

TITLE: MicroWASSP Data Files - Creation and Edit Outside of the  
MicroWASSP Package

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## INTRODUCTION

File creation and editing within the MicroWASSP package is user-friendly and virtually idiot-proof. These features are very useful to the newcomer to MicroWASSP but the more experienced user tends to find them slow and tedious. A speedier method of screen editing was required, so the authors investigated the use of word processor style packages that were in current use by the Main Drainage Division of Birmingham City Engineer's Department.

## BACKGROUND

A number of word processor style packages were available within the Division namely "WRITE, WORDSTAR, SUPERWRITER and SIDEKICK" Trial runs of file creation and edit were attempted and in the author's opinion the easiest method to understand and operate was SIDEKICK. SIDEKICK is a memory resident programme, which means that it is loaded into memory and stays there until the computer is switched off. Features within SIDEKICK are Helpscreens, Notepad, Calculator, Calender, Dialer, ASCII tables and Setup. The feature used for this paper was the full screen editor, Notepad.

Another aspect in favour of SIDEKICK was the cost, being in the region of £50. In fact through the City Engineer's regular supplier, with a discount of 30% the cost per copy of the software plus licence is only in the region of £35

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### EDITING

In MicroWASSP all SSD and PCD files have a .DAT extension to the filename. Notepad can be set up initially to access these files only, which can then be displayed in a directory form on the screen. A particular file can then be accessed from the directory or directly on the command line using the pre-set key for new file followed by the filename. The file is then displayed on the screen and the cursor can be moved anywhere within it and data can be directly deleted or overwritten. Block move and deletion features are also available. On completion of the edit the pre-set key for save can be used to save the updated version of the file directly to its original location.

## FILE CREATION

Creation of a MicroWASSP SSD file obviously depends on getting the data in the correct field. this can be achieved using a file similar to TEMPLATE.DAT (see Appendix A ). TEMPLATE.DAT can be copied to the new filename and then through the Notepad facilities it can be block copied to give as many lines as required. The "stars" including decimal points are positioned in the correct field locations and then can be easily overwritten with the required data. Another useful feature of Notepad is that it can import data from the screen that was displayed before going into Notepad. So if the file to be created has ancillaries, a layout similar to TANK.DAT (see Appendix B ) can be used. Initially TANK.DAT is displayed on the screen and then Notepad can be initiated. Lines of data can be entered until an ancillary is reached . Using the pre-set key for import data the original screen listing of TANK.DAT is displayed. The ancillary required can be highlighted and block moved into the correct location within Notepad. Data entry then proceeds as before.

When the data entry has been completed there may be "stars" remaining in fields that are not required. The global edit facility can then be used to quickly find and replace all stars with zeros. The pre-set key for save can then be used as previously.

## FURTHER INVESTIGATION

Notepad is limited to a maximum file size of 50,000 characters. How can it be adapted for use with large files?

The results file from a simulation run can be rather bulky, a series of options can generate a mountain of paper. The use of a small basic programme to access a results file and print out the summary of results not the preceding data is being considered. Alternatively copying the file into WORDSTAR and using that to print out the required summary of results.

## REFERENCES/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

P.M.McMahon & D.Wilkes STW for initial inspiration  
SIDEKICK - trademark of Borland International Inc.  
WORDSTAR - trademark of MicroPro International Inc.  
SUPERWRITER - trademark of Microsoft Corporation  
WRITE - trademark of Microsoft Corporation

## DISCLAIMER

The views presented in this paper are purely those of the authors and do not in any way reflect the views or policies of Birmingham City Council.

APPENDIX A

EXAMPLE OF TEMPLATE.DAT

```

TITLE                                NAME                                PRESS Ctrl QT                      . 1
5 1                                  .                                .                                . 2
*** **  *** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** **   ***  * * *  .  * ** ** ** **   ** 4
*** **  *** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** **   ***  * * *  .  * ** ** **   ** 4
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*** **  *** ** ** **^**^**^**^   ***  * * *  .  * ** ** **   ** 4
-1                                  .                                .                                . 15

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APPENDIX B

EXAMPLE OF TANK.DAT

EXAMPLE DATA SET FOR ANCILLARIES FOR USE WITH MicroWASSP

```

>>>>>>>>> ON LINE TANK DATA .... RECORDS 9&10 <<<<<<<<<<<
  **      *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *
      2.00      0.50      ***. **      * **

>>>>>>>>> OFF LINE TANK DATA ... RECORDS 11&12 <<<<<<<<<<<
  **      *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *
      2.00      0.50      ***. **      * **

>>>>>>>>> PUMPING STATION ..... RECORDS 13,14&28 <<<<<<<
  **      *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *
  * **      * **      * **      * **      * **      * **
*** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** **   *** ** ** ** **   *** ** ** **   *** ** ** **   *** ** ** **   *** ** ** **
*** ** ** **^**^**^**^   *** ** ** **^**^**^**^   *** ** ** **^**^**^**^   *** ** ** **^**^**^**^

>>>>>>>>> HYDROBRAKE ..... RECORDS 9,10&28 <<<<<<<<<<<
  **      *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *   *
      -1.00      0.50      ***. **      * **
*** ** ** **^**^**^**^   *** ** ** **^**^**^**^   *** ** ** **^**^**^**^   *** ** ** **^**^**^**^

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DISCUSSION NOTES

Technical Session 3  
Paper 3.3 Discussion

R.Long : Scott,Wilson Kirkpatrick

Using your methods, can you carry out screen edits like on the mainframe ?

P.Brettel : City of Birmingham

Yes, this is usually the case with most word-processors.

\*\*\*\*\*

P.Sunderland : Weymouth & Portland

"Sidekick" is much quicker than WASSP but there are problems with memory.

D.Beale : Howard Humphries

Can Martin Osborne comment on the WALLRUS editor ? Will there always be the 82-column restraint ?

M.Osborne : HR

At present the WALLRUS editor is very much like that in WASSP. However, HR are working on a full-screen editor that can utilise up to 200 columns, the columns beyond 82 being used for as yet undefined fields and descriptive text.

F.Deakin : Northumbrian Water

I suggest that the audience consider a public domain program called "T" which is very useful for viewing the contents of say a WASSP results file, allowing you to scroll backwards and forwards.