
CONDOR SERIES 20

Relational Database Management System

Support Guide



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SUPPORT GUIDE

(How to Help New Condor Users 4 Hours From Now)

The Condor Series 20 Relational Database Management System comes with a complete User's Manual which can be used for most all questions that may come up when using the product. The manual alone is about all you need to support new users of Condor. This Support Guide is designed to help you familiarize yourself with Condor Series 20 in approximately 4 hours and will give you the knowledge to answer basic questions from Condor users. You can learn Condor Series 20 by creating your own database system and using it for a task (personal address book, client file, or personal finance system).

The User's Manual is arranged with the simplest chapters first and the most advanced concepts in the last chapters. There are also some very useful sections in the back of the manual. These include:

Glossary - a list of most of the database terms used in the manual. This is useful in learning the correct language used in supporting a micro-database product.

Appendix A - a very useful list of all the commands (in alphabetical order) with a very complete description of each. It is possible to learn to use the product simply by reading Chapter 2 and then looking up commands as you need them.

Appendix B - Specifications.

Appendix E - Command Quick Reference.

Index - A fairly complete index, which can be very useful in referencing the manual for problems. Try this first on most questions.

If you keep these sections in mind while learning the product, things will go a little easier.

To get started, it is best to have the following;

Condor User's Manual

Condor Master Disc

Two Discs - one work disk to install the master onto and one blank disk to put practice databases on.

Once you have these you might as well get started.

Chapter 1 Database Concepts

SKIM OVER

Covers what a database is, pretty elementary

TECHNICAL TIPS

- * **Screen Forms** are used by Condor Series 20 to define a database. They are also used for data entry and data output.
- * A database is made up of records of information. Each record corresponds to a card in a cardfile. A data item corresponds to a field on that record (name field, address field, etc).

Chapter 2 Getting Started with Condor Series 20

READ ALL

This a simple chapter which helps you create your work disk (do it) and create your first database.

TECHNICAL TIPS

- * There are four Condor products:
 - Series 20-1** full database system -- best for handling single files of information.
 - Series 20-2** adds to 20-1 a full set of relational commands to relate multiple databases.

Series 20-3 adds to 20-2 an advanced Report Writer and Indexing.

20-1 to 20-2 Upgrade, upgrades 20-1 to 20-2. It contains the new 20-2 software.

20-2 to 20-3 Upgrade, upgrades 20-2 to 20-3. It contains the new 20-3 software.

Series 20 Demo is a complete Condor 20-3 with the exception that it is serialized differently and cannot be resold.

GOTCHA* Condor 20-2 and 20-3 are very large. They can fit on a 5.25" or 3.5" disc with only a **WELCOME.COM** file and a system on it. When installing 20-2 or 20-3, the work disk must have only the operating system on it.

* When you push the Condor Softkey after Condor is installed, it calls **DBMSx.COM** (where **x** corresponds to the Condor level) which stays in main memory much like CP/M (R). **DBMSx** calls other Condor commands with **.DBM** extension (e.g. **SORT.DBM**, **COPY.DBM**).

GOTCHA* You must exit Condor with a **SYS** command. If you exit with a hard reset while in any of the special screen modes (**ENTER**, **FORMAT**, **UPDATE**, etc) **Strap A** will be set and will disable the upper rows of the keyboard. To fix this simply enter Condor again and leave with a **SYS** command--this turns the **Strap A** off.

Chapter 3 Defining a Database

READ

More in-depth than Chapter 2 telling how a database such as your birthday database was created.

TECHNICAL TIPS

* **Database Names** are eight characters or less
Data Item Names are 15 characters or less
The names should not include:

* ? # < > [or]

* A database consists of three files that have the form **databasename.FRM** that stores the screen form, **databasename.DEF** which stores the item definitions, and **databasename.DAT** which stores the data.

CP/M (R) is a registered trademark of Digital Research.

Chapter 4 Entering and Updating Data

READ

section DATA ENTRY page 4-1
section UPDATING DATA page 4-7
skim the rest and try the commands on your database.

TECHNICAL TIPS

- * A trick you can use to change a data-item default is to do an update on the .DEF file. Type "UPDATE databasename.DEF WHERE FIELD IS 1" and see what happens. This is described in Chapter 9.

Chapter 5 Simple Inquires and Reports

READ

Through section on COLUMNAR REPORTS page 5-11
Try these commands on your database.

TECHNICAL TIPS

- * The "*" is handy with most of the commands, for example rather than typing "LIST CARDFILE BY NAME, ADDRESS AND STATE" try "LIST C* N* A* S*" or "DISPLAY CARDFILE WHERE NAME IS *".
- * In order to SORT a file you will need temporary space on your disk large enough to hold a temporary sort file (RS.SRT). If you do not have this space on your current drive try starting SORT from another drive with more space (e.g. C>>SORT B:CARDFILE). For two drive systems you must first copy sort onto the B: drive (e.g. B>>COPY B:TEMP.DBM=A:SORT.DBM remove your A: disk and insert an empty disk, then type B>>LOG - B>>A: - A>>SORT B:CARDFILE).

You now have covered the basic capabilities of the Condor
Series 20 Database system. As the need arises you may want to
cover the relevant sections of the manual to obtain a more
detailed understanding of Condor. The rest of this guide will
give you helpful TECHNICAL TIPS and GOTCHA's on the
remaining chapters.

Chapter 6 Relational Database Capabilities

TECHNICAL TIPS

GOTCHA* The **RESULT** database is automatically entered in the Data Dictionary every time a new **DATA.DIC** is created (**DATA.DIC** is created only when a database is defined or copied to a new disk). If you have not done a **DEFINE** or **COPY** on a new disk you will need to copy a **DATA.DIC** to a new disk before you use the **RESULT** database.

GOTCHA* Condor Series 20 arithmetic is fairly limited; it has no decimal numbers except for \$ data types with only two decimal places, it can only compute equations in the order that they are written (parentheses are ignored), and if there are not any advanced functions (exponent, roots, trig, etc.). Remember, all arithmetic is performed as integer arithmetic and fractions from division are truncated (e.g. $9/10=0$). Percentages are best calculated like this:

```
COMPUTE REPORT ST PERCENT=PROFIT*100/SALES
```

where **PROFIT** and **SALES** are \$ data types and **PERCENT** is an N data type.

Chapter 7 Database Utilities

TECHNICAL TIPS

* If you want to merge your database reports into a Series 100/Word or Wordstar/100 document, keep in mind the **SET PRINTER** command. It prints to a file on the disk the same ASCII information that it would send to a printer. Until you do another **SET PRINTER** the file will stay open, adding any new information onto the last "printed" report.

Chapter 8 Using Databases with Other Applications

TECHNICAL TIPS

- * The [M] option on the WRITE command is an easy way to print customized letters and mailing labels with Series 100/Word. You can have a lot of fun using your database to insert personal touches into the letter in your mass mailing. Also, the SORT routine on Condor is about a thousand times faster than the Alpha Sort routine in Series 100/Word, making mail list tasks take a lot less time.
 - * The READ and WRITE command are also handy in transferring data between another micro-database and Condor. This is used when you want to make a quick simple report and you do not have the time to do set-up required by most other databases. With other computers, you may need to use Link/125 to bring the file in over one of your HP 125 ports (perhaps with a Link/125 package running on the other computer).
- GOTCHA* Visicalc(R)/125 files can not be written to by Condor. It can be done with a Basic program that creates Visicalc DIF files (Data Interchange Format); then Condor can write to Basic. Let us know if you write such a program!
- Reading from Visicalc is documented and is easy.

Chapter 9 Restructuring and Reorganizing Databases

TECHNICAL TIPS

- * This is a good chapter to read after you have made a few databases and are ready for some tricks.
- * Condor uses Condor datafiles to define itself. Look at Figure 9-1 to see a record of the database where your data definitions are stored.
- * How is the database of data definitions defined? You guessed it, with a database (DEF.DEF, DEF.FRM, DEF.DAT). Try this command: LIST DEF.DEF
- * Another thing that is interesting is looking at data file attributes. Try this command: LIST databasename.DIR

Visicalc (R) is a registered trademark of VisiCorp.

Chapter 10 Database Command Procedures

TECHNICAL TIPS

* Command procedures are a lot of fun. They can automate not only Condor tasks but they can automate CP/M procedures as well. While they are running under Condor, the actual procedure is stored as R\$.DBM and each command is stripped off as needed in sequence. If the procedure runs into a SYSTEM command, Condor logs off the system and saves what is left of the R\$.DBM under a new name \$\$\$SUB. For all of you CP/M jocks you will recognize that a \$\$\$SUB file is a CP/M SUBMIT file, which will go on running the procedure outside of Condor. When a SUBMIT file calls Condor, all that's left of the \$\$\$SUB file is stored as R\$.DBM. The next command is read as a Condor command.

GOTCHA* To create command procedures you need to use the EDIT command. It is a nice addition to that Condor Computer added for the HP 125 so that you would not need to use a word processor or text editor. However, it has a couple of interesting features:

- on the the 60th line it does not scroll and you will need to push the REVISE softkey.
- the DEL CHAR and INS LINE keys are over-buffered, so when when you exit EDIT you may get an extra character on the command line.

Chapter 11 Transaction Processing With Condor

Chapter 11 is provided to give an example of setting up a fairly sophisticated accounting system. Once you have mastered the examples in this chapter, you will be able to set up sophisticated applications for other functions.

Chapter 12 Writing Reports

TECHNICAL TIPS

- * A report specification is created for an existing database and will have a .RPT extension.
- * A screen form is used to define a report specification just as a screen form is used to create a database.
- * Short and Long methods are available for defining a report specification. The short method allows you to create a report specification while answering a small number of questions. The long method is necessary for defining reports which are wider than 80 columns.

GOTCHA* If you create a report specification using the short method, you cannot print a report which is wider than 80 columns. You also cannot modify the specification to obtain that capability. You must re-create the report specification using the long method.

GOTCHA* The Report Writer will work with databases that were created on 20-1 or 20-2. However, the Report Writer will not work with commands from the old versions of 20-1 or 20-2 (version A.01.00). Both 20-1 and 20-2 have been updated to version A.02.00 which makes it compatible with the Report Writer in 20-3. In an upgrade kit to move up to 20-3, we provide the new version (A.02.00) of the 20-2 product along with the Report Writer and Indexing in 20-3.

Chapter 13 Indexing Your Database

TECHNICAL TIPS

* You may disallow the entering of duplicate keys in a database by indexing the database without specifying the [D] option.

GOTCHA* Disallowing duplicate keys does not provide you with table look up capabilities.

GOTCHA* As more keys are used to index a single database, indexing becomes incrementally less efficient.