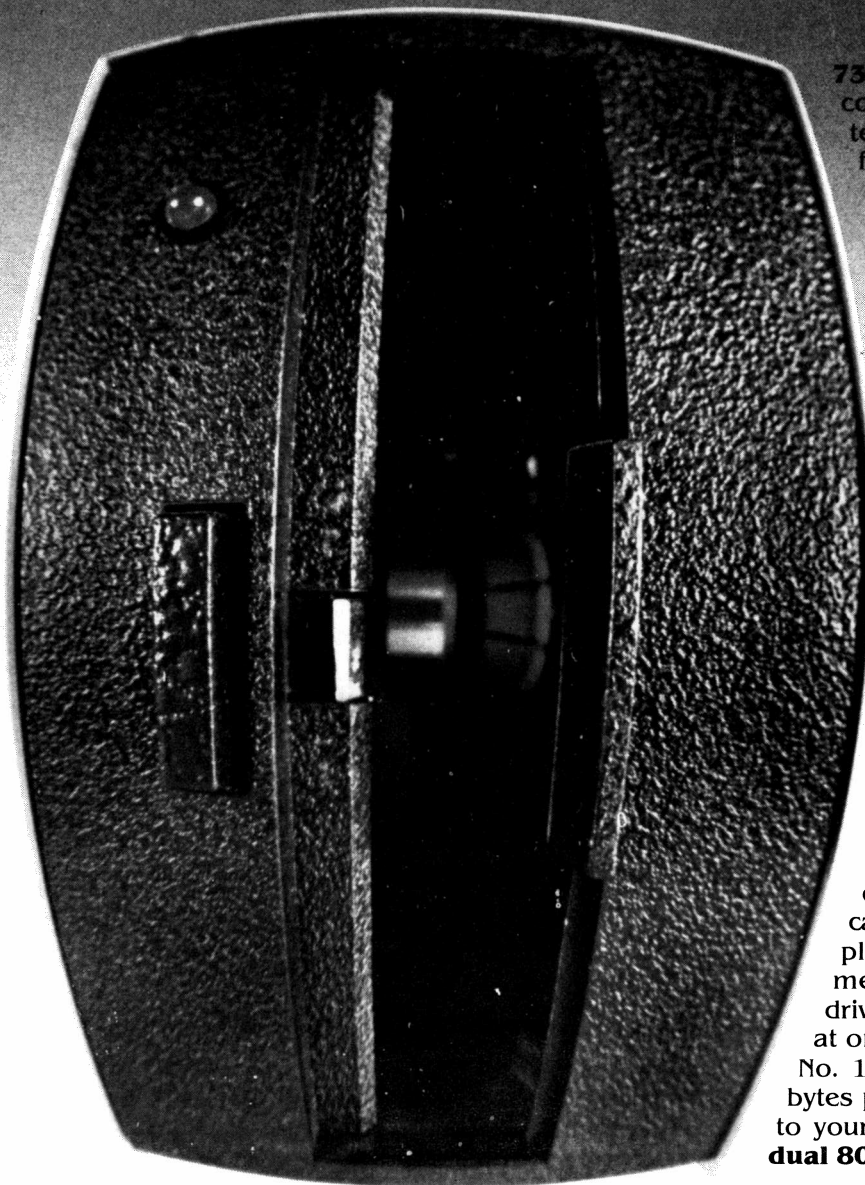
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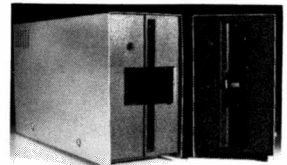


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