

Rainbow™

dBASE II®

An MS™-DOS
Application

*Command and Reference
Pocket Guide*

digital
software

Developed by:

**Ashton-Tate, Inc.
10150 West Jefferson Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90230**

**Digital Equipment Corporation
Maynard, MA 01754**

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Cursor Movement and Control Keys	2
Full Screen Operation	2
dBASE II File Types	2
Terminology	3
Operators Used for Data Manipulation	4
Functions	5
dBASE II Commands	7
Set Commands	14
Structured Programming Commands.....	17

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Conventions

Typographical Conventions

Lowercase	user-supplied information
UPPERCASE	explicit portions of dBASE II commands
[...]	optional portions of dBASE II commands
< ... >	user-supplied portions of dBASE II commands

File Naming Conventions

File names may be up to 8 characters (no spaces) long (See G2-2)

Field Naming Conventions

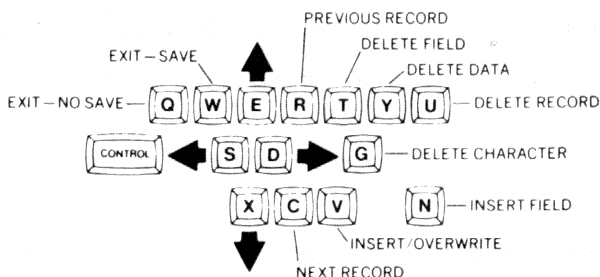
Field names may be up to 10 characters (no spaces) long, must start with a letter, but can include digits and embedded colons (see G2-3)

Limitations

(See RB-1)

Full-Screen Operation (all modes):

For special controls used in conjunction with Edit, Modify, Append, Create or Insert, see G2-34, 2-35 or R5-1 - 5-5.



dBASE II File Types

.PRG	command file	(See R1-9, G4-1)
.DBF	database file	(See R1-7, G2-2)
.FMT	format file	(See R1-10, G5-16)
.FRM	report form file	(See R1-10, G3-44)

<cstring>	character string(s) In most instances must be delimited with single quotes (' '), double quotes (" "), or brackets ([])
<cstring exp>	an <exp> whose contents is defined as Character in type. May be a cstring, a memvar or field with character content, or any combination of these items and operators.
<delimiter>	any non-alphanumeric character used to demarcate data, e.g., single quotes (' '), double quotes (" "), brackets ([]), colons (: :), commas (, ,), etc.
<exp> or <expression>	an item or group of items and operators whose value can be determined by dBASE II. <exp>s may be defined as C, N, or L depending upon the "type" of data they contain.
<exp list>	a list of expressions delimited with commas.
<field>	a record field name.

	as a literal value.
<numeric exp>	an <exp> whose content is defined as Numeric.
<scope>	command option specifies range of records dBASE II must treat in executing command. <scope> has three possible values: ALL records in file; NEXT n records in file; and RECORD n. Default value varies from command to command.
<skeleton>	allows batch manipulation of files of same type and/or with matching cstring in filename; allows batch manipulation of groups of <memvars> with matching cstring in name.

Operators Used for Data Manipulation (See G3-8, R2-10)

Logical Operators (listed in order of precedence)

()	parentheses for grouping
.NOT.	logical not (unary operator)

Relational Operators

<	less than
>	greater than
=	equal to
< > or #	not equal to
<=	less than or equal to*
>=	greater than or equal to

String Operators

+	string concatenation
-	string concatenation blanks moved to far right

Functions

(See R2-1 - 2-9, G5-1 - 5-7)

*

deleted record function evaluates as a logical True if current record is marked for deletion.

from the given starting position for the given length.

@(<cstring exp 1>, <cstring exp 2>)

substring search function yields an integer value indicating where the first string appears in the second.

CHR (<numeric exp>)

yields the ASCII character equivalent of a numeric expression.

DATE ()

name of system variable containing the system date

EOF

End-Of-File function evaluates as a logical True when last record of USE file has been surpassed.

FILE (<file>)

file function evaluates as a logical True if named file exists on disk in use.

INT (<numeric exp>)

integer function truncates everything to the right of the decimal to form an integer.

LEN (<cstring exp>)

length function returns the number of characters in the specified <cstring exp>.

