

## *B* for the IBM PC

A prototype version of *B* (see Newsletter 3) is now available for the IBM PC and compatibles. This version is functionally equivalent to the one currently distributed for UNIX systems.

### FEATURES OF THE IMPLEMENTATION

- The full *B* language as described in the Draft Proposal is implemented.
- The structured editor is used to enter and edit units, immediate commands, input to `READ` commands, and permanent targets.
- The editor suggests possible command continuations and closing brackets. It uses function and arrow keys to move the focus around, change its size, etc.. You can *undo* the last 20 key strokes. Text can be moved or duplicated within or between units and immediate commands. A sequence of keystrokes can be recorded, and played back later. You can recall the last command. (A more detailed description of the *B* editor can be found in the first *B Newsletter*.) By default all editing operations are bound to single keys. You can rebind the editing operations to other than the default keys, to suit your own taste, or to overcome deficiencies in your particular keyboard.
- Since different compatibles have different ways of addressing the screen, and not all screens have the same size, you can define an environment variable to reconfigure *B* for use with the 'ANSI' screen driver, or for different screen widths and heights. There is a program supplied to help you decide what sort of screen you have.
- There are utility programs for such things as workspace recovery, and for listing the units in a workspace.

#### SMALL VERSION

The full implementation needs at least 384 K bytes. There is a smaller version available, without the built-in editor, for those with only 256 K bytes. In this case commands must be typed in in full. To edit units the EDLIN editor is used.

#### DOCUMENTATION

The documentation sent with the package includes 'The *B* Programmer's Handbook' and a quick reference guide. The book describes the *B* language proper, the use of the system, the editor commands, and the use of the other utilities.

#### REQUIRED SYSTEM CONFIGURATION

In order to run the *B* system you must have an IBM PC or compatible with

- at least 384 K bytes, or 256 K bytes for the small version (this includes space used for MS-DOS);
- MS-DOS version 2.x (we've only tested it with 2.0 and 2.11, but it should also run on MS-DOS 3.x or higher);
- one double-sided disk drive.

The system is expected to run on most IBM-PC compatible computers, and we have tried it on many, but we cannot guarantee this because we haven't tried them all. We know, however, that the system runs at least on the following compatibles: Olivetti M24, Apricot Portable, Apricot F1, GRID Case, Tulip Extend, Goupil.

(If your copy runs fine on a machine which is not on the list, please tell us so we know we can extend the list. If your copy doesn't run, also tell us and we'll try to see what is the cause.)

#### BEWARE

##### *IT IS NOT A PRODUCTION VERSION!*

The system is sometimes slow, and imposes severe limits on the maximum sizes of the targets and units in the work space. We *do* appreciate reports of bugs, but we don't promise we'll fix them: we'll do what we can.

#### FINALLY

The disk is not copy protected. You may make copies, and give them away, as long as you don't sell the copies, and as long as these same conditions are passed on to the people you give copies to. Fair enough?

## HOW TO ORDER *B* for the IBM PC:

To order the prototype of the implementation of *B* for the IBM PC or compatibles, running under MS-DOS versions 2.0 (or higher), you should fill in the order form below, and send it to:

*B* Group, PC distribution  
Informatics / AA  
CWI  
POB 4079  
1009 AB Amsterdam  
The Netherlands

To cover materials and handling, you should either enclose a cheque or money order, payable to Stichting Mathematisch Centrum - Amsterdam, or (if you live in The Netherlands) transfer to the postgiro account below.

You will then receive:

- a floppy with the binary;
- The *B* Programmer's Handbook;
- a *B* Quick Reference Card.

**ORDER FORM**

Please send me a copy of the prototype *B* system for the IBM PC, including documentation.

- I enclose a cheque or international money order, payable to Stichting Mathematisch Centrum - Amsterdam, for Dfl 100 (or US \$ 35).
- I have transferred Dfl 100 to postgiro account 462890, Stichting Mathematisch Centrum - Amsterdam, mentioning "*B* voor de IBM PC".

Name: .....

Firm/Institute: .....

Address: .....

.....

Country: .....

Telephone: .....

Network address: .....

- Machine(s):     IBM PC                       IBM XT                       Olivetti M24  
                      Apricot Portable     Apricot F1                 other: .....

Required media:

- 5¼" double sided, double density floppy disk
- 3½" double sided floppy disk

Required version:

- full implementation (at least 384 K bytes)
- small version (only 256 K)

Signature and Date: