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dBASE III and III PLUS A Troubleshooting Guide

Elizabeth Lynch

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For Paul and David

Contents

Introduction

Part 1	Common Problem Areas and Solutions	1
1.1	Apparent Loss of Data	1
1.2	Using Several Databases at the Same Time	13
1.3	Is Your dBASE System Slow?	18
1.4	Losing Lines from the End of a Command File	22
1.5	Writing Debuggable Programs	24
1.6	Problems with Dates	31
1.7	Abandoning a Command or Command File	32
1.8	Setting up an Infinite Number of Variables	33
Part 2	dBASE Error Messages	37

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Introduction: Why you need this book

dBASE is a powerful system capable of serving complex applications - when you know how to use it!

There are lots of books available to help you learn the basic - and the advanced - dBASE commands. You can even use the dBASE manual! But they very rarely help you sort out the problems you meet when you actually start to *apply* to your own system the knowledge you learnt from the book.

Suddenly you run into the problems of understanding obscure error messages such as INVALID FUNCTION ARGUMENT, or TOO MANY FILES OPEN. What should you do to solve the problem - and even more important, how do you stop it happening again?

Even worse, maybe your command files don't *fail* (when at least they produce a potentially helpful error message) - they just don't produce the right results. How do you set about discovering what might be going wrong?

Perhaps you have a working system, but would like to know about ways of making it run faster - or at the very least how to save yourself time when setting up new programs. What techniques could you use?

This book deals with precisely those questions.

It is divided into two sections to meet the two different needs of the dBASE user. Section 1 takes a number of common problem areas and shows ways to overcome them - for example, finding 'lost' data, dealing with dates, and short-cut techniques for speeding up systems. Section 2 lists all the dBASE error messages (for dBASE III and III PLUS) with explanations of their causes and solutions.

You will certainly be familiar with *some* of the topics in this book. However, you are also almost certain to find new commands to try, and ways round problems that you may or may not have met yet. Keep this troubleshooter by you while you use dBASE - it will help you sort out your problems quickly.