TYPE (<exp>)

type function indicates data "type" of indicated <exp>.

VAL (<cstring exp>)

value function converts a cstring (composed of numerals) into a numeric expression.

dBASE II Commands**?<exp>**

evaluates and displays value of <exp>. (See G2-23)

@<coord> [SAY <exp> [USING 'picture']][GET <var> [PICTURE 'picture']]

format console screen or printer output.

(See G4-11, 5-13)

ACCEPT ['prompt'] TO <memvar>

prompts user to input cstring into specified <memvar>.

Input requires no quotes. (See G4-10)

APPEND [BLANK]

add record(s) or blank, formatted record to database file. (See G2-26)

CLEAR

“resets” dBASE. (See G4-20)

CONTINUE

continues a LOCATE command. (See G3-42)

COPY TO <file> STRUCTURE [FIELD <list>]

copies structure of file in use to designated file.

(See G3- 21)

COPY TO <file> [<scope>][FIELD <list>]

[FOR <exp>]

copies file in use to designated database file. (See G3-22)

COPY TO <file> [<scope>] [FIELD<list>]

[SDF] [DELIMITED [WITH <delimiter>]]

[FOR <exp>]

copies data from file in use to file with designated name and format. (See G3-29)

COPY TO <file> STRUCTURE EXTENDED

creates a database file whose records represent the structure of the file in use. (See G3-23)

DELETE FILE <file>

deletes specified file. (See G2-28 - 2-29)

DISPLAY [<scope>][<field list>][FOR <exp>][OFF]

displays records of database file in use. (See G2-18)

DISPLAY FILES [ON <disk drive>]**[LIKE <skeleton>]**

displays files on disk. Default values: database files, logged drive. (See G2-20)

DISPLAY MEMORY

displays current <memvars>s. (See G3-7)

DISPLAY STATUS

displays system information: e.g., system date, files open, index files and keys, and all SET parameters.

DISPLAY STRUCTURE

displays structure of file in use. (See G2-20)

EDIT [n]

initiates selective editing of database file in use.

(See G2-7)

HELP [<command verb or other entry>]

accesses Help File overview or specific Help File entry for brief explanation of specified command mode, function, etc.

INDEX ON <key> TO <file>

creates an index file for the database in use. (See G3-38)

INPUT ['prompt'] TO <memvar>

prompts user to enter <exp> into already named <memvar>. (See G4-11)

INSERT [BEFORE][BLANK]

inserts a new record anywhere in database file.

(See G2-26)

JOIN TO <file> FOR <exp> [FIELDS <list>]

creates new database file by merging records of files in use in Primary and Secondary areas for which FOR <exp> evaluates as logical True. (See G5-12)

LIST [<scope>][<field list>][FOR <exp>][OFF]

lists records of file in use. (See G2-13)

LIST FILES [ON <disk drive>][LIKE <skeleton>]

lists files on disk. Default values: logged drive, database files. (See G2-17)

MODIFY COMMAND <file>

calls dBASE II's text editor and brings up designated file for modification. (See G4-2)

MODIFY STRUCTURE

allows structural modification of database file in use. (See G3-16)

NOTE or *

commands dBASE II not to read the rest of command line. Used to insert programming comments in command files. (See G4-15)

PACK

eliminates records marked for deletion. (See G2-29)

QUIT [TO <list MS-DOS level commands or .COM files>]

terminates dBASE II and returns control to operating system. Optionally calls system level programs. (See G1-5)

READ

initiates full-screen editing of a formatted screen, and accepts data into GET commands. (See G4-13)

permits display of following characters. In command file is used to output comments to screen or print. (See G4-20)

RENAME <oldfile> TO <newfile>

permits renaming of file. (See G4-20)

REPLACE [<scope>] <field> WITH <exp>

[,<field2> WITH <exp2> ...][FOR <exp>]*

replaces the value of specified fields of specified records with stated values. (See G3-32)

REPORT [FORM <filename>][<scope>][FOR <exp>][TO PRINT]

generates or accesses existing Report Form File for output of data in user-defined format. (See G3-44)

RESET [<drive>]

reset MS-DOS after disk swap.

