



WHAT'SIT

**The First Data Base Manager
For Your
Personal or Business Microcomputer**



WHATSIT™

A "DATA BASE MANAGER" FOR YOUR MICROCOMPUTER

Much of the untapped potential of computers lies in their ability to store "data bases" of constantly changing information, and to permit convenient, timely access to it through a one-to-one "conversation" with the person who needs it. Used as a "Data Base Manager," **WHATSIT** can support a disc-resident data base and process queries (as well as updates) in a real-time conversational mode.

APPLICATIONS

Easily implemented on a small desktop computer with as little as 24K of total memory, the system can be used in applications like these:

- An insurance agent might index clients policies, policy coverage, ratings, due dates, billing information, etc.
- A salesperson may need to store customer and prospect lists, buyers' names and phone numbers, current order status.
- A professional person may need to index client records, appointment schedules, or technical data needed for frequent reference.
- A contractor might want quick access to material prices and specifications.
- A manufacturer's data base might include customers and suppliers, and recent price quotations issued and received.
- An investor might want to keep tabs on a portfolio of securities, with purchase dates and tax basis information.

OPERATING SIMPLICITY

In response to pidgin English "Requests," the system can store, index, and retrieve information about one or several aspects of your business, hobby, or other application. You are free to intermix unrelated data on a single disc, or to "dedicate" an individual disc to each of a variety of applications.

Since file indexing and disc space allocation are performed automatically, the system can be used without learning complex procedures. And since both queries and updates are processed within a single program, there's no need for the inconvenience and delay of a "menu selector," or for manually switching from one program to another.

In contrast to many programs, **WHATSIT** does not require you to commit yourself in advance to particular data structures, or "record formats." The file structure is never frozen, but develops automatically to adapt to your requirements.

DYNAMIC FILE RESTRUCTURING

This "dynamic restructuring" of the data base takes place through normal use of the system, without operator intervention or reprogramming.

This is how it works: Whatever information you wish to store is automatically cross-indexed under "Subject" and "Tag" headings you designate. Using **WHATSIT's** pidgin English Requests, you may add or change headings, as well as data, at any time. Because the system maintains headings in disc storage, they may be changed readily by the program itself.

CONVERSATIONAL QUERY CAPABILITY

Data retrieval is equally easy. You can query the system directly about any data item on file, or you may inquire about any heading. All that's required is a pidgin English "Request," such as "WHAT'S BILL BAKER'S POLICY # ? System response time is usually a matter of seconds.

Up to two headings may be specified in a single Request, a capability that makes possible versatile cross-indexing within the data base.

CAPACITY

The system gives you both large capacity and quick response, thanks to a unique indexing technique, called Cartesian Access Method. High-speed searching makes use of variable length records and a series of "pointer chains" that are interwoven through the data, freely crossing physical disc boundaries. Utilizing these "pointer chains" allows direct access to the data base; eliminating all time consuming sequential searching and need for sorting routines.

Compatible models are available for both CP/M and Northstar systems. The original Model NS-3 runs in a 24K machine using North Star Release 3 or 4 Basic. Capacity is approximately 2000 entries per disc; individual entries may be up to 30 characters long.

The new Model CP-1 runs in CBASIC in a minimum 40K CP/M system with one to four standard 8-inch drives. Maximum capacity is 25,000 entries using four single-density drives; entries may be up to 200 characters in length. You may store all data in a single master "Data Base," or easily create any number of separate ones, each identified by name.

The system comes with a clearly written 120-page manual.

WHATSIT

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File's 73% full.

Whatsit?

WHO'S BILL BAKER?

BILL BAKER's POLICY #'s 698-70

BILL BAKER's ADDRESS's Post Office Box 8372

BILL BAKER's CITY's MERRILLVILLE, IND. 46410

BILL BAKER's PHONE's 219-769-9280

That's all!

Whatsit?

WHAT'S 698-70?

698-70's OWNER's BILL BAKER

698-70's COVERAGE's AUTO LIABILITY

698-70's COVERAGE's MAJOR MEDICAL

698-70's RATING's A-1

698-70's DUE DATE's 1/1/79

That's all!

Whatsit?

Sample Dialogue Fragment

WHATSIT displays the indented lines
... you type the rest.

WHATSIT

(Wow! How'd All That Stuff get In There?)

A Data Base/Query System

SPECIFICATIONS

MODEL

NS-3

CP-1

LANGUAGE

North Star BASIC
Rel. 3 or 4

CBASIC
Ver. 1.03

MEMORY REQUIRED

24K

40K

DISCS REQUIRED

One 5-inch

One to Four 8-Inch

ON-LINE CAPACITY

2000 Entries

25,000 Entries

TYPICAL RESPONSE TIME

3-20 seconds

4-25 seconds

SIZE LIMITS

100 bytes/Request
30 bytes/Entry

250 bytes/Request
200 bytes/Entry

INDEXING

Automatic: Each Entry by Subject, Tag, Object

DISC ACCESS TECHNIQUE

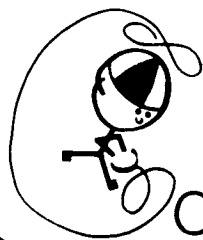
Cartesian Access Method (tm)

STANDARD REQUESTS

Store, Scratch, Change, Add, Spill (6 types including
Indexed, Selective, Analogy)

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS

Stretch, Strike, Reload,
Printer, Console, Lingo



COMPUTER
HEADWARE

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Specifications subject to change

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