

DISK DIRECTORY

by

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Introduction

Disk Directory is, of course, a disk orientated program and has no application to cassettes at all. It is, therefore, only distributed on disk. The disk which you will have received will have five programs on it as follows:-

K32/CMD
K48/CMD
DISKDIR
DISKDIR0
SORT

The first two are machine language programs that must be loaded in DOS before the user enters Basic. If this is not done the program will not operate, so the user is strongly advised to make either K32 or K48 an auto command on power up. Only one of these two programs are entered and the two versions are for either 32K or 48K machines.

DISKDIR and DISKDIR0 are similar Basic programs. The former should be used if the user has more than one drive and the latter if only one drive is available.

The program SORT is a System program which is transparent to the user.

Loading the Program

This is very straightforward, simply place the disk with which you have been provided in drive 0 and type K32 or K48 if you have not made it an auto command. Basic is called in the normal way depending on whether you have TRSDOS or NEWDOS and it is not necessary to reserve any memory. This is done automatically by the machine language program. When you are in Basic, either DISKDIR or DISKDIR0 should be run, and after the title page a file called CAT is automatically loaded and the user is so informed.

It is very important that the user should understand that data must be saved on the first run. If this is not done, the program will create an empty file and an error message will occur on the next run. Should the user inadvertently create an empty file, then he should kill it. Once the initialisation and loading has been completed, the computer will display the main directory. This consists of five options which will be dealt with separately.

Add to the File or Amend

This is the option which must be used first in order to create a file. It can also be used on later occasions to amend the file. After this choice has been made by hitting the "A" key (no Enter is required) the user is prompted to place a disk in drive 1 (throughout this discussion two drives are assumed, but the procedure is very similar for one drive users) and enter the disk number. This number is mandatory. It is suggested that disks be numbered serially and the physical disk itself should be marked accordingly. The 32K version, incidentally, can handle 50 disks and 500 programs and the 48K version has a capacity for 160 disks and 1600 programs. Your disks should not be numbered outside of this range.

The disk number also contains the disk name and should be entered without any spaces in accordance with the following example:

12MYGAMES* - this would indicate disk no. 12 with the title
"My Games"

...continued/.

The purpose of the optional asterisk is to indicate that you wish invisible programs to appear in the directory. After the number has been entered, no further action is required by the user. The file content and the appropriate disk will be indicated on the screen. The cursor will move across indicating that those file names are being read, the data will be written to the directory file and the user returned to the start for another disk. Return to the menu is accomplished by pressing the @ key. Whenever the menu is displayed, the number of disks in the directory is shown so that the new disk number may be given the next number available. The only exception to this is the first disk where the menu will indicate that there is only one disk in the directory, whereas, in fact, none have been filed so on the first usage the number 1 is used. Thereafter, the number to use is the next number to the one shown in the menu. If an already allocated number is selected, then the existing data in the directory for that disk number will be overwritten with the new. This is the method by which directory amendments are carried out. In other words, if you wish to, for instance, change disk number four, which is already in the directory, then it is only necessary to use that number again.

During the filing procedure, the system will access the FREE command of DOS in order to access the data as to how many granules and files are free on the disk. This is of no significance to the user, but the data accessed will momentarily flash up on the screen.

Find a Program

An INSTRING search is made so it is not necessary to type in the full name of the program required. Any number of consecutive letters contained in the program name will result in any data for that program being pulled out. This data will consist of a statement as to the disk number and name upon which the program may be found. The letters typed in for the program name should be as explicit as possible as otherwise programs which happen to contain those letters will also be selected. A facility is included for continuing to search in case the wrong program has been selected.

Exit and Save File

This option is used to terminate a run.

List Directory

You will first be asked whether or not a printout is required. If the answer is in the affirmative then the user is given the choice of printing an entire list or just the data in respect of one disk. If screen display is used, then the user may toggle through his list as prompted.

Alphabetical Sort

When this option is chosen, the existing file will be automatically saved and then loaded in a modified format suitable for a machine language Sort. The Sort is very fast and an option is given for either a printout or screen display. The name of the program is followed by the number of disks and then in brackets the number of files free on that disk and the number of granules free. Finally, the disk name is stated. The list on the VDU is scrolled by holding down the space bar. If a single drive is being used, before attempting to use the program the basic program SORT should be loaded and a zero should be added to the end of line 3730 so that the program called by the RUN command is DISKDIRØ and not DISKDIR. SAVE the SORT program after this edit has been made. If you later add a drive, this should be changed back.