RESTORE FROM <file> [ADDITIVE]

retrieves and activates <memvars> previously saved in .MEM file. Deletes all current <memvars> unless Additive option employed.

RETURN

terminates a command file and returns control to calling file or interactive mode.

SORT ON <key> TO <file> [ASCENDING] or [DESCENDING]

creates a version of the database file in use whose records are arranged alphabetically or numerically according to the information contained in the field specified as the SORT <key>. Default value: ascending. (See G3-36)

STORE <exp> TO <memvar>

computes the value of <exp> and stores it to the designated <memvar>. (See G3-4)

SUM <field list> [TO <memvar list>] [<scope>] [FOR <exp>]

computes and displays the sum of numeric fields. (See G3-50)

TOTAL TO <file> ON <key> [FIELDS <field list>] [FOR <exp>]

generates a summary version of an indexed or pre-sorted database file which contains the totals of numeric fields for records (in the use file) bearing the same <key>. (See G3-51)

UPDATE FROM <filename> ON <key> [ADD <field list>] or [REPLACE <field list>]

allows batch update of file in use by drawing upon information from designated FROM file. (See G5-11)

is indicated by order of presentation: OFF/ON indicates default value of OFF; ON/OFF a default value of ON.

SET ALTERNATE TO [<file>]

creates designated file (type .TXT) for saving screen output to disk. Repeated without [<file>], closes .TXT file.

SET ALTERNATE OFF/ON

ON sends screen output to disc file created with previous command; OFF shuts off output.

SET BELL ON/OFF

ON rings bell when invalid data entered or field boundary passed; OFF turns off bell.

SET CARRY OFF/ON

When using APPEND (full-screen), ON enters data from last record into present record; OFF turns off function.

SET COLON ON/OFF

ON displays colons which delimit or bound input variables; OFF hides colons.

SET CONFIRM OFF/ON

ON waits for <return> before skipping to next field in full-screen mode; OFF skips to next field as soon as present field is filled.

SET DELETED OFF/ON

ON prevents dBASE II from reading/processing any record marked for deletion following a command which has <scope> as an option. OFF allows dBASE II to read all records.

SET ECHO OFF/ON

ON allows monitoring of command file execution by echoing all commands to screen; OFF suppresses echo.

SET EJECT ON/OFF

ON causes REPORT command to trigger a form-feed (page eject) before sending report to print; OFF disables the page eject.

SET ESCAPE ON/OFF

ON enables user to abort command file execution by hitting ESCape key; OFF disables ESC key.

SET EXACT OFF/ON

ON requires exact match in any comparison between two strings (e.g., in use of FOR <exp> or FIND command); OFF allows matches between strings of different lengths.

First listed .NDX file will be engaged as the active index, all other .NDX files will be automatically updated to reflect any changes to the database file.

SET INTENSITY ON/OFF

ON enables inverse video or dual intensity during full-screen operations (if hardware permits); OFF disables these features.

SET LINKAGE OFF/ON

ON enables simultaneous movement of record pointers in both Primary and Secondary work areas in response to commands which only permit downward movement through a file (i.e., commands with <scope>). OFF suspends pointer linkage.

SET MARGIN TO <n>

sets left hand margin of printer to <n>.

SET PRINT OFF/ON

ON directs output to printer; OFF cuts off output to printer.

SET RAW OFF/ON

ON LISTs and DISPLAYs records without inserting spaces between fields; OFF inserts an extra space between fields.

DO <file>

accesses and executes a command file (type .PRG).

(See G4-2)

DO CASE

CASE <exp1>

<statements>

CASE <exp2>

<statements>

CASE <expN>

<statements>

OTHERWISE

<statements>

ENDCASE

permits choice of one and only one of several possible execution paths, i.e., CASE <exp1> through CASE <expN>. When CASE <exp> evaluates as logically True, the following statements and commands will be performed.

OTHERWISE clause for alternate execution path is optional. DO CASE structure must be terminated with ENDCASE.

ENDIF

execution. Structure must
terminate with ENDIF.
(See G4-4)

TEXT

<any text>

ENDTEXT

allows the output of text
information from a command file.
dBASE II will read everything as
text for output until it encounters
an ENDTEXT command.
(See G5-13)

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